

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Wednesday, 27 August 2025

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

EVs with Made in India written on them will run across the world: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches Suzuki's first global electric vehicle 'e-Vitara'



Clean energy and clean mobility are the future: PM Modi

PM Modi stressed that clean energy and clean mobility are the future. India is becoming a reliable hub with such efforts. The Prime Minister said that now when these electric vehicles will run on the roads in dozens of countries of the world, they will have Made in India written on them. Addressing the program, the Prime Minister said that in this gaiety of Ganesh Utsav, a new chapter has been added to India's Make in India and Make for the World journey. From today, electric vehicles made in India will be export-

able environment was created for global and domestic companies. Today the whole world is looking towards India. At such a time, every state should come forward and take advantage of the opportunity. He invited all the states - Come, compete for reforms, compete for pro-development policies, compete for good governance.

ed to 100 countries and manufacturing of hybrid battery elec-

trodes is also starting. This day is going to give a new dimension.

Ahmedabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday flagged off the company's first global battery electric vehicle (BEV) e-Vitara from Suzuki Motor Plant in Hansalpur, Gujarat. This electric car manufactured in India will be exported to more than 100 countries including advanced markets like Europe and Japan. The Prime Minister said that now when these electric vehicles will run on the roads in dozens of countries of the world, they will have Made in India written on them. Addressing the program, the Prime Minister said that in this gaiety of Ganesh Utsav, a new chapter has been added to India's Make in India and Make for the World journey. From today, electric vehicles made in India will be export-

China acknowledged India's laser strike capability



System (IADWS) as a remarkable progress of India.

IADWS is a multi-layered air defense system, which includes indigenously developed surface-to-air

missiles (QRSAM), short-range air defense system (VSHORAD) missiles and a high-capacity laser-based directed energy weapon (DEW) system. 7 countries have DEW system. It is said that only a few countries like America, Russia, China, UK, Germany and Israel have capability like DEW.

New Delhi: China has acknowledged India's laser strike capability. India tested the integrated ability to strike at short and medium ranges on Saturday. Chinese military experts have described the strike capability of high power laser based directed energy weapon (DEW) under the Integrated Air Defense Weapon

Opposition parties are criticising SIR unnecessarily: Lalan Singh



Kolkata: Union Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Minister Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh on Saturday said that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list is not being done by the Central Government but is being done entirely by the Election Commission. Speaking to reporters after a meeting with fisheries officials from West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar in Kolkata, he accused some political parties of taking political advantage of this process. The Union Minister said, "SIR has not been initiated by the Center. This is the process of the Election Commission. The Commission is only checking who are the real citizens of the country. Should the names of those who have died or left the country remain in the voter list?" He quipped, "Unfortunately some opposition parties seem to want the names of dead people in the voter list." He said that the Election Commission has given 11 options to prove citizenship. Giving his own example, he said, "I already had an entry in the voter list and I have voted before 2003. Still I filled the form because I believe in the democratic process. What is wrong in this?" He also targeted Tejashwi Yadav. On the question of Bihar leader Tejashwi Yadav's name being excluded from the voter list, the minister replied, "Was Tejashwi ji born after 2003? He had to fill the form, did he fill it?"

"Supreme" hearing held on SIR

Hearing

The Supreme court had fixed the date of hearing on August 12 and 13

New Delhi: The apex court heard petitions challenging the Election Commission's move of SIR of voter lists in Bihar. The court had

Goyal held discussions with leading industrialists of the textile industry

New Delhi: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday met leading industrialists of the textile industry in Mumbai amid the US' announcement of imposing 25 per cent import duty (tariff) on India. Intensive discussions were held with the industrialists. During this, bold ideas were discussed to enhance global competitiveness, sustainability.



fixed the date of hearing on August 12 and 13. During the hearing, the court said that be prepared. We will ask you some questions regarding the facts and figures

Order

related to the voters. During this, the Election Commission told the Supreme Court that it is natural to have some flaws in such an exercise. Earlier, the Commission had told the Supreme Court that under the law, it does not need to make a separate list of the names of those missing from the draft list. Nor is there any need to share the list or

publish the reasons for not including their names for any reason. The opposition is only protesting in Parliament and on the streets. Earlier, the Election Commission said on Monday that the opposition is only protesting in Parliament and on the streets. The rules, not a single objection has been received so far regarding.

The Supreme Court has asked the government not to take any action

There will be no ban on old vehicles in Delhi-NCR for now: Court



government and asked it to file a reply within four weeks. The Delhi government has filed a petition in the Supreme Court demanding a

review of the complete ban on old diesel and petrol vehicles in Delhi-NCR. The Delhi government says that instead of strict age-based restrictions, emission-based restrictions based on scientific standards should be implemented. The Delhi government's petition challenges the Supreme Court's order of October 29, 2018, in which the operation of diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years was banned, upholding the direction of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The Delhi government's

Borders should be free from encroachment



encroachments are being done under a well-planned design, which needs to be strictly stopped. Amit Shah addressed the inaugural session of the two-day workshop

on VVP organized by the Border Management Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs here on Tuesday as the chief guest. On this occasion, he also launched the logo of VVP. He said that in the Vibrant Villages Program-1, the administration was limited to the program, but in VVP-2, the approach has to be changed. He directed the District Collectors to take steps towards removing illegal religious encroachments in the border areas. All encroachments should be removed within a radius of at least 30 kilometers from the border. Citing the example of Gujarat, he said that the state has done commendable.



The state-of-the-art Project 17A multi-mission stealth frigates Udaygiri and Himgiri were inducted into the Navy on Tuesday at the Visakhapatnam base.

Self-reliance and logistics will be the key to victory in future wars: CDS



New Delhi: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan has called for quick and decisive joint response in all areas to ensure victory in future wars. He said that future wars will not recognize boundaries. For strong civil-military integration, the CDS emphasized on the development of capabilities in various fields to win future wars. General Anil Chauhan was deliv-

ering the keynote address at Rann Samvad, the first of its kind tri-service seminar on war, warfare and war operations on the topic 'Impact of Technology on War' at the Army War College in Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. The two-day seminar will bring serving military professionals to the forefront of strategic dialogue. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the plenary session on the second and final day on August 27. During this, some joint

doctrine and technology perspective and capability roadmap will also be released. Describing self-reliance and integrated logistics in the defense sector as the key to winning the upcoming wars, the CDS reiterated that 'jointness' is the basis of India's transformation. He stressed the need to institutionalize joint training and adopt continuously evolving technologies.

Supreme Court strict on climate change

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has said that all the concerned parties will have to come on a common platform to deal with the problem of carbon emissions from power generation.

Prepare a concrete action plan in this direction by calling a joint meeting with the CEA and the Central

Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). The court believes that the challenge of emissions cannot be overcome without connecting the policy makers to the ground realities. A bench of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice AS Chandrakar said in its order of July 22 that to control carbon emissions generated.

petition has demanded a comprehensive study by the Air Quality Management Commission. The petition states that the comprehensive study will reveal whether age-based restrictions are actually more effective than emission-based vehicle fitness policy. The Delhi government has said that pollution from vehicles depends on their maintenance and usage methods. In such a situation,

TVK will script political history in Assembly elections: Vijay



VB accuses Majithia in 40,000-page chargesheet

Delhi: Tamilaga Vettiri Kazhagam (TVK) founder and actor-turned-politician C. Joseph Vijay said the electoral fight in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly polls will be between his party and the DMK. The Assembly poll next year will see the TVK scripting a new chapter in Tamil Nadu's political history, similar to the achievements of the regional parties in the 1967 and 1977 Assembly elections, said Mr. Vijay. The Tamilaga Vettiri Kazhagam (TVK) reflected the voices of the people and that it was an unstoppable voice, and an unstoppable force, he added. Pointing out the criticism by his political adversaries about his electoral prospects, Mr. Vijay said the TVK will prove them wrong through its achievements. In a veiled attack on Edappadi K. Palaniswami's leadership of the AIADMK, he questioned the present condition of a grand party founded and run by former

The chargesheet has been filed in court, according to public prosecutor Ferry Sofat.

On June 25, as part of the DA case that supposedly deals with the laundering of 540 crore of "drug money," the VB had taken Majithia into custody from his Amritsar residence. While incarcerated in Patiala's Nabha jail, Majithia had her bail application rejected by a Mohali court on August 18.

Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran. He added that the AIADMK cadres are upset over their party's state of affairs.

