

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Friday, 07 November, 2025

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

CM Yogi visits Kashi Vishwanath and Kal Bhairav temples, meets saints at Satua Baba Ashram

Varanasi

On the second day of his two-day visit to Varanasi, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath offered prayers at the city prominent temples on Thursday morning. He began his day at the Baba Kal Bhairav Temple, performing traditional rituals and seeking blessings from Lord Kal Bhairav, revered as

the Kotwal (guardian deity) of Kashi. The Chief Minister then visited the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple, where he performed the Shodashopachar ritual and prayed for the happiness, prosperity and welfare of the people of Uttar Pradesh and the nation. The temple premises resonated with chants of "Har Har Mahadev" during the



ceremony.Later, CM

Yogi visited the Satua

Baba Ashram at Manikarnika Ghat, where he offered prayers at the Shiva temple and met Mahant Santosh Das Maharaj, the disciple of Satua Baba. He received blessings from the saints and prayed for peace and prosperity in Varanasi and the state. Local MLA Saurabh Srivastava and Sushil Singh accompa-

nied the Chief Minister during the visit. The Chief Minister had arrived in Varanasi on Wednesday evening. After his arrival, he lit lamps at Namoh Ghat to inaugurate the Dev Deepawali festival. Later, the Chief Minister witnessed the mesmerizing and grand sight of the illuminated ghats along the Ganga from a cruise.

RJD and Congress plunged Bihar into corruption and anarchy: CM Yogi



Sitamarhi

The chants of "Jai Shri Ram" echoed across Sitamarhi on Thursday as Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath led high-energy rallies in Parihar and Sursand, campaigning for NDA candidates Gayatri Devi (BJP) and Nagendra Raut (JDU). As the crowd erupted in cheers, CM Yogi declared, "The countdown for the mafia in Bihar has begun." He said the people of Bihar are rising above the politics of identity and standing firmly with development and nationalism. "Those who questioned Lord Shri Ram and Maa Janaki must be taught a lesson—Jo Ram Ka Nahi, Vo Humare Kisi Kaam Ka Nahi!" he thundered. Paying homage to Maa Janaki birthplace, the Chief Minister said the region, founded by the descendants of Lord

Lakshman, remains a sacred land for every Indian. Drawing a spiritual connection between Parihar and Gorakhpur, he noted, "People here offer Khichdi to Gorakhnath Baba — this ancient bond links Ram and Janaki through faith and devotion." Taking a sharp swipe at the opposition, CM Yogi asked who was responsible for "pushing Bihar youth into an identity crisis." He said, "Bihar gave India Lord Buddha, Mahavira, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Jayaprakash Narayan and Karpooori Thakur — but RJD and Congress reduced this glorious land to corruption and anarchy." He reminded the crowd how Congress and RJD had opposed the Ram Temple, even questioning Lord Ram existence and firing on Ram devotees. "But we said,

Bihar Election: 60.44% voter turnout in Bihar First Phase polls

New Delhi: Bihar created history on Thursday by clocking 64.7% voter turnout, the highest ever in any election held in the state. Since the onset of electoral politics in India in 1951-52, the highest polling percentage recorded in a Lok Sabha poll in Bihar was 64.6% in 1998, and in an assembly poll, 62.6% in the year 2000. The record-breaking turnout follows the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Bihar, resulting in the deletion of nearly 65 lakh dead, permanently shifted, untraceable and non-citizen electors. The exercise was initially slammed by the opposition parties as an exercise meant to disenfranchise the weaker sections and minorities. The high turnout in Bihar Phase 1 is however being seen as a validation of SIR by



the people of Bihar. Chief election commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Thursday congratulated the electors of Bihar for the steepest voter turnout since 1951. He thanked them for expressing complete faith in the EC and turning up to vote in such large numbers, while also appreciating the entire election machinery for working with full transparency and dedication. "Bihar has shown the way to the nation, through SIR with zero appeals, the highest

voter turnout since 1951, purest electoral roll, enthusiastic participation of electors and a transparent and dedicated election machinery. Democracy has won. It has been an amazing journey for ECI," said the CEC. Sharing that the first phase of Bihar assembly poll -- covering 121 assembly seats -- had concluded peacefully and with a festive mood, EC said its new initiatives had made voting a "most pleasant experience for the voters". For the first time, there was

live webcasting of polling in 100% of the polling stations, with chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and election commissioners S S Sandhu and Vivek Joshi monitoring the feed from the EC control room here. The CEC engaged with the presiding officers and district election officers from the control room to ensure the smooth progress of polling. Another first in this election was the visit of 16 foreign delegates from six countries to Bihar as part of the international election visitors' programme (IEVP), to witness the poll proceedings. The delegates, EC said, hailed the Bihar elections for being one of the most well-organised, transparent, efficient and participative elections, internationally. Over 90,000 'jeevika didis' or female volunteers were deployed.



A woman voter shows the indelible ink mark after casting her vote, at a polling booth during the first phase of Bihar Assembly Elections, at Samudayik Bhawan, in Patna.

CM Yogi reviews preparations at Banaras railway station ahead of PM scheduled visit on November 7

Varanasi

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on the second day of his Varanasi visit on Thursday, inspected preparations at Banaras Railway Station for Prime Minister Narendra Modi upcoming two-day tour to his visit parliamentary constituency, starting from Friday



(November 7). After attending religious programs earlier in the day, the Chief

Minister reached the station and took a detailed briefing from senior railway and district officials regarding beautification works, security arrangements, passenger facilities and the event venue setup. CM Yogi directed that all arrangements for the Prime Minister visit be smooth, well-coordinated and free from negligence. He

emphasized maintaining cleanliness, efficient traffic management and tight security across the station premises. It is worth mentioning here that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Varanasi-Khajuraho Vande Bharat and three other trains from Banaras Railway Station on November 8.

Path to world's first trillionaire: Tesla clears \$1,000,000,000,000 pay package for Elon Musk

Tesla shareholders on Thursday approved Elon Musk's multibillion-dollar pay package, giving the CEO a pathway to earn as much as \$1 trillion if he delivers on a set of long-term performance targets. More than 75% of shareholders backed the plan at Thursday's meeting, and the announcement was met with cheers. "What we're about to embark upon is not merely a new chapter of the future of Tesla, but a whole new book," Musk told the audience when he took the stage. The package is designed to keep Musk at Tesla long enough to pursue the technological goals he has set for the company. Musk has said Tesla's



progress in areas such as artificial intelligence, self-driving technology and robotics will put it ahead of competitors. If Musk meets all the targets in the plan, he could become the world's first trillionaire. Musk currently has a net worth of more than \$500 billion and is listed as the world's richest person on Forbes' real-time billionaire rankings. Under the approved plan, he must meet various milestones linked to Tesla.

Why don't you seek adjournment till I retire, CJI asks government

NEW DELHI: Unaffected by the rebuke from Supreme Court for seeking reference of petitions challenging the validity of the Tribunal Reforms Act to a five-judge bench half-way through the final hearing in the matter, attorney general R Venkataramani made a fresh request for adjournment on Thursday, upsetting CJI B R Gavai, who wondered why the top law officer wasn't being direct enough to seek adjournment of the hearing beyond Nov 24, when a new CJI assumes office. Venkataramani, who had already been granted two adjournments to enable him to participate in an international arbitration



proceeding, through ASG Aishwarya Bhati, requested the bench to adjourn the hearing scheduled for Friday to Monday. **Accommodated request twice, AG not being fair to court: CJI** The CJI, who on Nov 3 had refused to accept the Centre's application seek-

ing reference of the case to a five-judge bench and termed it as an attempt to drag the matter beyond his retirement date of Nov 23, told Bhati that the AG is "not being fair to the court" despite the bench, also including Justices K Vinod Chandran and Vipul Pancholi, accommodating

his request for adjournment twice in the past. "If you want to have the hearing after Nov 24 (when Justice Surya Kant takes over as CJI), you should frankly say that," the CJI said, adding that "every now and then it is told to us that the AG is busy with international arbitration and yet the Centre comes out with a midnight application seeking reference of the case midway through the final hearing to a five-judge bench." But when we were practising in HCs, we used to give up cases if we were engaged in a part-heard matter before any bench to enable the HC to complete the hearing as scheduled.

'Criminal ... drunk!' Bihar deputy CM Sinha, RJD leader Ajay Kumar hurl abuses

NEW DELHI: The Phase 1 of Bihar Assembly elections on Thursday witnessed another chaos involving deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha, after a heated argument broke out between him and RJD MLC Ajay Kumar. This came after Sinha, earlier in the day, accused RJD of attacking his convoy with "slippers and cow dung" in his assembly constituency of Lakhisarai. The two leaders were seen hurling abuses at each other as their convoys came face-to-face. As the RJD MLC

accused Sinha of being a "criminal", alleging that he was trying to intimidate voters, Sinha hit back, calling Kumar a "failed leader" and "drunk." The latter dismissed the "drunk" charge, saying that it was "Mahua" (local liquor). Later, Sinha blamed Kumar for the quarrel accusing his men of stopping their car and "resorting to hooliganism". **Bihar Polls: RJD Gains Ground in Sitamarhi as Locals Voice Frustration Over Jobs and Governance** "His people stopped our car.

'It could be, yes': Donald Trump says may visit India next year; calls PM Modi 'great friend'

United States President Donald Trump on Thursday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said he may travel to India next year as the two countries continue discussions on trade. Speaking to reporters at the White House after announcing a move to reduce the prices of weight loss drugs, Trump said his conversations with PM Modi were progressing smoothly. He also reiterated his personal rapport with the prime minister. "He (PM Modi) largely stopped buying from Russia. And he is a friend of mine, and we speak.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a great man. He is a friend of mine, and we speak and he wants me to go there. We will figure that out, I will go... Prime Minister Modi is a great man and I will be going," Trump said. When asked if he planned to visit India next year,

Trump responded, "It could be, yes." The statement comes while trade talks continue between New Delhi and Washington after the United States imposed a 50 per cent tariff, including an additional 25 per cent duty, over India's purchase of Russian oil. Earlier on Tuesday, White

House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said, "The President is positive and feels very strongly about the India-US relationship. A few weeks ago, he spoke to the Prime Minister directly when he celebrated Diwali in the Oval Office with many high-ranking Indian-American officials here at the White House." Her comments followed Trump's recent claim that India reduced its import of Russian oil. During his Asia tour, he said New Delhi was "very good" on the issue and that Modi assured him India would reduce or stop crude imports from Moscow.

Stray dogs case: Chief secretaries of states tender apology

NEW DELHI: Chief secretaries of different states on Monday tendered unconditional apology before the Supreme Court for not filing a response on measures taken by them to curb the menace of stray dog bites. A special bench justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria said that victims of dog bites must also be heard and allows their plea to participate in the hearing on dog bites menace case which the court took suo motu cognisance on the basis of report. "We will issue order in a few days regarding government institutions, where employees are supporting and encouraging dogs in that area," Justice Vikram Nath observed.

