

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

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MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

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

Modi's big gift to farmers from Kashi on his 51st visit

Varanasi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached his parliamentary constituency Kashi for the 51st time on Saturday. With this auspicious number, he gave a big gift to the farmers from Kashi.

In the month of Shravan, PM Modi released the 20th installment of the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi to the farmers from the Kashi of Devadhidev Mahadev. In just one click, 'prosperity' reached more

Beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the double engine govt

Varanasi: Physical challenges come as a double trouble for the elderly and the disabled. To deal with such difficulties, Modi-Yogi government is standing as a support for senior citizens and disabled people. Prime Minister Narendra Modi dis-

tributed many devices to the disabled and the elderly in his parliamentary con-



stituency on Saturday. Various types of free assistive devices were distributed under the National Vayoshri and ADIP Yojana, so that they do not have to face physical challenges and become self-reliant. ELIM-CO CMD Praveen Kumar

crore farmers of Uttar Pradesh and 2.21 lakh farmers of Kashi through DBT.

than 9.70 crore farmers of the country in the form of Samman Nidhi. In the pres-

ence of CM Yogi Adityanath, Kisan Samman Nidhi reached the accounts of 2.29

Till now, Rs 4.75 lakh crore has been sent to the accounts of farmers through the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi without any break. So far, Rs 4.75 lakh crore has been given to the farmers of the country and Rs 90 thousand crore to the farmers of UPTill date, Rs 4.75 lakh crore has been sent by the Central Government to the accounts of the farmers of the country through the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi.

'The promise of exchange of vermillion has been fulfilled'

If we want to become the third superpower in the world, we will have to adopt Swadeshi: PM Modi



New India has the capability to enter the enemy's home and destroy him: Yogi

Varanasi: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the world has realized India's power and capability through Operation Sindo. New India has the capability to wipe out the criminals of Pahalgam and to enter the enemy's home and finish him off.

The more backward a person is, the more priority he gets: Modi

The government is with the farmers from seed to market. Lakhs of crores of rupees are being invested in irrigation schemes. To deal with the challenges of weather, claims of more than two and a quarter lakh crore rupees have been given.

scheme and its impact on the farmers. During this, he appealed to the traders and citizens across the country that if we have to make the country the third superpower in the world, then for this we will have to adopt Swadeshi. India will also have to be vigilant

about its economic interests. In his address, the Prime Minister spoke in detail about global challenges, the need to adopt Swadeshi and the prosperity of farmers. He said that I want to draw your attention to the global situation. There is an atmosphere of instabil-

ity in the world. The countries of the world are focusing on their own interests. India is also going to become the third largest economy of the world. Therefore, India also has to be vigilant about its economic interests. He stressed that the interest of our farmers.

Opposition parties are criticising SIR unnecessarily: Lalan Singh



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

Sentence

Special court judge Santosh Gajanan Bhatt announced the sentence

Bangalore: Janata Dal Secular (JDS) leader and former MP Prajwal Revanna, who was found guilty in a rape case by a special court in



Goyal held discussions with leading industrialists of the textile industry

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

Karnataka, has been sentenced to life imprisonment. According to the information, special court judge Santosh Gajanan Bhatt announced the sentence.

Four cases of rape are registered against former MP Prajwal Revanna. The case is related to a 48-year-old woman who worked as a domestic help at Revanna's family's Gannikada farmhouse in Hassan district. What are the charges against Prajwal Revanna Revanna, grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, was found

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Ten public health labs to be set up in the nation's capital

Delhi : In an effort to improve diagnostic support for basic healthcare, the Delhi government has begun the process of establishing ten integrated public health laboratories (IPHLs) around the city. The health and family welfare department has established a committee to monitor the project's development and execution. Essential diagnostic services will be more accessible to primary health centers (PHCs) and sub-centers in each district thanks to the IPhLs. Submit a detailed strategy outlining infrastructure, resource requirements, and implementation schedules by July 7th; the panel is directed to do so. Initiating the procurement and execution process, the DGHS



20% would be removed from voter rolls, according to EC

Delhi : The Congress party in Bihar made accusations against the Election Commission, claiming that the poll watchdog had admitted to the delegation that it "assumes" 20% of voters would be removed from the list during the review. The party also referred to the EC's position as a "threat" to the Constitution and marginalized communities

will supervise the creation of the tender document. The program's overarching goal is to increase local resi-

such as SC/ST/OBCs. The group's ally, CPI(ML) Liberation, warned of a massive anti-exercise movement after the opposition's cries to EC were ignored. Rajesh Ram, leader of the Bihar Congress, has claimed that the Election Commission is collaborating on a plot to disenfranchise migrant laborers, who make up over 80% of the electorate.

dents' access to high-quality diagnostic services and to fortify public health infrastructure.

Won't accept Marathi hooliganism, Debendra Fadnavis



are wrong. He stated violent behavior will be punished. CM Devendra Fadnavis declared, "We love Marathi, but no other Indian language should be mistreated. Sometimes I'm surprised they speak English but argue over Hindi.

He threatened harsh punishment for lawbreakers. Should a Marathi-speaking businessman who works in Assam and learns Assamese be treated similarly? Should Assamites assault him? If you care about Marathi, teach it to others and to your kids.