Didi, SP won't join JPC on bill for removal of PM & CMs

Delhi : TMC and Samajwadi Party rejected the proposed constitutional change and measures that would have required the dismissal of chief ministers, ministers, and the prime minister in the event that they remained in custody for 30 days, describing the move as a farce. The boycott by TMC was predictable, but SP's move has ratcheted up the pressure on Congress to do the same for the sake of opposition unity. A sense of disquiet has been generated in the opposition camp by SP's decision to ally with TMC. Even within



Congress, many are uncertain about the party's ultimate position and whether or not the leadership will be compelled to shift in order to maintain unity. Up until this point, the tide in Congress has been turning in favor of joining the panel. Party member Derek O'Brien of the TMC claimed,

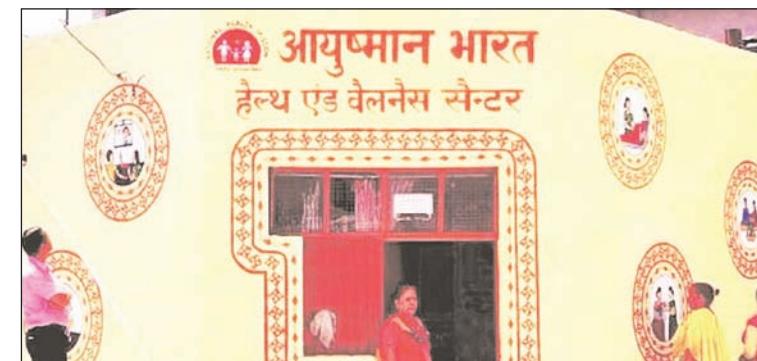
"The Modi coalition pushing to form this JPC to examine an 'unconstitutional bill' is a stunt performed to create a distraction from SIR". A stunt required to be called a stunt. Yes, I'm pleased we did.

Akhilesh, Stalin, Soren to join Rahul's poll yatra

Delhi : The ongoing 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' of Rahul Gandhi-Tejashwi Yadav is set to become a show of opposition unity, with senior netas of regional parties scheduled to join the 16-day roadshow ahead of its culmination in Patna on September 1. While Tamil Nadu CM and DMK chief MK Stalin will join the yatra on Aug 27,

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav will be part of the show on Aug 30. Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren and other opposition netas will also join the yatra in coming days. Among Congress CMs turning up for the roadshow are Karnataka's Siddaramaiah, Telangana's Revanth

In Haryana, 650 private hospitals have discontinued Ayushman Bharat services due to outstanding payments



warning that, beginning on August 7, private hospitals would no longer provide care under the program unless outstanding payments were settled. Sudhir Rajpal, the additional chief secretary (health) of Haryana, had pleaded with the IMA to rethink their decision after meeting with its

representatives on Wednesday. On Thursday, Dhirender K. Soni, the Haryana secretary of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), stated that the state government has not cleared the reimbursement of private hospitals. A sum of ₹490 crore is overdue.

Assisting India's constitutional aspirations, ONOE

Delhi: The reform will change the country's economic landscape and help achieve the constitutional goals of social, economic, political, equality, and fraternity. Union cabinet ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Bhupinder Yadav, who spoke at a symposium in Delhi in strong support of One Nation One Election (ONOE). According to Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, ONOE is not a hurried choice but rather a change that has been thoroughly debated for decades and can only be enacted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to Bhupinder Yadav, the Union Minister of Environment, holding elections at the same time is not a partisan goal but rather an essential measure for the sake of the entire



Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

K'taka cabinet approves internal quotas for SCs; 3 groups to share 17% reservation

Delhi : The Congress government in Karnataka has agreed to revamp the SC internal reservation system after decades of talks, protests, and commissions. During Wednesday's continuing assembly session, an official announcement will be made regarding this. Some members of the government claim that five categories were initially proposed by the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission, which investigated internal reservation among the 101 SC castes in order

to guarantee a balanced representation. But the government decided to make the matrix easier to understand by limiting it to just three elements. The revised structure states that the Madigas will get 6% of the total

allocation, with the Holeyas and Alemaris castes sharing that 6%. Fifthly, 5% of the population can be reserved for the Bhoivi, Lambhani, and other groups. The cabinet decision has been characterized by backward

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District Sanitation Committee/Swachh Bharat Mission meeting concluded under the chairmanship of District Magistrate

Eligible person under the scheme whose toilet has not been constructed yet, should not be left out

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. District Sanitation Committee/Swachh Bharat Mission meeting was held in Sangam Auditorium on Tuesday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma. In the meeting, information was obtained about the progress of compliance of the instructions given by the District Magistrate in the last meeting. While reviewing the progress of construction of individual toilets in the meeting, he took information about the reasons for high pendency of under construction and incomplete individual toilets from other related ADO Panchayats including Koraon, Jasra, Handia, Mauaima, Bhagwatpur and directed to complete the remaining work as soon as possible. The District Magistrate directed



ed the ADO Panchayat to immediately release the second installment where the work of the first installment has been completed. The District Magistrate has asked for the work to be done with complete transparency. He has also directed for geo tagging of the toilet works. While getting information about the retro fitting survey, he said that retro fitting should be done only for those beneficiaries who are not able to get the retro fitting work done. The District Magistrate has asked the District Panchayat Raj

Officer to verify how much money was spent by the department and how much money was spent by the beneficiary under retro fitting and submit a report. The District Magistrate, while reviewing the incomplete individual toilets under construction and stopped due to some reasons, said that the work of individual toilets should be completed as soon as possible, otherwise action will be taken against the concerned. The District Magistrate said that the work of door-to-door garbage collection should be regularized.

Basic Education Minister debunks opposition's claims

Lucknow. Basic Education Minister Sandeep Singh, on Tuesday, hit back at Opposition criticism on enrolment, teacher recruitment, school mergers, and admission age reforms, accusing them of politicising the issue and misleading the public. Citing data in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, he said the government has taken historic steps to raise education standards.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurating Rojgar Mahakumbh 2025 at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow on Tuesday and distributing appointment letters to the newly selected youth, launching the Shramik Nyay Setu portal of the Labor Department.

District Magistrate inspected the warehouse located at Mundera Mandi

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma conducted the quarterly inspection of the warehouse of EVMs and VVPATs located at Mundera on Tuesday. During the inspection, the



storage of EVMs and VVPATs was found to be safe. He inquired about

the functioning of CCTV cameras, security arrangements and the condition of

the rooms in view of rain. He has instructed to keep all the necessary arrangements in the warehouse in order. During the inspection, ADM Administration Mrs. Pooja Mishra, officials of the Consolidation Department and officials related to the election were present.

UC clears Lucknow Metro Phase-1B; CM extends gratitude

Approval

5,801 crore sanctioned for expansion of Lucknow Metro Rail Project

and business infrastructure. Phase-1B of the Lucknow Metro will span 11.165 km, featuring 12 stations—seven underground and five elevated. It will cover old and densely populated areas currently lacking efficient public transport.

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister, CM Yogi stated that the project will elevate Lucknow to new heights by expanding its economic, social,

and cultural infrastructure.



problems of the farmers should be resolved soon, so that the farmers can get relief. On this occasion, apart from Fateh Bahadur, Mangala Pal, Moti Lal, Bablu Yadav, Jaishankar Bhartiya, Kunwar Singh Yadav, Durgesh Yadav Bachchan, Ajay Yadav, Nitesh Tiwari, Rang Bahadur Yadav, Gopi Shyam Yadav, Rahul Bhartiya, Indresh Yadav, Brijesh Singh Munna, Ravi Shankar Mishra, Dheeraj Maurya, Collector Patel, Niaz Ahmed, Vishwanath Yadav, Suraj Raja, Vimlesh Yadav and Guddu Yadav, hundreds of SP workers were prominently present.

SP workers raised their voice on the problems of farmers

Handed over a memorandum to SDM Meja

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Meja. On Tuesday, under the leadership of senior Samajwadi Party leader Vijayraj Yadav, SP workers marched on foot from Mejakhas canal to Meja tehsil headquarters and demonstrated vigorously. During this, a five-point memorandum addressed to the President was handed over to SDM Meja Surendra Pratap Yadav regarding the problems of farmers. Regional leader Vijayraj Yadav said that there is a serious shortage of fertilizers in resource cooperative societies. Farmers stand in long queues from morning, but



many are not able to get fertilizers even till evening and they have to return disappointed. He has demanded from the administration that fertilizers should be made available to farmers in sufficient quantity and black marketing should be strictly prohibited. He also raised questions on the poor condition of cow

shelters. He said that the cattle are not given enough straw and green fodder, due to which they are left without food. These food animals are ruining the crops of the farmers. Mr. Yadav further said that farmers are not getting the benefit of crop insurance on time. He demanded from the government that all the

CM to hand over appointment letters to 2,425 lady supervisors

Opportunities

Women and Child Development department to see large-scale recruitment after two decades

and Minister of State (Independent Charge) Pratibha Shukla will also be present. Over the past eight years, the women and child development department has made remarkable progress under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Promotions were completed through the Public Service Commission for six District Program Officers and over 200 Child Development Project Officers. In addition, 19,424 Anganwadi workers were recruited across 75 districts, while more than 3,000 assistants were promoted to

the post of worker. A total of 22,290 mini Anganwadi workers were upgraded to main workers, with their monthly honorarium raised from 5,500 to 8,000. Notably, two years ago, 320 honorarium-based workers were absorbed into regular service, marking a significant milestone in strengthening the workforce of the department. In the same period, dependents of 182 deceased main workers were provided compassionate appointments to the posts of junior assistant and Class IV employees. After 20 years, promotions of

