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

'Attempt being made to finish off regional parties': MVA, MNS close ranks; to hold joint rally against EC

MUMBAI: Closing ranks ahead of the civic elections, the opposition bloc of Sena (UBT), Congress and NCP (SP) will hold a joint rally with Raj Thackeray-led MNS on Nov 1 against “arbitrary and corrupt administration of Election Commission”. The announcement was made Sunday, just after Raj accused EC of inserting 96 lakh fake voters in the electoral lists across Maharashtra for the benefit of those in office. “An attempt is being made to finish off regional parties... 8-10 lakh fake voters have been added in Mumbai and 8-8.5 lakh in Thane, Pune and Nashik each,” Raj said at a party meeting. This will be the first time Congress and MNS cadres will be marching together amid rumblings in the national party’s city unit over an alliance, even though the two parties have been part of the opposition’s meeting with EC on electoral lists. Left parties have also signalled their support for the initiative aimed at bringing the opposition together and keeping the ‘vote chori’ narrative alive ahead of the local body polls. “We will soon announce the time and route of the march in Mumbai...

Rs 1,951 crore released for flood-hit Maharashtra, Karnataka as disaster relief

NEW DELHI: In view of heavy rain-fall and displaced people losing their livelihoods, the Centre on Sunday released Rs 1,951 crore for the state disaster relief funds of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Home minister Amit Shah said govt was fully committed to providing all possible assistance to states affected by flood, landslides and cloudburst. He has approved advance release of Rs 1,950.8 crore, as a second instalment of the central share of SDRF, to the two states for 2025-26. Out of this, Rs 384 crore has been approved.

1.51 crore lamps light up UP , 26 Lakh Illuminate Ayodhya Dham

SP leaders declined the invitation to Ram Lalla Virajman, choosing instead to offer prayers at Mughal tombs: CM

Yogi Ayodhya is India’s capital of faith and a global hub of spiritual tourism: CM Yogi



Ayodhya

“In Ayodhya, every particle exudes dignity, every lamp radiates compassion and Lord Shri Ram dwells in every heart,” Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday during the coronation ceremony of Lord Ram at Ramkatha Park in Ayodhya Dham. Recalling the origins of Diwali the Chief Minister said that thousands of years ago, when the world

was engulfed in darkness, Ayodhya illuminated itself with lamps to welcome its Lord, its God, its ideal and its faith. “That divine celebration later became Diwali—the eternal symbol of Sanatan Dharma,” he noted. CM Yogi added that to preserve this sacred tradition the Deepotsav began in 2017 with the lighting of 1.71 lakh lamps. “Today, in its ninth edition, Ayodhya

Dham shines with over 26 lakh lamps, while across Uttar Pradesh, a record 1 crore 51 lakh diyas illuminate the night—an expression of devotion, pride, and faith,” he said. Before his address, the Chief Minister honored revered saints including Mahant Nritya Gopal Das Maharaj, President of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust; Jagadguru Ramanujacharya Dr Raghavacharya

Maharaj; Jagadguru Vasudevacharya Vidya Bhaskar Maharaj; Jagadguru Ramanujacharya Dharacharya Maharaj; Mahant Vishesh Maharaj; Mahant Suresh Das Maharaj; Jagadguru Ram Dinesh Acharya Maharaj; Mahant Avdhesh Das Maharaj; Mahant Devendra Prasadacharya Maharaj; Mahant Rajkumar Das Maharaj; Mahant Dharmdas Maharaj; Dr Ramvilas Vedanti Maharaj; former MP Mahant Anantacharya Maharaj; Mahant Ramanand Das Maharaj and Mahant Dr. Bharatdas Maharaj, presenting them with garlands, robes .

Tourism Minister flags off Ramayana-era tableaux in Ayodhya

Ayodhya

Under Deepotsav 2025 the holy city of Lord Shri Ram, Ayodhya, witnessed a magnificent procession of Ramayana-era tableaux on Sunday. As Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh beat drums and waved the Jai Shri Ram flag to flag off the tableaux from the Saket College campus ceremoniously, the entire atmosphere reverberated with chants of Jai Shri Ram. When the tableaux reached the Rampath, it seemed as if the divine splendor and dignity of the Treta Yuga had come alive once again. During the Ayodhya Cultural Procession, Minister Jaiveer Singh stated that, under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath’s leadership, the festival of lights has



been celebrated with divinity, grandeur and spiritual brilliance on the sacred land of Lord Ram since 2017. He added that under CM Yogi leadership, Ayodhya continues to break its own records each year and set new benchmarks of celebration. This year, three new records will be established, a record number of lamps will be lit, 1100 drones will perform synchronized stunts and over 2100 scholars will participate together in the Sarayu Aarti. Expressing confidence in India spiritual and cultural leadership, the Minister said, “Our world and emerge as a developed country.

DK hits back at corporate honchos over Bengaluru infrastructure

BENGALURU: The feud between Karnataka deputy CM DK Shivakumar and two of Bengaluru’s most prominent corporate captains — Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and former Infosys director TV Mohandas Pai — escalated Sunday over the city’s crumbling infrastructure. Mazumdar-Shaw hit back at Shivakumar’s remarks that those criticising govt’s handling of Bengaluru’s civic



issues had a “personal agenda” and had remained silent during previous administrations. “Not true. Both TV Mohandas Pai and I have criticised deteriorating infrastruc-

ture in our city to previous BJP and JD(S) govts. Our agenda is to clean up and restore roads,” she wrote on X, tagging the deputy CM’s statement. Pai amplified her remarks, reposting several comments slamming the poor state of roads and public infrastructure. Unfazed, Shivakumar said industrialists who built their fortunes in Bengaluru were now turning against the city.

BrahMos most capable weapon for India and its allies across the world: CM Yogi

Lucknow

A new milestone in India’s defense self-reliance was achieved on Saturday as Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flagged off the first batch of supersonic BrahMos missiles produced at the Lucknow unit of BrahMos Aerospace Limited. The event echoed with patriotic fervor as the missiles departed amid chants of “Bharat Mata Ki Jai.” Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hailed BrahMos as “the most capable weapon to protect not only India but also our friendly countries across the world.” He said that the missile’s production in Lucknow, realized through the efforts of Rajnath Singh, fulfills Prime Minister Narendra Modi ‘Make in India’ vision and marks a proud moment for the nation. “BrahMos, developed in Lucknow through the efforts of Defense Minister Rajnath Singh has become a symbol of national prosperity. Only when citizens are safe can



they sleep peacefully and the Lucknow-made missile ensures the safety and prosperity of the entire nation. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh for this,” he remarked. Highlighting the success of the UP Defense Manufacturing Corridor, the Chief Minister recalled that it was first announced at the 2018 Investors Summit, with one of the two national corridors allotted to Uttar Pradesh. Work is progressing across six nodes—Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi and Chitrakoot—with major projects including BrahMos in Lucknow, Bharat Dynamics Limited in Jhansi

and AK-203 rifles in Amethi. Over 2500 acres have been allotted so far, generating employment for more than 15,000 youth. Yogi added that the BrahMos facility employs ITI, polytechnic and engineering graduates, aligning national security with youth employment and self-reliance. The state government, in partnership with IIT Kanpur and IIT BHU, is also setting up two Centers of Excellence to promote defense technology and innovation. Calling Lucknow a hub of defense, industry and development the Chief Minister said the DG of BrahMos handed over a ₹40 crore GST cheque during the event. He noted that annual production of 100 missiles—to rise to 150—will generate 150–200 crore in GST, strengthening both the state’s and the nation’s economy. “Lucknow’s land is now yielding gold—ensuring national security while driving prosperity,” he remarked, assuring additional land for DRDO if required.

New Delhi: Air quality ‘very poor’ on eve of Diwali; Grap-2 imposed

The capital’s air quality slipped to the ‘very poor’ category by late Sunday evening, a day before Diwali



NEW DELHI: The capital’s air quality slipped to the ‘very poor’ category by late Sunday evening, a day before Diwali, prompt-

ing CAQM to impose stage 2 of the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap). Stage 2 of the plan restricts use of DG sets across NCR and

bars interstate buses, other than those running on electricity, CNG or BS-VI diesel, from entering Delhi. According to forecasts,

unfavourable weather conditions and emissions from firecrackers on Diwali are likely to worsen the air quality to ‘severe’ levels by Tuesday. At 4pm Sunday, the city’s average air quality index (AQI) during the preceding 24 hours stood at 296, in the upper end of the ‘poor’ zone. By 7pm, the AQI had

slipped into the ‘very poor’ range at 302. Air quality is likely to worsen to the higher end of ‘very poor’ on the festival day (Monday). The impact of 1 emissions due to firecrackers is likely to stay in the air through most of the week, with no respite from extremely toxic air likely until at least Friday.

Hong Kong plane crash: Cargo jet skids off runway into sea; two dead

The freighter collided with a ground-service vehicle during landing, tearing off one of its wheels and damage



A cargo plane arriving from Dubai skidded off the runway and plunged into the sea at Hong Kong International Airport early Monday, colliding with a ground-service vehicle and killing two

workers. The accident took place at approximately 3.53 am when Emirates SkyCargo flight EK9788, operated by Turkish carrier Air ACT, touched down on the north runway 07R after departing from Al Maktoum

International Airport (DWC) in Dubai, Hong Kong standard reported. The aircraft, a Boeing 747-481 (BDSF) registered TC-ACF, reportedly swerved left during its landing roll before partially submerging into the sea adjacent to the runway. According to sources, the freighter collided with a ground-service vehicle during landing, tearing off one of its wheels and causing substantial damage.