Manipur to close relief camps by December, rehabilitation from July

Delhi : Chief secretary Prashant Kumar Singh said a three-phase scheme will begin in July to help internally displaced families rehabilitate once the Manipur government closes all relief camps by December. Singh said at the 2nd foundation day of the Manipur State Commission for Scheduled Tribes in Imphal on Friday that displaced families will be given prefabricated houses if they cannot return home by the deadline. Singh said the rehabilitation program will begin in July and continue in October and December. Since 2023, ethnic conflict between Imphal Valley Meiteis and bordering hills Kuki-Zo tribes has killed over 260 people, injured 1,500, and displaced over 70,000. Government data shows that 62,000 displaced people have dropped to 57,000,



Government issues Waqf Act rules

Delhi : The Union government issued the guidelines to operationalize the disputed Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, focusing on the central portal where Islamic charitable endowments will be registered and leaving other details to the states. The 32-page minority affairs ministry document will be presented to Parliament on July 21 during the monsoon session. A senior ministry official said the rules will be republished in the gazette if Parliament modifies them.

with many families coming home. An additional 1,000 prefabricated dwellings are being built for individuals who cannot return. Singh announced a ?1.3 lakh

financial reconstruction package and ?1.7 lakh for rebuilding help for families whose homes were destroyed in the fighting and eager to return to their villages.

DU will discuss the Viksit Bharat curriculum and Gita-based courses

Delhi : According to officials, the standing committee of Delhi University (DU) will meet to evaluate suggestions for a number of value addition courses (VAC), including four that are centered on the Bhagavad Gita and one called An Introduction to Viksit Bharat. The committee's emphasis on incorporating modern applications of Indian philosophy and development topics into the curriculum is highlighted in the agenda, which was made public on Wednesday.

With themes like "Gita for Holistic Life," "Gita and Leadership Excellence,"

"Gita for Sustainable Universe," and "Gita for Navigating Life Challenges," four of the six VACs that are being considered are centered around the Bhagavad Gita. Based on Karmayoga, Jnanayoga, and Bhaktiyoga, the Gita for Holistic Life syllabus suggests teachings on self-management, resolving problems in modern life, and methods of action, knowledge, and devotion. The course will also include practical components. The other courses will cover similar thematic applications of Gita's teachings to leadership, sustainability, and life's prob-

lems. Gita may undoubtedly be able to offer us some direction, but it seems ridiculous to introduce so many VACs on Gita. In addition to practical elements like field trips to communities, self-help groups, and farmers' organizations, the proposed chapters will address the role of technology, infrastructure, agriculture, and sustainability, he said. A VAC titled "The Science of Happiness" is also on the schedule. The Centre for Hindu Studies has also suggested starting a PhD program in Hindu Studies, which is anticipated to begin.

Chirag Paswan denies becoming a future CM

Delhi : The declaration that LJP (RV) chairman and union cabinet minister Chirag Paswan would run in the Bihar assembly elections later this year surprised everyone. His Lok Janshakti Party would form a pre-poll coalition with the ruling Janata Dal United for the

first time. Paswan's party won all five seats in last year's general elections, but it's not in the legislature. The 42-year-old son of LJP founder and former minister Ram Vilas has spoken out contrary to his coalition partner BJP. He told why he wants to fight, the Waqf

law, and the constitution preamble amendment. Haven't spoken to them.

This is my third term as a member of Parliament, and over the previous 11 years, I have realized that my vision for my state—Bihar first, Bihari first.

New West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya



Delhi : The West Bengal BJP unanimously elected senior leader and Rajya Sabha MP Samik Bhattacharya as its new president. With outgoing State president Sukanta Majumdar and West Bengal Assembly Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, Mr. Bhattacharya filed his BJP presidential nomination papers. No other candidates filed nominations by deadline, therefore Mr. Bhattacharya was overwhelmingly elected. The devoted 62-year-old BJP official has been with the party for almost four decades. He joined the BJP in the 1990s when its vote share in the State was 3%.

Mr. Bhattacharya has represented West Bengal in the Rajya Sabha since April 2024. He is the party's State spokesperson and a TV news fixture. Mr. Bhattacharya was elevated before the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. The State's main opposition party, the BJP, loses out to the ruling Trinamool Congress, which won 48% of the vote in last year's Lok Sabha elections.

Despite opposition, Surjewala will meet Karnataka Congress MLAs



Delhi : Congress national general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala will visit Bengaluru and meet parliamentarians. The visit comes after many senior MPs humiliated the party with charges of government corruption, lack of constituency development funds, and a "political revolution" later this year. Senior functionaries say Surjewala's visit has nothing to do with party or government leadership changes. "Since some MLAs voiced grievances, Surjewala will speak to

them in groups," said KPCC working president Chandra Sekhar. Reports of a leadership shift are false. It won't be mentioned at Surjewala's MLA meeting. Surjewala would meet Mysuru and Bengaluru MLAs during his three-day tour. He will separately meet senior legislators BR Patil, Raju Kage, and Basavaraj Rayareddi, who have criticized the government. Congress state president and deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar told reporters: "Surjewala would meet MLAs individually.

11 documents listed by EC for Bihar voter verification: Why getting even one is easier said than done

Delhi : AT the heart of the Election Commission's special revision of rolls in Bihar is its instruction on June 24 that any person whose name is not recorded in the 2003 Electoral Rolls — an estimated 2.93

crore — needs to submit at least one of 11 documents establishing eligibility to vote. According to the EC instructions, the list of the 11 is indicative, not exhaustive. This is because under the

Representation of the People Act, 1950, the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) are empowered to make the electoral roll and the EC can only issue guidelines. Any Identity card/pension

Payment Order issued to regular employee/ pensioner of any Central Govt/State Govt/PSU: As per the Bihar Caste Survey 2022, around 20.49 lakh people in the state were in government service.