Maharashtra orders probe into land sale to Ajit son's company

PUNE: A major political row erupted in Maharashtra on Thursday over alleged transfer of a 40-acre 'Mahar Watan' land belonging to the state in Pune's Mundhwa area for Rs 300 crore in favour of Amadea Enterprises LLP, a company in which deputy CM Ajit Pawar's son Parth is one of two partners, prompting Mahayuti government to order a probe by a five-member committee and suspend a sub-registrar.



The state allegedly waived stamp duty of Rs 21 crore payable for the sale deed registration done in May, alleged activists who claimed the land's market value was Rs 1,800 crore. CM Devendra Fadnis said he has ordered an inquiry into the land deal. "Prima facie the issue appears to be serious. I have asked for officials concerned from land

records, IGR and other revenue offices to share all the details with me," he said. Govt has suspended sub-registrar Ravindra Taru from IGR's Haveli IV sub-registrar office on charges of "gross irregularity in registering the sale deed and causing loss to the exchequer". The IGR authorised joint district registrar (class I) and stamp duty collector Santosh Hingane to initiate criminal proceedings against Taru, Sheetal Tejwani (who held power of attorney for the land), and Amadea Enterprises

Camps will be organized in all Nagar Panchayats of the district from November 7, 2025 to November 12, 2025

Mathura

Chief Development Officer Manish Meena has informed that in Mathura district, camps will be organized to process applications of beneficiaries under the National Old Age and Chief Minister's Mass Marriage Scheme and to resolve pension related problems. Camps will be organized in Nagar Palika Kosikalan and all Nagar Panchayats to benefit the beneficiaries under the above mentioned schemes run by the Social Welfare Department, along with publicizing the schemes and getting the application forms filled for the schemes. Camps will be organised in Nagar Panchayat Chhata, Barsana, Bajna, Baldev, Farah, Govardhan, Raya, Sonkh and Nagar Palika Kosikala from 7th November 2025 to 9th November 2025 from 11 am to 4 pm. Camps will be organised in Nagar Panchayat Chaumuha, Gokul, Nandgaon and Mahavan from 10th November 2025 to 12th November 2025 from 11 am to 4 pm.

Student dies after being hit by a train

Prayagraj. A 17-year-old girl was killed after being hit by a train in the Puramufti police station area. The girl's body was found at Manauri railway station around 6 p.m. Police informed the family and sent the body for post-mortem. Mahesh Kumar Kushwaha, a resident of Mahagaon in the Kaushambi Sandipan Ghat police station area, supports himself and his family through farming. He has five children: three sons and two daughters. His daughter, Khushboo (17), has completed her intermediate education and was currently taking a computer class in Manauri. Father Mahesh Kushwaha said his daughter had gone to Manauri for a computer class.

Key Meeting Held in Etah on Rationalisation of Polling Stations Exceeding 1200 Voters

Addressing the gathering, the DDEO briefed participants on the programme and guidelines issued by the ECI

Etah

In compliance with the directives of the Election Commission of India (ECI), a crucial meeting was convened on Wednesday at the NIC auditorium to discuss the rationalisation of polling stations having more than 1200 voters. The meeting was chaired by Deputy District Election Officer (DDEO) Satyaprakash and witnessed participation from representatives of all recognised political parties of the district. She informed that physical verification of all polling stations across the district has been completed and none of the booths were found to be in a dilapidated condition. He emphasised that the rationalisation process would be carried out with complete transparency, neutrality and convenience to ensure that voters face no difficulty during the upcoming Assembly General Elections. He further stated



that polling stations with more than 1200 voters are proposed to be rationalised. For objections and suggestions, a draft publication of the list of such polling stations will be issued on 10 November 2025 and shared with all recognised political parties. The DDEO urged political parties to submit their suggestions or objections within the stipulated timeframe as per the prescribed criteria so that necessary legal action may be

taken accordingly. Officials also shared technical aspects related to the rationalisation process and circulated relevant documents to the representatives of political parties. Those present at the meeting included SDM Jalesar Bhawana Vimal, SDM Etah Sadar Vipin Kumar Morwal, Additional Deputy Collector Satish Kumar, Tehsildar Aliganj Sanjay Kumar, along with political representatives — BSP

Mandal In-Charge Ramdas Savita, BJP District General Secretary Sushil Gupta and Pankaj Chauhan, SP District President Parvez Zubairi, General Secretary Bhupendra Prajapati and Dharendra Singh, Congress District President Rakesh Lodhi and Naina Sharma, CPI(M) leader Gyan Singh, and officials from the election office including Manoj Kumar and Raghuraj Singh, among other officers and staff.

Meeting Held in Aliganj on SIR of Voter List, SDM Seeks Cooperation from Parties



Etah

In compliance with the directives of the Election Commission of India, a meeting on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list was convened on Thursday at the Tehsil Auditorium in Aliganj. The meeting was presided over by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Aliganj, Jagmohan Gupta and attended by office-bearers and representatives of various political parties. SDM Jagmohan Gupta briefed the attendees on the schedule and guidelines of the revision programme, emphasizing that the campaign is being conducted with complete transparency and impartiality. He appealed to political parties to play an active role in assisting Booth Level Officers in verifying voter lists at the grassroots

level to ensure that no eligible voter is deprived of enrollment. He urged political party representatives to facilitate timely submission of applications for inclusion of names of eligible citizens whose names are yet to be registered. Any errors related to name, address or other particulars in the voter list should be reported immediately to ensure timely corrections, he added. "The prime objective of the administration is to ensure the inclusion of every eligible voter and to conduct the forthcoming elections in a transparent and fair manner," the SDM said. Those present in the meeting included Piyush from BJP, Subhash Shukla from SP, Junaid Miyan from BSP, Vitu Rathore and Congress representative Soni, along with several other party functionaries.

Students Undergo Health Check-Up at Upper Primary School Composite Amroli, Medicines Distributed

Etah

Under the National Child Health Programme, a medical team conducted a health screening camp for students at Upper Primary School Composite Amroli. During the check-up, various health parameters of the children were examined and medicines were distributed as required. The team identified students suffering from eye and ear-related ailments and ensured arrangements for their specialised exami-



nation at the departmental level. Doctors sensitised students on health and hygiene, stating that "a healthy mind can flourish only in a healthy body" and

emphasised the importance of personal hygiene as the first step towards a disease-free life. Blood samples of girl students were also collected. Those found to be

anaemic were provided with iron tablets. In one case, a Class 1 girl student suffering from a skin boil was advised treatment at the Medical College and her parents were contacted regarding further care. The health team comprised Dr. Harshvardhan Bhardwaj, Ruvi Yadav and ANM Christina. From the school, teachers Ankur Gupta, Narendra Singh, Swadesh Kumari along with the entire staff, were present during the camp.

RLD to Decide Its New Direction in Mathura

Lucknow

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) is all set to inject new energy into Uttar Pradesh political landscape. The party has convened its National Convention on November 16 in Mathura, which is being seen as a historic moment — marking a new beginning and a decisive direction for the organization. State President Dr. Ramashish Rai said that the party membership campaign, launched on April 14 (Ambedkar Jayanti) and concluded on October 31 (Sardar Patel Jayanti), turned into a mass movement. "During this campaign, over 6.5 million people joined the RLD," he said, adding that this clearly shows that "the people of the state now want change and see new hope under Jayant Chaudhary's leadership." **(Strategic focus on 2027 Panchayat and Assembly Elections)** The convention will chalk



out the roadmap for the 2027 Panchayat and Assembly elections. Concrete proposals will be presented for organizational expansion in Western, Eastern, Central Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand. Discussions will also focus on strengthening the booth-level network, empowering local leadership and increasing youth participation. **(2026 Declared as the 'Election Year')** RLD has decided to declare 2026 as the "Election Year." During this period, the party will organize meetings, training sessions and public interaction programs at the division, district and block levels. Dr. Rai emphasized that the

party goal is to take the voices of farmers, youth, women and workers to every village across the state. **(Focus on Panchayat Polls, NDA to Win in Bihar)** Dr. Rai said that the upcoming Panchayat elections will be a major opportunity to strengthen the party grassroots base. "RLD will ensure its presence in every village and at every booth," he stated. Commenting on the Bihar Assembly elections, he said that people there had seen the era of lawlessness ("jungle raj"), and now they trust the BJP-Nitish Kumar alliance for development and stability.

Land Near Zubeen Kshetra Linked to Minister Ashok Singhal Family Firm, Balance Sheet Reveals Truth

Assam

A major controversy has erupted in Assam after revelations that land adjacent to the memorial site of late singer Zubeen Garg, popularly known as Zubeen Kshetra in Sonapur, is registered under the name of a company owned by the family of state minister Ashok Singhal. Financial documents have brought this to

light, sparking strong political reactions across the state. Earlier, opposition leader Debabrata Saikia had alleged that Minister Singhal held over 29 bighas of land within the Sonapur Tribal Belt area. Responding to the accusation, the minister had publicly stated, "If it is proven that I own any land in Sonapur, I will renounce politics and retreat to the Himalayas." However,



contrary to his claim, the balance sheet of the minister-linked firm, Protech Buildcon Private Limited, for the financial year 2023-24 lists "Land

at Sonapur" under Note 9: Property, Plant and Equipment in the Own Assets section. The value of this land is recorded as Rs.1.34 crore (approximately 134.06 lakh). Reliable sources confirm that the property lies right next to Zubeen Kshetra. Sharing the document on social media, opposition leader Debabrata Saikia demanded that Minister Singhal publicly clarify within

24 hours: Whether he, his family or his company own any land in Sonapur. Whether the land next to Zubeen Kshetra belongs to his family firm. Saikia further questioned, if the minister denies owning land in the Tribal Belt, who is the real owner of the Rs. 1.34 crore property mentioned in the company balance sheet? He also urged the government

Air Show Preparations Underway in Kamrup, Assam Ahead of Indian Air Force Day

Assam

In celebration of the 93rd Indian Air Force Day, a grand air show featuring combat aircraft will be held on the banks of the Brahmaputra River at Lachit Ghat, Kamrup district, Assam on November 9. To ensure flawless coordination, a high-level preparatory meeting was convened on Thursday at the Kamrup District Commissioner office under the chairmanship of the Commissioner. During the meeting the Commissioner urged all departmental officials to perform their assigned duties with dedication and sincerity. He also emphasized ensuring maximum participation of school students at the event. The Commissioner highlighted that the air show will be a proud display of the Indian Air Force



strength and defense capabilities. Notably, the main event at Lachit Ghat in Guwahati will allow spectators along both banks of the Brahmaputra River to witness the aerial extravaganza. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will grace the occasion as the chief guest. Thursday meeting saw the presence of key officials, including Deputy Director of Fire and

Emergency Services Nand Singh Barkala, Additional Commissioners Sujata Gogoi and Garg Mohan Das, Palashbari Co-District Commissioner Rashmi Boruah Gogoi, Kamrup Deputy Superintendent of Police Poonam Pengu, representatives from SDRF, NDRF the District Disaster Management Authority and several senior officers from

Police encounter with cow smugglers: Two arrested

Kaushambi. The Sandipan Ghat police station area, the Sandipan Ghat police station and the SOG in-charge had an encounter with cow smugglers near Bhita. Police arrested two cow smugglers. One cow smuggler was injured by a bullet and admitted to the district hospital for treatment. On Tuesday morning, police received information that some cow smugglers were transporting beef in an autorickshaw near Bhita.