No undue leniency or excessive severity in sentencing: SC

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court has cautioned trial courts and HCs against undue leniency or excessive severity while imposing punishment on a person convicted of an offence and said that deviation from this time-tested sentencing policy could erode public faith in the judiciary or lead to injustice. “Undue leniency can cause public confidence in the justice system to plummet, while excessive severity may lead to injustice,”

SC praises ED for restitution of flats to 213 homebuyers

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court has praised the restitution of flats to at least 213 homebuyers who had waited for more than 12 years to get possession of properties they had paid for. The restituted properties are part of 354 flats, 17 commercial units and two plots in Royal Rajvilas project in Udaipur — together worth over Rs 175 crore — restored by Enforcement Directorate to victims of a ‘scam’ in which project promoters had allegedly swindled over Rs 1,267 crore of Syndicate Bank, now



Canara Bank. SC lauded ED for helping the homebuyers. The agency had attached Royal Rajvilas after the project got entangled in multiple cases of fraud, cheating and money laundering. ED later approached Rajasthan HC, and subsequently, the apex court seeking to

withdraw its attachment partially and restore the properties to the fraud victims. “We place on record our appreciation for the efforts made by the learned counsels for parties and ED in restoring the attached properties to secure the interests of genuine and innocent homebuyers,” an SC

bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Alok Aradhe said. ED verified the details of 221 homebuyers and submitted ‘no objection’ in restitution of the properties to homebuyers, except in case of eight, which were marked as beneficiaries of “proceeds of crime”. The restitution will help the 213 homebuyers who had been in throes of anxiety because of protracted litigation of over seven years between the successful resolution applicant Udaipur Entertainment World Pvt Ltd and ED.

Bihar elections: Disunity and rebellion stall INDIA bloc poll campaign

PATNA: The INDIA bloc continues to grapple with mounting internal friction, which is beginning to derail its election campaign in Bihar as the filing of nomination papers for the second and



final phase of closes

on Monday. Some seats have witnessed INDIA bloc partners fielding candidates against each other and none of them withdrew their nominations even on Sunday. eanwhile, the RJD and Congress

have so far not stepped in to quell the dispute, sending a worrying signal to voters. In contrast, the NDA campaign is in full swing. Union minister Shah has returned to Delhi after a three-day

tour while union minister Dharmendra Pradhan is currently camping in Bihar. The chief ministers of Goa, Haryana and Tripura have addressed rallies in various parts of the state.

UPI payment fails, passenger forced to barter watch for samosa to catch train

JABALPUR: Time and tide wait for none. Sometimes, not even a smartwatch. This is the lesson a passenger at Jabalpur station learned the hard way

last week when his online samosa payment stalled and his train began chugging out. The passenger handed over his watch when a vendor

allegedly grabbed his collar, threatening him and demanding payment for the snack and some other food items worth around Rs 180.

Police team attacked while apprehending accused

Bahraich

A police team that went to arrest a wanted criminal in Hathichak village, under the Bondi police station area, was attacked. Two sub-inspectors were injured in the attack, one of whom is in critical condition. They have been admitted to Lucknow's KGMU for treatment. According to police, the police team had arrived in the village to arrest wanted criminal Raju. When the team raided Raju's house, his family members attacked the policemen. Sub-inspectors Anubhav and Rohit Kumar were injured in the attack. The injured sub-inspectors were initially admitted to the local CHC and later referred to Lucknow's KGMU. Sub-inspector Anubhav Sahu's condition is reported to be critical. Police have filed a case against three individuals, including a father and son, for obstructing government work and attempted murder. Police arrested accused Jitendra at the scene, while the search for the other accused is ongoing. Police said that Raju already had a case registered against him for assault and rioting. A court warrant had been issued for his arrest.

Grandson kills grandmother over land dispute

Bahraich

On Saturday, in the Dargah police station area of the district, a grandson killed his 72-year-old grandmother, Shahjahan, by hitting her with a brick. Police have detained the accused grandson, Irfan, 32. The incident occurred due to pressure to sell the land and a demand for money. Shahjahan lived with her grandson Irfan in the Salarganj area, as her son, Munna, had passed away a few years ago. On Saturday, Irfan pressured his grandmother to sell the land and give him the money. When she refused, Irfan, enraged, attacked her head with a nearby brick, seriously injuring her. Bystanders informed the Dargah police of the incident and took Shahjahan to the district hospital for treatment. Doctors at the hospital declared her dead after examination. Police have detained the accused, Irfan, and are interrogating him. Additional Superintendent of Police, City, Ramanand Kushwaha, said that Irfan attacked his grandmother, demanding money for selling land, resulting in her death. He also stated that the accused is a drug addict. The body has been sent for a postmortem.

Media is the fourth pillar of democracy in a self-reliant India: Dr. U.K. Chaudhary

Delhi

At the Journalists' Meet organized by the Northeast District Dr. U.K. Chaudhary stated that India ranks fourth in the global economy and third in import procurement. All this is possible only when the skilled class in India showcases its skills and contributes by manufacturing indigenous products. Vocal for Local must be promoted and Indian-made goods must be purchased. Indian festivals and culture must be promoted and showcased to the world. Wishing journalists a Happy Diwali, he honored them and described them as the fourth pillar of democracy in a self-reliant modern



India. Self-reliant India coordinator Sachin Mavi thanked the District President. Media in-charge Deepak Chauhan encouraged and praised journalists for their social role, explaining that a safe and clean society is only possible when journalists raise their voice against wrongdoing through their journalism. In difficult situa-

tions, journalists keep society informed about the country and the world. Based on their abilities, journalists even risk their lives on the battlefield to prove their journalistic prowess. The organization always respects and honors such journalists. In this Diwali meeting, senior BJP leader Rajendra Agarwal, District Vice President Gaur, Sachin

Mavi, Ranjan Tyagi, Yogendra Rajora, General Secretary Rajkumar Jha, Minister Raju Bansal, Neha Upreti, Office Minister Anant Gopal, Office Incharge Jagat Narayan Gupta, IT Head Saurav Chatak, Co-IT Amar Rai and all the Mandal Presidents and respected journalist brothers, District, State officials and expected category were present.

Deputy CM Maurya extends his heartfelt greetings to the nation and the people on Diwali



Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the nation and the state on the auspicious and holy festivals of Diwali, Govardhan Puja and Bhai Dooj. In his congratulatory message, he said, May this festival of lights bring happiness, prosperity, and well-being to everyone's lives. On this occasion, we

should all draw inspiration from the life ideals of Lord Shri Ram. This holy festival of Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, truth over falsehood, and good over evil. May this festival bring happiness, prosperity, peace, and well-being to every home. Come, let us all light the lamps of cleanliness, harmony and prosperity and pledge to build a bright and prosperous Uttar Pradesh.

Girls created rangoli at the Integrated Check Post

Bahraich

A rangoli competition for girls was held at the Integrated Check Post. Several groups from Acharya Ramesh Chand Girls Inter College participated in the competition. Taranjit Singh, the newly arrived manager of the Land Port Authority of India, was the chief guest. Former manager Sudhir Sharma, Executive Officer Rajkumar Verma, FFSO Ompal Singh, Pushkar, Devansh Singh, and Arun



Raman, along with various officials, were present. Acharya Ramesh Chand

Girls Inter College's manager, Dr. Yashpal and Principal Asha Adhikari

coordinated the event, along with teachers Priya Awasthi, PK Mishra and Sarjeet. A large number of people were present, including students. The girls created rangolis depicting symbols of Goddess Saraswati, the Veena, Bharat Mata, Chandrayaan-3 and Operation Sindoor. The symbols showcased Indian culture and artistic skills. Prizes were awarded for the first, second and third rangolis.

“Delhi BJP Media Department Celebrates Diwali Milan with Great Enthusiasm”

Delhi

Delhi BJP celebrates Diwali Milan with great fervor. State President Virendra Sachdeva, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra, Co-incharge Dr. Alka Gurjar and National Spokesperson Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi extended Diwali greetings to journalists, party officials and the people of Delhi.

“Today, Delhi Chief Minister is creating history by lighting more than 1.5 lakh lamps on Kartavya Path.” - Virendra Sachdeva “I



appeal to the people of Delhi to value nature's peace amidst the festival's sparkle, and to contribute towards building a greener and happier Delhi.”

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta “Today, Delhi has a ‘Sanatan’ government that believes not only in

the development of Indian culture but also in the holistic development of all.” - Sudhanshu Trivedi “This Diwali brings joy and enthusiasm because Delhi now has a development-oriented ‘triple-engine’ government.” - Dr. Alka Gurjar

BPF Leader Charan Sworn In as Assam Minister, Marks New Chapter in NDA–Bodoland Relations

Assam

In a politically significant development, the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) leader and MLA Charan Boro took oath as a new minister in the Assam Cabinet led by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on October 18. The ceremony, held at Raj Bhavan in Guwahati, was administered by Governor

Laxman Prasad Acharya. The induction marks the formal entry of Hagrama Mohilary's BPF into the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) fold, signaling a renewed collaboration between the NDA and the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). The event was attended by Chief Minister Sarma, BPF chief Hagrama Mohilary, leaders of NDA's coalition partners,



legislators, and several distinguished guests. Political analysts described the move as a “significant step toward strengthening cooperation and partnership” between the NDA and Bodoland institutions. They noted

that after the fluctuating phase following the 2021 Assembly elections, this alliance could pave the way for a shared path of progress focused on regional development. Charan Boro, first elected as an MLA in 2016, is widely respected as a development-oriented and balanced leader who has often acted as a bridge between Bodoland and the rest of Assam. Sources

indicate he may be assigned charge of the Transport Department in the cabinet. Following the oath, Minister Boro said, “I will give the highest priority to the holistic development of the Bodoland region and the welfare of all communities across the state.” Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma emphasized, “The between the NDA and Bodoland.