China lashes out in anger as Dalai Lama affirms right to choose successor

Delhi : Dalai Lama effectively excluded China from the process of selecting his successor by stating that the 600-year-old institution of spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhists will remain even after his death and that a trust he established will be the only authority to recognize his reincarnation. Controversy has surrounded the institution's future ever since the Nobel laureate and leader of Tibetan Buddhism stated in 2011 that he would make a decision. For years, south-

ern states have rejected Hindi imposition. They refuse to speak Hindi and won't let others. Our Maharashtra position is different, "said. We speak Hindi. We oppose mandated Hindi in basic school, "Raut explained. Raut added:

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"MK Stalin congratulated us and promised to learn. We wish him luck. No one has been stopped from speaking Hindi. We have Hindi movies, plays, and music. Only Hindi being imposed in basic classes bothers us." Raut

Ganga and Yamuna crossed the danger mark in Prayagraj

Frightening

- Situation till 4 pm on Saturday, August 2
- Phaphamau - Ganga water level has reached 84.96.
- Water level has increased by 12 centimeters within four hours
- Chhatnag Ganga Ghat - Water level was recorded at 84.32. Here also, Ganga has increased by 12 centimeters in four hours
- The danger point of Ganga in Phaphamau and Chhatnag is 84.738 meters. Ganga is flowing above this mark.
- Yamuna River - Water level in Naini was recorded at 85.06 meters.

Akhand Bharat Sandesh



The water level of Ganga is expected to increase rapidly till Saturday. More than 80 thousand cusecs of water is continuously coming from Kanpur. Water is also continuously coming from Narora. In such a situation, the water level of Ganga continues to rise rapidly. Chambal has given some relief. Till Friday morning, Ken, Betwa and Chambal rivers were in spate. Ken and Betwa are still in spate but the water in Chambal has decreased. Due to this, some reduction was recorded in the speed of increase in the water level of Yamuna but Tons has increased the concern. Water is coming at a fast speed in Tons river. Due to this, the coastal areas have come under the grip of flood. Apart from this, due to increased pressure, there is a possibility of curbing the speed of water flowing out of Chhatnag. Due to this, there is a possibility of further spread of Ganga water in the floodplain area.

Prayagraj: Ganga and Yamuna have crossed the danger mark. The water level has reached above the danger point of 84.734 meters. The rivers are still overflowing. The situation has become quite frightening.

Thousands of houses in more than two dozen localities located on the banks of Ganga and Yamuna have been submerged. People are moving to safer

places. The administration has intensified relief and rescue operations. The number of affected people in flood relief camps is increasing. More than two thousand people have been displaced who have taken shelter in the administration's relief camp. As soon as the danger mark was crossed, hundreds of houses in more than two dozen localities were surrounded by floods. Roads and streets are also flooded. A large number of people had to be evacuated by boats. Chambal gave relief, while Tons

Wanted Accused

Arrested: Major Action by Shahninda Police



Campaign

- Now decided to conduct the written examination on 18 and 19 December

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Ghazipur: Under the jurisdiction of Muhammadabad Kotwali Police Station in the district, police have arrested a wanted accused. Following the orders of the Superintendent of Police and as part of the ongoing campaign against crime and criminals, under the able guidance of Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural) and Circle Officer Chob Singh, Sub-Inspector Harishchandra Singh, in-charge of Shahninda outpost, along with his team, arrested the want-

ed accused in Case Crime Number 276/2024 under Sections 318(4)/336(2)/336(3)/341(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 60 of the Excise Act. The accused, Vikki Kumar, son of Faqeer Chand, resident of Beimaan Tola, Police Station Ramkrishna Nagar, District Patna, Bihar, currently residing at Shahpur, Police Station Gopalpur, District Patna, Bihar, had been absconding for a long time.

He was arrested on 01.08.2025 and presented before the Honorable Court in Ghazipur. The arrest team included Station House Officer Ram Sajan Nagar, Sub-Inspector Harishchandra Singh, and Constables Komal Singh and Sitanshu Pandey.

High Court strict: Said- If the strike is not stopped, then the office bearers of the Advocates Association will lose their chair

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Prayagraj: Allahabad High Court said that if the strike is not stopped, then all the office bearers including the President and Secretary of the Advocates Association will have to lose their chair. They have no right to lock the temple of justice by abstaining from judicial work. This harsh comment was made by the court of Justice JJ Munir while granting unconditional pardon to the President of Ballia Bar Association. Ajay Kumar Singh, a resident of Ballia, had filed a petition regarding the dispute related to the Consolidation Act. His objections were pending for a long time due to abstaining from judicial



work on behalf of Ballia Bar Association. The petitioner knocked the door of the High Court for settlement. During the hearing, it was found that the objections of the petitioner were disposed of by the subordinate revenue court on January 22. The petition became ineffective but the court took seriously the abstinance from judicial work by the Bar Association. The court had summoned the Ballia Bar President and Secretary by

issuing a show cause notice citing the Supreme Court's decisions declaring the strike illegal in former Captain Harish Uppal and other cases. However, the Bar President Rajesh Kumar, who appeared in the court, apologized unconditionally. The court accepted the apology with a harsh comment and warning. It said that apology does not mean exemption. This time we are sparing, next time strict action will be taken. The

CM Yogi to hand over appointment letters to 1,494 youths

Recruitment

- 1,374 Assistant Operators and 120 workshop staff to join UP Police

cant step towards the modernization of the state police force, following the historic recruitment of 60,244 constables earlier. Under CM Yogi's leadership, Mission Rozgar has already created over 8.5 lakh government jobs, 3.75 lakh contractual appointments, and more than 2 crore employment opportunities in the private sector and MSMEs.