Yogi Ramnath of Nath Peeth Appointed as Patron of Sanatan Mahaparishad

Lucknow

The holy land of Varanasi once again resonated with the spirit of spirituality and service when Sanatan Mahaparishad Bharat appointed Mahant Yogi Ramnath Maharaj of Goraknath Temple, Maindagin as the Patron of the organization. In the citation issued by the Parishad, this decision was described as "an inspiring step toward the preservation of Sanatan values and the promotion of public welfare. The Nath tradition, founded by Guru Goraknath, represents India ancient spiritual heritage, which laid the foundation for



Hath Yoga, Siddha Yoga and the Guru-Shishya (teacher-disciple) tradition. Goraknath Temple has long served as the center not only of this lineage but also of social awareness and national dharma. Following the same path, the late Mahant Avaidyanath and the present Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have linked the Kanphata Yogi tradition with

public service and national upliftment. **(Described as the Organization's Spiritual Energy)** In its felicitation letter, the Parishad stated that "the ascetic life, commitment to dharma protection and spirit of public welfare embodied by Yogi Ramnath Ji are a source of spiritual strength for the organization. National Vice President C. M. Pandey remarked, "It is a matter of great honor for us that Mahant Yogi Ramnath has accepted the role of Patron. Under his guidance, our organization will further strengthen its mission of promoting dharma and serving

the nation. The occasion was graced by Jayashree Pandey (General Secretary), Deepak Verma (PRO), Kreedhanika Shrimohan Pandey, Naimishlok Man Pandey and members of Gaurakshak Dham Gurukul Math. During the program, C. M. Pandey extended a special invitation to Yogi Ramnath for the upcoming Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Release Ceremony, proposed to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Kreedhanika Shrimohan Pandey recited verses from the Bhagavad Gita, creating a deeply devotional and spiritual ambience.

Chief Electoral Officer Reviews Progress of SIR Across UP

Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa reviewed the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in a virtual meeting with all District Election Officers on Thursday and issued necessary directions to ensure transparency and accountability in the process. Rinwa emphasized that the inclusion and deletion of names in the voter list must remain completely transparent. He directed that no ineligible person should find a place in the rolls, while every eligible citizen must be duly included. **(Coordination with Political Parties)**



All District Election Officers have held meetings with political parties to brief them on the Election Commission guidelines for SIR. Political parties have been asked to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLA) to assist Booth Level Officers (BLO) during the revision exercise. **(Tech-Enabled Monitoring)** Districts have been instructed to ensure BLO use the updated BLO App version

8.7 to mark distribution progress of enumeration forms online. Mapping of voters listed in the 2003 rolls with the current list must be completed within three days the CEO directed. **(“Book a Call with BLO” Initiative)** To enhance voter convenience, the Election Commission of India has introduced the “Book a Call with BLO” service via vot-

ers.eci.gov.in. Under this, voters can request a call from their BLO, who must respond within 48 hours. The CEO instructed that this facility be publicized widely, similar to the 1950 voter helpline. (District Contact Centres to Operate Like NCC) Districts have been directed to operate District Contact Centres (DCCs) during SIR, on the lines of the National Contact Centre (NCC) to register and resolve voter queries. Voters can contact their district centre by dialing 1950 with the local STD code. **(Daily Media Updates and Social Media Outreach)** DEO have been asked to share daily progress of with the media and post updates

on their official social media handles to ensure transparency and public awareness. **(Warning Against Laxity)** Expressing displeasure over the unauthorized absence of the DEO, Shamli, the CEO sought an explanation and warned that strict action will be taken against any negligence or non-compliance with Commission directives during the revision process. (Appeal for Public Participation) Rinwa appealed to all political parties and citizens to extend active cooperation in the Special Intensive Revision campaign, ensuring that every eligible voter name finds a rightful place in the electoral rolls.

Farmers Allege Black Marketing of DAP Fertiliser in Sakauli, Submit Memorandum to SDM

Etah

Farmers, led by the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Jalesar demanding strict action against those allegedly involved in the black marketing of DAP fertiliser at the Sadhan Sahkari Samiti in Sakauli. The farmers alleged that the committee Secretary, J.P. Singh, along with his nephew Ankur and aide Santosh Sharma, opened the warehouse



at around 4 a.m. on November 6 and allegedly distributed nearly 250 bags of DAP to selected individuals in an arbitrary manner. It was further alleged that thumb impressions of several persons were forcibly taken to show issuance of fertiliser

in their names. According to the farmers, despite November 5 being a government holiday, the committee premises were opened and fertiliser was distributed in a suspicious manner. They claimed that many genuine farmers—despite

being large landholders—were not provided even a single bag of DAP, while the secretary generally operates the committee only after 10 a.m. yet the warehouse was opened unusually early on the said date, raising doubts of black marketing. The farmers urged the SDM to initiate stringent punitive action against the secretary and his associates to ensure that no cooperative society employee misuses their position or deprives farmers of their rightful entitlements in the future.

Illegal encroachments removed from 15 locations

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A campaign against illegal encroachments is being conducted under the leadership of the District Magistrate in all tehsils of Prayagraj district. On Thursday, as part of a comprehensive campaign against illegal encroachments on barren land, barns, new fallow land, Chak Marg, and pond land, illegal encroachments were removed from a total of 15 locations in all tehsils of the district. Chak Marg land in villages Barnapur and Majhigwan of Tehsil Koraon, compost pit land in village Pasna, new fallow land in village Chak Kharihani,



and road land in Basgadhi have been freed from encroachment. Drainage land in village Sarangapur of Tehsil Karchana, pond land in village Dharwara have been freed from encroachment. Chak Marg land

in village Moharia of Tehsil Bara, barren land in village Khujhi, and drain land in village Mawaiyakala have been freed from encroachment. Wasteland in Sithouli village of Handia tehsil, drain land in

Kasaudhan alias Lakhshagriha village, and pond land in Shahipur village have been freed from encroachment. Chak Marg land in Dhokri and Baro villages of Phulpur tehsil has also been freed from

encroachment. District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma has directed all sub-district magistrates and other officials of all tehsils to take immediate action on encroachment-related complaints. Meanwhile, the District Magistrate of Prayagraj has directed all sub-district magistrates and tehsildars to conduct a new survey of government land/Gram Sabha land in the tehsil, determine the categories of encroachment based on this survey, and take action against encroachment accordingly. So far, this campaign has yielded positive results, and the campaign against encroachment will continue in the coming days.

The Divisional Commissioner held a meeting regarding preparations for the Magh Mela



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj A meeting was held at the camp office on Thursday under the chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner Soumya Agarwal to review the progress of preparations for the Magh Mela 2026. The Commissioner directed officials from all relevant departments to complete the work by December 15th, with the goal of completing it accordingly. He also directed that any department have pending tenders for any work, promptly completing them and ensuring timely completion. He

received information on the progress of work by the Public Works Department, Electricity, Irrigation, Health, Jal Nigam, and the Mela Authority. He directed the Mela Authority to prioritize the work of leveling the land. The Divisional Commissioner directed the officials of the Electricity Department to maintain proper lighting around the Lat Hanumanji Temple. Present on the occasion were Magh Mela Officer/Prayagraj Development Authority Vice President Rishiraj, Sub-District Magistrate Vivek Shukla, and officials from other related departments.

A member of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission heard the problems of victimized women at the Women's Public Hearing



Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. Geeta Vishwakarma, Member, Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission, held a Women's Public Hearing in the Circuit House auditorium on Thursday. The public hearing included complaints related to domestic violence, revenue, police, illegal occupation, cybercrime, and many other matters. A total of six cases were heard at the Women's Public Hearing, which were forwarded to the relevant departments and directed to ensure their quality disposal. The member told the officers of the police department to ensure that the small cases coming to the police stations are resolved at the police station level itself, so that the victim women do not have to go to the court. In the public hearing, when the applicant Kallo Devi, resident of 46/35, Balu Mandi, Karailbag, complained about the encroachment of her landholding plot no. 201 by the opponent Syed Ansar Ali by forcefully dumping soil, the member directed the SDM Sadar and ACP Atarsuiya to

jointly inspect and get the case resolved by ensuring necessary action as per the rules. Applicant Gaurav Purwar, wife of Priyanka Purwar, resident of 537 Malviya Nagar, Mutthiganj, complained about mental and physical harassment and abuse by his elder brother, brother's wife and son, on which the Madam Member has asked ACP Atarsuiya to take action on the matter as per rules and inform her about the action taken. Applicant Anuradha Singh, resident of 4/3A Tashkent Marg, Civil Lines, complained to the Madam Member that the opponent Sunil Jaiswal was harassing her in different ways and there was a threat to her life and property, on which the Madam Member has asked ACP Civil Lines to take action as per law in relation to the said matter and inform her about the action taken. Bushra Rehman, wife of Sameer alias Sheru, resident of 494, Atarsuiya, gave an application for taking legal action by registering a First Information Report under relevant sections against Arshad Parvez and his family/friend Adil.

Sculptors and Craftsmen Honored with Divisional Level Clay Art Awards

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj

Under the aegis of the Uttar Pradesh Clay Art Board, Prayagraj, the Divisional Level Clay Art Award distribution ceremony was held on Thursday at the local Ashirwad Guest House, Jagram Square, Katra, Prayagraj. Numerous sculptors and craftsmen associated with the Prajapati community from the districts of Prayagraj, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, and Kaushambi in the Prayagraj division participated with their own works of art. Based on their excellence, the jury comprised of



Ravindra Nath Kushwaha, member of the Raj Lalit Kala Academy, Talat Mahmood, art teacher, Soumik Nandi, assistant professor, Allahabad University, and Sadhna Goswami, art teacher, Bethany Convent School, Naini, Prayagraj, selected the first, second, and third prizes. The first prize went to Jang Bahadur Prajapati, Prayagraj, the second to Shweta Prajapati, Prayagraj, and the third to Dharmendra Kumar

Prajapati, Pratapgarh. The first, second, and third prize winners received cheques of 15,000, 12,000, and 10,000, respectively, along with certificates/mementos/clothes. The awards were presented by Guru Prasad Maurya, MLA, Phaphamau, the chief guest. Maurya thanked the Uttar Pradesh government for establishing the Uttar Pradesh Matikala Board to raise the standard of living for the Prajapati community and

urged the Prajapati community to maximize the benefits of the Matikala schemes. This would enable them to make various clay products, such as clay cookers, kadhais, tawa, and other decorative items, and sell them at good prices in the market, thus raising their standard of living. On this occasion, the District/Regional Village Industries Officer Prayagraj, while throwing light on the schemes of the Matikala Board, motivated all the people of the Matikala community present there to take advantage of the schemes. Sunil Kumar, Om Prakash Maurya, Nand Lal Patel, Mahendra Kushwaha, Vishram, Amit Kumar, Ram Lal, Dinesh Dubey.

