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

Centre allows duty-free import of raw cotton

New Delhi: The central government has allowed duty-free import of raw cotton till September 30. The government has taken this step to ensure market availability of cotton, the main raw material for the textile sector. BJP MP and National General Secretary of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Praveen Khandelwal has welcomed this decision of the government. According to the notification issued by the Ministry of Finance on

Centre approves 6-lane Bhubaneswar bypass

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the construction of 6-lane access-controlled Capital Region Ring Road (Bhubaneswar Bypass - 110.875 km) in Odisha on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a total capital cost of Rs 8307.74 crore. The pro-



August 18, duty exemption on cotton will be effective from August 19, which will remain

posals of intent was approved in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic

in force till September 30. The government has given this permission to improve the

Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There is a lot of congestion between Rameshwar to Tangi due to the large population of cities. To deal with this, it is proposed to develop a 6-lane access-controlled greenfield highway.

availability of key raw materials for the textile sector. Till now, along with 11 percent

import duty on cotton, Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) was also levied. MP Praveen Khandelwal said, "The government's decision to temporarily suspend import duty on cotton is a welcome step. This will give a boost to the country's textile industry. He said that due to this decision, the production cost of our clothes will be reduced due to raw cotton becoming cheaper and exports will increase.

VP candidate CP Radhakrishnan welcomed in NDA meeting



New Delhi: National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Vice Presidential candidate CP Radhakrishnan was felicitated at a meeting of the ruling party MPs on Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra

Support

Modi has appealed that the entire party and MPs support the candidate

the Vice Presidential election CP Radhakrishnan was introduced in the meeting. NDA floor leaders, MPs warmly welcomed CP Radhakrishnan and congratulated him. He said that he was introduced by Prime Minister Modi in the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting. Prime Minister Modi has appealed that the entire party and MPs of all parties should unite and unanimously support the candidate.

VP: Sudarshan will be the opposition's candidate

B. Sudarshan Reddy will file his nomination on August 21: Congress President Mallikarjun

Candidate

This announcement was made after a meeting of the alliance's constituents



Reddy's name was decided because he has been assimilating the values

Kharge said that Reddy's name was decided because he has been assimilating the values of the freedom struggle and the Constitution throughout his life. This election is a clash of two ideologies and Reddy is a symbol of these values. Thanking Kharge, he said that

Reddy was born on 8 July 1946

Reddy was born on 8 July 1946. He studied BA and LLB and was enrolled as an advocate with the Andhra Pradesh Bar Council on 27 December 1971. He practised in the Andhra Pradesh High Court in writ and civil matters. He was a government lawyer from 1988 to 1990.

New Delhi: The Indi alliance has declared former Supreme Court judge B. Sudarshan Reddy as its joint candidate for the Vice Presidential election. This announcement was made after a meeting of the alliance's constituents on Tuesday at the residence of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. Reddy will file his nomination on August 21. Kharge announced Reddy's name. He said that Reddy is one of the most distinguished and progressive jurists of the country. He has done long and excellent work as a judge in the Andhra Pradesh

High Court, Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court and a judge of the Supreme Court. His legal career has been associated with the struggle for social, economic and political justice. Leaders of other allied parties including Congress, Dravida

Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Shiv Sena (UBT) were present in the meeting. All the parties unanimously agreed to make Reddy the candidate. Kharge said that

this is not just an election but an ideological battle and all the opposition parties are united to protect democracy. Reddy as the protector of the constitution and fundamental rights, he said that he has given many historic decisions in favor of the poor.

Construction of bridge over Vishwamitri river for bullet train project completed

New Delhi: The construction of the bridge over Vishwamitri river in Vadodara district of Gujarat under the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project has now been completed. This bridge is the 17th of the total 21 river bridges to be constructed in Gujarat for the project. The bridge is 80 meters long and is located near the Vadodara-Surat main line of Western Railway. The National

High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) said in a statement on Wednesday that the SBS (Span by Span) method has been used in its construction. The height of the bridge piers ranges from 26 to 29.5 meters. And this bridge is constructed of three circular piers of 5.5 meters diameter. Each pier is based on 12 piles with a diameter of 1.8 meters and a length of up to 53 meters.

75% attendance is necessary to appear in board exam

New Delhi: There is an important update for the students going to appear in CBSE Board Exam 2026. The Central Board of Secondary Education has issued a notification informing that to appear in class 10th, 12th board exams, it is mandatory for the students to have minimum 75% attendance in school. Without 75% attendance, students will be barred from giving board exams.

Mines-Minerals Amendment Bill passed by both houses

New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025. This bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha on August 12. This bill will further amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The bill provides that leaseholders can



apply to the state government to add other minerals to the existing lease. After passing the bill, the proceedings of

the Rajya Sabha were adjourned till 11 am on Wednesday. As soon as the proceedings of the House resumed at 2 pm, the presiding chairman Ghanshyam Tiwari called the name of Union Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy for discussion on the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025.

PM Modi will go to China for SCO summit



New Delhi: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and handed him President Xi Jinping's message and invitation to the SCO summit being held in Tianjin. The Prime Minister thanked and accepted the invitation. He also expressed his eagerness to hold bilateral talks apart from talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. According to the Prime Minister's Office, Wang Yi also shared his personal assessment of the bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and the 24th meeting of Special

Invitation

He also expressed his eagerness to hold bilateral talks apart from talks

Representatives. This meeting was co-chaired by Wang Yi with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. In his meeting with Wang Yi, the Prime Minister emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and tranquility on the border and reiterated India's commitment to a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the border question.

Chouhan reviewed the complaints of farmers

New Delhi: Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviewed the complaints of farmers coming on various portals and call centers of the ministries in a high-level meeting at Krishi Bhavan on Tuesday. Shivraj Singh has taken a tough stand on the problem of fake fertilizers, seeds and pesticides reported by the farmers in the meeting

Solution

Shivraj Singh has taken a tough stand on the problem of fake fertilizers

and has talked about making strict laws in this regard. In the meeting, Union Minister Shivraj Singh said that as important as the creation of



schemes is, their proper implementation is also as important. Whatever problems of farmers are being received through various portals, there should be a system to

resolve them on time. The system should be so strong that when farmer brothers and sisters contact us through these portals, then they should be confident that their problems will definitely be resolved. Shivraj Singh took complete information from the officials about the problems of farmers being received through various platforms.



Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday conducted a field inspection of flood management and administrative preparations.

The Supreme Court asked the Attorney General what should be done if the Governor keeps the bill pending for a long time

Hearing on the President's reference begins in the Supreme Court



Constitution Bench will also hear the matter tomorrow i.e. on 20th August. During the hearing, the court said that the two-member bench of the Supreme Court must have given the decision due to the long pending bills by

the Governor of Tamil Nadu. The court asked Attorney General R Venkataramani that if such a petition comes before the court in which the Governor keeps the bill pending for years, then what can be done constitutional-

ly. The court asked that if the court's decision to accept consent on those pending bills is wrong, then what is the other option. Then the Attorney General said that even in such a critical situation, the court cannot take the work of the Governor in its hands and cannot give a decision to accept consent on the bills. During the hearing, the Chief Justice said that it has been said in many places in the decision that the Governor did

not implement the court's decision. Then the Attorney General said that it would be uncomfortable to look into the entire facts of the case because the Constitution Bench is reviewing the decision of a two-member bench. Then Justice PS Narasimha said that this decision may have been given to resolve a difficult situation. Then the Attorney General said that this decision has become a precedent for similar situations.

Ground planes to fly again in 2 years: SpiceJet to DGCA

Delhi: Business Standard sources reported that SpiceJet informed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that it will spend Rs 400 crore in two years to restore 36 grounded planes. The regulator met with the carrier last to discuss restoring grounded jets. Sources said this followed the airline's Rs 3,000 crore qualifying institutional placement from global investors and mutual funds. The airline did not respond to Business Standard's request for comment. At the QIP, the airline identified 36 grounded aircraft out of 58. This was mostly due to lesser payment defaults, aircraft maintenance financial issues, and component shortages. The airline informed the regulator that seven of the 36 grounded planes would return by year's end, sources added. The remaining 29 aircraft should be reactivated in 15-21



months. "Overall, the airline anticipates it will take 18-24 months to bring all grounded planes back to service," source said. SpiceJet announced that it will lease seven planes to improve flying operations immediately while repairing grounded planes. It said the seven leased planes will join the fleet by November 15. Sources say the carrier's grounded jets will undergo Airbus and Boeing-mandated return-to-service (RTS) procedures. The DGCA will allow commercial passenger flights after the RTS process.

RTS is the procedure of restarting a grounded aircraft. Maintenance, repairs,

inspections, and regulatory compliance are required.

Change in rules marks discount broker turning point

Delhi: Domestic rating agency Crisil said discount brokerages like Zerodha and Groww will be most affected by recent regulatory changes to curtail investors' derivatives activity. Narayanan claimed derivative trades account for up to 80% of bargain brokers' revenue and under a third of full-service brokerages'. Largest impact, with new customer acquisition.

Govt. lists Ola Electric's 'consumer rights infractions' to ARAI

Delhi: The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) instructed vehicle testing agency ARAI to investigate whether Ola Electric violated consumer rights as a recipient of the government's EV incentive scheme. After the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued Ola Electric a show cause notice for consumer rights violations, misleading advertising, and unfair trade practices, MHI took action. Charges during free service period or warranty, car delivery delays, and service/repair delays are additional cited infractions. Old Electric is a FAME-II and PM E-DRIVE



beneficiary under ARAI's eligibility requirements. Thus, MHI must get your opinions on the issue promptly "The ministry's letter to the testing centre stated. It further stated that under two EV incentive schemes, all OEMs, including Ola Electric, must maintain service centres to address consumer issues and provide warranties. Earlier, Union consumer

affairs secretary and CCPA chief commissioner Nidhi Khare confirmed that the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has been receiving complaints for about a year. The company didn't answer problems effectively." CCPA can open a "class action" under the Consumer Protection Act if comparable complaints affect a 'class' of customers.'