This move marks another signifi-

DM did a field inspection of flood affected village Kataiya

Akhand Bharat Sandesh

Kaushambi: District Magistrate Madhusudan Hulgi did a field inspection of flood affected village Kataiya on Saturday. During the inspection of the District Magistrate, Deputy District Magistrate, Chayal Akash Singh informed that the Purkhas-Kataiya road



has been flooded due to recent heavy rains, but no cracks or damage

have been found in the road structure. With the help of electricity department, police and revenue teams, boats have been arranged for the people, so that safe movement can be ensured. Anti-venom injections and first aid materials are available at flood posts. Continuous monitoring is going on. Ration supply has been ensured to the affected families and in case of any problem, the villagers have been appealed to immediately contact the tehsil or district administration. The District Magistrate directed the Deputy District Magistrate to keep monitoring the potential flood area continuously. All necessary action should be ensured on time, so that the villagers do not face any kind of problem.

11 ministers deployed across 12 flood-hit districts

CM forms 'Team-11' to lead flood relief operations in UP

Lucknow: Taking stock of the flood crisis, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has deployed a 11-member ministerial team to oversee relief operations across 12 affected districts, warning that any negligence will not be tolerated and stressing the need for sensitivity, speed and transparency. The Chief Minister affirmed that the state government is fully committed to ensuring the safety, food, shelter, and healthcare of every citizen affected by the floods. The Chief Minister directed all ministers in charge to immediately visit their assigned districts, inspect relief camps, and directly engage with affected families. He instructed senior officials—including DMs, SPs, and CMOs—to stay on the ground and ensure 24x7 monitoring. Emphasizing urgency, he ordered round-the-clock surveillance of embankments, swift drainage from water-



logged areas, and comprehensive arrangements for food, medicine, sanitation, and the needs of women and children in relief camps. The Chief Minister emphasized that the

supply of relief materials and food packets must be timely and of high quality, with no compromise on standards. He directed that farmers affected by crop loss, land erosion, or household damage due to floods should receive assistance within 24 hours. To ensure transparency and timely delivery, he instructed that aid be distributed in coordination with local public representatives. The Chief Minister stressed that livestock safety is a top priority. He directed officials to relocate animals from waterlogged villages to safer areas and ensure proper fodder and veterinary care. He also ordered that all flood-affected hospitals be

stocked with anti-snake venom and anti-rabies injections, emphasizing immediate and effective treatment in cases of snakebite. While reviewing disaster management preparations, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed that early warning alerts issued by the Relief Commissioner be promptly communicated to the public in affected districts. He stressed strict adherence to disaster management protocols by all departments.

CM presents PM Modi with unique GI-crafted artwork featuring Shivling, Nandi and Trishul

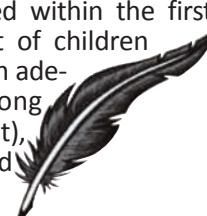
Varanasi: On the holy occasion of Shrawan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also the MP of Varanasi, was presented with a unique artwork by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during his visit to Kashi. The piece was crafted using GI-registered Banaras metal repoussé craft and beautifully combined three GI crafts of Kashi – metal repoussé, Meenakari, and metal casting. Padma Shri awardee and GI expert Dr. Rajni Kant shared details about the unique

gift presented to PM Narendra Modi. The artwork, 18 inches tall and 15 inches wide, was placed on a Meenakari-crafted base. It featured a Shivling inside an Argha, a five-hooded serpent, Nandi, offerings, a Kalash filled with Ganga water, a Trishul, and Chandan Bhasma. The piece was created by metal artisans Anil Karsa and Raghunath Karsa, along with Meenakari artist Arun Kumar Verma, after a week of continuous work under the guidance of GI experts.

Editorial

Revamp anganwadi model for Viksit Bharat. Workers should be seen as frontline educators