Police encounter with theft suspects, five arrested, Accused caught on Road while fleeing to Nepal



Bahraich

Police have arrested wanted theft suspects in an encounter. Under the leadership of Bahraich SP Ram Nayan Singh, SP City Ramanand Kushwaha, CO Nanpara Pradyumna Singh, and Rupaiddiha SHO Ramesh Singh Rawat, along with their colleagues, Head Constable Amit Mishra

and Senior Constable Ashish Singh, five accused, wanted in connection with thefts in two villages in the Rupaiddiha police station area, were arrested in an encounter near the Sahaba Canal on Chikaniya Road. They recovered two pistols, two empty cartridges, two live cartridges, two mobile phones, an Eco van without a number plate.

Road Safety Committee Meeting Held, Immediate Action Ordered on Black Spots

Etah

As per the directives of District Magistrate Premranjan Singh, a meeting of the District Road Safety Committee was convened on Friday at the Collectorate Auditorium. The meeting was chaired by Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Lalita Prasad Shakya. During the meeting, compliance with the instructions



issued in the previous session was reviewed and various key aspects related to road safety were discussed in detail. The

ADM stated that preventing road accidents is a top priority of the government, therefore, all black spots in the district must

be identified and corrective measures should be taken immediately. In view of the upcoming foggy season, he instructed officials to install white reflective strips on roads to ensure visibility at night and during fog, thereby reducing the risk of accidents. He also emphasized the wide publicity of SOS helpline numbers and ensuring timely availability of ambulance services so

that victims receive prompt assistance during emergencies. The ADM directed the Public Works Department, Police, Transport and Health Departments to maintain better inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation of road safety initiatives. He further stressed the need to conduct regular road safety awareness campaigns to educate the public about traffic rules. The

meeting was attended by Executive Engineer (PWD) Lalit Agarwal, Adarsh Verma, Deputy Divisional Transport Officer Satyendra Kumar, Additional Chief Medical Officer Dr. Satish Chandra Nagar, ARM Naresh Chandra, District Inspector of Schools Dr. Indrajeet Singh, Executive Engineer (Electricity) Satya Narayan, NHAI Project Manager Sunil Rai.

Two hours before her death, the woman had called her father and told him she was being beaten and threatened with death

Eight months after her marriage, a married woman was beaten to death

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi

In Pathraha village, a hamlet of Adampur Nadir Ali village under Harraipur police outpost of Sandipan Ghat police station area, a married woman was beaten to death within 8 months of her marriage and then hanged to make it look like a suicide. During the beating, the married



woman had informed her father over the phone about the possibility of being beaten and murdered, but the married woman's fears proved true and after some time,

the married woman died under suspicious circumstances. After getting information about the married woman's death, people from her maternal home reached the spot.

Her father Om Prakash Singh, son of Chandrapal Singh, resident of Mubarakpur Sundar Nagar, Baharia police station, Prayagraj district, has been informed of the matter by the police station. The police reached on the information and took the body of the married woman into custody and sent it for post-mortem. According to the information, Om Prakash Singh, son of Chandrapal Singh, resident of

Mubarakpur Sundar Nagar of Baharia police station area of Prayagraj district, married his daughter Sanjana Devi, age 22, with Savinay Pratap Singh, son of Jugraj Pratap Singh, resident of Adampur Nadir Ali Majra Pathraha of Sandipan Ghat police station area, on 16 February 2025 with great pomp as per Hindu customs. The father of the married woman had given dowry more than his status in

the marriage, but the in-laws' demand for dowry kept increasing like Surasa. They kept demanding bikes, buffaloes and lakhs of rupees in cash. The people of the maternal house were not in a position to give additional dowry, due to which the dowry demand was not met. After the marriage, the married woman started being beaten and she was continuously harassed.

CM to Address 'Run for Unity' Public Rally on November 11

Barabanki

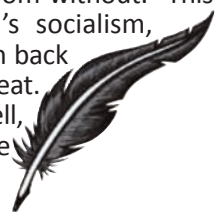
On the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel 150th birth anniversary, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will address the "Run for Unity" concluding public rally on November 11. The event will be held at the grounds of Jhansa Purwa village, located on the Fatehpur-Bhagouli road. With the Chief Minister visit confirmed, both the district administration and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have inten-

sified preparations. On Thursday, MLA Sakendra Pratap Verma inspected the rally site along with senior administrative officials. He reviewed arrangements related to security, parking, traffic management, route diversions and helipad construction, issuing necessary directions to ensure smooth conduct of the event. The inspection was attended by District Magistrate Shashank Tripathi, Superintendent of Police Arpit Vijayvargiya.

Editorial

India-US relationship has survived darker times

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 by the



Suman

What defines the real wealth of a nation? Is it the towering skyscrapers that shape its skyline, the bustling industries that fuel its economy, or the global influence it commands? Perhaps it's something much deeper—the well-being of its people, their minds, and their hearts. In a rapidly transforming India, where the pace of professional life is accelerating, workplace mental health has emerged as a crucial but often overlooked concern. As organisations strive for efficiency and output, the mental well-being of employees is under increasing strain. According to a survey by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the global economy loses an estimated \$1 trillion per year due to depression and anxiety alone. A study by Deloitte (2022) reveals that nearly 80 per cent of the Indian workforce faces some degree of mental health issues, yet a mere 20 per cent seek professional help. This alarming gap is exacerbated by the stigma associated with mental illness, inadequate awareness, and limited access to mental health services in workplace settings. A recent tragedy in Noida has brought the issue of workplace mental health into sharp focus. A bank employee took her own life after enduring harassment from her colleagues. The deceased left behind a five-page suicide note in which she revealed how her co-workers subjected her to derogatory slurs such as "bandariya" and "dimag se pagal". In the note, she named six of her colleagues, including two managers,



who allegedly contributed to her emotional breakdown. Another incident from Pune: a 26-year-old chartered accountant from Kerala took her own life after enduring four months of immense work pressure. Her mother's powerful letter to EY India sheds light on the "callous attitude" towards employee well-being that, unfortunately, seems to be a growing concern in many workplaces today. These heart-breaking incidents highlight the toxic environments that many Indian employees silently endure, emphasising the urgent need to address mental health issues in the workplace. For many Indian professionals, the culture of overwork, coupled with societal expectations, creates immense pressure to perform. Long working hours, tight deadlines, job insecurity, and an absence of work-life balance contribute to heightened stress, anxiety, and burnout. In a society where mental health is still a taboo topic, employees often refrain from discussing their struggles, fearing judgement or negative

career consequences. No job is worth a life, and it is time for a systemic change to ensure that every employee feels safe, valued, and heard. **Government Policies and Corporate Initiatives** India has made strides in addressing mental health in the workplace, but much progress is still required. The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, provides a legal framework ensuring individuals' rights to mental health care, including mandated insurance coverage for mental health treatments. However, its corporate implementation remains limited. The National Mental Health Policy (2014) advocates for workplace mental health awareness and encourages supportive environments, though widespread adoption is yet to be seen. Nonetheless, companies like TCS and Wipro are pioneering employee wellness programs, offering counselling and stress management initiatives. The pandemic also spurred firms like Accenture, Google, and Microsoft to introduce teletherapy and burnout prevention strate-

gies. However, the government's 2024–25 Union Budget underscores a significant funding gap in addressing India's mental health challenges. Although the allocation for the National Tele Mental Health Programme has been increased to ₹90 crore from the previous year's ₹65 crore, this modest rise falls far short of the resources needed to meet the country's escalating mental health demands. A more comprehensive investment in workplace mental health remains critical for sustainable progress.

Role of Leadership

Corporate leadership plays a pivotal role in shaping workplace mental health. The tragic case of the Noida bank employee's suicide underscores the importance of leadership accountability in preventing workplace harassment. Had there been a proactive, supportive encouraged workplace bullying and provided a safe space for employees to raise their concerns, the outcome might have been different. Leaders must take responsi-

bility for creating a healthy, inclusive work culture that discourages toxic behaviour. Creating a mental health-positive workplace culture requires a top-down approach where leaders not only encourage open dialogue but also normalise seeking help for mental health issues. Human Resources departments need to adopt a proactive role in identifying mental health risks and offering solutions, wellness check-ins, and mental health days.

A Holistic Approach

While government policies and corporate initiatives are crucial, sustainable change requires a multi-faceted approach.

Increased Awareness and Training: Regular mental health awareness campaigns within organisations can help destigmatise mental health issues. Training managers and employees to recognise early signs of distress and offer support will create a safer environment for discussing mental health concerns. **Mental Health Infrastructure:** Companies need to invest in mental health infrastructure, including easily accessible counselling services, confidential helplines, and designated wellness officers. **Telehealth platforms,** which have seen increased use since the pandemic, can play a critical role in connecting employees with mental health professionals. **Work-Life Balance:** Flexible working hours, hybrid models, and vacation policies that prioritise rest over constant productivity can significantly reduce burnout. **Encouraging employees to disconnect** after working hours.

How Iran's pan-Islamic obsession pits it against Israel

Sandeep Singh

Is a war between Israel and Iran on the cards? Outbreak of full-scale hostilities between Israel and Iran was often feared during the last two decades. However, it was not until earlier this year that the Islamic Republic actually chose to hit Israel directly. Under Operation "True Promise", Iran fired a barrage of around 300 ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and suicide drones upon Israeli targets the night of April 13-14, 2024, almost a fortnight after Israeli airstrikes on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria (April 1) had killed 16 persons, half of whom were officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC). Uzi Rubin, an expert of missile defence systems and a senior researcher at the Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, disabuses the notion that the attack was a mere face saver aimed at inflicting minimal damages. Rubin argues that it was a strike of

unprecedented magnitude, which was even more powerful than the Russian opening strike against Ukraine in February 2022. Israel's ability to intercept and deflect these attacks was a testimony to the success of its missile defence system. Recently, Tehran saw a merit in repeating those attacks as Operation "True Promise-2," after Israel booby-trapped Hezbollah's pager devices and launched devastating airstrikes in Lebanon that killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in his secret bunker. Whether Israel retaliates or decides to tactically overlook the volley, as it did last April, is a matter of speculation. If indeed Israel seeks reprisal, it has plenty of high-value targets on the ground in Iran to choose from. They include military and intelligence sites, military command sites, oil terminals and refineries, and even nuclear reactors. Iran's poorly developed air defence system is unlikely to provide cover from Israel's vastly superior air strike.