Toyota Urban Cruiser Hyryder Festival Edition Launched

Delhi: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) launched the Urban Cruiser Hyryder 'Festival Limited Edition' packed with Toyota Genuine Accessories (TGA) Package. The Festival Limited Edition of Urban Cruiser Hyryder adds 13 specially designed TGA. On the exterior, it has chrome and ornamental accessories on the mud-

flap, door visor (premium with SS insert), front and rear bumper garnish, head lamp garnish, hood emblem, body cladding, fender garnish, rear door lid garnish and door chrome handle. On the interior, the Festival Edition comes with an all-weather 3D floor mat, leg room lamp, and a digital video recorder. As part of this

special launch, TKM is offering a complimentary package worth ₹50,817 for the customers opting for Urban Cruiser Hyryder Festival Limited Edition made available at dealerships across India until 31st October. This exclusive package is available for the V and G grades of both the Neo Drive and Hybrid variants.

Raptee.HV Launches T 30 High-Voltage Electric Motorcycle In India - Details

Delhi : Raptee.HV, the Chennai-based EV startup, launched India's first high-voltage electric motorcycle, which is developed with the technology being used in Electric cars across the world. Called the Raptee T 30, it is the first of its kind to use universal charging standards that are used by cars. In simple words, it uses a CCS2 charging port. The motorcycle is priced at ₹ 2.39 lakhs, ex-showroom. The Raptee.HV Motorcycle has an IDC Est range of around 200 km and a real-world range of over 150 km on a single charge. The company claims that it can accelerate from 0 to 60 kmph in under 3.5 seconds. The 5.4 kWh battery pack is IP67-rated, and it takes 60 minutes for a 20-80 per cent juice-up via a 3.3 kW charger. Through a fast charger, the same can be done in just 30 minutes. Also, the brand is offering a warranty of 8 years of 80,000 km on the battery pack. The T 30 rides on a set of 17-inch rims with a 110-section tyre on the front and a 150-section tyre at the rear. Moreover, the suspension includes 37 mm USD forks on the front and a telescopic shock absorber at the rear. Braking duties are performed by a 320 mm rotor at the front and a 230 mm disc at the rear. The motorcycle has advanced software features for an enhanced riding experience, including 3 riding modes and a 7-inch LCD instrument cluster. It comes equipped with connected features as well. There are four colours on offer - Horizon Red, Arctic White, Mercury Grey and Eclipse Black.

Tata Consultancy Services mcap cross Rs 15 lakh crore mark as shares soar

NEW DELHI: Shares of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) jumped 4% on Tuesday, taking its market valuation to above Rs 15 lakh crore mark. The stock of the country's second most valued firm by market valuation jumped 4.05% to settle at Rs 4,133.45 apiece on the BSE.

The Indian Real Estate Sector Expects Equity Investments of Rs 74,815 Crore

Delhi : According to a survey by CBRE South Asia, the real estate sector registered equity investments of \$8.9 billion (Rs 74,815 crore) in the first nine months of , surpassing the increase of \$7.4 billion (Rs 62,210 crore) in 2023 and demonstrating a year-over-year rise of 46%. The Indian real estate market has experienced a massive boom, reaching its highest point since 2018. A significant quarterly equity investment totaling \$2.6 billion (Rs 21,857 crore) between July and September is highlighted in the report.

Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai drove this expansion, contributing 66 percent of equity inflows in Q3 with



their respective subscriptions of \$0.96 billion (Rs 8,070 crore), \$0.40 billion (Rs 3,362 crore), and \$0.34 billion (Rs 2,858 crore). With capital inflows of \$0.31 billion (Rs 2,605 crore), \$0.27 billion (Rs 2,269 crore), and \$0.02 billion (Rs 1,681 crore), respectively, Delhi-NCR, Pune, and Hyderabad also

saw a sizable portion of investments. Domestic investors, especially construction businesses, who accounted for roughly 79% of equity inflows during the July-September quarter, were the main drivers of the increase in investment momentum. Of the overall inflows of for-

New Income Tax Return e-filing portal in the works? What taxpayers can expect

The Income Tax Department is set to revamp the e-filing ITR portal with substantial changes aimed at making it more user-friendly for taxpayers. Internal circular from the tax department dated October 8, which is not publicly available, "The operations phase of the existing Integrated e-filing and Centralised Processing Centre (IEC) 2.0 is coming to an end and the process of bringing in a new Project. , Project IEC 3.0 (that shall

The Tata Group is set to expand the fleet of its budget airline, Air India Express, by transferring all-economy configuration planes from its full-service carriers, Air India and Vistara. This move is part of the group's strategy to better compete with Indigo, the market leader in the Indian aviation industry. Sources familiar with the plan told that the first phase will involve the transfer of 17 Airbus A320 Neo aircraft from Air India to Air India Express. Additionally, 10 of



Vistara's all-economy A320 Neo aircraft will join Air India Express once the merger between Vistara and Air India is finalized. The entire transfer process is expected to be completed by mid-2025. Experience significant capacity expansion, with the addition of 17 planes from Air India and 15

Boeing 737 Max planes from its own order by the middle of next year. Over the past 10 months, the airline has already added 26 new Boeing 737-8 aircraft to its fleet. The Tata Group is currently restructuring its aviation business, which will result in the consolidation of four airlines into two.

Solar panel maker Waaree Energies is gearing up to float its initial share

Delhi: Solar panel maker Waaree Energies is gearing up to float its initial share sale involving fresh issue of shares worth Rs 3,600 crore. The Mumbai-based company's Initial Public Offering (IPO) will conclude on 23 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on October 18, according to the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP). As per the documents, the IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating to Rs 3,600 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 48 lakh equity shares by a promoter and existing shareholders, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). Those selling shares in the OFS are -- promoter Waaree Sustainable Finance Private Ltd and shareholder Chandurkar Investments Private



Ltd. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used for setting up the 6GW (gigawatt) of Ingot Wafer, Solar Cell and Solar PV module manufacturing facility in Odisha. Besides, a portion will be used for general corporate purposes. Waaree Energies, one of the major players in the solar energy industry in India, is focused on PV module manufacturing with an aggregate installed capacity of 12 GW as of June 30, 2023. It operates five manufacturing facilities. with one factory each,

Globe Civil Projects files draft papers with Sebi for IPO

NEW DELHI: Engineering, procurement and construction company Globe Civil Projects Ltd on Tuesday said it has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO) is entirely a fresh issue of 1.9 crore equity shares with no offer-for-sale component, according to the DRHP filed with Sebi. The company plans to list the shares on BSE.

India's first high-speed 280 kmph trains soon! ICF awards contract for new trainsets to BEML

Delhi: India is set to launch its first indigenous high-speed trains, built by BEML with a test speed of 280 kmph. Featuring modern amenities, these trainsets will consist of 8 cars each, costing Rs 27.86 crores per car, and to be delivered by the end of 2026. The rainsets will be the first indigenously designed and manufactured in India, with a test speed of 280 kmph. (AI image) India's first indigenous high-speed train soon! In a big boost for Indian Railways' dreams of offering high-speed rail connectivity, the national transporter has awarded the contract for manufacturing high-speed trainsets to BEML. These trainsets will be the first indigenously designed and manufactured in India, with a test speed of



280 kmph, marking a significant step forward in the country's high-speed rail journey. The trains will feature a fully air-conditioned, Chair Car configuration, offering modern passenger amenities such as reclining and rotatable seats, special provisions for passengers with restricted mobility, and onboard infotainment systems, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable travel experience. BEML Limited has secured a contract from Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, for the design, manufacturing, and commis-

sioning of two high-speed trainsets. Each trainset will consist of 8 cars, with a price of Rs 27.86 crores per car, resulting in a total contract value of Rs 866.87 crores. This contract value includes design cost, one-time development cost, non-recurring charges, and a one-time cost for jigs, fixtures, tooling, and testing facilities, which will be utilized for all future high-speed projects in India. BEML's Bengaluru rail coach complex will be responsible for the construction of these trainsets, with a scheduled delivery by the end of 2026.

Gurugram Rate Soars 160%, Housing Prices in Top 10 Cities Soar 88% in 5 Years

Delhi : In the last five years, the average cost of newly constructed residential properties in India's top ten cities has increased by an astounding 88%, per a report released on Monday by real estate data analytics company PropEquity. The greatest increase in prices was seen in Gurugram, where average prices shot up 160% from Rs 7,500 per square foot in 2019 to Rs 19,500 per sq foot



in . Mumbai, on the other hand, saw the least gain over the same period, going from Rs 25,820 per sq ft to Rs 35,500 per sq ft, or 37%. Noida (146%), Bengaluru (98%), Hyderabad (81%), Chennai (80%), Pune (73%), Navi Mumbai (69%), Kolkata (68%), Thane (66%), and Mumbai are the next cities in terms of price growth after Gurugram. In the top 10 cities—Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Noida, and Gurugram—the survey examined 15,000 new launch projects that included flats, floors, and villas. In the past five years, real estate prices have increased dramatically in all major cities. The factors that have contributed to such a steep rise include the massive infrastructure development, the growing interest from NRIs, HNIs/UHNIs, and stock market gainers looking to create wealth and generate income through real estate investment, rising sentiments towards homeownership, and the general shift towards luxury/super luxury homes as a result of rising aspiration and affluence.