Lucknow: The Yogi government's 'Mission Rojgar' continues to set new benchmarks in creating job opportunities for the youth. Carrying this mission forward, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will hand over appointment letters to 2,425 newly selected lady supervisors and 13 Pharmacists in the Women and Child Development department at a special program in the Lok Bhawan Auditorium on Wednesday. Marking the largest recruitment drive in the department in nearly two decades, the initiative is expected to play

a key role in women's empowerment and strengthening health services across Uttar Pradesh. Director of Women and Child Development department, Sarneet Kaur Broka, informed that the selection of candidates was carried out by the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission through a completely fair and transparent process. She said,

"The Chief Minister himself will hand over the appointment letters to the selected candidates. This initiative will not only reinforce the

main workers (Group 'C') to 197 posts of Child Development Project Officer (Group 'B') were completed. This year alone, more than 20,000 Anganwadi workers were recruited transparently, further showcasing the department's commitment. Overall, in the last eight years, the Yogi government has provided over 8.5 lakh government jobs in the state, along with facilitating the creation of more than 2 crore employment opportunities in the private sector and MSMEs. Through continuous initiatives,

UP Electronics Component Manufacturing Policy-2025 to be implemented soon, Uttar Pradesh charts \$50 billion electronics production

UP set to become global hub for electronics manufacturing: CM

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has instructed officials for the implementation of the Uttar Pradesh Electronics Component Manufacturing Policy-2025, a major step aimed at transforming the state into a global hub for electronics manufacturing. The policy is designed to attract large-scale investments, boost production, and generate massive employment opportunities, further consolidating Uttar



Pradesh's position as a leading player in India's rapidly growing electronics sector. During an important meeting held on Tuesday, the Chief Minister discussed the proposed policy prepared by the

mobile manufacturer, with Uttar Pradesh contributing nearly 60% of the country's output. "Uttar Pradesh must capitalize on the immense potential in this sector. Over the past eight years, the state has made historic progress in industrial development. Now it is time for Uttar Pradesh to establish a distinct identity on the global map in electronics manufacturing. This policy will strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' while taking the state's economy to new heights", the Chief Minister said during the meeting. During the meeting, officials stated that in 2014-15, electronics production in India was only Rs 1.9 lakh crore, which reached Rs 11.3 lakh crore by 2024-25. Mobile production has also increased from Rs 18,000 crore to Rs 5.45 lakh crore, and mobile exports have grown from Rs 1,500 crore to

Rs 2 lakh crore. In the financial year 2023-24, electronics hardware exports from Uttar Pradesh amounted to approximately Rs 37,000 crore. The meeting highlighted that the proposed policy targets \$50 billion in electronics production within the next five years, generating nearly 10 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities. This will make a significant contribution to the state's goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy.

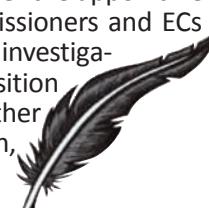
Fertilizer sales soar in UP, Yogi govt ensures timely supply to farmers

Lucknow: Fertilizer sales in Uttar Pradesh have seen a sharp rise under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, reflecting the state's strong push for agricultural support. As per Agriculture Department data, 39.40 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizers have been sold so far this Kharif season (up to August 11, 2025), compared to 33.42 lakh metric tonnes during the same period last year—an increase of over 5.98 lakh metric tonnes. With ongoing efforts, sales are expected to climb further before the season ends. Placing farmers at the heart of its priorities since 2017, the Yogi government has launched numerous initiatives for their welfare, ensuring timely and adequate fertilizer supply. Fertilizers are being provided across the state at the prescribed MRP, without any extra charges, countering opposition allegations of scarcity or overpricing. Strict measures are in place to prevent black marketing, hoarding, and other malpractices, ensuring that anti-social elements cannot exploit farmers.

Editorial

Amit Shah looks sure of ruling till 2049 but Team Modi is losing steam and imagination

Amit Shah had declared at the Bharatiya Janata Party's national executive meeting in 2018 that the party will win the 2019 Lok Sabha election and "no one can dethrone the BJP for the next 50 years"—that is, till 2069. Last month, the Union Home Minister and BJP chief strategist said in the Lok Sabha that the Opposition parties would be there (on the Opposition benches) "for the next 20 years"—that is, till 2045. Let's make it 2049 because the Lok Sabha election will have taken place in 2044. It also takes into account Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of making India a developed country by 2047. Modi is looking to remain at the helm till 2035, at least. In his Independence Day address, he said that "in the coming 10 years, till 2035, I want to expand this (national security shield) ...strengthen it, modernise it". "I" is key here. He will be only 85 by then. And he is much fitter than Joe Biden who demitted the US President's office at 82. Mahathir Mohamad was the Prime Minister of Malaysia till he was almost 95. You may think I can't be serious. Talks of 20 or 50 years are just rhetorical, aren't they? A former BJP MP advised me not to take PM Modi's reference to 2035 seriously. "The day a leader throws a hint that he is even thinking of a retirement plan, everybody around him starts abandoning him. You can't afford to do that in politics," he explained. Maybe. What if BJP leaders truly believe what they say? How else could you explain the Modied government's sudden decision to bring the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, envisaged to unseat the Prime Minister, chief ministers, and ministers on the 31st day of their arrest or detention in custody? The PM figures in it for effect, of course. The proposed legislation places the CMs and ministers at the mercy of mostly Central investigation agencies whose track record in impartiality is better left undiscussed. These central agencies are known to often go out of their way to please the political bosses. The CMs and ministers who are not from the ruling party/coalition at the Centre have reasons to be alarmed by the proposed legislation. It is always prone to being used against the Opposition. Former Union minister Sharad Pawar recently pointed out how during the Manmohan Singh government, it was P Chidambaram who had backed the amendment in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to put the onus to prove innocence on the accused. Pawar told Singh that it was dangerous. "If the government changes, we will also have to face consequences. But the advice was not heeded," disclosed Pawar. In 2019, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Chidambaram in a PMLA case. He had to spend 106 days in jail before he got bail. The proposed law—Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill—can potentially be weaponized by a ruling party at the Centre (not necessarily BJP) to destabilise governments in states ruled by rival parties (the BJP, included). So, why would Shah or the BJP want to make such a law? The most conceivable answer is that the BJP doesn't see itself sitting on the Opposition benches in the Lok Sabha ever—till 2049, at least. Look at the Centre's stand on the Supreme Court setting a timeline for the governors to act on the bills passed by state assemblies. It wants the elected governments in the states to be placed at the mercy of its nominees in the Raj Bhawans. Only a party that is confident of being in power at the Centre forever would want to take such a stand. This confidence of the BJP is reflected in so many other ways—from overturning the SC's ruling to end government's control over the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioners and ECs to the alleged use of central investigative agencies to target Opposition leaders. There are many other instances. Here is the catch, though.



GST reform is pointless if it doesn't simplify tax slabs

Over the last few days, there have been extensive discussions on the prospects of reforming India's Goods and Services Tax (GST). An important element of the proposed reform is to reduce the present 4-rate structure to a 3-rate one. There could be several objectives behind such a reform. Simplification of the tax structure is an obvious one. Revenue mobilisation could be another, as simpler tax structures are easy to administer and improve compliance. The third is to provide a stimulus to the economy, which is presently dealing with significant uncertainty. I am young enough to be excited

ed by the prospects of tax reforms, but old enough to know better. More so, given my prior experience in trying to understand the GST. Popular perception suggests there are just four GST tax slabs: 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent. Why so many slabs for an indirect tax? Because somehow Indian policymaking believes in the progressivity of taxes—even for consumption goods. A lesser-known reality of the GST is that it has a total of eight tax slabs, excluding the exemptions. These start at 0.25 and go all the way up to 28 per cent. Tax rates of 0.25, 1.5, 3 and 7.5 per cent apply to just 1.5 per cent of total

goods traded in India. Some sectors, such as construction services, have six different applicable tax rates ranging from 0 to 18 per cent. The sheer complexity of India's present GST, even after nine years of existence, should be reason enough for an urgent reform. A major issue with the GST's present structure is the pervasive use of end-use exemptions. That is, for certain items, a GST rate is applicable—but if the goods are used for a specific purpose, then there is no GST on the item. Therefore, the same item has two different tax slabs depending on the buyer and end-use of the item.

Moreover, it creates room for rent-seeking, as many would exploit the tax arbitrage introduced by having a 0 per cent and 18 per cent tax rate as applicable on the same goods. Administering such exemptions is excessively costly and goes against the spirit of a self-enforcing tax such as the GST. A comprehensive reform would do away with such end-use exemptions and identify a specific list of items, such as food—irrespective of whether packaged, processed, or prepared in a restaurant—to be classified as exempt. Similar exemptions could be extended to certain kinds of insurance.

Why Modi, BJP should worry about bad blood between CEC Gyanesh Kumar and Rahul Gandhi?