Integrated Child Development Services Scheme – the Anganwadi Services Scheme was launched in 1975 as an innovative experiment to address maternal and child health, nutrition, and early childhood development. Aligned with the objectives to improve children's health, nutrition, and development, reduce mortality, morbidity, and dropout rates, and empower mothers through counselling, the ICDS framework is designed to nurture holistic development. Through a lifecycle approach, it targets children aged 0-6 years, pregnant and lactating mothers, and adolescent girls, delivering supplementary nutrition, immunisations, health check-ups, non-formal pre-school education, and nutrition counselling. Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) are the focal points for delivering ICDS services, and Anganwadi workers (AWWs) and helpers are the fulcrum of rendering these vital services through AWCs and home visits. Today, through a strong network of more than 1.4 million Anganwadi centres (AWCs) covering 100 million particularly vulnerable mothers and children, ICDS has emerged as the largest service delivery program for mother care and child development. As ICDS celebrates 50 years this year, it presents a valuable opportunity to celebrate its achievements, reflect on the gaps and challenges, and propose a way forward to align with the futuristic needs of Viksit Bharat. Since this launch, ICDS boasts a robust framework that enables it to adapt and evolve meaningfully in the future. Its evolution to currently Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0, combines schemes Poshan Abhiyaan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, and Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi, emphasising holistic development and real-time monitoring. Today, all AWCs and over 101 million beneficiaries are registered on the Poshan Tracker, enabling real time tracking of service delivery and outcomes. Over the years, ICDS has played a crucial role in equitably addressing malnutrition, early childhood care, and maternal health across India. India is moving in the right direction toward achieving the SDG 2030 targets for maternal and child mortality. Research has demonstrated that early childhood interventions targeting nutrition, education, and health can substantially enhance human capital, especially in developing countries. An IFPRI study published in the Bulletin of the World Health Organisation highlighted improvements in both equity and coverage of ICDS from 2006 to 2016, with increased service utilisation (58 per cent to 71 per cent), especially among Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Another study examining the linkages between utilisation of ICDS and underweight among children aged 6-59 months from 2015-16 to 2019-21, attributed improvements in ICDS utilisation to 9-12 per cent of the observed reduction in underweight children. A peer-reviewed study in The University of Chicago Press Journals found that children who were exposed to ICDS during the first three years of life completed 0.1-0.3 more grades of schooling than those who were not. As India advances towards Viksit Bharat, ICDS must not only strengthen its existing interventions but also embrace transformative paradigm shifts to effectively address emerging challenges, harness new opportunities, and align with the evolving aspirations of society. Firstly, the pace of improvement in nutrition needs to be accelerated. Malnutrition rates remain high – stunting among children under five is 36 per cent, underweight at 32.1 per cent, and anaemia prevalence at 67 per cent, especially in comparison to global benchmarks. Sub-optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, where only 42 per cent of infants are breastfed within the first hour, and only 11 per cent of children aged 6-23 months receive an adequate diet. Anaemia among pregnant women (52 per cent), children (67 per cent), and women of reproductive.



Success to failure, UPSC is a family affair

A couplet by Mirza Ghalib could well serve as the unofficial motto of UPSC aspirants: Ragon mein daudte phirne ke hum nahin qayal; jab aankh hi se na tapka to phir lahu kya hai – I'm not impressed by blood that runs in the veins; if it doesn't spill from the eyes, what kind of blood is it? After all, aspirants live, for lack of a better description, a suspended life built on the edifice of junoon (passion) and self-doubt. But sometimes, it all comes together. The result is announced, and the aspirant's name appears on the list. Those who succeed are elevated to near-mythical status. Their photos decorate news-

paper pages and coaching centre hoardings, and they are invited for felicitations and motivational talks. But what is not celebrated is the silent effort of an entire support system – a quiet, unpaid workforce made up of family members, friends, and partners. It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child. Cliched but true. The same holds for success in the UPSC exam. If UPSC is the Everest of Indian competitive exams, and the topper is the climber, then their family members are the sherpas who make the ascent possible. The mother, often a school dropout herself, becomes the planner.

Relatives are told not to visit, and the TV volume is turned down. The father, already exhausted by the demands of underpaid work, becomes proficient in the mechanics of prelims, mains, optional, DAF (detailed application form), and ethics papers. Siblings absorb any and all friction in silence. Affection is expressed not through words but by consoling oneself: "Let him focus, we will manage." A natural question arises: why do families do this for an exam where the acceptance rate is lower than that of Harvard? The ideal of public service and giving back to society is sine qua non, but sometimes it is only a

necessary condition, not a sufficient one. First, the dream of cracking the UPSC is one that originates in the family, not the aspirant. A good score in Class 12. A local officer who is feted like royalty. A personal experience with socio-economic dysfunction. All these experiences (and more) plant the seed. "Ladke ko IAS/IPS banana hai". Whether the child is a doctor or an engineer, the end goal remains the same: to make them a Collector or SP sahab. Second, the fragility of the Indian middle class, especially in small towns and peri-urban India. This class, often first-generation salaried.

Religious autonomy isn't absolute. Imarat-e-Shariah protest in Patna sidelined



Imarat-e-Shariah, a strong socio-religious group with a big influence on a section of Indian Muslims, organised a huge protest on 29 June at Patna's Gandhi Maidan. The rally, named 'Waqf Bachao, Samvidhan Bachao – Save Waqf, Save the Constitution' – quickly gained momentum, with thousands of Muslim protesters from Bihar and nearby states vocally condemning the Waqf Act amendment as a violation of both constitutional rights and religious freedom. This was not just a protest; it was a firm declaration against a law perceived as an infringement on fundamental freedoms – freedoms that many believe must be protected at all costs. Speakers at the rally claimed that the Waqf Amendment Act crushes not only the Islamic principle of Waqf (charitable endowment) but also assaults the very core of religious autonomy. Faisal Wali Rahmani, head of Imarat-e-Shariah, made it clear: the Act is a dangerous overreach that jeopardises the community's ability to govern its own affairs. "This conference," he declared, "is a peaceful, constitutional demand to roll back this draconian legislation." His words rang out as a challenge to those who would allow such overreach to stand unchecked. I fully agree that every Indian has

the right to free speech and peaceful protest, as guaranteed by our Constitution. But the argument surrounding religious autonomy is far more complicated than it seems. This notion of autonomy isn't about personal religious practice – it's about collective and organisational control. The idea that a religious group should have the unrestricted right to manage its own affairs raises some troubling questions. First, does this imply that such a group is somehow separate, not truly a part of the larger nation? Second, is there not a risk in projecting this image of self-containment – as though the community exists outside the national fabric? The implications are far more profound than they may appear. What if every community or tribe starts to argue that no one has the right to interfere in their affairs, claiming that their practices and core values are above the reach of national laws or human rights? Imagine a community that argues the gov-