CM Yogi: The "Chevening-UP Scholarship Scheme" will serve as a platform to groom youth for global leadership roles

● The scheme aims to provide meritorious students with opportunities to excel in education, research, and leadership at the international level

Lucknow: A historic agreement was signed on Tuesday between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) UK at the Chief Minister's official residence, in the presence of CM Yogi Adityanath. Under this collaboration, the "Chevening-Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Uttar Pradesh State Government Scholarship Scheme" has been launched, which will provide five talented students from the state each year with scholarships to pursue master's degrees at prestigious universities in the United Kingdom. Under the leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath, the UP government is committed to



This initiative offers the youth of UP an opportunity to reach new heights

This initiative offers the youth of Uttar Pradesh an opportunity to reach new heights in global education and leadership. He urged students to seize this opportunity and enhance the pride of both the state and the nation. The scholarship covers full tuition fees,

providing recognition and opportunities to its talented students not only

examination and research fees, living allowance, and airfare to and from the UK. The total cost per student is estimated at ₹38,048 to ₹42,076 (approximately ₹45-48 lakh), with the Uttar Pradesh government contributing around ₹19,800 (23 lakh).

nationally but also internationally. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief

Expressed her pleasure

The remainder funded by FCDO UK. British High Commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron, while signing the MoU in Lucknow, expressed her pleasure in formalizing the agreement. She highlighted that under this new Chevening Scholarship, five students will receive full scholarships to study in the UK

Minister said that this scholarship scheme will serve as a powerful platform to transform the state's education system and prepare youth for global leadership roles. CM emphasized that the scheme aims to enable meritorious students to achieve excellence in edu-

each year for the next three years. This initiative reflects the strengthening ties between India and the United Kingdom. Recently, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UK, the Trade Agreement and Vision 35 were signed, opening new avenues for business and education.

cation, research, and leadership at the international level. The program will commence from the academic session 2025-26 and run for three years (2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28), with the possibility of renewal from 2028-29. Inspired by Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurating the three-day International Summit on 'Dimensions of Cyber Warfare'.

UP rises from BIMARU to role model in health and development

Lucknow: Once labelled a BIMARU state, Uttar Pradesh has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past eight years, emerging as a healthy and progressive state. This turnaround has been made possible by the visionary leadership and unwavering commitment.

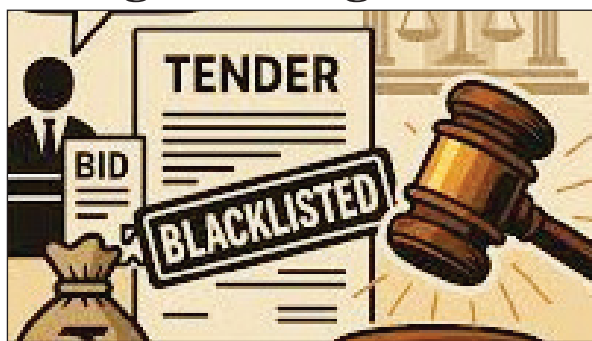
Digital Audits seen as key to global threat reduction



Lucknow: The significance of cybersecurity and digital audits is increasing every day as the world grapples with increasing digital threats. In view of rising challenges, adopting advanced cybersecurity technologies and international technology exchange has a crucial role to play. A session organised by UPSIFS on digital audit, cyber insurance, security, and legal aspects emphasised the need of the hour, and saw a widespread appreciation for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's efforts to bolster cyber security in the state. UPSIFS Additional Director Rajeev Malhotra said, "The Yogi Government has taken a strict stance against cyber-crimes." He shared

information about India's DPDP Act and policies like GDPR for data protection. He also emphasised the importance of teamwork and continuous education. In the seminar, the need to integrate continuous learning, practical experience, and ethical clarity in cybersecurity was also underscored. He stated that there are strong and sustainable career prospects in cybersecurity, digital audit, and cyber insurance, provided that the correct skills, legal knowledge, and practical experience are prioritised. Under the leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath, these efforts have been further strengthened, marking a strong step towards India's digital security.

Before blacklisting a firm, a hearing should be given: High Court



Blacklisting

Order of fine and blacklisting against the firm cancelled: High Court

Prayagraj: Allahabad High Court has said that it is clear in the law that before imposing any fine or blacklisting a firm, the concerned firm should be given an opportunity to be heard. Disposing of the petition of Sonbhadra's M/s Baba Khatu Industries, the division bench of Justice Saral Srivastava and Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal has directed the District Magistrate to consider the petitioner's representation afresh and take a decision within a month. The court has cancelled the order of the District Magistrate dated July 29, which talked about

blacklisting the firm along with confiscating the fine and bail amount. According to the facts related to the case, the District Magistrate had confiscated the bail amount of Rs 1,07,43,587 of the petitioner and directed him to deposit Rs 2,35,56,096. The order also stated that Rs 56,14,813 be deducted from the security deposit for illegal mining. The petitioner firm was also blacklisted, banning it from mining for two years. The petitioner's lawyers said that no opportunity was given to be heard regarding the allegations. Therefore, the impugned order is illegal. It was also said that the petitioner is not liable to pay any installment as he had applied to surrender the lease deed on April 1 itself.

Review meeting of schemes related to Women Welfare Department concluded under the chairmanship of DM

Meeting

Instructions given to dispose of 89 cases pending at the level of District Steering

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: A review meeting of schemes related to Women Welfare Department was held in Sangam Auditorium on Tuesday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate Manish Kumar Verma.

In the meeting, the progress and updated status of other schemes run by the department including Chief Minister Bal Seva Yojana, Sponsorship Scheme, One Stop Center, Child Line, Kanya Sumangala Yojana, Nirashrit Mahila Pension



Yojana were reviewed. In the meeting, the District Magistrate reviewed the Kanya Sumangala Yojana and directed to dispose of the pending applications as soon as possible.

Instructions have been given to dispose of 89 cases pending at the level of District Steering Committee under Rani Laxmi Bai Mahila Evam Bal Samman Yojana with-

in a week. He talked to the concerned Sub-District Magistrate and identified the land for construction of the building of the newly approved One Stop Center in the district.

District Magistrate furious over 42nd rank in CM Dashboard review meeting



hottest in the meeting. The District Magistrate directly handed over show-cause notices to 31 department heads after 45 complaints

were found to be in default. He said that every officer should come with full preparation, it will be mandatory to score 40 percent

marks in the test, otherwise action will be taken by sending a letter to the government. DM Chaudhary, terming the ranking of the Revenue Department as "disappointing", also issued notices to Udyam Mitra, Mandi Secretary and Jal Nigam Amrit-2 project. He said that the non-starting of production of MoU units till now is a blot on the image of the district. If production

does not start soon, strict action is certain. The District Magistrate also reprimanded the officials on issues like Family ID, Day-NRLM Bank Credit Linkage and Nipun Pariksha Assessment of Primary Education. He said that while fulfilling the target of the schemes, correct data should be uploaded on the portal. The officials should observe the portal them-

selves, only then the data will be correct and the ranking of the district will improve, the DM said in a sharp tone. In the meeting, he warned that applications should not remain pending in any beneficiary-oriented scheme. According to the government order, the marks obtained on the CM dashboard will be used in the online transfer of officers.

When there was an altercation between the people who came to protest

Ruckus in the village in the name of new tradition, allegations of bias against police

Bareilly. The Chadar procession taken out on Tuesday in Barrier-2 Khajuria Zulfiqar village of Izzatnagar police station area took the form of communal tension. Villagers say that till now this tradition has been performed with simplicity, but this time the procession was taken out with DJ, flags and sloganeering, which spoiled the atmosphere. When



there was an altercation between the people

who came to protest and the crowd involved in the procession, the police had to intervene.

The villagers alleged that an attempt is being made to introduce a "new tradition" with the connivance of the administration and the village head. During this, the police was also accused of being biased and lathi-charging the protesters.

In the viral video, policemen can be seen lathi-charging the crowd. At the same time, the villagers accused the current head Netrapal and former head Hiralal of fueling the dispute. When the situation worsened, SP City Manush Pareek, CO III Pankaj Srivastava and a heavy police force reached the spot and pacified the people by explaining

them. SSP A n u r a g Arya said that the allegations against the police during the Chadar procession are being investigated. There is peace in the village at present.

प्रयागराज जनपद तथा क्षेत्र वासियों को 15 अगस्त एवं श्रीकृष्ण जन्माष्टमी की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।
ग्राम पंचायत कठौली का सर्वांगीण विकास ही हमारा संकल्प

स्वतंत्रता दिवस

हरिशंकर शर्मा (पप्पू टिकैत भईया जी)

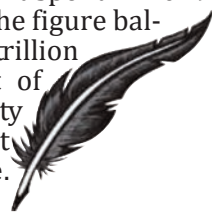
ग्राम पंचायत कठौली विकास खंड उरुवा प्रयागराज

Editorial

Fundamental hypocrisy in global climate politics

In , the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, leaders from industrialised nations delivered impassioned speeches about the urgency of addressing climate change. Yet, behind closed doors, they continued to approve new fossil fuel projects and delay meaningful climate finance commitments. This dichotomy highlights a fundamental hypocrisy in global climate politics: The West often preaches sustainability but falls short in practice, prioritising economic interests over environmental imperatives. As the countdown to the COP29 climate summit in Azerbaijan this continues, the Bonn Climate Change Conference in Germany concluded in a stalemate last week. Nations disagreed on the size and scope of loss and damage financing, representing a significant setback in global climate negotiations. The Bonn talks did not achieve meaningful progress on climate financing, underscoring a persistent issue: industrialised nations, which bear the greatest responsibility for the current climate crisis, resisted calls from Global South countries to compensate those who suffer the most but have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions. Over a decade ago, developed nations pledged to mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries. This commitment, formalised under the Copenhagen Accord in 2009 and reiterated in the Paris Agreement, has not been met. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported that climate finance reached only \$79.6 billion in 2019. It was only in 2022 that developed countries provided and mobilised \$115.9 billion in climate finance for developing countries. By the end of COP29, all parties must agree on a “new collective quantified goal” (NCQG) to guide the provision of climate finance, intended to replace the \$100 billion target after 2025. Progress on negotiating the NCQG has been slow. Disagreements persist on almost every aspect of the new target, including the amount of money to be provided, the sources of these funds, the recipients, and the specific forms of financial assistance. Current climate finance is grossly inadequate for the scale of action required. The \$100 billion target for climate finance is laughably insufficient. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Adaptation Gap Report 2021 estimates that the costs of adapting to climate change in developing countries could reach \$140-300 billion per year by 2030, escalating to \$280-500 billion per year by 2050. Furthermore, the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2021 report highlights that global climate finance flows reached a record \$632 billion in 2019/2020. Despite this record, the funding falls significantly short of the \$4.13 trillion annual investment required by 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement targets, as estimated by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its Net Zero by 2050 report. Now even these estimates are seen as low. As highlighted by the Independent High-Level