Amit Malviya must be a harried man as Rahul Gandhi set out on his 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar on Sunday. Bharatiya Janata Party's social media department, headed by Malviya, is facing flak in the Right-wing ecosystem. The reason: its purported failure to counter the Opposition's narrative about the Election Commission's special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar. Let's look at one such thread. Tushar Gupta, whose bio proclaims him to be "anti-Left", took to X to express his concern about the "fake news" being spread about the electoral process. "Absolutely zero resistance. ECI's press releases are not going to cut it...", he wrote. His argument was that the 18-24 age group in 2029 would be "reelers", not readers, and could be easily swayed by Gandhi. "And this is exactly what he (Gandhi) is doing right now," he added. X users reacted to the thread, venting their ire on Malviya, with some even demanding his resignation as the BJP's IT cell chief. Dr Ratan Sharda, who has written several books on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), agreed with Tushar and said that Gen Z is "not clued on" to the BJP. "The communication, the enunciation, the slogans—all present a middle-aged projection of a young successful party led by the most popular PM of all times whom youth love. @BJP4India needs to reinvent its SM approach and communication," he wrote. To be fair to Malviya, headline management and narra-

tive-building aren't so easy after 11 years in power. The belligerence of the Election Commission (EC) in dealing with the Opposition isn't helping him either. "Give an oath or apologise to the nation. There is no third option," Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said at a press conference Sunday, taking on Gandhi's 'vote theft' charge. Many Constitutional experts like former Lok Sabha Secretary General PDT Acharya have rubbished the EC's demand for Gandhi's oath under Rule 20(3)(b) of the Registration of Electors Rules 1960, maintaining that it does not apply in this case. Kumar wouldn't bother. Since when has the EC assumed the authority to instruct public representatives to apologise? Even former CEC MS Gill, who joined the Congress and went on to become a Union Minister after retirement, never demanded it from Opposition leaders as long as he helmed the EC. One may not agree with Gandhi's phraseology—from 'chowkidar chor hai' (the gatekeeper is the thief) to 'vote chor (vote theft)'. He often gets carried away, trying to bring

cian. If there is bad blood and a public spat between the CEC and the Opposition leaders, it will shake the people's trust and faith in the election results. And that is the worst thing that could happen to Indian democracy. Instead of attacking Rahul Gandhi, the EC could have simply ordered an investigation into his claims of fake voters in Bengaluru's Mahadevapura—or, for that matter, the supposedly inflated number of voters in Maharashtra. It could have done a Bihar-like special intensive revision (SIR) in Mahadevapura immediately to rebut the allegations. That would have bolstered its credibility and its Bihar SIR case. BJP leader Anurag Thakur also made allegations about fake voters in the constituencies of Opposition leaders such as Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, and others. Thakur also accused them of 'vote theft'. Gandhi and Thakur were making the same disclosure—that voter lists across the country have issues. CEC Kumar hasn't reacted to Thakur's allegations yet. Fake voters' list is no news, anyway. The CEC could have thanked the Congress and BJP leaders for highlighting this issue again and used it to justify a countrywide SIR. What to speak of allegations of irregularities in Assembly or Lok Sabha elections, in the recent Delhi Constitution Club election (in which incumbent and former MPs are voters), Congress leader and former MP Brijendra Singh found to his dismay that his vote had already been cast. So did another former MP from the BSP. It's plausible that Kumar—who was Secretary in Amit Shah's cooperation ministry—is extremely upset by Gandhi's diatribe against the Commission. The best way to deal with this would have been to invite Gandhi over for Kashmiri Kahwa, as he used to treat journalists with, and thrash it out. But Kumar has chosen to slug it out publicly with the Opposition. What must worry the BJP is the fact that the Opposition's diatribe against the EC seems to be resonating on the ground. As per a Lokniti-CSDS survey published in The Hindu on Sunday, 45 per cent of the respondents believe that genuine voters may get removed from the voters' list under the SIR, as against only 25 per cent who said 'no'. Only 60 per cent of respondents were very or somewhat confident of the EC's ability to ensure inclusivity. The survey was conducted in six states: Delhi, Assam, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. The Lokniti-CSDS survey, as compared to its 2019 and 2024 post-poll surveys, shows declining trust in the Commission. In Assam, the number of respondents who said they have "no trust" in the EC increased from 6 per cent in 2019 to 10 per cent in 2024 and 17 per cent in 2025. In Kerala, this increased from 10 per cent in 2019 and 2024 to 24 per cent in 2025. In Madhya Pradesh, the lack of trust in the EC rose from 6 per cent in 2019 to 22 per cent in 2024 and 2025.

After rosogolla, Odias and Bengalis fight over Mamata's Jagannath Dham

In the season of Conclave, what if a church suddenly decided to call itself Vatican—not just a tribute, but a claim to spiritual status? That's what the Mamata Banerjee government effectively did, as far as Odias are concerned, when it named the new Jagannath temple in Digha after Jagannath Dham in Puri, Odisha. For the Odias, this 'appropriation' was the last straw and has put them eyeball to eyeball with the Bengalis like never before. Why did Banerjee tread this path? If a temple was her big trip, why a Puri Jagannath lookalike and not something in the tradition of Bengal's own terracotta temples that dot Bishnupur in Bankura district? Alternatively, it could have opted for something original. Bengalis, it seems, have a peculiar fondness for replicas. During Durga Pujas, Buckingham Palaces, Golden Temples and the Pyramids pop up all over the state—pandals built with bamboo and tarpaulin to house the goddess in the festive season. But

those are temporary structures, dismantled once the pujas end. The Jagannath Temple in Digha is permanent, a silent testimony to the Bengalis' copycat gene. A few months after becoming the chief minister in 2011, Banerjee was on her way home via Newtown, parts of which today resemble Gurgaon from 50 years ago, when she suddenly halted her vehicle, got off, and stood to survey 480 acres of green dotted with waterbodies. On the spot, she declared it a park—and the next thing we know, in 2013, she was inaugurating Eco Park, a brand-new destination in Kolkata a la Victoria Memorial, or the historic Botanical Gardens with the centuries-old Banyan Tree. That wasn't the end of it. Past the tree-lined boundary came up the Pyramids of Giza, an Eiffel Tower, a Taj Mahal, a Colosseum, and even a towering Christ the Redeemer—all of them exact replicas of the originals in miniature form.

History teaching requires revision more than textbooks

What does it mean to be a historian in India? Both of us have formally studied the subject. In the years we've spent working as public historians, we've told myriad stories of India's chequered pasts through heritage walks, museum trails, cultural events, podcasts, an annual journal, book reviews, articles, and social media posts. We've pored over archives and conducted on-ground research. We've also translated scholarship into language and experiences that anyone, from an academic to a casual listener, can connect with. Yet, despite this range of work, one question almost always follows when we explain what we do: "Okay, but what is your real job?" The question says as much about our profession as it does about how history itself is perceived in India. After all, how often do Indian households encourage history as a job? A base-level problem here is: how do you support the study of history when it isn't even clear what a historian does? In childhood, history may occasionally bask in the dreamy, cinematic glow of Indiana Jones and Night at the Museum. Or Bharat Ek Khoj, Akbar-Birbal adaptations, the delightfully

paradoxically, history seems to dominate our headlines. It's everywhere: in TV debates, political speeches, social media threads. Everyone, it seems, has something to say about the past. That's why the current debate on revisions matters. The problem isn't with 'updating' history. Our understanding of the past evolves as our present changes. Every historian is shaped by their time, drawing not only on the materials and theoretical bases available, but also on their own perspectives and questions. So revisions themselves aren't the issue.

The real concern is how history textbooks are revised. If these changes were aimed at helping students approach the past critically, and provided them with the historian's toolkit—by introducing them to a range of sources, perspectives, and debates—then they would be fruitful. Our NCERT textbooks have been subject to regular revisions, with new theories and ideas inserted alongside scholars' evolving approaches to history. This exercise is necessary, so long as the emphasis remains on updatings that accurately convey the latest reflections on continuities and changes.

Teens who are in love should- n't have to deal with Pocso

Delhi: Supreme Court emphasized the need to safeguard young romantic relationships rather than criminalize them under the Pocso Act, noting that falling in love is not a crime and that teens should not be regarded as criminals and sent to prison. A bench consisting of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan stated that true romantic relationships should be treated differently, whereas the Centre is vehemently opposed to the concept of lowering the consent age from 18 to 16 years. The problem of young people falling in love and then running away is something we're dealing with. That much is true. It is inappropriate to use the same statute (Pocso) in these instances. In cases of true romantic relationships, do not treat the youngsters like ordinary offenders. At the hearing, the court stated, "Social reality should be kept in mind."

The petitions were submitted by NCPCR



SC rejects request to delay central portal registration of Waqf properties

Delhi: The Supreme Court has ordered individuals and organizations to comply with the requirement to register all waqf properties on a centralized digital portal within six months. This order was made because the court is considering the validity of the Wakf Amendment Act 2025, and it has declined to stay the

and NCW, and they challenged multiple HC orders that had

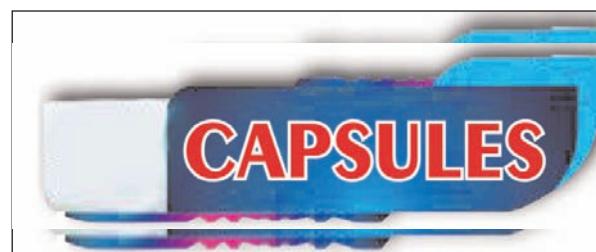
notification from the Union government. It is now crystal obvious that the court cannot halt the ministry of minority affairs' June 6 notification until it renders its reserved ruling on petitions challenging the 2025 law, according to a bench headed by Chief Justice Bhushan R Gavai. What might possibly be the issue with following the instruction?

protected juveniles who had eloped.