ernment should have no say in child marriage, defending it as a matter of religious or cultural tradition. Would such a stance be accepted simply because it aligns with the idea that each group should be able to uphold its own values? Surely, we would not accept such practices under the guise of religious freedom. At what point do we draw the line between protecting religious rights and ensuring that these practices don't violate basic human rights or endanger individuals? The core issue is whether any belief or practice – no matter how deeply rooted in religion or culture – can be allowed to override the fundamental principles of justice, equality, and human dignity. When leaders of the Muslim community, or any religious group, invoke the Constitution, they often present it as though it grants them an unfettered right to religious freedom – one that allows them to manage their affairs without interference from the state, its legislature, or its judiciary. But what is overlooked is that this right to religious freedom is not absolute or separate from other constitutional values. It exists within a broader framework that includes human rights, equality, and justice for all citizens. The Constitution, in its design, ensures religious freedom – but it does so with the understanding that such freedom must never come at the expense of the dignity or rights of others. This means that the Constitution's values – those of equality and justice – must always take precedence over any individual or collective religious right when they begin to infringe on these fundamental principles. Once we are clear on this, we can oppose Waqf amendments that we believe infringe upon our rights. The idea that any community has the inherent right to manage its own affairs solely under the umbrella of constitutional rights is a dangerous one. As I make this distinction, it is crucial to point out some things. While the Patna protest may be framed as a defence of constitutional rights, the very organisation leading it – Imarat-e-Shariah – operates a parallel system within the Muslim Personal Law framework despite lacking formal judi-

Karnataka's fake news bill won't survive a court challenge

Karnataka's proposed Misinformation and Fake News (Prohibition) Bill, 2025, is poorly drafted and replete with structural infirmities. It is also at odds with existing central laws and its constitutional validity is questionable. Let's see how. The bill deprives social media intermediaries of their statutory immunity from state persecution for user-generated content, a legal protection commonly referred to in internet law as 'safe harbour'. India's nodal Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act) provides for safe harbour protections and allows social media companies to host user content with conditional immunity, within a clearly defined legal framework. In contrast, Karnataka's fake news bill proposes to hold social media companies accountable for violating any provision of the proposed law. The bill envisions a government-appointed Fake News on Social Media Regulatory Authority, with sweeping

powers to preemptively block or ban content it deems illegal. However, it does not clarify how these powers will sync with the safe harbour protections under the IT Act. Without safe harbour protections, social media companies could face a deluge of criminal penalties for content that is difficult to monitor and filter, such as superstitions or unscientific claims, both deemed illegal under the bill. The Authority's blocking powers create a parallel mechanism to the content-blocking procedures already prescribed under the Centre's IT Act. The lack of standard procedural safeguards, such as the need to notify penalised parties or offer them a fair hearing, disregards the minimum standards set by the IT Act. That law limits content blocking to specific grounds such as public order, sovereignty, and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign states, or preventing incitement to an offence – all of which correspond to the restriction.

Indian Muslims must face the truth – Muslim countries don't care about them

West Asia has ever been on the boil, and its tumultuous events perturb Indian Muslims no end. Their attitude toward international affairs, particularly events in Muslim countries, is determined more by their religious identity and extraterritorial loyalty than by their national identity and the country's interests. Since the establishment of the Mughal rule in 1526, Muslim rulers of India stopped swearing allegiance to any foreign entity, as was the practice during the Sultanate period (the reason why that period came to be known by this name), when the Sultan tacitly recognised the suzerainty of the Abbasid caliphate, which, after the sacking of Baghdad by the Mongol army led by Halagu Khan in 1258, moved to Cairo where it resided until 1527. Later, the caliphate was transferred to the Ottoman rulers of Turkey. In the political lexicon of Islam, Sultan means an autonomous governor of the caliph. The Mughals didn't recognise the new Ottoman caliphate in Turkey, and called themselves Padshah (king) instead of Sultan. However, so long as India was under Muslim rule, it didn't really matter whether the caliph was recognised or not. But with the termination of the titular Mughal sovereignty in 1857, the Muslim ruling class found itself stranded. In order to find an ideological mooring for their adrift theo-politics, they anchored themselves in the theoretical institution of the Ottoman caliphate. The Muslim ruling class had so maintained its foreign character that this transfer of allegiance to a new overlord outside India seemed normal and caused no consternation. Rather, this instinctive reaction was understood as a default action. The first stirrings of the newly incubated pro-Turkish sympathies became visible during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78. Unsurprisingly, the newly established Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College in Aligarh, the precursor to Aligarh Muslim University, chose the Turkish dress, with the distinctive Fez – the red hat with black tassel – as its uniform. This trend of associating with the Ottoman caliphate matured during the Khilafat Movement, which, in the Muslim mind, forever subordinated Indian nationalism to pan-Islamism, and also to a great extent made the Indian foreign policy sensitive to the extraterritorial loyalty of the Muslims. India's Muslim ruling class had cultivated a sense of identity that made it easier for them to associate with their foreign co-religionists than the native compatriots. Therefore, it was inevitable that Muslims diverged into pan-Islamism when the national movement emerged in India. It's true that Sir Syed Ahmad Khan had been wary of the pan-Islamist ideas, and opposed its propagation by the peripatetic preacher, Jamaluddin Afghani (1838-1897). But his opposition was because of pan-Islamism's anti-British edge – and Sir Syed was a British loyalist. – rather than any thought for Indian nationalism, which he had contested. What's known as global Islam or Ummah today was, in the late 19th and early 20th century, termed pan-Islamism. Contrary to what the terminology conveys – an ideology encompassing and shared by the entire Islamic world – it actually denoted the political attitude of Indian Muslims who, though domiciled in India, sought the meaning of their existence in belonging to the global Muslim community. India was incidental to their worldview. They were born here, but belonged elsewhere. What affected them the most, at the