Expert Group on Climate Finance in their 2022 report, emerging markets and developing countries (excluding China) are staring at a financial chasm. These nations must mobilise approximately \$1 trillion annually by 2025, amounting to 4.1 per cent of their GDP—double the 2.2 per cent spent in 2019. Fast forward to 2030, and the figure balloons to a staggering \$2.4 trillion per year, or 6.5 per cent of GDP. This glaring disparity underscores the urgent need to recalibrate climate finance targets. if we are to meet the colossal demands of climate adaptation .



Threat from ballistic hypersonic missiles

Aman Sharma

Space is emerging as the forerunner in the era of technology-driven warfare. A country like India, with significant geopolitical heft and the potential to emerge as a power of relevance, would sooner or later face a threat from space—a threat that cannot be defended by conventional means. It is therefore important to analyse if India needs to build a space force that is capable of fighting, not so distant, space wars. The Gulf War I is technically considered to be the first space war where the US relied on space satellite intelligence for aerial and ground operations inside Kuwait and Iraq. The satellite navigation systems played a significant role in the navigation of the US Air Force fighter jets. Currently, space prowess is clearly ruling the Russian-Ukraine and Hamas battlescapes. Taiwan is incrementally coming under the space lens of competing powers. The space satellites started playing their crucial role even before the start of the war. India raised the Defence Space Agency in 2019 as a scaled-down version of the space command. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) also raised DSP to provide technical and Research and Development (R&D) support. In the last



five years, outer space has emerged as a source of concern, primarily the threat from long-range ballistic and hypersonic missiles. Many Direct Ascent Anti-Satellites (ASAT) experimental missile strikes have been tested, including by India (mission Shakti). Counter-missions are being developed for both offensive and defensive forms of space warfare. Even though the Outer Space Treaty debars nations from weaponising space, the writing on the wall makes it clear that a threat from space is lurking. All the major powers, such as the US, Russia, China, India, France, the European Union, and Japan, are building space military organisations. The US Space Force organises, trains, and equips personnel in order to protect US and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint forces. The US Space Force, headquartered

at the Pentagon, employs 8,600 military personnel and 77 spacecraft. The Russian space forces are mandated to inform the higher political leaders and military commanders of missile attacks as soon as possible, ballistic missile defence, and the creation, deployment, maintenance, and control of in-orbit space vehicles, like the Persona reconnaissance satellite. These forces operate the GLONASS global positioning system. The Russian Space Forces include the third Missile-Space Defence Army and a Division for Warning of Missile Attacks. The Chinese People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Force (PLA-SSF) existed from 2015 to 2024 with the army's ability to fight “informatised conflicts”. In April of this year, the Strategic Support Force was dissolved and split into three independent arms: the PLA Aerospace Force,

the PLA Cyberspace Force, and the PLA Information Support Force. Like China, Russia views space as a warfighting domain, and they base their warfighting doctrine around the idea that achieving space supremacy is a precondition for winning a conflict. Russia has fielded a suite of non-kinetic options to create reversible effects on satellite systems in space, including ground-based systems to counter GPS navigation signals, tactical communications, satellite communications, and radars. On the non-kinetic side of this threat continuum, China has operational ground-based jamming systems that are capable of disrupting satellite communications, GPS navigation signals, synthetic aperture radars, missile warning systems, and other satellite systems. Jamming can prevent users from using satellite communication networks, degrade or prevent transmissions of vital missile warning data from space-based sensors to war fighters, and disrupt uplinks and downlinks needed to command and control spacecraft. While analysing the space wars, it is important to study the space-based wars of the past when the intensity was nominal but gains were asymmetrical. During the two Gulf Wars, the Coalition

bombers and fighters dropped more than 5,000 GPS-guided Joint Direct Attack Munitions during the day and night, in all weather, with shattering effectiveness. Satellites also made it possible to direct Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) attacks such as Predator and Global Hawk. US imaging satellites gave commanders an unprecedented view of targets and battlespace. At least seven different types of military satellite systems were used during the Gulf War I. GPS receivers were affixed to tanks, trucks, and aircraft across the theatre. Tank commanders wanted to know the moisture content of the soil in some areas. Tomahawk precision attacks have multiple space based use cases, such as intelligence preparation, target location, command and control, weather assessment, launch, route navigation, and damage assessment. Space and cyber domains are the major components of ‘stand-off’ wars, which is the new way of war fighting. Elements contributing to stand-off conflicts are also moving into the hands of private space operators. While ‘space force’ would have a mandate to provide space support to conventional forces, it would largely engage.

Women in Indian Politics: A story that has changed little over the years

Sameer
India's progress vis-à-vis women's representation in leadership positions has remained rather slow and rarely linear, often pushing them to the margins of politics. Image: UN Women/Ruhani Kaur. India recently concluded its 2024 general elections, which took place in seven phases—from April 19 to June 1—to elect all 543 members of the Lok Sabha (lower house). While the results have taken many by surprise, what has been even more astonishing is the fact that for a country that has rigorously been trying to establish a more progressive front on women's rights and gender equality over the past few years, the

new Indian parliament has failed to showcase a notable uptick in the representation of women after the latest elections. Making just 13.63 per cent of the elected strength, the 18th Lok Sabha will comprise only 74 women compared to 469 men. This share is not only abysmally skewed but also lower than the 14.4 per cent share of female representation during the 2019 election, where 78 women were elected as MPs. The irony here is that just last year, India—during its G20 presidency—brought about a paradigm shift in gender-based policy-making by challenging the status quo and with the innovative idea of women-led development in order to ensure women's

inclusion and representation at all levels of decision-making. Even at the domestic level, India—after many deliberations—finally passed the historic Women's Reservation Bill in , which seeks to reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women. While it is true that the bill has not yet come into effect, the journey from 13.63 per cent to 33 per cent (for the next elections) still seems rather long, especially given that, despite being the central agents of the 2024 elections and forming an important core of party manifestos as well as campaign speeches, only a handful of them were able to achieve the final victory.

It is, however, impor-

India took centre stage during the summit

Abhimanyu
India took centre stage during the summit, and the family photograph taken post-summit is a testament to it. Image: Narendra Modi/X Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 50th G7 summit on June 14, 2024, in the city of Fasano in Apulia, Italy. The region of Apulia, throughout its history, has been inhabited by Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Normans, and Spanish. The region has also served as a bridge between the West and the East, thanks to its geography. Apulia's rich history as a cultural crossroads underscores the significance of this year's G7 summit, which brings together diverse global leaders. In this summit, along with the G7 countries, the other invitees were India, the African Union, Brazil, the UAE, Argentina, and others, making the location and the purpose of the summit significant. India took centre stage during the summit, and the family photograph taken post-summit is a testament to it.

Two years ago, India was invited to the 48th G7 summit in 2022, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The primary narrative at that time was to punish India for keeping the ties intact with Moscow.

The Western ‘experts’, who are habituated to see things in binary, refused to believe that India can have ties with the G7 without harming relations with Russia.

As per the Financial Times, the reason behind the invitation to India at the summit was “to woo New Delhi away from its longstanding alliance with Russia”. Two years down the line, India's relations are not majorly harmed, neither with Russia nor with the G7 countries! Freshly re-elected, PM Modi's attendance at the G7 summit signals a robust continuation of his administration's foreign policy initiatives, particularly his advocacy for the Global South. In , New Delhi organised the two Voice of Global South Summits, first in January and next in November, to understand the concerns of the developing countries. The words and advocacy of Modi in Apulia should be taken as a continuation of this. Modi exploited the opportunities provided to put forward these concerns. “India has considered it its responsibility to place the priorities and concerns of the countries of the Global South on the world stage,” he said. At the same time, while putting forward his vision of a

developed India in 2047, he emphasised that “no section of society should be left behind in the country's development journey,” followed by applying this “in the context of international relations. The countries of the Global South are bearing the brunt of global uncertainties and tensions”. Then, Modi put forward the concern of ending monopolies in technology, one of the points of action at the end of the second Voice of the Global South Summit. On the sidelines of the G7 meeting, PM Modi also met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. However, Modi skipped the Ukraine Peace Summit, organised just after the G7 meeting, by sending a secretary-level delegation. The Indian delegation visited the summit but didn't sign the Joint Communiqué. This reflects a nuanced stance on the conflict, aligning with the broader Global South's cautious approach. India's significant presence at the G7 summit.

coupled with PM Modi's diplomacy, marks a pivotal moment in its global engagement. By advocating for the Global South in the G7, India continued efforts to emerge as a leader of developing nations in a China-fearing world.