Delhi: A meeting of the UT-Level Coordination Committee was presided over by Parvesh Verma, the Minister of the Public Works Department (PWD) in Delhi, with the purpose of reviewing important infrastructure concerns and speeding up ongoing projects under the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), with a focus on safety measures on UER-II. The newly opened Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) corridor was the main topic of discussion. This road is expected to greatly improve regional con-



nnectivity and alleviate traffic congestion in Delhi. Parvesh Singh ordered the Delhi Traffic Police to increase awareness of the importance of safety precautions on UER-II through the use of signage, public announcements, and awareness initiatives. To ensure a rapid



Changes to Supreme Court's "Harsh" Order Permit the Release of Stray Dogs



Delhi: The Supreme Court, in its ruling that the previous ban on releasing stray dogs was "too harsh," revised its August 11 directions on mass capture of stray dogs. The new directions state that dogs seized by local authorities in Delhi and four adjacent districts—Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, and Faridabad—will be vaccinated and spayed before being released in the same area, with the exception of dogs showing signs of aggression or rabies. The ruling by the highest court reaffirms the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, which provide that all dogs in the neighborhood must be rounded up, vaccinated, and sterilized before being released, with the exception of animals that are obviously violent or rabid. ABC and anti-rabies programs based on the catch-neuter-vaccinate-release methodology, as outlined in the regulations crafted under Section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The court's decision to extend the purview of the suo motu case to the whole nation was a major development leading up to the decree of August 11.

CMs, ministers, and the prime minister could face 30 days in prison on major charges



years or more in prison is disqualified from holding public office under the Representation of the People's Act, 1951. Irrespective of the length of sentence, disqualification follows conviction for major offenses including drug trafficking and corruption.

image.pngDelhi : The

Over 200 properties, to be auctioned off by DDA

Delhi: In order to make room for more events over the forthcoming holiday season, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has started an online auction for more than 200 prime sites that are available for a license fee. The properties that are being auctioned off consist of over 115 function sites, kiosks, Aarambh Cafes, Amrit Dhara Food Court, a shopping center, and about 80 locations of mobile towers. The of the venues are open areas that can accommodate both religious and secular gathering.

Delhi Govt. notifies rules for e-delivery of summons, warrants



Delhi: Officials in Delhi have announced the Delhi BNSS (Service of Summons and Warrants) Rules, 2025, which will allow court summonses and warrants to be sent electronically via WhatsApp and email. They claimed this change will make the summons go out faster. Lieutenant Governor V. K. Saxena had already authorized the notification, which was issued by the home department of the Delhi Government. According to a senior government official, the police force will be

able to focus more on policing and investigations once they are no longer burdened with paperwork and clerical chores thanks to electronic delivery. These days, judges' digital seals and signatures are attached to court summonses that are prepared electronically. After that, the police will notify the

individual by WhatsApp or email. If the electronic delivery fails or the necessary details are not available, the courts have the authority to order physical delivery of the summons, as stated in the Rules. The Rules go a step further in protecting the identities of victims, particularly young girls and women by ensuring that their phone numbers and email addresses are not made public in specific types of cases, such as those involving the POCSO Act.

Former Delhi Riots Responder Satish Golcha Appointed Police Chief



Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, Golcha is renowned for his no-nonsense approach and forceful leadership. His tenure runs till April 2027. After Sanjay Arora's retirement, SBK Singh, an officer from the 1988 batch, became chief of the Delhi Police on August 1. His term was probably the shortest of any chief in the force's history. Golcha succeeded him.

The Capital Sees a Surge in Hepatitis Cases During the Monsoon Season

Delhi: On World Hepatitis Day experts warned that hospitals in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) have seen an alarming increase in hepatitis A and E cases since the rainy season has begun. Children, pregnant women, and individuals with liver illness are particularly vulnerable to this seasonal rise, which doctors attribute to unclean water.

MCD councillors express dissatisfaction over operation of mechanical road sweepers



Delhi: MCD councillors expressed dissatisfaction over the operation of mechanical road sweepers engaged on the ground. They claimed that the functioning of these machines was not supervised properly. The matter was raised by deputy standing committee chairman Sunder Singh Tanwar, who argued that there are 52 MRS machines engaged through contractors for the cleaning of wide roads. "While MCD is spending an average of Rs 2 crore per month on

operating these sweepers, there are no visible changes on the ground, and there is no clarity on when these machines take a round of the area," he said. Councillors have demanded that the route maps of mechan-

ical road sweepers should be shared with them in advance. "These machines operate on roads more than 60 ft wide, and often councillors have expressed dissatisfaction with the waste or dust collected from the

The single window system will be used to grant all permissions to Ramlila

Delhi: A single-window clearance system and a decreased security deposit are just two of the improved services that the Delhi government is providing to Ramlila organizations in the nation's capital. The decision was reached during a special meeting at the Raj Niwas, which was presided over by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena. Gupta, along with members of the Delhi Ramleela Federation's executive board and high-ranking government officials, attended the meeting. From September 22nd until the 2nd of October, the capital will host this year's Ramlila. The chief minister claims that out of 600 Ramleela performances, 100 are held on a large stage in Delhi.

site. We just want to improve sanitation, and that's why I have asked the department to submit a plan specifying the operation of these machines and officials supervising them.

Metro link for IGI airport's T1, T3 moves ahead



Delhi: A long-proposed Metro line connecting Terminal 1 of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) to a new station at Aerocity that will facilitate passenger transfers from Terminal 3 could get off the drawing board soon, people familiar with the matter said. The Detailed Project

Report (DPR) has been finalised to integrate T1 with

the upcoming Golden Line, allowing international passengers arriving at T3 to connect to their domestic flights at T1 via Aerocity within ten minutes," one of the officials aware of the plan said.

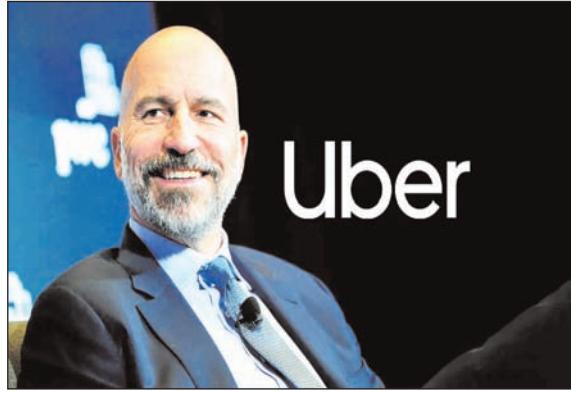
To be sure, Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), which manages IGIA

had first proposed the extension in 2023, after which the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) conducted a study and submitted a DPR. The plan, however, did not take off then. Work on the rest of the Golden Line, from Aerocity-Tughlakabad, started in 2022.

A competition in India is now Rapido, not Ola, according to Uber's CEO

Delhi : In

Bengaluru, According to Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi, Rapido has surpassed Ola in India and is now the company's most formidable rival. Our primary rival in the past was Ola. At this point, Rapido is the more formidable rival in India. They entered the two-wheeler and three-wheeler markets with a zero-commission subscription model in a robust way. Very flimsy too. In an interview with Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath that was released on Sunday, he mentioned that Ola is currently in third place. Khosrowshahi stated that Uber views India as a crucial market. With over 1.4 million drivers spanning vehicles, two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and cars, the country has surpassed all others to become the third-largest in the world according to the company's trip count. "India is a must win for Uber, not just tomorrow, but ten years



from now," stated the CEO. Khosrowshahi credited Rapido's early success to the company's subscription model, which allowed drivers to keep more of their money. However, he did mention that Rapido was "not making money" and that the company's ability to grow financially will be evaluated. "We've got a lot of respect for them and we intend to compete really hard," according to him. The CEO of Uber pondered the larger realm of fast commerce and mobility, telling entrepreneurs not to be paralyzed by concern over market size. "Successful businesses are constantly changing to stay ahead.

The number of states

PM to inaugurate SEMICON India 2025

Delhi : The administration boasted that the fourth edition of SEMICON India 2025, which has grown double the size of last year's edition, will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 2. New Delhi's Yashashoomi (IICC) will host the gathering from September 2-4, 2025. Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, and South Korea will all have their very own pavilions during SEMICON India. The United States, Malaysia will each host one of six country-specific roundtables.