After a long time, Delhi has elected a govt. that understands the sentiments of its people- Virendra

Delhi

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva stated that after a long gap, Delhi has chosen a government that truly understands the sentiments of its people. It is a government that not only reconnects Hindus with their religious traditions but also sets an example of respecting all religions. The Delhi BJP President said that the Deep Utsav, which



people had so far only heard of happening in Ayodhya and other cities, is now being celebrated in Delhi with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta herself being present and becoming a part of this historic initiative. He added that there is a

new wave of enthusiasm among the people of Delhi, especially after 12 years of appeasement politics and a government that mocked Hindu festivals has now been exposed- especially after the Court allowed green firecrackers in Delhi. Sachdeva further said that over the past seven years, the people of Delhi have come to realize that the triple-engine government.

DG CISF Celebrates Diwali with Personnel at Asg Leh Unit

Delhi

Director General CISF Praveer Ranjan visited the CISF personnel deployed at Leh Airport, one of the most remotely located and challenging postings in the country. He was accompanied by Vinay Kajla DIG North Zone (Airports). During his visit the DG interacted with the personnel and celebrated Diwali with them, bringing festive cheer and encouragement to those serving far from their families amidst harsh weather and high-altitude conditions. Praveer Ranjan commended the dedication, professionalism and unwavering spirit of CISF personnel.

Pledge to celebrate pollution-free Diwali and abstain from firecrackers on Eco-Friendly Diwali

Bahraich

On the occasion of Diwali, representatives from various social organizations and environmentalists took a collective pledge to celebrate an eco-friendly Diwali at the Dev Sanskriti Gramodaya Inter College campus. Those present also decided to launch a public awareness campaign in border areas to spread awareness about the importance of the environment. Addressing representatives from various social organizations and environmentalists at



the Dev Sanskriti Gramodaya Inter College campus, Rule of Law Society President Awadh Sanjeev Srivastava, Advocate, said that the high content of potassium nitrate and phosphorus in firecrackers pollutes the environment. Burning firecrackers pollutes the environment, and the toxic air contaminates the atmosphere, making it dangerous for human life.

Therefore, it is our responsibility to celebrate and protect the environment by using green firecrackers. Kisan Parishad convener Shiv Pujan Singh said that to keep the environment human friendly, it is necessary to minimize the use of poisonous firecrackers and celebrate traditional festivals happily. Environmentalist spokesperson Rajiv Srivastava appealed to the people present to use green firecrackers to keep the environment healthy and to make the environment suitable for human

life. The program was conducted by Principal Shubham Srivastava and presided over by senior journalist Ashok Upadhyay. Pandit Krishna Gopal Sharma, environmentalist Upadhyay, Devesh Sharma, Sandeep Pathak, Abhay Tiwari, Rohit Vishwakarma, Samridh Srivastava, Lallan etc. were prominently present in the program. On the closing occasion, students and people present were given fruit trees and a collective pledge was also taken to protect the environment.

The Baba Bhairavnath Temple complex and surrounding area were illuminated with a series of 21,000 lamps

Bahraich

After many years, the Baba Bhairavnath Temple, Makanpur Narayan Jot, was decorated in a grand manner on Diwali this year, following the example of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya. For nearly a week, workers of the Dharma Raksha Samiti went from village to village, distributing rice grains and inviting people to participate in the Deepotsav program held at the temple. They were also urging people to bring at least twenty-one lamps. By Sunday evening,



a series of lamps had been lit around the temple the temple complex and the surrounding area. Chief guest Ram Nayan Singh, Superintendent of Police, Bahraich, arrived and lit the main lamp. Afterward, workers lit each lamp, and light appeared everywhere. For the past

week, the workers of the Dharma Raksha Samiti had been experiencing significant enthusiasm for the Deepotsav program to be held at the Baba Bhairavnath Temple, Makanpur Narayan Jot. Workers brought turmeric and rice grains from the temple and went door-to-door in the surrounding vil-

lages, distributing them to people, inviting them to participate. To increase the number of lamps, workers urged each family to bring and light at least 21 and a maximum of 101 lamps. The surrounding villagers were also enthusiastic about the Deepotsav festival and before dusk, hundreds of villagers gathered around the temple premises with lamps. The lamps were arranged in rows to form a chain, which was then placed at designated locations by devotees. The chief guest, Superintendent of Police,

Bahraich, Ram Nayan Singh arrived at the temple premises at 7:00 pm and inaugurated the program by lighting the main lamp. After this, the workers lit other lamps and illuminated them. The workers were also enthusiastic about lighting lamps, but remember to be mindful of the darkness. Hundreds of villagers from nearly two dozen nearby villages participated in the event, bringing lamps from their homes. A night vigil was also organized. A tableau depicting Lord Ram, Mother Sita and Laxman was taken out.

Rebuttal to Saurabh Bhardwaj's Social Media Post on Yamuna

Delhi

Delhi BJP Media Head and Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor has responded to Saurabh Bhardwaj's social media post raising questions on Yamuna water pollution. In a counter post, Kapoor questioned both Arvind Kejriwal and Saurabh Bhardwaj, asking what their government did besides misusing funds under

the pretext of cleaning the Yamuna. In his social media post on X, the Delhi BJP Spokesperson wrote: “Saurabh- you are educated too, so please tell us, who drinks water directly from a river using a glass?” “You’ve been in power for over 10 years, made grand claims about cleaning the Yamuna, but did nothing- and today, Delhi is facing the con-

sequences.” “The Aam Aadmi Party has deceived people for ten years in the name of Yamuna cleaning. More than ₹6500 crore was misused and yet the sacred Yamuna has turned into a dirty drain.” “Do you remember last year, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva had invited Arvind Kejriwal for a Yamuna visit? He didn’t show up.

Hearing on Farrukhabad SP Aarti Singh case on Sunday

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Prayagraj. Controversy is escalating over the actions of Farrukhabad SP Aarti Singh in a habeas corpus petition. A special bench convened on Sunday, a holiday, in the Allahabad High Court. Following Chief Justice Arun Bhasin's orders, the special bench completed hearing the petition filed by Farrukhabad lawyer Awadhesh Mishra. A division bench of Justice J.J. Munir and Justice Sanjeev Kumar stayed Mishra's arrest until the next hearing. Senior advocates Amarendra Nath Singh and Prashant Singh Rinku argued on behalf of the petitioner. The court ordered a copy of the order to be served on the SP Farrukhabad and SHO Kotwali Fatehgarh through the CJM Farrukhabad. An FIR was filed against Awdhesh Mishra on



October 11th at the Fatehgarh police station. This matter came to light when Preeti Yadav filed a habeas corpus petition in the High Court. It is alleged that SP Aarti Singh filed the FIR following that petition. The FIR alleges that the accused was demanded to pay ₹5 lakh to the prosecution in a 2020 case. The next hearing in

this case will be held on October 29th. Farrukhabad SP Aarti Singh apologized in the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday. In the habeas corpus case, the SP filed an affidavit before a division bench of Justices JJ Munir and Sanjeev Kumar.

The SP informed the court that the entire matter would be investigated

and action would be taken against the guilty policemen. The court reserved its decision after hearing both parties. The date has not yet been set. According to the plaintiff's lawyer, Santosh Pandey, SP Aarti Singh has tendered an apology to the court. In the affidavit, she stated that action will be taken

against the CO and the Inspector in the case. A recommendation for action has been made. The court was also informed that the police had visited lawyer Awadhesh Mishra's house but did not vandalize it. This will also be investigated. The court questioned that the court issued the order on October 9th. The matter appeared in the news on October 10th. Subsequently, on October 11th, the police arrested lawyer Awadhesh Mishra. The court stated, "The FIR based on which the lawyer was arrested appears to be a fake FIR. During the court hearing, the 2020 case was reopened and the lawyer was arrested on October 11th, 2025. What does this prove?" [21:02, 19/10/2025] A Mishra: Father said, "My daughter was tortured, I wrote 'I love you' to her boyfriend.

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj. A minor girl hanged herself after writing 'I love you' to her boyfriend. Before the incident, she also made a video of the noose and sent it to her boyfriend. Police have registered a case based on the father's complaint and have taken the boyfriend into custody. He is being questioned. The door was locked from the inside. The family is from Dariyabad, Atrasuiya. The girl's father said, "My wife has passed away. Of my two children, Rashmi (name changed) was 17 years old, while my son is younger. As usual, I was busy with my work on Saturday. When I returned home in the evening, I found the door locked from the inside. Despite calling out loudly, there was no response. When I asked my son, he too could not tell me anything. Daughter found hanging from the noose. The father said that when the door was somehow broken open, the daughter was found hanging from the noose. Upon receiving information, the

police arrived. The body was taken down from the noose in front of the police. Meanwhile, after the post-mortem on Sunday, the body was handed over to the family. Father Makes Serious Allegations Against the Young Man The father says that Raj Sharma, a resident of Baba Ji Ka Bagh in Muthiganj, was torturing his daughter. Initially, he would harass her on the way. Then, he trapped her with his words. He would promise to marry her. He had been harassing her for the past few days. He would threaten to leave her if she did not agree to his advances. The daughter was devastated by his torture. Finally, she gave up and embraced death. Police Say... In-charge of Atarsuiya Police Station, Jagdish Yadav, stated that a case has been registered. Sections related to abetment to suicide have been imposed. The accused has been taken into custody and is being interrogated. The teenager's mobile phone has also been confiscated. An investigation is underway.