Zakir Naik's Pakistan Visit Will Further Stoke Fire of Islamic Extremism

Abhinav

Controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik is currently on a visit to Pakistan, where he is scheduled to deliver a series of public lectures across major cities, including Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, from October 5 to October 20. His arrival at the invitation of the Pakistani government has ignited considerable concern regarding the potential ramifications of Naik's ideology on a nation already wrestling with escalating fundamentalism and sectarian violence. Born in 1965, Naik is infamous for his provocative and often divisive sermons that have gained a global audience. His lectures advocate a stringent interpretation of Islam and frequently challenge the beliefs of other religions, asserting a narrative of Islamic superiority. In 2016, he fled from India amidst allegations of inciting terrorism and hatred, subsequently finding refuge in Malaysia. Since then, he has continued to attract significant attention, both from supporters who view him as a visionary promoting interfaith dialogue, and critics who contend that his rhetoric often strays into incitement, fostering fundamentalist interpretations that may lead to radicalisation. One of the most concerning aspects of Naik's influence is its documented ties to extremist groups. In the past, multiple Bangladeshi militants have openly acknowledged being inspired by his teachings. Particularly alarming is the fact that Bangladeshi youth who carried out the 2016 Dhaka café attack at the behest of ISIS ideology had cited Naik's lectures as a crucial motivating factor behind their actions. These admissions reveal a disturbing truth: Naik's sermons are

not merely educational but can act as a conduit for violent extremism. In light of this context, his forthcoming lectures in Pakistan are especially troubling. The country has long struggled with fundamentalist ideologies, resulting in the emergence of extremist factions that target minorities and incite sectarian violence. Naik's presence is poised to intensify these tensions, further polarising an already divided Pakistani society. For decades, Pakistan's landscape has been deeply scarred by religious extremism. The emergence of fundamentalist groups has not only jeopardised the secular fabric of society but has also incited violence against religious minorities. Communities such as Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus and Shias have endured systemic discrimination, violence, and persecution, frequently rationalised by extremist interpretations of Islam. As the nation continues to grapple with its multifaceted identity, the influx of radical ideologies presents a significant threat to its minorities.

The Pakistani government has made no efforts to counter extremist narratives and hence the societal currents of fundamentalism remain robust. The minorities in Pakistan—particularly Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus and Shia Muslims—are surviving in a precarious situation. Ahmadis, for instance, are legally designated as non-Muslims and have to endure persecution, violence, and even murder. The blasphemy laws, frequently exploited to target these communities, have resulted in mob violence and wrongful imprisonments. Christians and Shia Muslims also face targeted assaults from extremist factions.

Who - And What - Will Fill The Vacuum In Iran's Resistance Axis?

Saariq

The killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in Israeli airstrikes on the Dahieh suburb of Beirut, a predominantly Shia stronghold, was a tectonic event both for the group and the region. Nasrallah had been the leader of Hezbollah for over three decades. The outfit itself was designated as a terror group by the US and others in 1997, two years before even Al Qaeda was labelled as such. In response to his death, Iran has launched a ballistic missile attack against Israel, upping the ante. The crisis today for Hezbollah, founded in 1982 from the ashes of the

Lebanese Civil War, is more existential in nature than ever before. Along with Nasrallah, a majority of the group's military and political hierarchy has also been eliminated. While Israel's offensives against Hezbollah's leadership are not new, the 2006 Israel-Lebanon war, where Israel failed to deliver a thumping defeat, was a focal moment in its strategic thinking. The 2008 assassination in Syria of the group's second in command and founder of the Lebanese Islamic Jihad Organisation, Imad Mughniyeh, was a turning point, one that ultimately culminated in Israeli operations inside Lebanon over the

past two months, such as targeting communication lines used via old pagers and walkie-talkies. Moving forward, reconstructing Hezbollah in a post-Nasrallah era will not be easy. Israel, with these strikes, followed by a real threat of a region-wide escalation, may have found ample time for itself to hope for a political alternative emerging from within Lebanon, a country where Hezbollah was a state within a state and challenged the normal functioning of politics. Lebanon has had no president since 2022. Along with Nasrallah, the killing of senior Hezbollah commanders, such

as the southern front chief Ali Karaki and Iranian commander Abbas Nilforoushan, amongst others, also significantly disrupts the chain of command.

The Iranian retaliation against Israel in the form of ballistic missiles was explicitly highlighted as a response to these assassinations. The next leader of the group is widely expected to be Hashem Safieddine, a senior member and cousin of Nasrallah. Safieddine, by some accounts, is more radical and less politically astute than his predecessor. Sporting a black turban, he believes that he is a direct descendant.

Vice President of the Women's Commission participated in the Chaupal held at the old age home

Bahraich

Addressing the discussion on the Drug Eradication Chaupal and Mahila Shakti Mission held at the old age home in Nagarour, Vice President, Deputy Minister-level, Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission, Aparna Yadav, said that drug addiction is a social scourge. Public dialogue and public support are essential for effective control of drug addiction. She added that Hon'ble Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken effective steps for women's empowerment. The government is committed and dedicated to the safety and security of women. The government is providing all possible support for women's empowerment. Advocate Sanjeev Srivastava, President of the Rule of Law Society, Awadh Region, stated



that public awareness is essential for effectively curbing the illegal drug trade. Police Circle Officer Harshita Tiwari stated that the police administration is continuously taking effective action to effectively control the illegal drug trade. Sub-District Magistrate Sadar Pooja Chaudhary provided information about various helplines and schemes operated for the safety, security and self-reliance of women. Social Welfare Officer Shradha Pandey explained departmental schemes in detail. District Probation Officer Vinod Rai pro-

vided information about departmental programs for exploited children and destitute women. Inner Wheel Club General Secretary Jyoti Bansal assured effective participation in life-support programs for poor and disabled women. Women Police Station in-charge Manju Yadav distributed leaflets about the Mahila Shakti Mission and urged women to establish coordination and communication. The program was conducted by Conciliation Officer Anil Mishra and the vote of thanks was given by Old Age Home Manager Dilip Dwivedi.

Mathura

The pilgrimage, organized with the support of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Mukti Trust, reached Mathura on Thursday under the guidance of Acharya Rajeshwar Maharaj, President of the United Indian Dharma Sansad. The pilgrims were given a grand welcome at the city's KDS International School. The meeting held on this occasion was presided over by Saint Govindananda Tirtha Maharaj of Seva Mangalam Ashram in Vrindavan. Advocate Mahendra Pratap Singh, President of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Mukti Trust and a Hindu party in the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah Mosque case, said in the meeting that the birthplace of Lord Krishna is the center of our faith. Citing historical references to the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi, he explained how the temple was repeatedly demolished, and each time the Hindu community rebuilt it. He said, "The time for begging is over. This bat-



tle is being fought with full force in the court. We have all the historical and evidential evidence that the original sanctum sanctorum of Lord Krishna was located at the same place where the mosque is built. Now our resolve is to build a grand temple at that very spot." Acharya Rajeshwar Maharaj stated that a nationwide campaign is underway for the liberation of Shri Krishna's birthplace. He explained that the first yatra started from Dwarka to Mathura, and this second yatra came to Mathura from Badrinath Dham. The next yatra will start from Rameshwaram to Mathura, with the aim of strengthening public awareness and religious unity. He explained that when he began this yatra, a person from Australia

contacted him and informed him that Advocate Mahendra Pratap Singh was representing the case. "Upon contacting him, we found that he is not only fighting on the legal front but is also working to raise awareness in society," he said. Saint Govindananda Teerth Maharaj stated that this struggle to liberate Shri Krishna's birthplace is a religious war. "Truth always triumphs. Unrighteousness never triumphs. This war is for the protection of Sanatan Dharma and the liberation of Shri Krishna's birthplace," he said. Kumar Damodar Singh, founder of KDS International School, said that the struggle for the liberation of the birthplace symbolizes Indian culture and self-respect. He emphasized that society must play an active role in this campaign. Dr. Aditya Anand Giri Maharaj of Chintamani Kunj, Vrindavan, said, "Those organizing the procession are doing their part, those fighting the case are struggling in court, but now we must also awaken.

The closing ceremony of National Nutrition Month was held under the chairmanship of Dr Babita



Mathura

The closing ceremony of National Nutrition Month was held in the auditorium of BSA Engineering College under the chairmanship of Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan, Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission. MLA Baldev Puran Prakash, District Program Officer Buddhi Mishra, District Probation Officer Vikas Chandra, District Basic Education Officer Ratan Kirti, District Information Officer Prashant Kumar Suchari, Block Development Officer Farah, Neha Rawat, and Ruchi Sharma, Block Development Officer Rural, all Child Development Project Officers and Supervisors of the Child Development Department, along with Anganwadi workers from the district were present at the ceremony. Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan, Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission, visited various stalls set up by Anganwadi workers at the event. She inspected the stalls displaying delicious and nutritious dishes prepared by the Anganwadi workers and tasted the dishes. The District Program Officer informed that all the dishes were prepared with less sugar, less oil, and less salt. Various nutritious dishes made from millets were also displayed at the stalls. In the closing ceremony of the National Nutrition Month, Dr. Babita Singh Chauhan performed the baby shower ceremony for 5 women. The Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State

The Ghosh Dal of Krishna Chandra Gandhi Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Mathura, won first place at the district level

Mathura

The Ghosh Dal of Krishna Chandra Gandhi Saraswati Vidya Mandir Inter College, Madhav Kunj, Mathura, achieved first place in the District Level School Band Competition 2025, organized by the District Project Office of Samagra Shiksha (Secondary), Uttar Pradesh, Mathura district, thanks to its excellent performance. School media in-charge Umesh Sharma stated that the school's Ghosh Dal performed brilliantly in the competition, placing first among all participants. On this occasion,



the school's Manager, Sameer Bansal (Advocate), congratulated Ghosh Instructor Sitaram Baghel and all the Ghosh Dal students, saying, "This achievement is the result of the students' hard work, dedication, and discipline.

Such competitions develop social and emotional skills in students, increasing their dedication and self-confidence towards success. "School Principal Vinay Kumar Singh said, "This is the result of the students' dedication, skill, discipline,

self-confidence, and skillful leadership. Participating in competitions develops team spirit, social connections and tolerance. This victorious team from the school will now represent Mathura district in the state-level competition."

Major reshuffle before local polls: Entire Gujarat cabinet resigns

NEW DELHI: The entire Gujarat cabinet except chief minister Bhupendra Patel resigned on Thursday, news agency PTI reported citing sources. The cabinet comprised of 16 members including eight cabinet-rank ministers and nine ministers of state. "Resignations of all the 16 ministers have been taken by the party. Except for chief minister Patel, all the ministers have resigned," BJP source told PTI. The reshuffle comes nearly three years into the current government's term and just



months before crucial local body elections across the state, including municipal corporations, municipalities, district panchayats, and taluka panchayats. Major Cabinet Reshuffle in Gujarat as Ministers Step Down Before Local Polls Gujarat's 182-member assembly allows up to 27 ministers, or 15% of

the house. Earlier this month, MoS Jagdish Vishwakarma was appointed BJP's Gujarat state president, succeeding Union minister CR Paatil. Bhupendra Patel was sworn in for his second term as CM on December 12, 2022. Earlier PTI had reported that the cabinet will be expanded on Friday.