The number of states

Expect price cuts for SUVs and sedans as a result of 40% GST cut

Delhi : With the goods and services tax (GST) set to drop from its current level of up to 50% to a suggested 40%—the slab for luxury and sin items—price reductions are likely to affect not only tiny automobiles and two-wheelers, but also large sedans and SUVs. The possibility that the GST Council would impose a new tax on luxury cars is another source of concern. In addition to the 40% tax, several states wanted a cess at the ministerial panel conference on rate rationalization. Sedans and SUVs with



engine capacities above a specific level and length exceeding four meters are currently subject to a cess of 22% and a GST of 28%. Following hints that the Centre is keen on a flat 40% levy on a handful of sin and luxury products

The president signs off on an online gaming bill, and regulations will soon be drafted

Delhi : An announcement states that the comprehensive prohibition on internet gambling in India was signed into law by President Droupadi Murmu after the bill passed the parliament in a record-breaking three days. Both the Lok Sabha and the Senate had already approved the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 and the president gave his assent to the bill, as reported on the Rashtrapati Bhavan website and by a spokesperson for the Ministry of



Electronics and Information Technology (Meity). Dream11, MPL, and PokerBaazi are among the popular apps that are banned under the new rule, which takes a two-pronged approach by restricting real-money gaming and while supporting e-Sports and online social gaming.

Starting operations with iPhone 17 manufacture, Foxconn's B'luru unit

Delhi: According to individuals familiar with the matter, the Bengaluru facility of the Taiwanese electronics company Foxconn has recently started operations with small-scale manufacture of the iPhone 17. With an investment of \$2.8 billion (about Rs 25,000 crore), Foxconn was established at Devanahalli near Bengaluru, becoming the second-biggest plant outside of China and the largest assembler of iPhones.

The manufacturing of the iPhone 17 has begun at the



Foxconn Bengaluru factory. This is on top of what its Chennai unit is already producing, according to a source familiar with the matter. Neither Apple nor Foxconn responded to an email seeking comment on the matter.

DOT Is Waiting for PMO's Decision on Vodafone Idea Relief Options

Delhi: In what could be a lifeline for the faltering telecom provider, the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has proposed multiple relief alternatives for Vodafone Idea. This comes at a time when the firm is encountering serious financial difficulties

due to the intense competition in the Indian telecom industry. It is clear that the government is cognizant of the dire condition facing one of India's leading telecom companies, Vodafone Idea, because the DOT has taken action to propose relief measures for

Hundreds of Chinese engineers returned suddenly, briefly halting operations. Nevertheless,

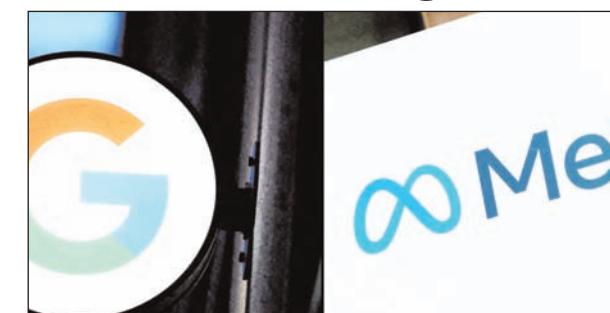
Foxconn has managed to fill the void by enlisting the help of specialists from a variety of locations, including Taiwan.

CAPSULES
Raw cotton import tariffs will be waived for 40 days as part of government efforts to reduce input prices



Delhi: A government decision published late by the Indian government announced the temporary suspension of the 11% import duty on raw cotton from 19 August to 30 September. This will help the country's textile and garment industries. The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) and other industry groups have been continuously fighting for this policy, claiming that high input costs are reducing competitiveness compared to regional peers. As a result, the proposal has been passed. A tax of 11% was applied to cotton imports before the exemption. Now that September is behind us, experts in the field expect duty-free cotton imports to go on. Cotton imports were subject to levies in India as early as February 2022. From 40-50% to 19% in fiscal 2024-2025, the United States is expected to account for a smaller share of India's cotton imports. When taxes made American cotton too expensive for Bangladesh and Vietnam to import, the textile industry in India began using Brazilian cotton instead, since it was much cheaper.

Meta signs over \$10 billion cloud deal with Google



Delhi : The news comes after Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg's comments in July that the company would spend hundreds of billions of dollars to build several massive AI data centers. The company raised the bottom end of its annual capital expenditures forecast by \$2 billion, to a range of \$66 billion to \$72 billion last month. Meta is seeking outside partners to help it fund the massive infrastructure needed to power AI by offloading \$2 billion

between two prominent competitors in the artificial intelligence sector. Amid this flurry of deals, Google parent's cloud-computing unit delivered an almost 32% jump in second-quarter revenue in July, which surpassed expectations.

Sale of IDBI Bank nears as LIC obtains Sebi approval

Delhi : Sebi has approved Life Insurance Corporation's reclassification as a public shareholder from IDBI Bank's promoter after the sale. The RBI's approval is contingent on LIC's voting rights being capped at 10%, no board representation or



influence over the bank's business, and lowering its holding to 15% or less within

two years of the deal closing. Dipam informed LIC of Sebi's decision after the Cabinet's 2021 strategic disinvestment in IDBI Bank. UAE NBD received an RBI license to operate a wholly owned subsidiary in India, sparking rumors that it will

acquire IDBI bank. "We acquired up to 51% of IDBI Bank because their recapitalization provided an opportunity," stated LIC chairman R Doraiswamy. Currently 49.2%. The government and LIC will sell part of our interest during

Buyers anticipate GST and price cuts as holiday retail sales take a nosedive



Delhi : Though the news of a decrease in the goods and services tax (GST) has brought joy to consumers and businesses alike, it has also created an unusual dilemma for brick-and-mortar and online stores. According to businesses, festive demand, which typically starts with the Ganesh holiday in Maharashtra and Onam in the south, is being subdued while consumers wait for the GST rates to truly decrease, leading to a decline in retail prices. In the days

leading up to Dussehra and Diwali, the festive opening is typically a very busy time, so this is causing us concern. Companies selling automobiles and consumer products, as well as retailers, are sitting on

their hands until a decision is made on the ground, due to the news of a GST rate cut and the imminent fall in retail prices. Stores selling white goods, such as televisions, air conditioners, and dishwash-

ers, have the same challenge. Customers are already contacting us in droves to find out when they may expect to see price reductions. According to the CEO of

twenty ports across Asia, Africa, and India, according to two sources familiar with the situation. The Iranian firm that runs the famous Chabahar terminal is looking to expand into other ports in the Indian subcontinent.

a leading consumer products company, buyers are now saying they will wait for the price cut before taking delivery.

Get ready to travel the world with Indian Ports Global!

Delhi: The consortium plans to buy and run twenty ports in various parts of the world, including India, Africa, and Asia. The Indian government-owned Indian Ports Global Ltd is spearheading a consortium that plans to buy and administer

Two-third drop in Indian study permits: Canada data

Delhi : In the second quarter, Indian study visa holders for Canadian universities dropped by over two-thirds. The number of Indian study permits issued between April and June 2025 was 17,885, up from 55,660 in 2024, according to IRCC data. Over 66% drop. Compared to 45% in 2024, 32% of study permits were awarded to Indians. The first six months of 2025 saw a drop in Indian students from 99,950 to 47,695. Total study permits fell by about 100,000, from 245,055 in the first half of 2024 to 149,860. The significant fall in 2025 continues a pattern that began in 2024 when Canada cut study permits. These numbers, according to IRCC, are "preliminary estimates" and subject to change, but they reflect Canada's changing acceptance of foreign students, including Indians, amid growing anti-immigrant sentiment. After the intake



exploded post-Covid under then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Canada's international student program was heavily criticized, becoming an election issue before the 2025 Federal election. Policy adjustments were made due to record immigration, which contributed to housing unaffordability and health and transport infrastructure strain. After leading his party back to power after the April 28 Federal election, Prime Minister Mark Carney stated that temporary residents, including students and foreign workers, will not exceed 5% of the population by 2027. insights. This will bring

Hindu University establishes public policy institute

Delhi: Hindu College at Delhi University has set itself apart from other Indian universities by creating a public policy lab. Officials have stated that the goal is to include real-world policymaking into both undergraduate and graduate programs. With the goal of democratizing and decentralizing the process of knowledge generation, the lab is designed to serve as a hub for policy simulations, applied research, and field-based.

insights. This will bring

Within days of starting, schools in Delhi's CM Shri garner 50,000 applications

Delhi: The recently opened CM Shri Schools in Delhi have received an enormous amount of interest from parents in the short time that admissions have been open. The number of applications has surpassed 50,000 in less than seven days, according to data from the Department of Education.

The numbers show a spike in middle school applications across the board, with over 20,000 for Class 8, over 15,000 for Class 7, and nearly 15,000 for Class 6. The schools, which were included in the budget for the year



2025-26 by the Delhi government, are planned according to the National Education Policy 2020 and the Prime Minister Shri program at the federal level. The plan's stated goal is to raise public school standards to those of highly regarded private schools. Biometric attendance systems, robotics labs,

artificial intelligence (AI) libraries, smart classrooms, and augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) tools have been installed in every CM Shri School. The government has prioritized environmentally friendly infrastructure alongside technological advancements to encourage.