Awareness campaign was created through a rally



Prayagraj. Under the Mission Shakti campaign (Phase 5.0) being run by the Uttar Pradesh government for the safety and self-reliance of women and girls, under the direction of the Police Commissioner and Additional Police Commissioner, and under the able supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (City) and Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police), on Sunday, women police officers posted at all police stations in the city zone organized programs and awareness rallies within their respective police station areas, raising awareness among girls and raising awareness about resolving women-related issues. Efforts are being made to connect with women and girls and provide them with an empowering and safe

environment. Also, under the "Mission Shakti 5.0" campaign, all the police stations of the city zone will organize public awareness campaigns at major markets, towns, intersections, schools/colleges, religious places and other important places through women police personnel to inform about the schemes of various departments being run by the government and the police department for the safety and empowerment of women, such as Chief Minister Kanya Sumangala Yojana, Nirashrit Mahila Pension Yojana, Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission, National Nutrition Scheme, Chief Minister Mass Marriage Scheme, Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, PM Svanidhi Yojana, PM Samman Nidhi Yojana.

Cow smugglers arrested near Kathut village, 5 cattle recovered

During interrogation, the arrested accused revealed that their absconding partner's name

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ghazipur. As part of the crime control campaign under the district's Kotwali police station, Muhammadabad police raided the main road near Kathut village on October 19, 2025, and arrested three cattle smugglers transporting a total of five cattle, including two cows and three calves. One smuggler escaped taking advantage of the



darkness. During interrogation, the arrested accused revealed that their absconding partner's name is Saif, son of Akhtar, resident of Nonhara police station. They also revealed that they, along with Mumtaz, resident of Nonhara, operate a

business of transporting cattle by boat via Gauspur route to Bihar and then to West Bengal to sell them at high prices, which generates substantial financial gain. In connection with the incident, FIR No. 324/2025 has been registered and further

legal action has been initiated under Section 3/5A/8 of the Cow Slaughter Prevention Act and 11 of the Animal Cruelty Act. In-charge Inspector Ram Sajan Nagar and his police team played an important role in the proceedings.?

A massive fire broke out in shops, four shops burned to the ground, causing losses worth lakhs

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Truck crushes bike rider, death. A horrific road accident occurred late Sunday night on the Varanasi-Prayagraj road in the local police station area. A young man riding a bike was tragically killed on the spot after being hit by a speeding, uncontrolled truck. The truck fled the scene. Police arrived at the scene after the accident and identified the deceased youth from an Aadhaar card found in his pocket. The youth was identified as Harshit Pandey, a resident of



Bashi Babura village in the Karchana police station area. The youth was reportedly traveling on his bike toward Jhansi Andawa when a truck hit him from behind, killing him on the spot. The accident caused chaos and complete blockage of the road. The already heavy traffic due to the no-entry restrictions soon led to a traffic jam that stretched

Saraiinayat Police Arrest Wanted Accused in Attempt to Murder Case

Jhansi Prayagraj

Under the direction of the Police Commissioner and Additional Police Commissioner, in the ongoing campaign against crime and criminals, under the able supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ganganagar and Additional Deputy Commissioner of

Police, and under the able leadership of Assistant Commissioner of Police, Tharwai, wanted accused Saurabh Yadav, son of Rambabu Yadav, resident of village Ramapur, Saraiinayat Police Station, Commissionerate Prayagraj, in connection with the Attempt to Murder and 7 CLA Act cases registered at

Earlier, in connection with the above case, 01 juvenile delinquent was taken into custody

Saraiinayat Police Station, Ganganagar Zone, was arrested late last night by the Saraiinayat Police Team near the service road on Sahason Ring Road within the juris-

diction of Saraiinayat Police Station, and further legal proceedings were initiated as per the rules. It is noteworthy that on 15.08.2025, Diwakar Gautam, son of Lal Bahadur and Shashikar Gautam, son of Lal Bahadur Gautam, residents of Alemau, Police Station Phulpur Commissionerate Prayagraj, who were

taking their uncle Vijay Bahadur, son of late Ramkhelawan, in a four-wheeler for treatment of his paralysis, were stopped by the above-mentioned accused along with his other associates in a rally going in front of Kamal Vatika Guest House, Sahason, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Saraiinayat, and were damaged with sticks.

On the basis of the complaint received in this regard, FIR No. 286/2025 was registered at Police Station Saraiinayat.

Earlier, in connection with the above case, 01 juvenile delinquent was taken into police custody and sent to juvenile home and 05 accused were arrested and sent to judicial custody.

Focus remained on vigilance and effective action

The Police Commissioner assessed the law and order situation in the district and tightened the screws on his subordinates

Prayagraj

Prayagraj Police Commissioner Jogendra Kumar and Additional Police Commissioner Law and Order Dr. Ajay Pal Sharma met with the district's gazetted officers and all station heads in the Triveni Auditorium at the Reserve Police Lines to review fes-

tivals, law and order, crime control, pending investigations, and traffic management, and provided necessary guidelines. Station heads were instructed to take effective action against chain snatching incidents. They were instructed to verify chain snatchers and prepare a list of those accused in

chain snatching incidents over the past 10 years.

They also urged that, if necessary, action should be taken against chain snatchers under the Gangster Act and history sheets should be opened. It was said that in view of the Diwali festival, all police station in-

charges should be constantly on tour in their respective areas and ensure deployment of police personnel while keeping a vigilant eye on crowded places/markets. Immediate action should be taken on crimes related to women, complaints of victims should be treated sensitively on pri-

ority and immediate action should be taken. Giving priority to crime control, all police stations were instructed to increase continuous patrolling and checking in the area. On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner of Police Ganganagar Kuldeep Singh Gunawat, DCP

Yamunanagar Vivek Chandra Yadav, DCP City Manish Shandilya, Headquarters, DCP Traffic Neeraj Pandey, all Assistant Police Commissioners and all Inspectors in-charge, Station in-charges and other officers were present through video conferencing.

Uncontrolled motorcycle hits divider, injuring four

Jhansi. Four young men were seriously injured in a road accident on Shastri Bridge on Sunday night. Reports indicate that an uncontrolled motorcycle coming from the city towards Jhansi collided with the divider, throwing all four of them onto the road. The accident occurred around 9 p.m. According to police, all four young men were riding the same motorcycle. The impact was so severe that the bike was completely damaged and all four were

seriously injured. One of the injured has been identified as Suraj, a resident of Katka Jhansi. The names and addresses of the other three injured are unknown. All are reported to be in critical condition.

Upon receiving the information, New Jhansi Police Station in-charge Harishchandra Mishra and Inspector Akhil Ojha arrived at the scene with the police force and immediately rushed all the injured to SRN Hospital for treatment.

Editorial

India's reliance on imported technology despite its strong indigenous

It delivered two Ming-class submarines to Bangladesh in 2017, gifted a P625 frigate to Sri Lanka in 2019, and committed to exporting Yuan-class submarines to Thailand. Although the Thai deal encountered difficulties when Germany refused to supply key propulsion components. Thailand decided to proceed with the acquisition, underscoring China's persistence in maintaining its naval export commitments. Additionally, Pakistan is set to acquire at least eight Hangor-class submarines and other naval equipment from Beijing, further enhancing China's presence in the region. India has increasingly aligned itself with Western naval powers to address maritime challenges through collaborative efforts. France was among its earliest Western partners, and the countries' cooperation has grown stronger over time. India also participates in joint maritime missions with European nations and European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) initiatives such as Operation Atlanta and Aspides. Furthermore, India contributes to significant maritime security dialogues such as the Coordinated Maritime Presence (CMP) and Enhancing Security Cooperation In And With Asia (ESIWA). India's 2023 inclusion in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), led by the US Central Command, underscores its dedication to enhancing collaborative security in the western Indian Ocean. The IFC-IOR exemplifies India's commitment to collective security, even though it remains a preliminary step toward a more robust maritime security framework. Advancing to the next level will require India to engage in the technically complex task of real-time information sharing through secure legal frameworks beyond Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT). The Quad's Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative highlights the challenges in achieving seamless data-sharing capabilities. To counter hybrid threats and protect critical infrastructure, India must prioritise sharing vital intelligence and deploying unmanned systems for coordinated surveillance. Strengthening such partnerships will bolster India's naval capabilities and contribute to broader maritime security across the Indian Ocean Region. The commissioning of new naval platforms marks a significant milestone for India but also highlights persistent challenges, particularly in achieving technological self-reliance in engine manufacturing. Although the INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vagsheer were designed by India's Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, their engines were procured from foreign manufacturers, exposing a critical dependence on external sources. INS Surat, the fourth and final ship of the P15B Guided Missile Destroyer Project, employs a Combined Gas Turbine and Gas Turbine (COGAG) propulsion system. This system uses MeGE and DT-59 reversible engines sourced from Ukraine's Zorya Mashproekt, a key supplier for India's frontline warships. Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, India has continued to rely on Zorya, underscoring the critical nature of this dependence. To secure the supply chain, Bharat Forge acquired a 51 per cent stake in Zorya's India arm in 2023. Similarly, INS Nilgiri, the first ship of the P17A Stealth Frigate Project, launched in 2019, uses a Combined Diesel and Gas (CODAG) propulsion system. This system incorporates LM2500 engines from General Electric in the US and MAN diesel engines from Germany, further emphasising India's reliance on imported technology despite its strong indigenous design capabilities. INS Vagsheer, the sixth and final submarine of the P75 Scorpene project developed in collaboration with France, also depends on



With tax revenue growth slowing in the last few months, the possibility of an upside earlier expected on the revenue front may be receding rapidly. Revenue expenditure is also rising at a rate higher than the budgeted 6 per cent. If the fiscal deficit target of 4.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) has to be met for 2024-25, which the government must in view of the uncertainties and challenges emerging both domestically and globally, the finance ministry may see in the composition of the current year's capex a sliver of hope. The finance ministry should not spend ~0.83 trillion for equity infusion into BSNL. Instead, it should ask the telephone company to raise resources from the market. The ministry should also desist from spending the remaining ~0.6 trillion earmarked for capital allocation to new schemes. Saving about ~1.43 trillion (a little less than half a percent of GDP) will be a cushion against other expenditure slippages and revenue shortfall. Not too many tears would be shed for a squeeze on capex if the hit is primarily on infusing equity into a state-owned enterprise and on new schemes that are yet to be announced. Quite ironically, a slowdown in the government's capex may well turn out to be an opportunity.