Promise made for assistance in the space sector

Suman

Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to North Korea (18–19 June) has attracted global attention. Today, both of these states are keen to cooperate to overcome the sanctions put on them by the US. This is Putin's only second-ever visit to Pyongyang, with the first taking place way back in 2000. Obviously, a lot has changed during the last two decades or so. North Korea's other good friend, China, has welcomed this visit. Russia has always been important to North Korea. However, during the last few years, not much has happened towards any notewor-

thy engagement. During the 2018–19 period, the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was found engaging China proactively, and between the period of March 2018 and January 2019, he visited China four times. Also, around the same period, he met US President Donald Trump. Actually, Trump became the first sitting US president to visit North Korea in 2019. Unfortunately, no efforts to engage North Korea have proved successful so far, and the only major countries that have cordial relations with North Korea remain its neighbours, namely Russia

and China. The recent increased bonhomie between Russia and North Korea could be said to have started with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visiting Russia in September . Today, both of these states need each other much more than in the past. Moscow has some dependence on Pyongyang for supplies of arms and ammunition for fighting the war in Ukraine. While North Korea has a dependence on food and energy assistance.

, interestingly, it is also depending on Russia for assistance in its space surveillance programme.

When Kim Jong Un visited Russia in September , he was assured by Putin of his assistance in the space domain. During the year , North Korea made three attempts to launch a spy satellite in space. The attempts during May and August had failed, while the attempt during was a success, with North Korea putting its first spy satellite, the Malligyong-1, on the back of its own

Chollima-1 launch vehicle in space. Since during Kim Jong Un's September visit to Russia, there was a promise made for assistance.

Global visa concerns boost Indian student interest in Germany

Delhi : As immigration restrictions increase in the US and UK, Indian students are choosing Germany for a safe and transparent academic path. German officials have reaffirmed their commitment to creating a stable, open environment for overseas learners, citing a 35% increase in Indian applications. German Ambassador Dr. Philipp Ackermann said "In the context of the difficulties Indian students face in other countries, we have seen a sharp rise in interest for German universities and research institutions. Applications are up over 35% in the last several months." German institutions have 50,000 Indian students, ranking fifth after the US, UK, Canada, and



Australia. The ambassador said, "We are a very reliable partner," reaffirming Germany's transparent education policy. German education is affordable, attracting students. Most public institutions have no tuition or low tuition compared to Western universities. "We believe education is a public good, not a business opportunity," Ambassador Ackermann said. The majority of German public universities do not use agents. Our system is open.

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.

60% of DU Students Are Planning to Stay for Graduate School

Delhi : Despite ongoing concerns regarding the program's implementation and sustainability, vice chancellor Yogesh Singh announced that more than 60% of undergraduates at Delhi University will participate in the FYUP's optional fourth year. "DU is ready for the fourth year," Singh announced during the university's executive council (EC) meeting, which also saw the approval of other academic and administrative proposals. He went on to say that the school is ready for the launch and that they are working on



solutions for institutions that are having trouble implementing it. boola "In colleges which have a shortage of faculty, provision will be made for engaging some guest faculty as well as regular teachers from the same college or other colleges to take additional classes," added Singh.

He did, however, emphasize that only regular faculty members, and not guest teachers, will be assigned to educate fourth-year students. Additionally, he assured everyone that both teaching and non-teaching staff members who work overtime would be well compensated.

Indian Army to host Spiti Marathon 2025 from Aug 22–24

, The Indian Army will host the second edition of the Surya Spiti Challenge – Spiti Marathon 2025 from August 22–24 in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul & Spiti district. Held under Operation Sadbhavana, the high-altitude event offers four race categories -

777km Kunzum La Ultra, 427km Full Marathon, 217km Half Marathon and 107km run. The event aims to promote adventure sports, foster civil-military ties and highlight the region's strategic and cultural significance.

With 730 lakh in prize money, it is open to civilians, athletes and defence personnel.

Supported by the HP Government, local administration, Himachal Tourism and other stakeholders, runners can register at www.spitimarathon.co

Presently, 30% of CAs are women, up from 8% in 2000

Delhi: Not only are women doing very well on various Chartered Accountancy exams, but they currently make up an unprecedented 48% of the candidates who qualify or pass the exams. Women certified public accountants now make about 30% of the field, a significant increase from 8% in the year 2000. Among the 8.63 lakh students, 43% are female. The attractiveness of accounting and auditing in India stems from a number of factors, including the country's low tuition rates, the abundance of available jobs, and the attractive starting wage of Rs 12.5 lakh for a fresh graduate. In 2020, four out of six top scorers were female; in 2021,



all top scorers were female; and in 2020, there were more women overall. Within two years, female candidates had accomplished the same thing they had in 2021. The last decade has seen 75 female candidates succeed at various levels of the chartered accountant test. In line with

the National Education Policy, 2020, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India launched a new course in 2023. The head of the ICAI, Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal "Participation of women in this profession in accountancy, tax and finance is increasing phenomenally."

IT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally

Delhi: Among Indian universities for sustainability, IIT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally, according to 2025 QS Rankings released. The QS Sustainability Rankings include 78 Indian universities, with nine of the top 10 improving and 21 new institutions entering. Two IITs—Delhi and Kanpur—are in the world's top 100 for impact. With 177 and 67 rank improvements, each became fourth and fifth in India. Bangalore's IISc is among the world's top 50 environmental education schools.

Delhi: The Delhi University Executive Council accepted controversial curriculum modifications and other academic and infrastructure initiatives. The Academic Council approved the elimination of papers on Pakistan, Islam, and China from the post-graduate Political Science syllabus on June 5, despite internal objections. Executive Council member Mithuraj Dhusiya criticized the syllabus modifica-

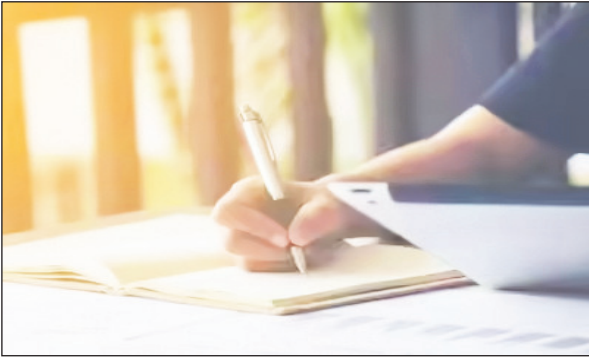


tions' implementation. He claimed that several courses were revised before reaching the Academic Council, circumventing academic process and endangering openness. Vice Chancellor Professor Yogesh Singh led the meeting, which con-

firmed Professor Rajni Abbi's appointment as Delhi University's South Campus director. The vice chancellor said the university is "fully prepared" for the National Education Policy 2020's fourth year of undergraduate study in 2025-26.

Joint CSIR-UGC NET June 2025 exam on one day

Delhi: This time, the Joint CSIR-UGC NET June 2025 exam will be one shift. The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced a single-day exam on July 28. The exam was originally set for July 26, 27, and 28. Multiple days would have required normalization, but the new choice eliminates that. To eliminate normalization, NIA insiders said the agency is trying to run tests in one shift if possible. Candidates requested a change to the three-day program, according to the notification. Many candidates noted that the Haryana Teacher Eligibility Test (HTET) is also on July 26 and 27, and several applied for both. In response, the NTA scheduled exams for all five CSIR-UGC NET disciplines on one day. The CSIR-UGC NET covers Mathematical, Earth, Chemical, Life, and Physical Sciences.



Indian students in Canada have reported receiving emails to resubmit study permits, visas

Delhi: Indian students in Canada have reported receiving emails to resubmit study permits, visas, and educational records, including marks and attendance. IRCC, a federal department that handles foreign students, issued a request that panicked international students, many of whom have two-year visas. In response to the inflow of overseas students, IRCC is tightening its financial criteria and considering limitations on admissions. I was surprised by the email. My visa is valid till 2026, however I was requested to resubmit all my documentation "Avinash Kaushik, "They even want proof of attendance, marks, where we are working part-time, etc.," he said. Punjabi students reported a similar increase in emails .

These topics are Sciences receiving the applied for, with Life most.

IITs introduce new, more adaptable multidisciplinary courses while discontinuing older dual degrees

Delhi: The classic five-year dual degree programs are being replaced by more adaptable, interdisciplinary options at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). Students' goals and the needs of employers are changing, therefore universities are rethinking the traditional dual degree model, which was once seen as a practical way for students to get a Bachelor's and Master's degree in the same academic year. The BTech pool is growing, and several IITs are absorbing students from five-year integrated programs. Higher student turnout as a result of more inclusive reservation policies and lower enthusiasm from prominent politicians are factors propelling this change. A growing number of students



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.

are opting for stand-alone BTech programs rather than dual degree programs because of the many benefits that students in the former receive,

including hands-on experience in the field, internships, and early access to placement prospects by the third year.

Dubai's ambitious education reforms



Delhi : Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister, chaired a crucial Executive Council meeting that approved a comprehensive set of new policies to transform Dubai's education, environment, legal framework, and infrastructure governance. The bold initiatives include expanded student visas, employment pathways for 90% of graduates, clean air targets, and the launch of an international mediation centre to achieve Dubai's 2030 and 2033 strategic goals for innovation, sustainability, and global competitiveness. Dubai has implemented ground-breaking education and development strategies. "Youth are the architects of the future, shaping it with their awareness, optimism, and openness to the world," stated Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister. Dubai gives young people world-class academic, practical, and research opportunities. Dubai should attract top students from around the world and foster innovation. "By 2033, the emirate wants 50% of its university students to be international. Dubai currently has 37 international university branches and aspires to have over 70 by that year, including 11 top 200 universities.