Ajay Singh Maintains His Position as President of the Boxing Federation of India

Delhi : After his panel won easily, incumbent Ajay Singh was re-elected as president of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) for a third consecutive term. With a score of 40-26, Singh prevailed over Jasjal Pradhan of the Sikkim unit. Meanwhile, Pramod Kumar of the UP

unit was chosen secretary general, defeating Digvijay Singh of the MP unit by a score of 36-30. Hemanta Kalita of Assam, who had already served two four-year terms as office-bearers and was thus unable to run for reelection, was succeeded by Kumar. Kalita will now enter the

required cooling-off period. Later in the day, the other candidate, Neeraj Jain of Delhi, rescinded his nomination. In a three-way battle for the position of treasurer, Pon Baskaran of Tamil Nadu prevailed over Anil Kumar Bohidar of Odisha and R Gopu of Pondicherry.

HC overturns CIC ruling; DU need not divulge 1978 BA records

Delhi: The Delhi high court overturned a Central Information Commission (CIC) order to disclose Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bachelor's degree on Monday. After hearing Delhi University's petition against the CIC verdict, Justice Sachin Datta delivered the reserved judgment on February 27. Neeraj brought the case with an RTI request. PM Modi graduated in 1978, and the CIC opened the records of all 1978 BA test passers in December 2016. The Delhi high court stayed the CIC order on January 23, 2017. Delhi University Solicitor General Tushar Mehta urged to cancel the CIC order during the hearing. He suggested the university



may provide the court with the records. University is fine with showing the court the record. Mehta mentioned a 1978 Bachelor of Arts degree. DU countered the CIC ruling by arguing that student records are fiduciary and that "mere curiosity" without public interest cannot justify RTI Act publication.

However, the RTI applicants' counsel justified the CIC judgment, stating that the Right to Information law authorizes disclosure of the prime minister's educational details for the public interest.

Companies in the electronics industry are the most welcoming to LGBTQIA+ apprentices.

Delhi : A whopping 71% of businesses in the electronics sector have shown a great desire to hire LGBTQIA+ apprentices, making it one of the most welcoming sectors for this demographic. Overall, 64 percent of Indian companies are welcoming of LGBTQIA+ apprentices, so this is just one more example of a larger trend. The January-March TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship Outlook Report emphasizes this change. The majority of electronics and telecom firms (71%) are eager to hire LGBTQIA+ apprentices.

Delhi : IIT Madras and the SBI Foundation launched a Para-Athlete Sports Scholarship program to empower 100 para-athletes in India. 100 selected athletes will receive a Rs 40,000 monthly stipend and scientific instruction as part of the scholarship. The institute supports their national and international sporting success. Acrophase, IIT Madras' center of excellence for human performance, is giving technical help for this endeavor under Professor Mohanasankar

Jamia Millia students will pay a year for failing internals

Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia students must pass internal examinations to take the end-semester exams, or they may lose an academic year. From 2025-26, Jamia's Executive Council will apply the sciences' 40:60 evaluation model—40% internal assessment and 60% final exam—to all undergraduate and postgraduate courses across streams. Official notification states that the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme and postgraduate programmes have been updated to comply with the NEP, 2020. Students must now score at least 40% in internal assessment and final exams independently. Theory exams are now two hours instead of three, while lab courses will remain 50:50 with a 40% pass rule. These restrictions do not apply to statutory entities like the All India Council for Technical Education, Council of Architecture, Dental Council, National Council for Teacher Education, and Bar Council of India. According to the announcement, the new examination and assessment method will apply to all university UG (Four Year UG Programme under NEP-2020) and PG programmes save those administered under regulatory council rules. This signals a major change from the previous system, where many arts and social science courses relied on end-semester exams. As per the internal assessment structure, students in these streams will be assessed through assignments, examinations, projects, presentations, and class participation.

A New NCERT Unit Assigns Partition Blame to Congress, Jinnah, and Mountbatten

Delhi : In a special module published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which implicates the Congress, Md Ali Jinnah, and Louis Mountbatten in the Partition, the Congress has voiced its strong disapproval in New Delhi. Separate editions have been created for Classes 9-12 and Classes 6-8 to commemorate the Partition Horrors.

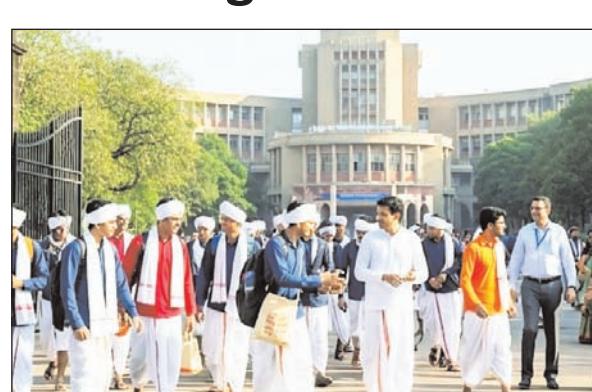
SBI Foundation, IIT Madras give para-athlete scholarships



goals and represent our nation." He continued, "This effort gives our para-athletes recognition, resources, and confidence, not just money. Join us in supporting their journey and achievement. We're happy to support them now and always." Ashwin Mahalingam, IIT Madras dean (alumni and corporate relations), praised the financing, "We cherish our cooperation with SBI Foundation and the opportunities it brings. Our longstanding ideals of diversity and inclusiveness in sports.

Gurukul students apply to IITs for research grants

Delhi : The Setubandha Scholar Scheme, which was established in partnership with the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) division of the Union education ministry to allow scholars trained at Gurukul to do research at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, has garnered nearly three hundred and seventy applications from students at Central Sanskrit University (CSU), New Delhi, for fifty scholarships. Selected applicants can receive doctoral and postgraduate degrees through the program even if they do not have official academic credentials. They will be provided with a monthly stipend ranging from 40,000 to 75,000, a yearly contingency grant of 1-2 lakh, the opportunity to be mentored by faculty



DU teachers raise issues of unoccupied reserved seats

Delhi: Teachers from Delhi University brought up issues with professor recruitment in front of a Parliamentary Committee, claiming that the SC/ST populations were marginalized on a systematic level. Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

They paid a visit to DU and had in-depth interviews with eighty people, including faculty, stu-

ED unearths NRI quota admission racket in private medical colleges

Delhi : A large-scale NRI admission racket was uncovered in an investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), with the help of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and its embassies and foreign missions. The racket involved private medical colleges offering admissions on approximately 18,000 reserved MBBS undergraduate and post-graduate seats under the quota, but applicants had to use fake documents. It has been confirmed by India's diplomatic missions abroad that the NRI credentials that were confiscated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) from many private medical colleges and utilized to provide admissions were fraudulent.

Additionally, these



admissions were accompanied by counterfeit stamps issued by US-based notaries. Over the past few months, the ED has seized vital evidence through raids at multiple medical colleges in Odisha and West Bengal. The confiscated NRI certificates were thereafter transferred to Indian missions and embassies for verification by the agency.

It was discovered that the majority of them were counterfeit. These medical

schools were paying middlemen to get false NRI paperwork made, according to the investigation. In order to take advantage of the NRI quota for student admissions, the brokers also created false family trees of NRIs, posing as students' relatives when in fact they were completely unrelated. Agents and medical schools have admitted numerous unrelated individuals using the paperwork of a single non-resident Indian (NRI).

UGC Draft Incorporates Ancient Indian Mathematics into Undergraduate Program

Delhi : University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently drafted a new curriculum that includes ancient Indian knowledge systems in undergraduate mathematics courses. These systems include Bharatiya Bijganit (Indian algebra), Kala Ganpana (traditional timekeeping), the Puranas, and concepts from texts like the Surya Siddhanta and Aryabhatiyam. In the proposed curriculum, which is part of the Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF) that is in line with the National Education Policy 2020, the UGC has suggested that students study the evolution of Indian algebra and methods such as the Paravartya Yojayet Sutra, a Vedic mathematics approach that means "transpose and apply." In this math, mythology, and astronomy course, students will learn about prime meridian points, ancient observatories, and how Vedic time units (such as the Ghati and Vighati) compare to modern-day GMT and IST. In addition, it explains how to find the auspicious times for festivals and ceremonies, or mahurtas, and how to calculate the panchanga, the Indian calendar.



'Physical, technical external interference': Azerbaijan Airlines

Azerbaijan Airlines on Friday revealed that initial investigation into the crash of its aircraft in Kazakhstan that killed 38 was likely due to "external interference of a physical and technical nature", fuelling discussions about potential involvement of Russian air defence systems. The airline has also halted operations to 10 airports in Russia, stating their decision was "based on the preliminary results of the investigation into the crash of the Embraer 190 aircraft operating the Baku-Grozny flight J2-8243 of Azerbaijan Airlines due to physical and technical external interference". This comes after, Russia, earlier in the day, put the blame on Ukraine, claiming that Ukrainian drones were attacking the city of Grozny as the Azerbaijan Airlines plane attempted to land, before its subsequent crash in Kazakhstan.