capital expenditure (capex) continues to be a cause for concern. Of course, the extent of its decline has reduced somewhat — from 35 per cent at the end of the



first quarter of the current financial year to 15 per cent at the end of six months. But the latest number for the April-November 2024-25 period shows that the Union government's capex was still 12 per cent lower than what it was in the same period of 2023-24. Instead of aiming for the targeted 17 per cent growth to ~11.11 trillion in capex for 2024-25, the government will have to strive hard to at least cross the figure of ~9.48 trillion reached last year. What has led to this decline? A widely held view is that the seven-phase general elections, which began on April 19 and ended on June 1 last year, caused a slowdown in capex. But if that indeed is the reason, the decline in capex in the first quarter should have been reversed in the second quarter of 2024-25. And certainly, the first two months of the third quarter should have raised the trajectory of capex growth to a higher level. There has been some improvement, but a 12 per cent decline in the April-November 2024-25 period is no comfort. Look at the slightly different trajectory seen in the Union govern-

ment's revenue expenditure growth during the same period. The Budget for 2024-25 had projected a rise of over 6 per cent to ~37.1 trillion in revenue expenditure. At the end of June 2024, the growth was just about 2 per cent, but it has been rising since then, reaching 4.2 per cent by the end of the first six months of 2024-25 and climbing even higher to 7.8 per cent during April-November 2024-25. So, if revenue expenditure has gained momentum, why has capex failed to follow suit? A close analysis of the government's capex numbers presents an interesting picture. Over 90 per cent of the Centre's total capex during 2024-25 was accounted for by just six sectors — roads, railways, defence, telecom, transfer to states and new schemes. Their share in total capex in 2023-24 was a little less at 87 per cent. But the 12 per cent decline in the first eight months of 2024-25 is primarily the result of a marked slowdown in only two of these six areas — roads and defence, which accounted for over 40 per cent of the total capex outlay for 2024-25. Capex on the

construction of roads and highways fell by 16 per cent, while defence saw a decline of 15 per cent. This is serious and has worrying implications for both infrastructure and defence. The problem of slowing expenditure in these two areas should not have been difficult to fix. Either effective monitoring of spending is lacking, or there are serious problems with project execution, reflecting the poor expenditure-absorbing capacity of these two sectors. This is borne out by a relatively good performance of the Indian Railways, which accounts for over 22 per cent of this year's capex. At ~1.68 trillion, the Indian Railways' capex is just about 1 per cent lower than its spending during April-November 2023. With regard to the transfer of special assistance as loans to states for their capex and additional central assistance for their externally aided projects, the Union government's performance was slightly better. In the April-November 2024-25 period, these transfers rose by about 5 per cent, although much lower than the budgeted increase of 41 per cent.

In contrast, such transfers during the entire 2023-24 had risen sharply by about 24 per cent to ~1.15 trillion. It appears that these transfers will take a hit in the current year and for the first time since this initiative to help states boost their capex was undertaken a couple of years ago. Significantly, this has not yet adversely impacted the states in a big way. The capex of 25 states

(accounting for 95 per cent of all the states' and Union territories' total capex budget) has risen by just about 1 per cent in the April-November 2024-25 period, although states like Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal saw their capex fall by varying margins. Eventually, however, this will have an adverse impact on the states' capex programme and its growth-enhancing effect. There are two more sectors that account for another 13 per cent of the Centre's capital expenditure budget. But they bring out an intriguing aspect of why the government's capex has been slowing. They suffer from a peculiar problem, which has nothing to do with either the relevant sectors' expenditure-absorbing capacity or the absence of effective expenditure monitoring. The bulk of the capex under telecommunications was meant for infusing equity into state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd, or BSNL. Of the total capex of ~0.84 trillion, the proposed amount for BSNL's equity infusion accounted for as much as ~0.83 trillion.

But the total expenditure under this head in the first eight months of 2024-25 is only 6 per cent of what has been budgeted. In other words, a decision to transfer the equity amount promised to BSNL would increase the government's capex by a significant margin. Why this money has not been transferred is puzzling.

Will Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Really Lead To Peace?

On January 20, 1981, on the day Ronald Reagan took over as the new US president, Iran freed 52 American hostages it had been holding for over a year. That projected Reagan as a strong leader sending a powerful signal to US allies and its foes. His predecessor, Jimmy Carter, did all the negotiations and tried his best to have the hostages released while he was still the president. But Tehran would not let him take the glory. Forty-four years on, Donald Trump is taking the credit for the Gaza ceasefire deal, which will come into effect a day before his inauguration, cementing his reputation as a tough leader. Biden can say that the deal happened under his watch. But there is no doubt that it was Trump whose pressure led to achieve the goal. He declared on his social media platform Truth Social: "This EPIC ceasefire agreement could have only happened as a result of our Historic Victory in November, as it signalled to the entire World that my

Administration would seek Peace and negotiate deals to ensure the safety of all Americans, and our Allies." Days after he threatened that there better be a Gaza deal by his January 20 inauguration or "all hell would break out", his special envoy to the Middle East, Steven Witkoff, landed in Tel Aviv last Saturday. It was the Sabbath, the day of rest for Jews. But Witkoff insisted on meeting the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that day. At their meeting, he conveyed Trump's message that the incoming President of the United States wanted to end the Gaza war and demanded that a ceasefire agreement be signed immediately. The format of the three-stage deal announced on Wednesday was proposed by Biden in May last year and was later also endorsed by the UN Security Council. But both Hamas and Israel kept dragging the negotiations over it. In Israel, Netanyahu refused to give any concessions to Hamas and continued with his brute military operation in Gaza.

New allocations towards augmentation of power distribution

Extension of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar energy value chain, increased allocation towards PM Suryaghar Muft Bijlee Yojana, and greater thrust to distribution and transmission infrastructure are likely to be the key features of the upcoming Budget, as far as the energy sector is concerned. Sources said these proposals figured not only in the budget wish lists of the industry, but also in the respective recommendations from the ministries of power and renewable energy to the finance ministry, ahead of the Budget. "Given the success of PM Suryaghar scheme with almost 600,000 installations in just nine months since its launch, one could probably see additional allocation to target more households," said Ashwin Jacob, partner at Deloitte India. "As far as evacuation of power from offshore wind projects is concerned, we would want to see the VGF or budgetary support to continue or get enhanced," he added. "We hope to see a decisive increase in funding to accelerate the green energy transition. Priorities must include scaling renewable energy by addressing grid and transmission challenges, advancing Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for grid stability and reliable power, doubling energy efficiency and digitalizing the energy sector through AI, smart meters, and data-driven solutions. Streamlining rooftop solar programs with simplified approvals, financing, and monitoring is equally vital," said Saurabh Kumar, Vice President — India, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). Sharat Goyal, CEO of Impact Infracap also expects the government to remove restrictions on state wise caps on roof top capacity for net-metering for industrial establishments. "Further, adoption of batteries to substitute use of diesel generators for back-up power should receive incentives and policy support

given their role in reducing dependence on imports," he said. While the government is increasingly working towards enhancing the country's RE capacity, the distribution and transmission infrastructure for its evacuation still needs to be strengthened. With the peak demand for power growing at a rate of 8-9% annually, the industry is looking forward to strengthening of climate resilient infrastructure augmentation. "One can expect new allocations towards augmentation of power distribution infrastructure, especially in high density/ urban load centres, in view of the sharp rise in peak demand over the last few years," said Anujesh Dwivedi, Partner at Deloitte India. He noted that there may be some allocation towards supporting the preparatory work especially on the listing of power utilities, or some incentive mechanism for promoting initiatives on private sector participation or listing of utilities at the state level because they are increasingly being seen as the much needed structural reforms the sector needs. The industry is optimistic of a wider coverage of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme by including smart metering in infrastructure definition.

"This would direct more financing for a sector which seeks to bring down India's transmission and distribution losses to 12% and improve recovery for state utilities," Goyal said. Goyal also noted that power transmission despite significant potential has not seen any notable monetisation events which could address the latent investor demand. "Government should announce a time-bound privatisation programme for assets owned by PGCIL," he said. The sector also sees the PLI scheme for solar value chain to continue with possible reduction in the duty structures for solar equipment. Jacob highlighted.

Government of India has categorically rejected the allegation

In a strongly worded statement, Government of India has condemned and refuted the findings of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom report as "biased and politically motivated, and continuation of persistent attempts to misrepresent isolated incidents and cast aspersions on India's vibrant multicultural society which reflects USCIRF's deliberate agenda rather than a genuine concern for religious freedom". Though this is not the first time such reports have painted India as a coun-

try highly intolerant of its religious minorities, the 2025 report is the first time a recommendation has been made for India to be designated as "country of particular concern". It alleges that minorities in India are facing 'deteriorating treatment'. Fifteen other countries, including Afghanistan, Russia, China, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, have been found to be treating their respective minorities badly. Three aspects of this report should be of concern to New Delhi, and it should be brought to the attention of

those the report is supposedly submitted to. The first is the report's mention of the assassination of separatist Sikh elements in Canada posing as members of the Sikh religious community and the alleged attempt on the life of another Khalistani separatist. "The Indian government also continued to expand its repressive tactics to target religious minorities abroad, specifically members of the Sikh community and their advocates... International reporting and intelligence from the Canadian government corroborated alle-

gations linking an official in India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and six diplomats to the 2023 assassination attempt of an American Sikh activist in New York," the report has said. It's important to note that these radical elements do not represent the Sikh community. While the Government of India has categorically rejected the allegation, the Canadian government and the prosecuting authorities in the then Biden dispensation initiated legal actions against Indian officials.