DU accepts curriculum modifications despite resistance

The Indian Army to host Spiti Marathon 2025 at 10,000–14,000 ft from August 22–24

New Delhi: The Indian Army is organising the second edition of Surya Spiti Challenge - Spiti Marathon 2025 which is scheduled for August 22–24, 2025 at the Lahaul & Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. This marathon is offering runners from around



the world an extraordinary opportunity to compete in one of the highest altitude marathons on the planet. With four race categories—including the 777km Kunzum La Ultra, 427km Full Marathon, 217km Half Marathon and 107km run as the event blends endurance, adventure and Himalayan panoramas in the quaint valley of Spiti. Organised under Operation Sadbhavana by the Indian Army, Spiti Marathon 2025 represents a mission to showcase the power of sport, community and India's Himalayan frontier. This year's event builds on the legacy of the inaugural High Altitude Marathon in Spiti which was first held on September 28–29, 2024 with the similar objectives A total of Rs 30 lakh prize money will be on stake across all categories. Registration is now open to athletes, civilians and defense personnel. A required medical examination during Bib collection ensures all runners are fit for high altitude.

Over 60% of June three wheeler sales are EVs

Delhi: The Federation of Indian Automobile Dealers Associations reported that over 60% of three-wheeler retail sales in June 2025 were electric, indicating a strong increase in green mobility. From 55.5% in the same month last year, electric three-wheelers jumped to 60.2%. From little under 6% in June 2024, two-wheeler EV sales rose to 7.3%. The penetration of passenger electric vehicles—cars and SUVs—rose to 4.4% from 2.5% a year earlier. EVs made up 1.6% of truck and bus sales and 0.1% of construction equipment sales in the business sector.

June car retail sales reached 2 million, up 5% year-over-year. Construction equipment sales rose 55% due to infrastructure



spending. Tractor sales grew 9%, passenger vehicles 2.5%, commercial vehicles 6.6%, and two-wheelers 4.7%. FADA president C.S. Vigneshwar said early monsoon rains and the rise in electric vehicle options had influenced customer purchase decisions, especially for two-wheelers. He noted that incentives and fresh bookings helped passenger vehicle sales, but liquidity and geopolitical concerns remain. According to experts, EV penetration across several industries is nearing an inflection point.

Centre will borrow 8L cr, 54% of the objective

The government plans to borrow Rs 8 lakh crore, 54% of its Rs 14.8 lakh crore FY26 borrowing, in the first half. It didn't frontload the borrowing program to avoid raising rates while the RBI pumped record liquidity into the system. Since the market reported little demand for 30-year and longer bonds, the government announced it would borrow less in FY26. Thus, front-loading of the borrowing program has been avoided due to government (fiscal consolidation without compromising quality of expenditure).

Elon Musk says Tesla will ask shareholders about investing in xAI

Delhi : Elon Musk says Tesla will ask shareholders about investing in xAI. After the Wall Street Journal reported that SpaceX would invest \$2 billion in xAI, the billionaire spoke. Musk wrote on X that shareholders decide whether to invest in xAI. Musk also asked X users last year if Tesla should invest \$5 billion in xAI, saying he was testing the waters. It's not my call. To my mind, Tesla should have invested in xAI long ago. Musk replied to a post that a shareholder vote will be held. In reaction to



ChatGPT's popularity, Elon Musk founded xAI in early 2023. Since then, the company has released its Grok AI chatbot, which was updated to Grok 4 models. The chatbot rivals ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude. Musk merged xAI and X earlier this year,

valuing the AI startup at \$80 billion and X at \$33 billion. Musk wants \$200 billion in investments in the combined business, Bloomberg reports. Tesla investing in xAI looks to be part of his aim to integrate his corporate empire. image.png

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund to sell 10% of Rs 10k crore IPO

Delhi: Another huge IPO is anticipated for this year. Prudential Corp of UK, ICICI Bank's joint venture partner in ICICI Prudential Asset Management, is selling 10% of the company through an IPO worth roughly Rs 10,000 crore. ICICI Bank, the

fund house's primary owner, said AMC filed the filings with Sebi. Two IPOs over Rs 5,000 crore have occurred this year: HDB Financial Services, an HDFC bank unit, completed its 12,500-crore IPO last month. February saw Hexaware Tech raise

roughly Rs 8,760 crore. ICICI Prudential AMC manages I-Pru MF, which manages over Rs 9.5 lakh crore in investors' assets (AMFI data for April-June quarter). ICICI Bank owns 51% of the fund firm and the UK financial giant 49%.

8th Pay Commission Could Hike Salaries 30–34%

Delhi : Central government personnel and pensioners may receive large wage and pension increases. Ambit Capital expects the 8th Pay Commission will propose a 30-34% increase in effective take-home pay, more than double the 14.3% hike under the 7th Pay Commission. The 8th Pay Commission, however unformed, may be launched in 2026-27. This modification is expected to cost the government Rs 1.8 lakh crore annually, compared to Rs 1.02 lakh crore for the 7th Pay Commission rollout in FY17. This expected increase is driven by the



fitment factor, a multiplier for revised pay. Ambit Capital expects a higher fitment factor than the 7th Pay Commission 2.57. One important point: A new Pay Commission eliminates the Dearness Allowance (DA), which is currently 55% of

the basic wage. Even if nominal basic pay rises dramatically, salary calculation is recalculated. For example, the 6th Pay Commission made Rs 7,000 a take-home wage of Rs15,750.

Birla Co. recovers Rs 2 crore in stolen digital gold

Delhi : Hackers breached the ABCD mobile app run by Aditya Birla Capital and stole digital gold valued at approximately Rs 1.95 crore from 435 user accounts, according to Delhi. On June 9, the scam was exposed after multiple consumers contacted the company's call center to express their dissatisfaction with the theft of their digital gold. Concerned about this, the company's technical staff launched an internal investigation and filed a first information report. According to our sources, the affected accounts now have their balances returned by the company.

All EU and Mexico imports will be subject to 30% tariffs as imposed

Delhi : President Trump of the United States has decided to levy a 30% tariff on goods imported from Mexico and the European Union, with the duty going into effect on August 1. The new tariffs on two of the US's most important trading partners were announced by Trump in separate letters uploaded to his Truth Social platform. He blamed a trade imbalance with the European Union and



what he saw as Mexico's involvement in illegal immigration and drug trafficking into the United States. Trump levied a 50% tariff on copper and more tariff announcements for over 20 nations earlier this week. These nations include Brazil, South

Korea, Japan, and South Korea. The tariffs are more severe than the 25% tax that Trump levied on Mexican imports earlier this year, with the exception of items that enter the US through the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Even if the visa is approved, the individual may still face deportation proceedings

Delhi : American officials have reiterated their stance that visitors must adhere to all regulations or face deportation. Screening for US visas continues even after the visa has been awarded. We make sure that visa holders respect all US laws and immigration rules by checking them constantly. According to the US embassy in India, if they do not comply, their visas will be revoked and they will be deported. Representational picture The visa process has become more stringent under the Trump administration. After halting processing of student visas at the end of May due to social media screening, it has only now begun processing them again for this fall. "Effective immediate-



Priya Nair will replace Rohit Jawa as HUL's first female CEO

Delhi: Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL) named Priya Nair, 53, as its new managing director and CEO on August 1, succeeding Rohit Jawa, who will retire after two years, the shortest term for any MD at India's largest consumer products giant. Nair, Unilever's beauty and well-being president, will become HUL's first female CEO. After a year and a half as CEO, Unilever replaced Hein Schumacher with Fernando Fernandez, its finance leader, to accelerate its turnaround.

ly, all individuals applying for an F, M, or J nonimmigrant visa are requested to adjust the privacy settings on all of their social media accounts to public to

facilitate vetting necessary to establish their identity and admissibility to the United States under US law," the embassy stated.

Tesla May Start Indian Deliveries in August

Delhi : Tesla Inc. will open its first showroom in India and begin deliveries next month, according to sources, as the Elon Musk-led electric vehicle maker seeks to capitalize on demand in the third-largest auto market to offset slowing sales elsewhere. The Mumbai showroom will mark



Tesla's formal market entry, giving prospective customers access to pricing, variants, and trim

options, according to one person, who requested anonymity, and Bloomberg News documents. Last month, Bloomberg News claimed that the Mumbai store was opening in mid-July and that the first Model Y rear-wheel drive SUVs from Tesla's China factory had arrived. People

say a second Tesla showroom in New Delhi would open in late July. Tesla's highly anticipated foray into the Indian market comes at a vital time for the EV maker, which suffered a drop in global sales in the second quarter despite Musk's claims that business.

JPMorgan may reduce EM Bond Index China, India shares

Delhi: JPMorgan Chase & Co. may reduce the weight of China and India, the major bond issuers in its flagship emerging-market index, to reflect more developing-nation debt. According to Bloomberg documents, the Wall Street bank is seeking customer opinion on changes to its GBI-EM Global Diversified index, which tracks local-currency developing-nation debt by more than \$200 billion of assets. According to the documents, cutting a cap on individual countries



from 10% to 8.5% might increase the benchmark rate if nations with higher borrowing costs gain a larger position. bigger yields represent bigger risks and returns. The documents indicate that the revisions are tentative and may not be implemented. At a consultation last year, JPMorgan proposed a

methodology adjustment that would have reduced China's index contribution to 6%, but then withdrew it. The latest modifications will reduce weighting for the major bond sellers in emerging countries like Indonesia, Mexico, Malaysia, China, and India, according to the documents.

Trump's latest announcements raise trade concerns for textile exporters

Delhi: Trump's newest tariff announcements have raised uncertainty, and purchasers are anticipated to postpone new orders. Textile exporters seem to have an advantage over Bangladesh, which Trump has slapped with 35% duty, but industry is watching India's bilateral trade deal with the US because Trump claims the agreement with Vietnam allows him to impose a 20% tariff, although there may be exceptions. As

usual, countries like Bangladesh are racing to Washington to equalize tariffs in the coming weeks. We must monitor tariffs. Buyers are confused, "SNQS International managing director V Elangovan said from Tirupur. "Retailers must stock shelves.