DGCA directs airlines to send link to flyer rights with ticket

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed Indian carriers to send a link to passenger rights along with air tickets. With the massive rise in number of air travellers, with many being first time flyers, DGCA chief Faiz Ahmed Kidwai wanted passengers to be made aware of what they are entitled to in case of deficiency in service; delayed flights (due to factors that are not beyond airlines' control), cancellations, denied boarding and baggage issues. IndiGo is learnt to have told the regulator it will start doing so by Tuesday (March 25).

"The DGCA has directed all airlines to disseminate and emphasise the provisions of passenger-centric regulations and passenger rights. All airlines have to send the online link of passenger charter available on the aviation ministry website in message to passenger (SMS / WhatsApp)

Airlines are in the

Delhi: The government of India has approved the 'National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025,' which will "drive excellence, economic growth and social progress" and promote the well-being of citizens. The policy's stated goals include establishing India as a global sporting powerhouse capable of hosting major international events like the 2036 Olympics and resolving the governance issues that have plagued the country's national federations. "Broad basing of sports and achieving excellence in sports at national and international level to create a robust ecosystem that nurtures talent from the grassroots to the Olympic

With the New Sports Policy 2025, India hopes to become a world power in sports.



podium" were the two overarching goals of the recently passed comprehensive policy, which was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while the Union Cabinet met. "The new policy replaces the two decade-old national sports policy of 2001 and outlines a vision to make India a strong contender on the glob-

al sports stage, including at the 2036 Olympic Games," said Ashwini Vaishnaw, minister of union communication and broadcasting, who announced the cabinet's decision to do so. The policy promotes tapping into the economic potential of sports and is in line with the new education program.

Delhi L-G Saxena asks the CM Rekha Gupta to reconsider the old vehicle fuel ban

Delhi: The Delhi government has granted the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) financial autonomy, allowing it to unilaterally approve high-cost projects, including ones surpassing Rs 50 crore, which could greatly reduce administrative impediments that the agency has been facing. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced the decision, calling it a "historic step" towards expediting the implementation of vital projects pertaining to the regeneration of the Yamuna River, the control of drains, and the supply of drinking water. "Our government is dedicated to providing people with results-oriented governance, not confusing them with red tape," Gupta reportedly stated, according to the (CMO). For the first time ever, the Delhi government has grant-



Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

Electric Buses from DTC to 17 Cities Across the States

Delhi: Delhi government is planning to launch an electric bus service called DTC that will connect 17 cities across six states. During a recent board meeting, transport minister Pankaj Singh gave his approval to a plan that will expand DTC bus service beyond the NCR. The destinations that the buses will drive to are five cities in Uttarakhand (Rishikesh, Haridwar, and Dehradun), five in Uttar Pradesh (Ayodhya, Lucknow, and Moradabad), three in Rajasthan (Alwar, Bikaner, and Jaipur), three in Punjab (Amritsar, Patiala, and Chandigarh), and one in



each of Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir (Panipat and Jammu, respectively). To encourage environmentally friendly transportation, officials stated that Minister Singh had mandated the use of exclusively electric buses. During a recent meeting, the DTC board recom-

mended these routes, he added, and now the department is buying the buses and working with other states to provide the service. According to him, the interstate bus service in Delhi will be resumed with 100 electric buses after a hiatus of almost twenty years.

Arvind Kejriwal Slams BJP

Delhi: AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal urged slum dwellers to protest against the BJP-led govt's demolition drives and reject both the BJP and Congress in future elections. Addressing a protest at Jantar Mantar, Kejriwal said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi said 'Jahan Jhuggi, Wahan Makan', but what he

meant was 'Jahan Jhuggi, Wahan Maidan'. His promises are false, and I urge you not to fall for them in future." He alleged that the Rekha Gupta-led Delhi govt has "ruined" the city in just five months. "We left a perfectly fine Delhi. But these people ruined it. There are long power cuts, school fees have been hiked, and their

ministers and MLAs are busy looting Delhi," he charged. Calling for unity among slum dwellers, Kejriwal said,

"There are 40 lakh slum dwellers. If you take to the roads, they will be forced to stop the demolitions." He added, "The Anna movement started from Jantar Mantar and removed the Congress from power.

New Laws: 2.5 Lakh FIRs & 62K Chargesheets/Year

Delhi: A year after Union home minister Amit Shah ordered the introduction of new criminal laws, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Delhi Police honored the milestone with astonishing numbers. Police had filed over 2.5

lakh FIRs in the past year. While 81,753 were ordinary FIRs, 37,976 were for motor vehicle theft and 1,34,320 were for other thefts. In addition, Delhi Police filed 62,153 BNS chargesheets, 47,218 within 60 days and 6,901 within 90 days. Additional 8,034 chargesheets were filed under different categories, data showed. The Delhi Police leadership said BNS changed the force's focus to accountability, transparency, and victim-centricity. Special commissioner (crime) Devesh Srivastava said streamlined procedures and technology increased investigation efficiency. The use of forensic evidence improved investigations, resulting in more convictions and better victim outcomes. He noted that technology made police services more accessible and responsive, making it easier for residents to report crimes and seek support.