Citywide development projects to receive about Rs 800 crore

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



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

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

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

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

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

Delhi has extended its electric vehicle policy until November

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



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

inception in 2020 and its expiration in August 2023. At present, e-rickshaws and e-carts can receive a 25% purchase incentive up to 5,500.

, two-wheelers can receive 5,000 per kWh of battery capacity up to 30,000, and e-cycles can receive 30,000. Additionally, 30,000 can be subtracted from the

NDMC approves night food bazar at Connaught Place & India Gate

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

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

said the project will be developed along the lines of successful night markets in other parts of India.

"Indore's Sarafa Bazaar, a jewellery market by day, transforms into a night street food market, serving a wide variety of local delicacies late into the night.

Govt to involve corporates to clean up the river

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



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

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

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

Paharganj hotels fined by DPCC for unlawful groundwater extraction

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

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

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



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

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

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

Delhi: Nearly 72% of eligible students have opted to continue with the fourth year of Delhi University's Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) under NEP 2020, according to Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh. Up to the start of the new academic session on August 1, the university has allowed students to choose not to complete the fourth year. Out of more than 72,000 pupils, 20,221 have chosen not to continue, leaving more than 50,000. The fact that students are willing to opt out of the third



year demonstrates their value, which is quite encouraging, Singh told the media. All institutions affiliated with Delhi University will begin the fourth year on August 1. As part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the FYUP provides several ways out: a certificate after the first year, a diploma.

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

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

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

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



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

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

Delhi govt drafts new liquor policy: Outlets may exit residential areas; price parity with neigh-

Delhi: In an effort to make the city of Delhi a better place to shop, the government has implemented a new excise policy with the goal of bringing in liquor outlets that are cleaner and better kept. There has been talk of moving liquor stores away from residential areas with a high concentration of people. Prices in Delhi should be comparable to those in

nearby states, according to the government. Key structural adjustments are being explored, according to government officials, while the policy is still being developed. A high-level committee led by PWD minister Parvesh Verma talked with representatives from the alcohol business for the first time. Members of the group

an essential lifeline for Delhi.

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

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



formed many committees.

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

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

Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat gets 'A' certificate

Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, starring Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa, is all set to release on October 21, 2025.



Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, starring Harshvardhan Rane and Sonam Bajwa, is all set to release on October 21, 2025. While mostly Diwali releases attract the family audience, the Milap Zaveri directorial has received an 'A' certificate. According to a report in Bollywood Hungama, CBFC has asked for a few modifications in the film.

A scene with a runtime of 2 minutes 12 seconds was asked to be modified. A visual of Mantralaya, which was just for 1 second, was asked to be removed.

The 'sleep with her' from a dialogue was asked to be removed. The word 'Raavan' was used at two places, and that has been replaced with the word 'villain'. The Examining Committee of CBFC asked the makers to remove all the dialogues that had references of Ramayana. The word 'maal' was replaced

with 'ladki'.

The runtime of Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat is 2 hours 20 minutes.

Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat won't be getting a solo release. The movie is going to clash with Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna starrer Thamma.

While one is a horror-comedy, another is an intense love story. But Thamma is expected to get a U/A certificate, so the family audience will prefer to watch Ayushmann and Rashmika's films. However, the audience who love to watch romantic movies will prefer to watch Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat.

After the super success of Sanam Teri Kasam re-release, the expectations from Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat are quite high as it features Harshvardhan in a romantic movie again. Also, the songs of the film have created a good pre-release buzz. So, it will be interesting to see what response.

Black is the new Gold

Take Cues from B-Town's Shahid Kapoor, Aaman Devgan, Vedang Raina & Rohit Saraf this Festive Season



This Diwali, ditch the usual golds and maroons for something far more timeless - Classic black. Bollywood's favourite heartthrobs are giving us major wardrobe inspiration, clearly setting the tone for the season. The shade that spells confidence, mystery, and effortless style is taking over festive fashion, proving that you don't need glitter to glow. From bandhgallas to contemporary kurta sets, B-Town's ultimate chocolate boy shows how to make black the boldest colour in your festive wardrobe.

Varun Dhawan brings a modern twist to tradition, slaying in a sleek black ensemble paired with a Patiala and dupatta, perfectly balancing contemporary flair with cultural charm.

Aaman Devgan a rising star and heartthrob, effortlessly stealing the spotlight in an intricately designed black velvet kurta featuring gold embroidery, paired with a matching black pyjama-style trouser

adding a festive touch.

Vedang Raina elevates sophistication with a sharply tailored, glittering bandhgala, exuding elegance and making a statement with his refined, polished look.

Shahid Kapoor continues to impress with his signature style. His long, tunic-style black kurta features intricate embroidered motifs and is paired with churidar pants and embroidered loafers, showcasing a unique blend of classic and contemporary menswear.

Rohit Saraf exudes effortless charm, donning a black kurta with delicate white embroidery that radiates elegance and festive sophistication, proving that minimalism can make a bold statement.

This Diwali, take cues from these actors- black is the color of choice, merging tradition with modern elegance for a look that's timelessly festive.

Pics: Varinder Chawla

CAUGHT ON CAM

Celebs all gathered at their friend Mika Singh's Diwali party



Mika Singh with the Meet brothers

Divyanka Tripathi

Isha Kopikar

Anita Hassanandani

Dangal actress Zaira gets married, hides husband's face



Taking to her official Instagram handle, Zaira uploaded two photographs from what seemed to be an intimate wedding ceremony.

FIANS

Zaira Wasim, who rose to fame with some acclaimed performances in movies such as "Dangal", "Secret Superstar", and "The Sky Is Pink", left the netizens pleasantly surprised by pictures from her wedding. Yes, the 24-year-old is now a married woman.

Taking to her official Instagram handle, Zaira uploaded two photographs from what seemed to be an

intimate wedding ceremony. The primary photo showed her signing her nikaah nama, the marriage contract, with her hand decorated with intricate mehendi designs and adorned with a statement emerald ring.

This was followed by an image of the bride and groom showing their back to the camera as they stand under the night sky looking up at the moon. While Zaira was seen with a deep red dupatta intricately

embroidered with golden threadwork, the groom wore a cream-colored sherwani with a matching stole for the special day.

"Qubool hai x3, (sic)" she captioned the post. While it is not known who Zaira has chosen as her life partner, several others congratulated her on the new beginning. Back in 2019, Zaira announced that she was quitting the film industry, stating that acting conflicted with her faith.



TITLE: Good Fortune
DIRECTOR: Aziz Ansari
CAST: Seth Rogen, Aziz Ansari, Keke Palmer, Sandra Oh, Keanu Reeves
WHERE: In theatres.
RATING: ★★ ★

Actors' Performance
Keanu Reeves, as the angel Gabriel, is the film's soft light and saving grace. His mix of cosmic

Keanu Reeves shines

naïvet © and quiet comic timing gives the film its wings, even when the script forgets to flap. Watching him rediscover earthly pleasures like burgers, dance floors, and human frailty is pure joy, the cinematic equivalent of watching a saint attempt stand-up. Ansari plays his everyman role with the same bemused sincerity that made Master of None so watchable, though he occasionally mistakes self-pity for depth. Seth Rogen delivers reliable charm as the rich man forced into penance, while

Keke Palmer adds warmth and spark despite limited screen time. Sandra Oh's brief turn as Gabriel's celestial superior is underused but spirited.

Music and Aesthetics

Visually, Good Fortune shifts between urban drudgery and dreamlike gloss. Adam Newport-Berra's cinematography sometimes soars, finding poetry in neon reflections and late-night loneliness. The editing is sitcommy, robbing the film of the patience its themes need. Carter Burwell's score

adds breezy, ironic cheer to scenes of quiet despair, a witty but weary touch. Ansari's affectionate direction lacks precision; his sketches of heaven, hell, and Hollywood hope sometimes blur into sentimentality. Still, the film's imperfections feel as handmade and earnest as its protagonist's crumpled resume.

Final Verdict

Good Fortune is not divine intervention. It's divine confusion with a smile. Ansari's reach sometimes exceeds his grasp,

but he's reaching for something noble: empathy in an age of exhaustion. The film's uneven pacing and hasty resolution can't dim its underlying heart, nor its gentle reminder that redemption, like rent, is due every month. Reeves's performance alone makes the film worth the ticket; proof that even angels can make excellent dishwashers. For viewers willing to forgive its flaws, Good Fortune offers a quirky sermon on the price of happiness, told with warmth, wit, and just enough celestial chaos to keep things interesting.



On two years, Indian firms will invest 11-15% on smart tech



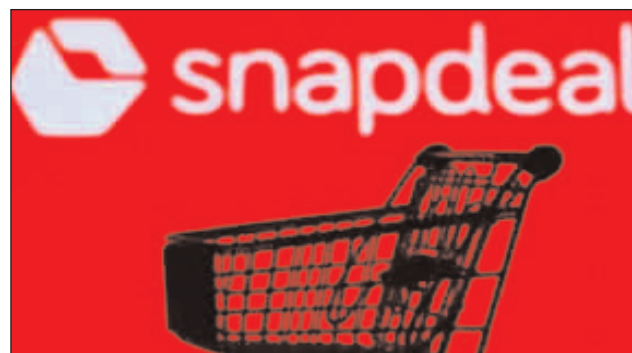
Delhi: According to a Confederation of Indian Industry Manufacturing Competitiveness Study, most manufacturers recognize technology adoption as a key driver of profitability and competitiveness, although many invest less than 10% of their budgets. In the next two years, the report expects increasing investment in IoT, robots, and Big Data, aiming 11-15% of budgets. It stated high prices, unclear ROI, and legacy system integration remain challenges for SMEs. The research also stresses the importance of work-

force upskilling to close the skills gap and facilitate advanced technology adoption. Manufacturing Competitiveness Study by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) examined how smart technologies have transformed India's manufacturing sector. The research, 'Smart Manufacturing: Unlocking India's Potential,' emphasizes the sector's digital revolution and its importance in achieving the ambitious goal of 25% manufacturing GDP share in the near future. The report shows how IoT, AI, ML, robotics,

and automation are transforming manufacturing, boosting efficiency, innovation, and global competitiveness. Semiconductors, Aerospace, and Automotive are leading the way in implementing these technologies, while Textiles and Food Processing are gradually digitizing. To overcome these barriers, the study suggests public-private partnerships to establish shared technology hubs, technology budget increases, industry-academia collaboration, and supportive policies to promote smart manufacturing.