'Priority is to safeguard interests of consumers': India

NEW DELHI: The ministry of external affairs on Thursday issued a statement in response to US President Donald Trump's claim that PM Narendra Modi had "assured him that India would stop buying Russian oil". The government said India's import policies are guided entirely by "priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario". "India is a significant importer of oil and gas. It has been our consistent priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario. Our import policies are guided entirely by this objective," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. Stating stable energy prices and secured supplies as India's twin goals of our energy policy,



Jaiswal said: "This includes broad-basing our energy sourcing and diversifying as appropriate to meet market conditions. "The government said the Trump administration has shown interest in deepening energy cooperation with India and that discussions are ongoing. "Where the US is concerned, we have for many years sought to expand our energy procurement. This has steadily progressed in the last decade. The current Administration has shown interest in deepening energy cooperation with India. Discussions are ongoing," the MEA

said. Trump claimed on Wednesday that PM Modi has assured him that India will stop buying Russian oil, months after he imposed punitive tariffs over the purchases. "He's assured me there will be no oil purchased from Russia," Trump said. "You know, you can't do it immediately. It's a little bit of a process, but the process is going to be over with soon," he added. Responding to ANI's question whether he views India as a reliable partner, Trump said: "Yeah, sure. He's (PM Narendra Modi) a friend of mine.

Farmers should earn more income by using in-situ agricultural machinery for stubble management: CDO

Bahraich

Presiding over the Kisan Diwas meeting held in the Vikas Bhawan auditorium to address farmers' problems, Chief Development Officer Mukesh Chandra reviewed the complaints received from previous Kisan Diwas meetings point by point. Following this, the CDO stated that Bahraich is an agricultural district and all farmers are being covered on time by providing fertilizers, seeds and Prime Minister Crop Insurance. Every effort is being made to prioritize and resolve any problems. He suggested making agriculture profitable. He urged farmers to cultivate cash crops to maximize their



income. The CDO urged all farmers in the district not to burn crop residues after harvesting and threshing the current paddy crop, but to manage them using in-situ machinery and incorporate them into the fields, increasing the fertility of the fields to achieve higher yields. The CMO urged combine harvester owners present at the meeting to harvest crops using a reaper attached to their combine harvesters. Otherwise, if found harvesting without a reaper, their combine harvesters will be con-

fiscated and other legal action will be taken. He urged all farmer producer organizations in the district to prevent their associated farmers and surrounding farmers from burning stubble and to explain the benefits of stubble management, which will maintain human and environmental health and maintain soil fertility. The CMO provided information about the application process for other schemes, including the Chief Minister's Child Service Scheme and the Kanya Sumangala Scheme.

Karnataka vs RSS: Cabinet approves new rules; no activities allowed in public places without permission

NEW DELHI: The Karnataka cabinet on Thursday decided to frame new rules to regulate Rashtriya



Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) activities, including marches and events held on government-owned properties and public roads, information technology and biotechnology minister Priyank Kharge said, according to PTI. The decision follows a letter from Kharge to chief minister Siddaramaiah, seeking a ban on RSS activities and those of its affiliated organizations in public and government spaces.

Speaking to reporters after the cabinet meeting, Kharge said, "The rules we want to bring is regarding public places, government schools, colleges, government premises, government owned institutions and aided institutions. We will bring together the previous orders issued by the home department, law department, and the education department to frame a new rule.

In the next two to three days, the new rule will come into force within the framework of law and the Constitution." He clarified that while the government cannot control any organisation outright, "from now on you cannot do whatever you want in public places or roads. Whatever you have to do, it has to be done after seeking the government's permission." Kharge further explained that granting permission will be at the government's discretion.



Sridevi



The leaked photos from the film's sets went viral on social media



Khushi Kapoor joins Mom sequel

Khushi Kapoor to star in *Mom 2*; leaked photos spark backlash as netizens criticise her casting and past films

Sridevi and Boney Kapoor's younger daughter, Khushi Kapoor, is set to star in *Mom 2*, the sequel to her late mother's acclaimed film. This development comes after Boney Kapoor announced the project during the IIFA 2025 silver jubilee celebrations.

On Tuesday, leaked photos from the film's sets went viral on social media, showing Khushi alongside Karishma Tanna, who will reportedly play a pivotal role in the sequel. While an official announcement is still awaited, netizens expressed disappointment, urging the makers not to

'ruin' Sridevi's iconic film.

The leaked photos, shared by Zoom TV, show Karishma dressed in a white ethnic suit set, stepping out of her vanity van, a look that closely resembles Sridevi's appearance from *Mom*. Meanwhile, Khushi was seen wearing a grey jacket.

Soon after Khushi and Karishma's photos were shared on Reddit, netizens disapproved of Khushi starring in the sequel, citing her past performances. Many pointed out that she has faced criticism for her acting in her last three films: *The Archies*, *Loveyappa*, and *Nadaaniyaan*.



Actress bags the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for Best Actress (Critics)

Nitanshi's dream run continues

Nitanshi Goel adds yet another accolade to her growing list of achievements! After winning the IIFA Award for Best Actress and the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut, she now secures her third major honour—the Critics' Best Actress at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2025, India's premier celebration of cinema, culture, and heritage.

Her portrayal of the innocent "Phool" has earned widespread acclaim, with critics praising her natural screen presence, which sets her apart from her contemporaries. This milestone further cements her status as one of the most promising talents in Indian entertainment.

At just a teenager, Nitanshi has impressively won four major awards, making her one of the youngest actresses to achieve such recognition. Reports suggest she has several high-profile projects lined up, including a pan-India Tollywood film and a prestigious venture with producer Ekta Kapoor.

Sexiest Man Alive

Dearest readers of the ton, Jonathan Bailey, best known for his role as Lord Anthony Bridgerton in *Bridgerton*, has officially been named PEOPLE's Sexiest Man Alive 2025. The announcement marks the 40th anniversary of the iconic franchise, placing Bailey among Hollywood's most charming and admired men. Fans across the globe couldn't help but cheer as the British actor joined this elite list.



A still from the song

Akshay, Disha tease song

Akshay Kumar and Disha Patani share update on *Welcome To The Jungle*

Akshay Kumar and Disha Patani have teased fans with a sneak peek of a song from the upcoming action-comedy *Welcome To The Jungle*. Akshay also gave a shout-out to his *Welcome* co-star Katrina Kaif, calling the original film "an all-time favorite." Produced by Firoz A. Nadiadwala, directed by Ahmed Khan, and presented by Base Industries Group, *Welcome To The Jungle* is one of the most-awaited Bollywood releases.

Desh ka fauji

The makers unveiled the powerful first look of Varun Dhawan as Param Vir Chakra awardee Hoshiyar Singh Dahiya from the upcoming war drama *Border 2*

Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan's much-awaited first look from the upcoming war drama film *Border 2* has been unveiled, revealing his intense transformation into a soldier of the nation.

On Wednesday, the makers shared the powerful first look of Varun Dhawan as Param Vir Chakra awardee Hoshiyar Singh Dahiya, paying tribute to the bravery and resilience of India's Armed Forces.

The poster shows Varun in a hard-hitting and striking portrayal as an Indian soldier on the battlefield, capturing him in an action-charged frame with a gun in hand, embodying the courage and spirit of the nation's heroes.

Varun, in his army uniform, clearly reflects the strength and emotion of *Border 2*, appearing in a never-before-seen avatar.

The poster unveiling came months after the makers released the first look poster of Sunny Deol, who is set to reprise his role as an Indian army soldier in the sequel to the 1997 blockbuster *Border*.



First look of Varun Dhawan from Border 2



Experience the golden journey of Jung Kook



Jung Kook, the 21st-century pop icon of BTS, is coming to India like never before. **GOLDEN: The Moments**, a global exhibition celebrating his first solo album, will make its Indian debut at Mehboob Studios, Mumbai, from December 12, 2025, to January 11, 2026. Presented by BookMyShow Live in partnership with HYBE, the exhibition offers fans an immersive journey into Jung Kook's artistry, from his early days as the "Golden Maknae" to his rise as a global superstar.

The exhibition features multiple themed zones, including Golden: Records, Golden: Photos, Golden: Sounds, and Shine Cinema, showcasing his musical craft, awards, iconic stage outfits, and behind-the-scenes moments. Fans can relive his hits like *Seven*, *3D*, and *Standing Next to You*, while exploring the creative processes behind the **GOLDEN** album. Tickets go live on November 6 at 12 PM exclusively on BookMyShow, with early buyers gaining access to a special preview night.

TALK OF THE TOWN



Chi Chi condemns wife's remarks

Govinda's wife, Sunita Ahuja, in a podcast with *Bigg Boss 13* contestant Paras Chhabra, spoke about their family's astrologer, Pandit Mukesh Shukla, and her remarks grabbed everyone's attention. Now, the actor has shared a public apology, praising Pandit Mukesh Shukla and condemning

Sunita's comments. According to Mid-day, the Partner actor, in a post, said, "My wife made disparaging remarks against Pandit Mukesh Shukla on the podcast, and I condemn them. My deepest apologies." "Pandit Mukesh Ji and his family have been with me in tough times, and I respect him a lot," Govinda further added.

SBI plans to raise a Rs 45,000 crore in a mix of stock

Delhi : Capital markets are expected to generate Rs 45,000 crore for the biggest lender in the nation, SBI. This week, the largest equity issue of its sort in the Indian market will occur, with Rs 25,000 crore coming through a qualified institutional placement (QIP). The issue would dilute equity by 3.3% at the present market valuation of around Rs 7.4 lakh crore. Following shareholder approval on June 13 and board approval on May 3, the bank started the share sale . In accordance with the SBI Act and its General Regulations, the shares will be issued having a face value of Re 1. Up until now, the



biggest equity fundraising under QIP has been Coal India's 2015 Rs 22,560 crore offering. When fully subscribed, SBI's placement will surpass this. The offer's floor price, determined using Sebi's pricing formula, is Rs 811.05 per share. This amount can be reduced by as much as 5% by the bank. The book-running lead managers will be consulted to decide the ultimate pricing.

The PM SHRI Institute

Delhi: The Government of India is a major backer of SHRI School. Every student should feel welcomed and cared for in more than 14,500 PM SHRI Schools managed by the Central Government, State Government, UT Government, and local bodies like KVS and NVS. These schools should also provide a safe and stimulating learning environment, a variety of learning opportunities, and adequate physical infrastructure and resources that help students learn.

Stricter bad loan policy cuts Axis Bank profit 4%.

Delhi : A steep surge in provisions lowered Axis Bank's net profit to Rs 5,806 crore in the quarter ended June 2025, down 4%. The bank described a one-time accounting adjustment as a "technical impact" or internal recalibration of their poor credit categorization, which increased provisions. This modification affected cash credit, overdraft, and one-time cleared accounts, causing Rs 2,709 crore in slippages. That alone prompted Rs 821 crore in provisions. Without this,



quarter provisions would have been Rs 3,127 crore instead of Rs 3,948 crore. The bank called this hit a "prudential application" of regulatory standards, not a decrease in asset quality. Gross non-performing assets rose 29

basis points quarter-on-quarter to 1.57% after the policy change. Net NPAs rose 12 basis points to 0.45%. A technical recalibration hurt headline profit, while revenue, loan book, and fee income grew more evenly.