Since the Chinese were offering greater prices this year, our merchandisers in Shanghai last week could not compete. . How they can do so

Appeal to overturn BNS parts rejected by HC

Delhi: The Delhi high court rejected a request to have sections of the new penal code, Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), dealing with crimes against the state and public tranquillity removed because it did not have the authority to do so. Offences against the state are addressed in Sections 147 to 158 and include, among other things, acts that threaten the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of the country, assaults on the President or Governor, and attempts to compel or restrain the exercise of any lawful power. July 1, 2017, was the effective date of the new law that superseded the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Crimes against public tranquillity are addressed under Sections 189–197 and include acts such as unlawful assembly, rioting, affray, and wanting to intentionally provoke a disturbance. Justice Anish Dayal and Chief



DJB served with a notice by NGT

Delhi: National Green Tribunal (NGT) has served notice on the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) following a petition alleging that private developers had unlawfully dug borewells and were drawing groundwater without authorization. According to the petitioner, Arun Kumar Tomar, nothing happened after he complained to the DJB chairman. According to Tomar, 19 private builders in Delhi had alleged-

Justice DK Upadhyay ruled that the bench did not have the authority to issue such

ly dug illegal borewells. The charges necessitate confirmation by means of a spot examination by the DJB, as pointed out Prakash Shrivastava. It further stated that the relevant SDM should subsequently take the required measures.

, which has not been done thus far. The judge ordered the DJB to look into the allegation and make sure the borewells were sealed and seized properly.

a directive because doing so would constitute legislation.

MCD outsourcing 300 community centers

Delhi : Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) plans to outsource management of over 300 community centers and halls to improve user services. Singh said that the evaluation addressed community centre maintenance and planned to run them on public-private partnership (PPP) while maintaining discounted booking rates. We plan to run them on a PPP basis to improve service. Singh said booking rates would not rise. Community centers and halls offer subsidized space for weddings, parties, and other events. Despite increasing demand in Delhi, many



corporation-run community centers are underutilized. MCD has 299 community halls, 21 of which are unusable due to maintenance and repair. All eight community centers are closed since the corporation's activities aren't popular. The audit of community hall operations also

showed the human resource shortage. A senior MCD official claimed community centers need staff. The community services department relies on community workers. These individuals will assist with water tanker bookings, operational issues, and maintenance.

The new Delhi drainage plan is due in 15 days

Delhi: Public Works Department (PWD) minister Parvesh Verma said a draft of Delhi's new drainage master plan will be ready in 15 days. It will include survey findings and expert recommendations from a year ago. After reviewing the draft, work will begin to overhaul the Capital's 50-year-old drainage infrastructure. "We received

the Najafgarh basin report and will receive the Barapullah and Trans-Yamuna basin reports in 15 days. After receiving all three findings, we will redesign Delhi's drainage network. We saw that drains need urgent repair and upgrading. Verma stated we will begin with urgent intervention areas. The PWD ultimately hired a consultant to

create a drainage master plan for Delhi's largest basin, Najafgarh, in May 2023. The consultant has one year to finish the recently filed project. Officials said PWD will examine feasibility and generate estimates based on consultant recommendations before sending them to the government for approval before work begins.



Muslims are the religion with the most rapid global expansion



Delhi: From 2010 to 2020, Muslims became the world's fastest-growing religious group, according to a Pew Research Centre report. At the same time, the number of Christians, the largest religious group in the world, decreased by 1.8 percentage points to 28.8%. Reaching 1.2 billion in 2020, with 95% residing in India, the Hindu population increased at a pace comparable to that of the global population. In 2020, 79% of India's population identified as Hindu, up from 80% in 2010. 'How the Global Religious Landscape Changed From 2010 to 2020' shed light on the increase in the Muslim proportion, which went up from 14.3% in 2010 to 15.2% in 2020. Of all the world's population categories, only those who do not identify with any religion (also termed "nones") increased in percentage terms, adding 270 million to reach 1.9 billion. Muslims were the only other group to see this growth. To 24.2%, the proportion of "nones" increased by nearly a full percentage point.

How Delhi's Delivery Boys Got Involuntary Into Drug Dealing?

Delhi : Dashrath Kumar appeared to be just another delivery kid going about his business at first look. He was able to blend in with the crowd while wearing a red t-shirt donated by one corporation and carrying an orange bag from another. While onlookers were oblivious to it, authorities had been keeping tabs on Kumar while they investigated a bootlegging business. He was taken into custody and a significant amount of illegal alcohol was confiscated. The narrative of Sourabh is remarkably similar. He gave in to his vices and started delivering alcohol on the side while working as a delivery boy for an online



retailer. He needed the extra cash. He ended himself in police custody after running afoul of the law as a result of this decision. Both incidents show how the bootlegging industry takes advantage of those who work in the gig economy by hiding behind the

image of a nice delivery boy. In the southeast Delhi neighborhood of Govindpuri, 25-year-old Khurshid was apprehended in an abnormally large e-cart bag containing 400 quarters of booze that was stamped "For sale in Haryana only."

A New Blood Donor App Is Coming Soon to Delhi

Delhi : Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that the city will soon release an app listing blood donors who are willing to donate their blood voluntarily. A blood donation camp in the Anand Vihar area was the site of the announcement, given by Ms. Gupta. "Details of those who intend to donate blood will soon be available on a blood donor app. "Details about their blood type, when they last donated, and whether they are eligible to donate again."

Delhi :

According to officials, in the first quarter of 2025-26, the government corporations of Delhi sold almost 16.96 crore bottles of liquor, generating more than Rs 2,662 crore. In the period between April and June of 2025, DSI-DC sold 5.29 crore bottles of various alcoholic beverages, which was the biggest sales volume in the country. The following three companies, according to official statistics, sold 5 crore bottles: DTDC, Delhi State Civil Supplies



Corporation (DSCSC), and Delhi Consumer's Cooperative Wholesale Store (DCCWS). Under the present excise policy, the government of Delhi runs more than 700 vends for retail liquor sales through four agencies: DSIIDC, DTDC, DSCSC, and DCCWS. The four com-

panies made Rs 2,403 crore from 15.93 crore bottles sold in the first quarter of the previous fiscal year. This year's sales have brought in an additional Rs 259 crore, according to officials. Government excise tax collection goal for 2025-26 is Rs 7,000 crore.

Govt plans 20km elevated corridor over Munak Canal

Delhi: Aiming to boost the city's transport infrastructure, Delhi govt, along with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), plans to construct a 20k-long elevated road over Munak canal, connecting Inderlok to Bawana in northwest Delhi. Chief minister Rekha Gupta has also said Delhi govt wants to undertake the maintenance of the canal and will take up the issue with her Haryana counterpart soon. Munak canal serves as a vital waterway connecting Haryana and Delhi, constructed with the primary purpose of minimising water wastage in the Western Yamuna Canal while ensuring reliable water delivery to the national capital. Authorities now plan to utilise the road infrastructure along the canal as the foun-



dation for an elevated corridor, in a move intended to reduce traffic congestion and enhance commuting efficiency throughout the area. Officials said the decision was taken during a high-level meeting between chief minister Gupta and minister Parvesh Verma. The project will be executed by NHAI while the Public Works Department (PWD) will oversee funding, land clearance and local coordination. The estimated cost of the project is about 3,000 crore.

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

L-G extends and raises 410 vocational instructors' compensation until 2026

Delhi: Raj Niwas officials announced that Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has authorized the continuation and increased pay of 410 part-time vocational teachers (PTVTs) in government and government-aided schools until March 2026. The Delhi education department requested that 402 qualified and eight non-qualified PTVTs continue services from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. LG approved the plan, they claimed. An official said the government has approved Rs



36 crore for PTVT pay and vocational education. Saxena allowed two contractual part-time vocational teachers in the Hospitality and Tourism vocational stream to prolong their contracts from March 1, 2025, to February 28,

2026. The proposal also maintains nine PTVTs in four Delhi government-aided senior secondary schools for 2025-26. Delhi schools have employed contingent or contractual part-time vocational teachers from the late 1970s

The Posh Act also applies to online sexual harassment.

Delhi : Adapting the legal framework to evolving digital work environments is of utmost importance, according to Delhi High Court judge Justice Prathiba M. Singh. She emphasized that the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) must cover incidents of sexual harassment of women during online meetings. Justice Singh argued that the term "workplace" should be properly broadened to encompass digital, virtual, and electronic platforms.

and early 2000s. Since the CBSE replaced the vocational stream with the National Skills

Qualifications Framework, they have continued to offer vocational subjects.

E-auction of 177 apartments approved under housing project

Delhi : The Housing Scheme 2025, which will provide 177 apartments for sale through online auction to those in the middle class and below, has received approval from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). Some of the most desirable locations for these apartments include Vasant Kunj,



Ashoka Pahari, Rohini,

Pitampura, Jasola, and Dwarka. Additionally, it gave its stamp of approval to a package of measures meant to reinvigorate the commercial real estate sector of the city and entice massive investments to the area. A meeting of the DDA, presided over by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, was held

on July 11 to make these determinations. The government has slashed amalgamation fees for commercial properties from 10% of the circular rate to a pitiful 1%. The statement claimed that the move is made to make it more financially viable for developers to consolidate property.