FY24 Snapdeal loss drops to Rs 160 crore

Snapdeal's FY24 loss was Rs 160.38 crore, down from Rs 282.20 crore in FY23. Snapdeal's FY24 EBITDA loss fell 88% to Rs 16 crore. That was Rs 144 crore in FY23. The company's loss decreased due to lower expenses. The company spent Rs 540.76 crore in FY24. FY23: Rs 687.93 crore. The company spent Rs 158.4 crore on employee benefits in FY24, down 48.5% YoY. FY23: Rs 307.53 crore. The company's advertising spending fell 23.5% YoY to Rs 70.37 crore. Snapdeal's operational income rose 2.1% to Rs 379.76 crore in FY24 from Rs 371.96 crore in FY23. The company's major income source is market services at Rs 252.55 crore. YoY, it fell 9.6% from FY23. The company's FY24 enablement income rose 14.8% to Rs 103.36 million. The company's other income rose 8 times to Rs 23.85 crore last year. Snapdeal cut its Unicommerce investment, per the stock exchange filing. The



Adani Defence & Aerospace buys Air Works for Rs 400 crore

Delhi: Ahmedabad Adani Defence & Aerospace reached a binding agreement to acquire Air Works, India's largest private-sector MRO company, for Rs 400 crore. "Adani Defence Systems & Technologies Ltd (ADSTL) has signed a share purchase agreement to acquire 85.8 per cent shareholding in Air Works India (Engineering) Private Ltd," a press release said. Air Works maintains narrow-body, turboprop, and rotary air-

craft in Hosur, Mumbai, and Kochi with regulatory permits from over 20 countries. The statement stated Air Works, a civil aviation industry leader, has deep defence MRO capabilities, executing projects for major Indian Navy and Air Force aircraft. "The acquisition enhances the Adani Group's capabilities in the defence MRO sector, solidifying its position in India's airborne defence ecosystem," it added. It said that this strategic

company raised Rs 33 crore from the secondary sale of 3.4% stake in May-June 2024 before the IPO and Rs 81 crore from the August 2024 IPO offer for sale of

9.2% equity. A significant Indian e-commerce platform is Snapdeal. Snapdeal, founded in 2010, serves over 10 crore Indian value shoppers online.

CAPSULES

Food storage expansion in NE states approved by government

Delhi: Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi stressed the need to strengthen Centrally-sponsored scheme execution. The Union minister met with Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha and approved the state



government's proposal to open a Food Corporation of India (FCI) regional office in Agartala. He also reviewed the implementation of Centrally-sponsored schemes like Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and PM Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Uthhan Mahabhiyan. A Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) project was approved by the Indian government to increase storage space in the Northeast. This project will triple FCI's storage capacity in Tripura by building 70,000 MT in two years, said the minister. Joshi reviewed a Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency project in Charilam, Sepahijala. The minister stated the country generated 214 GW of renewable energy and aims to reach 500 GW by 2030. Tripura advanced in renewable energy. Before 2018, 2.5 MW of state electricity came from solar. In the last 6.5 years of BJP control, renewable electricity generation reached 20.5 MW, claimed the minister.

Indian mutual fund women investors gain 2.5 times in 2024

Delhi: A survey found that women investors in the Indian mutual fund (MF) business, notably from smaller cities and villages, had expanded more than 2.5 times year-on-year amid the stock market boom. Research shows that women's financial inclusion is rising in urban and emerging regions, with tier 4 cities seeing over 140% growth in MF participation. We had excellent growth across all segments in 2024, but two stood out. Number of women investors doubled this year. And the number of portfolios over 1 crore doubled this year," Metro, tier 1, 2, and 3 cities had over 100% growth in women's MF participation. Women MF investors are most prevalent in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata (Metro) and Pune, Lucknow, Nagpur, Ahmedabad,



" Women's SIP contributions are 25% higher than men's, and female SIP investors now make up one in four "

and Jaipur (Non-Metro). "Women's SIP contributions are 25% higher than men's, and female SIP investors now make up one in four (compared to one in five last year)," the data stated. SIP contributions aver-

age Rs 2,500 per month, demonstrating a concentration on long-term wealth. 50 percent of women SIP investors are under 30, 33 percent are 30-40, and 17 percent are 40 or beyond.

Naidu takes a step back, says no action can be taken until concrete proof

Delhi: More than a month after pledging action regarding US bribery allegations involving the Adani Group and the previous Y S Jaganmohan Reddy government, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has now adopted a cautious stance, stating that action requires substantial evidence and awaits the US case outcome. "We can't back out of contracts unless concrete proof is available. We will have to pay a stiff penalty.

E-Shram worker registrations reach 30 crore, NCS portal adds 3.89 crore jobs

Delhi: Unorganized labor gained access to social sector initiatives through the eShram site. Registrations averaged 60,000 a day in October, climbing rapidly. Twelve social security/welfare schemes are connected and mapped using eShram. ONORC, IGNDPS, IGN-WPS, NFBS, and MGN-REGA are among these. The integration of other schemes with eShram will continue in phases. The Ministry of Labour and Employment stated the platform lets agencies



verify workers' eligibility, ensure scheme saturation, and target potential beneficiaries at State and District levels using eShram data. To target welfare scheme delivery and saturation to workers, eShram shares registrant details with all

states/union territories. The National Career Service (NCS) is now a 'one stop platform' for career services like private and government jobs, online and offline job fairs, skill/training programs, and more.

Life microinsurance premium in India exceeds Rs 10,000 crore

Delhi: India's life insurance micro-insurance premiums topped Rs 10,000 crore for the first time in FY24, according to industry data. Microinsurance aids low-income people with affordable items. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) reported that life insurance's micro-insurance segment's new business premium (NBP) rose 23.5% to Rs 10,860.39 crore in FY24. Individual NBP fell 23.78% to Rs 152.57 crore, while group NBP rose 24.61% to Rs 10,707.82 crore. IRDAI reported 102,000 micro-insurance agents in FY24. About 19,166 are public-sector life insurers and the rest private.

The research showed that 4.49% of micro-insurance agents are NGOs, 0.25 percent self-help groups, 0.24 percent microfinance institutions,



0.12 percent business correspondents, and others 94.90%. Over 21 lakh people have received life insurance through the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY). PMJJBY term life insurance was launched in May 2015. This policy pays Rs 2 lakh to the insured's family in the event of death. The scheme enrolled 21.67 crore by October 20. The total claims were 860,575, totaling Rs 17,211.50. India's insurance market expanded 11% annually to \$130 billion in FY2020-23, outpacing China and Thailand, which grew less than 5%.

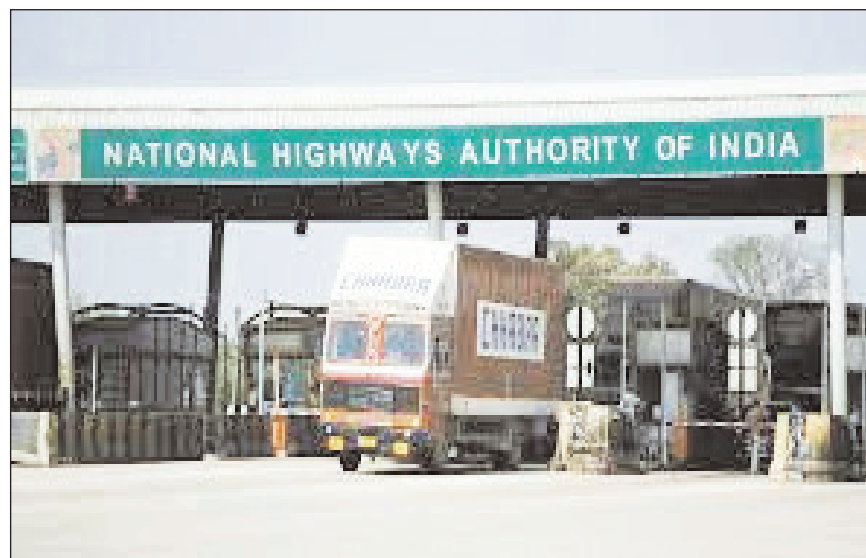
Adani Group exits Wilmar JV for \$2bn

Delhi: For \$2 billion, Gautam Adani's Ahmedabad-based conglomerate is selling Adani Wilmar, its staples business, to Wilmar International of Singapore to raise funds. This fund inflow should meet the group's infrastructure business liquidity needs. Adani Enterprises and Adani Commodities own 44% of Adani Wilmar, which owns Fortune sunflower oil and Kohinoor basmati rice. Wilmar would buy 31% at Rs 305 per share of the group's 44%, boosting its holding to 75% in Mumbai-listed Adani Wilmar. Wilmar will buy the chunk at \$1.4 billion, down 7.2% from Monday's close. Indian regulations limit promoters' equity to 75% and require public shareholders to own 25%. Along with 12% public ownership, the remaining 13% interest will be offered for sale. This ends the group's 25-year staples presence. Following the transaction, the company will be called AWL, AWL Agri Business, or Fortune Agri Business. The transaction comes one month after US prosecutors accused Gautam Adani of securities and wire fraud for a \$265 million Indian power contract bribery scam, which the group denied. The sale of Adani Wilmar will boost the group's primary infrastructure.