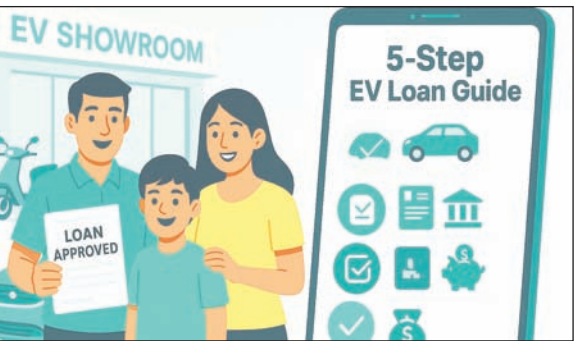
RIL makes record profit amid oil decline, sets clean energy outlook

Delhi : India's most valuable company, Reliance Industries Ltd., surpassed predictions to register a strong increase in revenue and profit for the April-June quarter, driven by better telecoms and retail profitability despite crude-based difficulties. Profits from its Asian

Paints disposal also boosted the bottom line. According to an investor presentation, Reliance's new energy business's production plants—which will drive its growth over the next decade—are being commissioned quickly. The new energy business would create solar mod-

ules, generate clean electricity from them, use electrons to run data centres, and make hydrogen, ammonia, and aviation fuel. Reliance did not provide timescales. Reliance Industries' oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business's operating profit fell in the first quarter.

Modern electric vehicle lenders ramp up battery loans



Delhi: When early indicators of scale appear in an industry that was previously considered too specialized or hazardous for institutional investors, a slew of new companies and financiers are changing the way electric commercial vehicles (EVs) are financed in India. Financing arrangements are being adjusted by lenders to accommodate the economics of electric vehicles and the credit realities of small business operators. This includes models such as first-loss guarantee partnerships, flexible EMIS, and battery subscription models. Modern methods are now able to meet the unique requirements of EVs. Battery subscriptions are offered by some lenders. Instead of paying for the entire cost of the battery up front, purchasers pay for it as they use it, similar to fuel. For driver-owners whose wages are unpredictable, there are options that offer adjustable EMIs that change depending on how much the car is used. Another way that startups are collaborating with NBFCs is through first-loss guarantee (FLDG) structures. This allows startups to de-risk lending to consumers without formal credit records by covering a percentage of the defaults. When it comes to financing electric vehicle chassis and batteries, VidyutTech is in the vanguard. Oil is a running cost for internal combustion engine vehicles. The battery, however, is essentially prepaid gasoline in an electric vehicle, accounting for 30–40% of the total cost.

A parliamentary committee on the income tax bill supports the expedited settlement of tax disputes

Delhi : In its 285 recommendations on the proposed legislation to streamline and update tax regulations, a parliamentary committee that reviewed the Income Tax Bill, 2025, Delhi, argued that litigation should have a deadline. On the opening day of Parliament's monsoon session (July 21), the IT Bill was reviewed by a select committee of the Lok Sabha presided over by BJP leader Baijayant Panda. The committee then adopted a report outlining the proposed law. Our team has put out 285 suggestions. Nearly two hundred fifty have been approved by the government. Huge improvements have transpired, as can be seen in the case of



refunds, but we have stated that tax litigations should not drag and that there should be time-bound settlement," a panel member added. The majority of the legislative panel's suggestions on the Income Tax Bill, 2025 were of a "corrective" character, according to one of its mem-

bers. The document's size has been reduced from 850 pages to 600 pages as a result of the simplification efforts. Simplifying the wording and structure of the IT Act 1961 was the goal of the IT Bill, 2025, which was submitted in Parliament.

To simplify TDS refund provisions under Income Tax Bill 2025

Delhi : Even if their income is not taxable, taxpayers must file income tax returns to receive a refund for tax deducted at source. This criterion is apparently being simplified by the government. According to The Hindustan Times, taxpayers may be able to receive TDS refunds without completing ITRs by filling out a simple form. The Select Committee on the Income Tax Bill 2025 advised the administration, according to bill-related officials.

MTNL has failed to repay bank debts totaling 8,585 crore rupees



Delhi: In a regulatory filing, the state-run telecom giant MTNL announced that it has defaulted on loans totaling Rs 8,585 crore from seven public sector banks. The public sector telecom firm's overall debt liabilities reached Rs 34,484 crore as of June 30, 2025, according to the filing.

This included a bank loan of Rs 8,585 crore, a sovereign guarantee bond of Rs 24,071 crore, and a loan of Rs 1,828

crore from the DoT to cover the interest on the Sovereign Guarantee Bond. A sum of 3,733 crore INR, 2,434 crore INR, 1,121 crore INR, 474.7 crore Punjab National Bank, 363.4 crore State Bank of

India, 273.6 crore UCO Bank, and 184.8 crore Punjab & Sind Bank debts, plus principal and interest, make up the total amount of loans that have gone into default.

Tesla sets foot in India with Rs 61 lakh Model Y

Delhi: Tesla is finally here. The electric car giant run by Elon Musk opened its first India showroom in Mumbai's BKC . Musk had set his eyes on India since at least 2015, but high tariffs, limited flexibility, and charging infrastructure challenges, kept Tesla away from the country, which the company had described as a hard market. While bookings opened, deliveries of Model Y SUVs, prices for which start at Rs 61-lakh on-road (500km range), will begin in Oct. A 'long-range' (622km) Model Y variant will be available from Jan 2026 with an on-road price tag of just over Rs 69 lakh. For context, BMW iX1 LWB electric SUV is priced at about Rs 51 lakh on-road, and Mercedes-Benz EQA electric SUV costs just over Rs 70 lakh. Users will have a simple 'plug and charge



SC recognizes firms as criminal victims

Delhi: The Supreme Court ruled that firms can be regarded "victims" under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and can appeal acquittals even if the state does not. This might profoundly change corporate rights in criminal litigation. Asian Paints Ltd. appealed a Rajasthan High Court ruling denying its right to dispute the acquittal of an individual convicted of selling counterfeit paint under its brand name. Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prashant Kumar Mishra approved the appeal. Whether the appellant is a 'victim' under Section 2(wa) and the provision to Section 372 of the CrPC is a significant legal question. This bench believes the High Court erred in ruling otherwise.

experience' with up to 267km range in superchargers adding 15 minutes.

Sources suggest Japan's SMBC wants RBI clearance for 4.9% more Yes Bank ownership

Delhi : Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) [RIC:RIC:SUM-FGI.UL] has sought approval from the Reserve Bank of India to acquire an additional 4.9% stake in India's Yes Bank (YESB.NS), bringing its total ownership to just under 25%, two sources told Reuters. Yes Bank disclosed in a stock exchange filing that SMBC bought a 20% share in the private lender for \$1.6 billion in May. Receive the latest Indian news and its global impact with the Reuters India File newsletter. Join here. The first source stated the RBI, India's central bank and banking regulator, is reviewing the transaction. Both sources declined to be identified due to transaction confidentiality. The additional pur-



Samsung may make India a US hub amid rising tariffs

Delhi: Samsung may move some smartphone production from Vietnam if US tariffs drop in India. The world's largest smartphone maker would follow Apple in making India a top US smartphone manufacturing base. Samsung manufactures in various countries. Due to heightened US uncertainty, we are ready for several possibilities.

chase's timeline was unknown to Reuters. Answers to Reuters' emails from Yes Bank and the RBI were delayed. On specific

deals, SMBC declined to comment. SMBC is considering a \$1.1 billion investment in Yes Bank for a 5% stake held by the U.S.

An amnesty program for overdue VAT taxes of 85,000 crore

Delhi : Resolving roughly ?85,000 crore in unpaid dues - mostly under the pre-GST Value Added Tax (VAT) regime - from before 2017, the long-awaited tax amnesty scheme is expected to be approved soon by the Delhi Cabinet. Over 300,000 traders from various sectors operating in Delhi will be encouraged to clear their long-pending tax bills through a scheme that is now being discussed at a high level. The scheme would offer large concessions on penalties and interest. The Trade and Taxes Department has presented a comprehensive plan detailing a framework for complete or partial waivers on penalties, interest, or both, according to a top source in the Delhi government's finance department. More than 85,000 crore is owed by over 300,000 merchants collectively. The government hopes to recoup half of this sum through the amnesty program. According to the official, it will increase tax revenue while also reducing the administration's legal load.

500 executive positions to be eliminated at Tata-owned Jaguar Land Rover

Delhi : Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), which is owned by Tata, will be laying off 500 managers in the UK as a result of falling profits and US tariffs. The automaker announced a 15.1% drop in retail sales and a 10.7% drop in wholesale sales for the three months ending June 30, 2025, on July 7. This is mainly due to JLR's stated intentions to halt shipments to the US in 2025, after the implementation of US import taxes, and the planned retirement of older Jaguar models.

Briefs

DUBAI

Smriti in fray for ICC Player of the Month



Charismatic top-order batter **Smriti Mandhana** has been nominated for the ICC Women's Player of the Month for October after her string of brilliant performances helped India to lift their maiden Women's ODI World Cup Trophy. The India vice-captain will be vying for the honour along with South African skipper Laura Wolvaardt and dynamic Australia batter Ashleigh Gardner. Mandhana led the Indian charge at the top, and her partnerships with opening batter Pratika Raval created quite a buzz in the showpiece event. Mandhana, 29, had a relatively quiet start, but soon came into her own with a blistering 80 against seven-time champions Australia, and followed it up with 88 against England. Mandhana later made 109 against New Zealand.

BENGALURU

Rangarajan is RCB women's head coach



Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Thursday named former Tamil Nadu spinner **Malolan Rangarajan** as the head coach of their women's team ahead of the fourth WPL season next year. Rangarajan replaces Luke Williams, who was appointed as head coach in 2024. The Australian is set to miss the WPL due to his commitments with Adelaide Strikers in the Big Bash League. "Malolan Rangarajan, a key member of the RCB support staff for the last six years in various roles, has now been appointed as head coach for the upcoming WPL cycle," RCB posted on their official X handle. Rangarajan has been a part of RCB's WPL setup since its inception.