"Ukrainian military



drones were carrying out terrorist attacks on civilian infrastructure... at the time," Chief of Russia's civil aviation authority Dmitry Yarov said, adding that the plane made two unsuccessful attempts to land. "The pilot was offered alternative airports. He took the decision to go to Aktau airport" in Kazakhstan, he said. Also read: 'Ukrainian military was carrying out terrorist attacks when Azerbaijani flight tried to land,' claims Russia. However, Ukraine has put the blame on Russia and said, "Russia must be held responsible for the downing of the Azerbaijan Airlines.

"Ukrainian military

Balaji's mother opens up on his death: 'It doesn't look normal'

Balaji, who played a key role in organising data for OpenAI's models, resigned in August, calling its practices unfair. By November, The New York Times' lawyers named him as a key figure in their copyright case against OpenAI. However, on November 26, shortly after his 26th birthday, Balaji was found dead in his San apartment. Authorities ruled his death a suicide, yet his family remains unconvinced, pushing for a deeper investigation.

Tech mogul Elon Musk described the philanthropic efforts of Mackenzie Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, as "concerning." His comment came in response to a social media post scrutinising Scott's extensive donations, alleging that her initiatives primarily fund non-profits promoting divisive ideologies rather than addressing pressing global issues. The post highlighted Scott's "trust-based philanthropy," which involves providing no-strings-attached grants to over 2,500 non-profits. It alleged that her focus on causes such as racial



equity, immigrant rights, and LGBTQ justice feeds what the post described as an "NGO/non-profit complex," creating jobs for individuals seeking to validate their expensive degrees. The post further detailed Scott's \$16 billion in donations over

five years, noting her wealth remains substantial at \$36 billion, boosted by Amazon's rising stock price. Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, has become one of the most prolific philanthropists in recent years.

MAGA Civil War: Why Indian-Americans, the new Jews, are irking Donald Trump supporters

There's a theory out there—wild, audacious, but surprisingly hard to dismiss—that just about everything worth celebrating in Western civilization was dreamed up, built, or perfected by Jews. From splitting the atom to decoding life itself, from rewriting the

rules of music to redefining what it means to be human, Jewish brilliance turned the world into their intellectual playground. Let's take a stroll down the hall of fame: J. Robert Oppenheimer, the "father of the atomic bomb," quite literally blew the lid off 20th-

century science. Albert Einstein, the cosmic poet, bent time and space to his will. Jonas Salk saved millions from polio, and Rosalind Franklin cracked the code of life itself with her DNA discoveries. And that's just the lab coats.

Shark Tank's Kevin says half of Canadians are interested in becoming 51st state

Shark Tank's Kevin O'Leary said most of the Canadians are interested in merging with the US.



Shark Tank's Kevin O'Leary, a Canadian, said he is very much enthusiastic about the idea of Canada being merged with the United States and half of the Canadians are but they don't want Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to do the deal with President-elect Donald Trump. The Canadian businessman said he would go to Mar-a-Lago to talk about a US-Canada merger. "There are 41 million Canadians, basically the population of California, sitting on the world's largest amount of all resources, including the most important: energy and water. Canadians, over the holidays, the last two days, have been talking about this. They want to hear more. Obviously, there are a lot of issues, more details of what could be the beginning of an economic union. Think about the power of combining two economies erasing the border between Canada and the United States and putting all that resource up to the northern borders where China and Russia are knocking on the door. So secure that, give a common currency, figure out taxes across the board...I like this idea and at least half of the Canadians are interested," Kevin O'Leary said. But the problem is, Kevin O'Leary continued, that most of the Canadians don't trust Trudeau to carry out the negotiation with his government collapsing and hence he said he would go to Mar-a-Lago to talk to Trump about this. He said he believed that Canadians would trust him with the negotiation. The issue started as a joke at a Mar-a-Lago dinner where Justin Trudeau and his government officials joined Donald Trump. It was a courtesy visit from Trudeau after Trump said he would impose a 25 per cent tax on Canada.

CNN's Scott Jennings mocks Vivek for 'prom queen' dig: 'Someone got stuffed in a locker'



Republican primaries but got a very poor electoral support in Iowa which prompted him to end his campaign following which he endorsed Trump. After Trump's win in the election, Trump made Vivek Ramaswamy the co-chief of the Department of Government Efficiency along with Elon Musk. The row goes back to Sriram Krishnan's advocacy

for removing the visa cap for countries. Sriram Krishnan will work for artificial intelligence at the White House but the Indian-American's lobbying for more Indians in America by removing the cap on H-1B visas ruffled many feathers of Make America Great Again activists. But Elon Musk, Vivek Ramaswamy supported Sriram Krishnan's idea.

'Settle issues' of 1971, Yunus urges Pakistan PM, but mum on apology

Bangladesh's chief adviser, Muhammad Yunus, urged Pakistani PM Shehbaz Sharif to resolve outstanding issues from 1971 to improve bilateral relations. While Sharif highlighted the 1974 tripartite agreement, Yunus emphasized the importance of a SAARC summit. Both leaders agreed to strengthen ties through trade, cultural exchanges, and cooperation in areas like sugar industry and dengue management.

Pak minister defends military trial of civilians



ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani minister on Wednesday defended the military trial of civilians, saying that such courts were competent to deal with the cases related to attacks on army facilities.

Information minister Attaullah Tarar also urged the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led by Imran to refrain from politicising or disputing the issue of military trials. "When an attack is carried out on a defence institution or its property is set ablaze, it becomes the responsibility of the relevant authorities to

apprehend the culprits. Just as railway police handle crimes on railway premises, military courts address offences targeting assets. So, when attacks on military assets occur, the Military Act is enforced," he said while addressing a press conference. Tarar criticised Khan's party for using military courts as a political tool, aiming to create controversy around them. He clarified that military courts only handle cases involving attacks on defence establishments, citing incidents such as the attack on the Corps Commander's House in Lahore. The minister also criticised the PTI for changing its stance regarding trials of civilians in the military courts, recalling that during Khan's tenure, military court trials were praised. "The statements praising the military courts from PTI's leadership are still available on social media.

Vietnam's restrictive internet law comes into force

A new internet law in Vietnam, Decree 147, gives the government increased control over internet access and content in the name of national security and social order. It mandates tech companies to store user data, verify accounts, and remove deemed illegal content within 24 hours. Critics argue this suppresses free speech and impacts livelihoods. A new internet law that gives the Vietnamese government expanded powers over internet services and people using them is set to officially take effect Wednesday. Decree 147 expands government control over access to information on the internet for reasons of "national security" and "social order." The law requires social media platforms providing services to users in Vietnam to store user data and provide it to authorities on demand. The government issued the decree this November, and it requires organizations to take down anything the authorities consider "illegal content" within 24 hours. Decree 147 has sparked concerns, with researchers and experts tracking the country saying that the law is part of a growing crackdown on civil society. "Because the Vietnamese police treat any criticism of the Communist Party of Vietnam as a national security matter, this decree will provide them with yet another tool to suppress dissent," said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. The decree requires tech giants like Facebook and TikTok among other organizations,

Rice shipment from India, first for Yunus government, to arrive today



DHAKA: Bangladesh is set to receive its first consignment of rice imported from India since the formation of the new interim govt even as it looks to be drawing closer to Pakistan than to its immediate neighbour India, which stood beside Bangladesh in 1971 through shared sacrifices. Bangladesh

had witnessed ships coming from Karachi twice in recent days. On Nov 13, for the first time since independence, a container-carrying ship sailing directly from Karachi had docked at Chittagong. This time the ship "MV Tanais Dream", carrying 24,690 metric tonnes of parboiled rice imported from India under the open tender agreement, will arrive at Chittagong port at 5.30am on Thursday. This is also the first consignment of parboiled rice imported from India

under the Nov 11 agreement. The unloading of the rice will start soon after samples of the rice are collected and after physical examination, said a senior Bangladesh food ministry official. Talking to diplomatic correspondents in Dhaka recently, Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma had said he was optimistic about Dhaka-Delhi relationship despite changes happening around. "This we look at the relationship. We have so many things to offer each other with our

Pak military court sentence 60 more civilians, including Imran's nephew



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's military courts sentenced another 60 civilians on Thursday to prison terms ranging from two to 10 years for their alleged involvement in violent attacks on military installations during the nationwide protests on May 9, 2023 following the brief arrest of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on graft charges. The latest sentences were announced just days after the same courts handed prison terms ranging from two to 10 years to 25 civilians on similar allegations.

Imran's nephew Hassan Khan Niazi, who was taken into military custody in Aug 2023, was one of two people sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment. The convictions followed a Supreme Court constitution bench order that had

conditionally allowed military courts to pronounce verdicts on 85 under-custody civilians in cases related to the May 9 riots. The Field General Court Martial has promulgated the punishments to the following remaining 60 culprits after examining all evidence, ensuring the provision of all legal rights to the convicts, completion of due process and the

appropriate legal proceedings," Inter-Services Public Relations, the army's media wing, said. "All convicts retain the right to appeal and other legal recourses, as guaranteed by the constitution and law.

"it stated. "The nation, govt, and the armed forces remain steadfast in their commitment to upholding justice and



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