NHAI to blacklist FASTags 'kept in hand', seeks details from toll operators

Delhi: Drivers who don't fix their FASTags on the windshield of their vehicles will face permanent blacklisting of tags, a measure taken in view of the malpractice of people handing out "loose or unfixed tags" for payment of highway-user fee, which leads to congestion at toll plaza lanes and sometimes altercations with toll collectors. The NHAI company dealing with toll collection and management of highways, IHMCL, has asked



federations of toll collectors, highway builders and operators to report such cases for quick action. "Tags-in-hand" have been categorised as "loose tags". Despite repeated advisories against the

practice there have been several cases of people handing out FASTag at toll gates for deduction of user fee. In letters addressed to these federations, IHMCL said, "This leads

to lane-level congestion due to manual handling and violation issues, misuse in closed-loop tolling operations, generation of false charge-back demands and overall disruption.

Déjà vu for India: Top order collapse in Perth mirrors ghost of 2019 World Cup heartbreak

● When the match got underway, Australia's bowlers made the most of the bouncy Perth pitch. Josh Hazlewood trapped Rohit with a perfectly pitched delivery

while Mitchell Starc got Virat to chase a wide, resulting in a duck for the first time

The highly anticipated return of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in India's first ODI against Australia in Perth did not go as fans had hoped. Australia won the toss and chose to field, extending India's 16th consecutive ODI toss loss, with the last win coming in the 2023 Champions Trophy semifinals against New Zealand at Wankhede. When the match got underway, Australia's bowlers made the most of the bouncy Perth pitch. Josh Hazlewood trapped Rohit with a per-



India fell short and lost the match by 18 runs, bringing an end to the World Cup

India fell short and lost the match by 18 runs, bringing an end to the World Cup campaign. India (Playing XI): Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill(c), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul(w), Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Nitish Kumar Reddy,

fectly pitched delivery, while Mitchell Starc got

Harshit Rana, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh Australia (Playing XI): Travis Head, Mitchell Marsh(c), Matthew Short, Josh Philippe(w), Matt Renshaw, Cooper Connolly, Mitchell Owen, Mitchell Starc

Virat to chase a wide, resulting in a duck for

'Don't give him popcorn' — Nayar's hilarious reaction after spotting Rohit Sharma

Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar lost his cool in the commentary box after seeing Rohit Sharma munching on popcorn with captain Shubman Gill during the rain break in the first ODI at Perth. "Arey bhai usse popcorn mat de (Don't let him eat popcorn),"

the first time in 30 ODI innings in Australia. Shubman Gill managed a few boundaries but was eventually dismissed lbw. The trio combined for just 18 runs, marking the lowest total by India's top three in a men's ODI since the 2019 World Cup semi-final against New

Nayar said in commentary. Before the start of the match, Nayar had opened up on Rohit Sharma's remarkable fitness transformation, revealing the thought process behind the India skipper's 11-kilo weight loss and his vision for the 2027 World Cup.

Zealand. Back in the 2019 World Cup semi-final at Old Trafford, India's top three—KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma, and Virat Kohli—also struggled under pressure, each managing just 1 run. Despite a valiant lower-order partnership between Ravindra Jadeja (77) and MS Dhoni (50).

Rohit and Gill caught munching popcorn during rain delay



The pair were first seen in a serious discussion, likely analysing the pitch conditions

The much-anticipated return of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli did not go as planned in the first ODI against Australia in Perth. Australia won the toss and elected to field, continuing India's 16th consecutive ODI toss loss, with the last win coming in the CWC 2023 semifinals against New Zealand at Wankhede. Once play began, the Australian bowlers made the most of the bouncy Perth deck. Josh Hazlewood trapped Rohit with a hard-length delivery, while Mitchell Starc bowled a wide that Virat chased, resulting in a duck for the first

time in 30 ODI innings in Australia. New ODI Captain Shubman Gill speaks out on Virat, Rohit and taking Indian cricket forward Shubman Gill managed a couple of boundaries but was eventually dismissed leg before. Together, the trio scored just 18 runs, the lowest combined total in an ODI where all three batted, breaking the previous mark of 25 against Pakistan in 2023. Amid the difficult start, the rain brought a pause to the proceedings, offering a rare lighter moment. During the second rain delay, all eyes were on the dressing room where Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill were spotted enjoying some popcorn together. The pair were first seen in a serious discussion, likely analysing the pitch conditions and batting strategy.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Ticket sales surpass 1 million, fans from 212 countries join the frenzy

Missed out in the first lottery draw will get another chance starting October 27

FIFA has revealed that over one million tickets have already been snapped up for next year's World Cup in North America, just weeks after sales opened. Fans from 212 countries have secured spots, even though only 28 of the 48 participating teams have been confirmed. The biggest demand is coming from the host nations — the U.S., Canada, and



Mexico — followed by football powerhouses including England, Germany, Brazil, Spain, Colombia, Argentina, and France. FIFA President Gianni Infantino described the response as "incredible," calling it a sign that the tournament is capturing

the imagination of fans worldwide. Tickets for the final in East Rutherford are currently listed on the resale platform between \$9,538 and \$57,500, with prices for opening matches already reaching tens of thousands on the secondary market.

Luka Doncic has been named ambassador

Adding star power off the pitch, Los Angeles Lakers guard Luka Doncic has been named ambassador for the World Cup matches in Southern California. A self-confessed football fan, the Slovenian star said he is thrilled to welcome fans and help celebrate a sport that "connects so many cultures around the globe."

Lower-tier tickets start at \$60, but most matches carry much higher prices, and dynamic pricing will be used for the first time.

Israel attacks British officials after Maccabi Tel Aviv fans banned from Aston Villa match

Aston Villa announced that following police guidance, away fans would

British officials are under mounting pressure to reverse a decision that prevents Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters from attending a European match at Aston Villa. The Israeli



government has criticised this ban. Aston Villa announced that following police guidance, away fans would not be permitted

at the UEFA Europa League match against the Israeli club in Birmingham on November 6 due to security concerns.

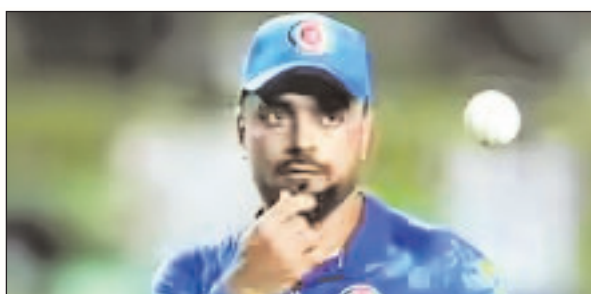
Italy 'Bans' Israel From Participating In Milan Fair; 'Morally Not Right' | Watch "Shameful decision! I call on the UK authorities to reverse this coward decision," posted Israel's foreign minister Gideon Saar on X. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer opposed the decision. He expressed his views on social media platform X. "We will not tolerate

antisemitism on our streets. The role of the police is to ensure all football fans can enjoy the game, without fear of violence or intimidation," Starmer wrote on X. Britain's Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy plans to meet with interior ministry officials and stakeholders to discuss possible solutions to the ban. "The Prime Minister has said we will do

everything we possibly can to resolve this issue," Ian Murray told UK media. Villa received instructions from the Safety Advisory Group, which oversees safety certificates for matches at Villa Park stadium. "The SAG have formally written to the club and UEFA to advise no away fans will be permitted to attend Villa Park.

Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan has removed Lahore Qalandars from his social media bio

Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan takes bold stand, escalates protest against Pakistan



Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan has removed Lahore Qalandars from his social media bio, following his country's decision to withdraw

from the upcoming tri-nation T20I series in Pakistan. The withdrawal comes in protest against recent Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan, which

These unlawful actions are a grave violation of human rights

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of civilian lives in the recent Pakistani aerial strikes — a tragedy that claimed women, children, and young cricketers aspiring to represent Afghanistan on the global stage," Rashid wrote on X. "These unlawful actions are a grave violation of human rights. I fully support the ACB's decision to withdraw. Our national dignity must come first."

reportedly killed eight civilians, including three young cricketers. Rashid Khan Rashid Khan X handle

Rashid, widely regarded as one of Afghanistan's most influential cricketers, had previously listed all

his major teams on X (formerly Twitter), including the national side, Gujarat Titans in the IPL, Adelaide Strikers in the BBL, and Lahore Qalandars in the PSL. The latest update now shows the Qalandars removed, leaving only his IPL and BBL affiliations alongside the Afghanistan national team. Pak-Afghan Border Clash: Airstrike Kills 3

V takes over from Vengsarkar as ICA player representative

MUMBAI: V Chamundeswaranath has replaced former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar as the players' representative on the Apex Council of the BCCI. He was earlier a member of the Governing Council of the IPL, a position that has now been taken over by former India women's team captain Shubhangi Kulkarni. Kulkarni was previously on the Apex Council as the women's nominee. Vengsarkar completed his three-year term, which began in

2022, on the Apex Council. The Indian Cricketers' Association (ICA) General Elections 2025 were held on October 15 and 16. Former India women's team captain Shantha Rangaswamy has been elected as the first-ever president of the ICA. 'Chamundeswaranath, a former Andhra captain, comes into the Governing Council in place of Dilip Vengsarkar. "This election marks a notable moment for the ICA.