SYDNEY

Cummins aims to return for 2nd Ashes Test



Australia captain **Pat Cummins** is on track to return for the second Ashes Test but admitted that he might not play all four

FOURTH T20I | Visitors beat Australia by 48 runs in Gold Coast to go ahead 2-1

Bowlers give India series lead



Indian bowler Axar Patel (C) is congratulated by teammates after dismissing Australian batsman Matt Short during their T20I match in Carrara on Thursday. AP

Scoreboard

India: A Sharma c David b Zampa 21, S Gill b Ellis 46, S Dube b Ellis 22, S Yadav c David b Bartlett 20, T Varma c Inglis b Zampa 5, J Sharma lbw b Zampa 3, W Sundar c sub (Kuhnemann) b Ellis 12, A Patel (not out) 21, A Singh c Philippe b Stoinis 0, V Chakravarthy (not out) 1 **Extras:** (LB-3, W-6) 9 **Total:** 167-8 (in 20 overs) **FoW:** 1-56, 2-88, 3-121, 4-125, 5-131, 6-136, 7-152, 8-164. **Bowling:** B Dwarshuis 4-0-31-0, X Bartlett 4-0-26-1, N Ellis 4-0-21-3, M Stoinis 4-0-41-1, A Zampa 4-0-45-3. **Australia:** M Marsh c Arshdeep b Dube 30, M Short lbw b Axar 25, J Inglis b Axar 12, T David c Suryakumar b Dube 14, J Philippe c Chakravarthy b Arshdeep 10, M Stoinis lbw b Sundar 17, G Maxwell b Chakravarthy 2, B Dwarshuis b Bumrah 5, X Bartlett c & b Sundar 0, N Ellis (not out) 2, A Zampa c Gill b Sundar 0 **Extras:** (LB-1, W-1) 2 **Total:** 119 all-out (In 18.2 Overs) **FoW:** 37-1, 67-2, 70-3, 91-4, 98-5, 103-6, 116-7, 116-8, 118-9. **Bowling:** A Singh 3-0-22-1, J Bumrah 4-0-27-1, V Chakravarthy 4-0-26-1, A Patel 4-0-20-2, S Dube 2-0-20-2, W Sundar 1-2-0-3-3.

Shubman Gill (46 off 39) put on 56 for the opening wicket before India lost their way.

Promoted to number three to counter Adam Zampa, Shivam Dube (22 off 18) could not make a big impact while skipper Suryakumar Yadav (20 off 10) departed after hitting a couple of sixes.

Pacer Nathan Ellis (3/21 in 4 overs) was the pick of the

Australian bowlers, using his variations effectively.

Zampa leaked 45 runs in his four overs but more importantly, he got three wickets including the dangerous Abhishek.

Abhishek stepped out to Zampa in the second ball of his opening spell and dispatched it down the ground for a maximum.

The southpaw tried to hit another one out of the park two balls later but was caught at long on. Gill, who is yet to make an impact in the series, had to work hard for his runs before falling to Ellis.

India lost four wickets for 42 runs in the last five overs but a stellar bowling performance carried them over the line.

Ahmedabad set to host 2026 T20 WC final, Mumbai also in 5 Indian venues

PTI

NEW DELHI,

The BCCI has shortlisted Ahmedabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai as the venues for next year's T20 World Cup with the final to be played in Ahmedabad.

The 2023 ODI World Cup final, between India and Australia, was also conducted in Ahmedabad, home to the world's largest cricket stadium with a capacity of over one lakh.

That edition of the marquee competition was held across 10 venues in total. It is learnt that the ICC will announce the full schedule of the February-March tournament next week. It is expected to begin on February 7 with the final likely to be held on March 8. India will go into the home World Cup as defending champions.

The event will be co-hosted by Sri Lanka which will act as a neutral venue for Pakistan as per an agreed arrangement with India. Three venues in Sri Lanka will host the games, including Kandy and Colombo. The third venue is not locked in yet.

If Pakistan reach the final, the summit clash will be played in Sri Lanka.

India and Pakistan will play all their games at a neutral venue till 2027, as per the agreement reached by the ICC, BCCI and the PCB.

Smart batting key to win, says Surya

Skipper feels there was a little dew but the bowlers adapted quickly

CARRARA

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav credited his players' tactical awareness with bat and ball for his team's 48-run victory over Australia in the fourth T20 here on Thursday.

Axar Patel and Shivam Dube played pivotal roles as India defended a modest total of 168 with a disciplined bowling performance to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

"I feel credit goes to all the batters. The way Shubman and Abhishek started, they knew this was not a 200-220 wicket. They batted very smartly. It was a complete team effort from the batters," Suryakumar said at the post-match presentation.

Defending a competitive score, the Indian bowlers produced a clinical display, with all of them among the wickets.

"The message is clear. Me and Gauti (Gautam Gambhir) bhai, we are on the same page. There was a little dew but the bowlers adapted quickly," he added.

All-rounders Shivam Dube (2/20) and Washington Sundar (3/3) made significant contributions with the ball, sharing five wickets between them.

"Always good to have bowlers give you 2-3 overs. This combination suits us. People chipping in, raising their hands, bailing their side is great," Suryakumar said.

We knew 167 was enough, says Dube

Dube said the total posted by India was good enough considering the ground dimensions and the bowlers executed their plans to perfection to beat Australia in the



I feel credit goes to all the batters. The way Shubman and Abhishek started, they knew this was not a 200-220 wicket. They batted very smartly. It was a complete team effort from the batters

Suryakumar Yadav,
Indian skipper

fourth T20I here on Thursday.

"167 on this ground is definitely a good score because the quality bowling we have, the spinners, the fast bowlers...I trust them and the whole team trust our bowlers," Dube said at the post-match press conference.

"Definitely it's a T20 game and any of the batter can come and smack but on this ground where the side boundaries are big, we had planned it very nicely and we had confidence that we can stop them."

He further elaborated India's bowling plans, saying: "The plan was to bowl on the sides which have bigger boundaries because it is difficult to hit big, I think the boundaries were 80m plus."

Jurel's ton carries India 'A' to 255 after top-order failure vs SA 'A'

BENGALURU

Dhruv Jurel gave a scintillating demonstration of his technical nous with a fighting hundred, carrying India A to a respectable 255 all out after a top-order malfunction against South Africa A on the first day of the four-day match here on Thursday.

Asked to bat first, India A were in serious trouble, some of their own making, at 126 for seven, but Jurel (132 not out, 175b, 12x4, 4x6) and Kuldeep Yadav (20, 87b) milked 79 runs for a doughty eighth-wicket stand to bail them out.

Jurel's innings stood out for its marvellous adherence to batting technique, helping him survive the vagaries of conditions, pitch and relentlessness of Protean bowlers under largely overcast skies.

His batting neither touches the vast expanses nor does it have an element of derring-do, but it's based on stunning compactness that allows him to collect runs stealthily.

Even the six he hit off off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen over long on was not an explosive act, but more a melange of timing and precise ball placement.



India A's captain Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel (L) on day one of the second four-day match against South Africa A in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

Later his slog-swept six off Subrayen was not a shot hit in anger, but testified his judgment and awareness of field setting around him.

On other occasions, he either leaned on his front-foot to smother the spin or waited late to turn the balls to on-side for risk-free singles.

The pacers Tshepo Moreki and Tiaan Van Vuuren (4/52) found steady bounce off the pitch here under overcast skies, but Jurel was quick to climb over the balls to guide

them past the point fielder for boundaries.

Jurel flicked when the SA bowlers slanted the balls onto his pads, and pulled out drives when they pitched up to him.

On the day, his initial movement and footwork were so decisive that he seldom got stuck in no-man's land playing the shots.

Soon the 24-year-old fetched his fourth first-class hundred with a single off Van Vuuren, much to the delight of his teammates.

President Murmu lauds world champion women's team

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu lauded the World Cup-winning Indian women's cricket team for its exemplary performance during a meeting with the players at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday and was presented a jersey signed by the entire squad.

President Murmu congratulated the team on its historic achievement, saying the players had not only scripted history but also become role models for the younger generation.

"Members of the Indian Women Cricket team, winner of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President congratulated the team and said that they have created history and have become role models for younger generation," the official handle of the President posted on X.

During the interaction, Harmanpreet Kaur also presented the World Cup trophy to the President besides the signed jersey.

'WWC triumph a watershed moment for Indian sports'

Women's team coach Muzumdar says everyone has chipped in and done their job with professionalism

NEW DELHI

Harmanpreet Kaur and her team's maiden World Cup title is not just a turning point for cricket in the country but a watershed moment for Indian sports, feels women's head coach Amol Muzumdar.

The Indian women's cricket team clinched its first-ever World Cup title with a 52-run victory over South Africa, scripting a golden chapter in the country's sporting history in Navi Mumbai last week.

The win has widely been described as a watershed moment

for women's cricket in India, drawing parallels with the men's team's iconic 1983 World Cup triumph.

"Talking about the 1983 moment, I feel this Women's World Cup must be a watershed moment not just for Indian cricket as a whole both men's and women's but a watershed moment for Indian sports," Muzumdar said.

The victory was even more remarkable considering that at one stage India were staring at an early exit after suffering three losses.

"There is no denying about that now that we have won the World Cup that the real architects are the

players and also my support staff. Everyone has chipped in and done their job with great professionalism. This victory is not just about players or support staff but for every Indian," the coach said.

Despite his prolific domestic career in which he scored over 11,000 runs in 171 first-class matches, including 30 centuries, Muzumdar never earned an India cap.

"The thing about me not playing for India - I parked that thought back in 2014 when I retired. That's history now. It's been almost 11 years, and it remains parked there. This win is not about me, it's about the team and the country," he said.



Talking about the 1983 moment, I feel this Women's World Cup must be a watershed moment not just for Indian cricket as a whole both men's and women's but a watershed moment for Indian sports

Amol Muzumdar, women's head coach

Goud's journey

'Those who taunted me and my family are now applauding'



Prime Minister Narendra Modi exchanges a handshake with Kranti Goud (R) in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

NEW DELHI

The boys were one player short. With no option left, they decided to include her in the team.

That was the first step into cricket for Indian pacer Kranti Goud who until then had only watched the game from fringes. Occasionally, she had thrown the ball back into the field whenever it rolled near her modest home's doorstep in Ghuwara village of Madhya Pradesh.

"I didn't even know there was a women's cricket team - that's where my journey began," Goud said.

The 22-year-old, who contributed nine wickets at an average of 18.55 to India's maiden title-clinching run, including a player of the match-winning three-wicket haul against Pakistan, spoke about her nascent but remarkable career so far.

The felicitation at the Rashtrapati Bhawan followed an evening meeting with Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on Wednesday, marking an unprecedented high for the youngster, who made her debut for India only in May this year.

Her story began far from the stadium lights and cameras. She recalled watching mostly from afar, a bunch of boys playing the game near her house.

This distant familiarity culminated into an opportunity as she ended up in the playing XI on a day when the boys were a player short.

"There was a ground in front of my house, so boys used to play there and when the ball would come near my house, I used to throw it to them. When I started playing with them, they used to play me only as a fielder but slowly, I also learned playing.

"I didn't even know that there was something called a spin bowler so I just started bowling pace looking at them," she laughed.

It set off a chain of events during the course of which her formative coach Rajiv

Bilthre, who was also the secretary of the Chhatrapur District Cricket Association, spotted her and found her speed to be impressive. "He asked me whether I aspired to play international cricket as well. I was not aware that there is an international team of girls and then he took me to his academy."

"Within six months I played the senior division and within a year I debuted for state's domestic under-19 team in Vadodara," she said.