Gold hits new record on Mideast tension as traders

Gold soared to a record high of \$2,696.78 amid Middle East tensions and favorable US economic data, reinforcing bets on Federal Reserve interest rate cuts. Investors are turning to gold for safety due to geopolitical uncertainties and mixed economic indicators. With an impending US election, gold's upward trend is likely to continue regardless of the outcome. Gold climbed to a fresh record amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East as traders also weighed US data that kept alive bets on the Federal Reserve's interest-rate cuts. Bullion touched an all-time high of \$2,696.78 as Israel said it killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, the architect of the Palestinian group's attack on southern Israel that triggered a year-long war in Gaza. Investors typically seek safety in the precious metal in times of geopolitical and economic uncertainty. Data showed US retail



sales strengthened in September by more than forecast in a broad advance. US jobless claims unexpectedly fell after jumping the previous week in Southeastern states affected by Hurricane Helene, according to the latest US Labor Department report. The US economic readings added to a slew of mixed US economic readings recently, reinforcing gold traders' expectations that the Fed will continue its rate-cutting path for the rest of the year. Gold is 1.4% higher this week, with investors repositioning portfolios ahead of the US election on November 5. With both candidates posing different risks to the economy.

ICT Working Group Meeting Focuses on H-1B Visa, Data Flows

Indian IT companies in the US have used less H-1B visas in recent years. Indian IT companies no longer rely on H-1B visas and worry about visa cost increases affecting their profitability. A few years before 2015, numerous large Indian IT companies were top 10 H-1B visa beneficiaries. Since then, these numbers have plummeted. Big Indian IT businesses, except Infosys, have lost 40%+ of their market share.

Combining Club Vistara and Air India Flying Returns to "Maharaja Club"

Delhi: Air India Flying Returns and Club Vistara will unite on November 12, 2024. CV Points, Tier Points, Tier Status, and Vouchers will be sent to the connected Flying Returns account. Flying Returns will become the Maharaja Club after this merger. Member Club Vistara account profiles will be frozen on October 15, 2024, for a smooth handover.

Profile details in Club Vistara accounts cannot be changed after this date. CV Points expiring in September and October 2024 will be extended. At migration, all CV Points, including 'Extended CV Points,' will be trans-



ferred to Flying Returns accounts and valid for at least one year, regardless of expiration date. Air India's expanded network will accept points. Member-issued or auto-generated "On-demand Voucher Generation" complimentary ticket vouchers valid after November 11, 2024, will be extended for three months.

If not issued before

November 11, 2024, "On-demand Voucher Generation" vouchers will be automatically supplied to the Flying Returns account with a nine-month fixed validity. You can Buy CV Points and Extend Voucher Validity till October 25, 2024. These features will be removed from Club Vistara accounts after this date.

AI adoption to boost data, cloud role hiring

CHENNAI As companies navigate AI adoption, demand and salary growth for data science, data engineering, DevOps and cloud computing roles are expected to grow faster than other technology roles in FY25 compared to the previous fiscal, according to TeamLease Digital. The tech staffing and solu-

tions providers' snapshot analysis shows that a rise in AI, machine learning (ML), and automation skills has significantly increased the demand for data-related roles. While 69% of job postings for data scientists mentioned ML skills in FY24, demand for natural language processing jumped from 5% in 2024 to 19% in 2025,

indicating a broad industry shift toward AI-driven solutions, the company said in a note. The demand for AI-related roles will increase 17% in the current fiscal and about 25 per cent in FY26, Neeti Sharma, chief executive of TeamLease Digital, told. This includes roles such as data scientist, analyst and engineer.

Billionaire Adar to pick 50% stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions for Rs 1,000 crore

Adar Poonawalla is acquiring a 50% stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Production and Dharmatic Entertainment for Rs 1,000 crore, valuing the company at Rs 2000 crore, according to a report. Johar retains creative control, bolstered by financial resources to adapt to evolving market preferences. Poonawalla is making this investment privately through Serene Productions. Johar will retain the remaining stake. Adar Poonawalla, the billionaire CEO of the Serum Institute of India, is acquiring a 50% stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Production and Dharmatic Entertainment for Rs 1,000 crore. This investment values

the film and television production and distribution company at Rs 2000 crore, people familiar with the matter told ET. The move further highlights the ongoing consolidation trend in the entertainment industry. Dharma Productions, a prominent Bollywood production house, has been actively seeking investments and has engaged in discussions with several large conglomerates and industrialists. The company has explored potential partnerships with Sanjiv Goenka's Saregama, with whom they already have business ties, as well as Reliance Industries and Jio Cinema. According to the

financial daily's report, Poonawalla is making this investment privately through Serene Productions. Johar will retain the remaining stake and continue as the Executive Chairman and creative head of Dharma, while Apoorva Mehta will remain the Chief Executive Officer. Currently, Karan Johar owns 90.7% of Dharma, and his mother, Hiroo, holds 9.24%. Insiders revealed that the key factor in forming this alliance was Johar's ability to maintain creative control while partnering with a well-known and financially strong family. Poonawalla's investment will provide Dharma with the financial resources needed to

adapt to the rapidly evolving preferences of digitally savvy consumers. As reported by on 14, major Hindi film production houses, including Dharma, have been cautious in giving the go ahead for new projects due to the uncertain nature of the box office, which also affects the value of streaming and satellite rights. According to financial data accessed from Tofler, Dharma Productions experienced significant growth in revenue during FY23, reaching Rs 1,040 crore compared to Rs 276 crore in the previous year. However, declined by 59% to Rs 11 crore due to a substantial increase in expenses.

193 companies post approximately 90,000 internship opportunities on the web

Delhi : Prior to the start of application registration, 193 firms have listed over 90,800 internship vacancies on the Prime Minister Internship Scheme portal. Among the 193 businesses that have extended the opportunity are Jubilant Foodworks, Maruti Suzuki India, Eicher Motor, Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Muthoot Finance, and Reliance Industries,

it continued. Companies can post internship positions on the PM Internship platform, which started on October 3. In the current fiscal year, 1.25 lakh candidates are anticipated to be covered by the program. The Corporate Affairs Ministry's internet platform, www.pminternship.mca.gov.in, would be used to carry it out. Internships under the initiative will

begin on December 2 in accordance with the pilot project, which is projected to cost about ₹800 crore. The article, which cited ministry sources, states that as of October 11, there were 90,849 positions listed on the PM Internship platform. By October 9, 2024, there were around 50,000 possibilities available. , up from about 16,000 on October 7, 2024.

HDFC Bank board okays HDB Financial's Rs 12,500 crore IPO

Delhi: HDFC Bank's board has cleared a Rs 12,500 crore IPO for its subsidiary, HDB Financial Services, as part of the company's plan to go public. The decision was made during a board meeting held on October 19, 2024, following previous announcements in July



and Sept of this year regarding the offer. The IPO will consist of both a fresh issue and an offer for sale by the bank. The OFS will include shares with a face value of Rs 10 each, aggregating up to Rs 10,000 crore, though this amount may be revised as permitted under applicable law. The fresh issue will amount to Rs 2,500 crore, bringing the total IPO size to Rs 12,500 crore. The proposed IPO size makes it the largest IPO by an NBFC. Last month, Bajaj Housing Finance

Life insurance and Mediclaim exemption suggested by GST panel

Delhi: An official said term life insurance premiums and senior health insurance premiums may be GST-exempt. The GoM that set the GST rate on life and health insurance exempted GST on premiums for health insurance with coverage of Rs 5 lakh for non-seniors. Officials' health insurance premiums over Rs 5 lakh would continue to attract 18% GST.

The Modi Govt is determined to revive the history & cultural heritage of Kashmir and we will soon regain what we have lost: Shah

Chandigarh: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation and senior BJP leader Amit Shah, during the release of the book 'Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Through The Ages: A Visual Narrative of Continuities and Linkages', made it clear that 'For the last 10 years, the Modi government is determined to revive the history and cultural heritage of Kashmir. At the same time, he also stressed that we will soon regain what we have lost.' In this country with diverse cultures, religions, food habits and attire from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Bengal to Gujarat, for decades, historians have created a myth that the very idea of

India's independence is dishonest. In fact, historians, especially leftist historians, have seen and written about India from a geopolitical perspective, whereas India is the only country in the world which is a geo-culture and whose borders are made up of cultures. This book titled 'Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh Through The Ages: A Visual Narrative of Continuities and Linkages' has minutely proved that the culture, languages, scripts, spiritual thoughts, arts of pilgrimage sites, commerce and trade present in every part of the country were present in Kashmir for thousands of years. Based on references of texts which are about 8 thousand years old,

this book has clearly proved that Kashmir was, and will always be an inseparable part of India. This book, which proves with references the journey of Buddhism from Nepal to Kashi, Bihar, Kashmir and Afghanistan, tells that Kashmir was the birthplace of the principles refined after Lord Buddha and Kashmir is also the birthplace of the principles of Buddhism prevalent today. The 8-thousand-year-old history of Kashmir has been engraved in this book as if the Ganges is being contained in a vessel. For about 150 years, to please the rulers, the meaning of history was limited to Delhi's Dariba to Ballimaran and Lutyens to Gymkhana.

Mid, small-cap mutual funds attract 30,350 crore on strong returns

NEW DELHI: Mid-cap and small-cap mutual fund schemes have continued to attract strong investor interest, garnering nearly Rs 30,350 crore in inflows during April-Sept of the current financial year, driven by impressive returns delivered by these segments. In comparison, the cumulative inflow into mid-cap and small-cap funds stood at Rs 32,924 crore during the same period last year, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi). The inflow trend persists despite concerns raised by market regulator Sebi over heightened inflows into small-cap and mid-cap funds, as experts believe investors will continue to favour these categories for their potential to deliver high returns. "Small caps will continue to grow at a faster rate for years to come. I expect the inflows to continue as Indians want to invest in the high-growth sectors. Small cap funds should be seen as an integral part of one's portfolio allocation and not a tactical play," Trust Mutual Fund CEO Sandeep Bagla said. Individually, mid-cap funds saw an inflow of Rs 14,756 crore in the first half of FY25. This aggregates the total inflow to Rs 30,342 crore, the data showed. The strong investor interest in mid-cap and small-cap mutual funds is driven by the potential for high returns in these segments, Tradejini COO Trivish said.