HC cites 'egregious misuse' of Delhi Rent Control Act

Delhi: Delhi High Court called the Delhi Rent Control (DRC) Act, 1958, a "egregious misuse of an anachronistic piece of legislation" that forces landlords into "impecunious and desperate circumstances" while well-off tenants "unjustly" occupy premises for a pittance. The HC was reviewing petitions challenging the 2013 additional rent controller (ARC) judgments that dismissed eviction petitions by UK- and Dubai-based



owners of a Sadar Bazar property in favor of tenants. The petitioners sought eviction on the grounds that they manage two London restaurants and need the premises to grow in India. While ruling against the petitioners, the ARC noted that they are settled in and running their businesses in London and Dubai and do not need the premises for survival"; hence, their request was not an ARC also believed the premises were too tiny for a sit-in restaurant.

High-budget projects can now be approved by DJB



ed the Jal Board the power to make decisions and finish projects, which is a monumental step forward. The evolved into something more than just a symbol; it can now function independently and effectively. According to the chief marketing officer, the Board can skip waiting for Cabinet clearance on projects worth crores of rupees. This decision to give the Delhi Jal Board additional money is a huge leap forward in terms of making the government more efficient

Delhi: Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has written to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta to review the blanket fuel restriction on end-of-life (EOL) vehicles in Delhi amid growing public concerns. Starting July 1, the Commission for Air Quality Management directive, which has since been overturned, prohibited petrol pumps from refueling diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol ones older than 15 years, causing confusion and criticism around the city. In a



comprehensive letter, L-G Saxena noted the CAQM directive presents practical, legal, and socio-economic issues. He mentioned the CM's recent meeting and the Environment Minister's request to CAQM to suspend the order due to technical issues and uneven enforcement across NCR.

Saxena called the fuel embargo on

Delhi govt approves waiver on late payment surcharge

Delhi: Delhi govt has given in-principle approval to waive late payment surcharges on inflated water bills, which will bring relief to lakhs of people who have raised concerns about receiving inflated bills. The waiver, however, will be for domestic and government houses, not for commercial consumers. Water minister Parvesh Verma said the scheme will be launched in two months. He said that the implementation awaits a software upgrade, shifting the existing Oracle-based system to a cloud-based platform. "Once the new system is operational, the full waiver roll-out will begin.

Notice

It is informed to the general public that in my service record rank 15205566N (Havildar Operator) Vashim Ahmad Rahi, the name of my daughter MANTASA BANO has been erroneously changed to MANTASHA BANO. Whereas her correct name is MANTASA BANO. Therefore, she should be known and recognized as MANTASA BANO. I Sworn by Vashim Ahmad Rahi son of Iqbal Ahmad resident of village - Chakr bhan Pur urf Chakiya, Post - Kiraon, Police Station - Mau Aima, District - Prayagraj, (U.P.)

Delhi may hire a third party to provide fire OKs

Delhi: Delhi government may hire licensed third-party firms to handle fire safety certifications and no objection certificates (NOCs), relieving the fire department. This is part of a larger attempt to make city business easier. Fire agencies no

longer issue NOCs in various states. Instead, private fire safety firms that are certified by the state after an examination of their capabilities and competence have been given the duty, said a home department official who oversees fire services. This is being considered to let fire departments focus on fighting without managing certification requests. The official stated that no proposal has been written while the notion is being considered.

Xbox, sales, and other businesses face Microsoft's worst layoff in years

Delhi: Microsoft is cutting off 9,000 workers, its second huge layoff in months and largest in over two years. Microsoft announced layoffs in its Xbox video game business and other departments. A memo to state officials listed 830 Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft employees as laid off. Microsoft called the layoffs "organizational changes" needed to operate in a "dynamic marketplace" and will affect numerous teams worldwide, including its sales business.

The corporation won't specify how many layoffs it had, but it was approximately 4% of its personnel a year earlier. Xbox CEO Phil Spencer wrote to gaming division staff Wednesday that



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

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

the changes will position the company "for enduring success and allow us to focus on strategic growth areas." Xbox would "follow Microsoft's lead in removing layers of management to increase agility and effectiveness," Spencer stated. MS had 228,000 full-time employees in June 2024, its last annual report. According to Microsoft, the latest layoffs would remove less than 4% of that staff. However, it has had at least three layoffs this.

Minimum age for cab aggregator vehicles is 8 years

Delhi: All vehicles, including cars, buses, three-wheelers, and motorbikes, must be at least eight years old before aggregators like Rapido, Ola, and Uber may board. In updated regulations for aggregators, the road transport ministry stated that they must also adhere to goals established by state governments for the proportion of electric and zero-emission vehicles in their fleet. A driver's license and vehicle permit must be prominently placed on the back of the front seat next to the driver, as stated by the government, so that passengers may easily view them.



Although some jurisdictions already let private motorcycles and three-wheelers use aggregators, the regulation has been updated to explicitly include these vehicles in order to clarify things, as certain states do not permit bikes on these platforms.

According to the rules, aggregators must verify that "they are fit to be onboarded" by conducting a psychological evaluation of the drivers. It was stated that aggregators have no authority to forbid or limit on-board drivers from using

Center permits aggregators to use white board bikes for passenger rides

Delhi: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' 'Motor Vehicles Aggregator Guidelines 2025' aims to establish a light-touch regulation framework while addressing user safety and driver welfare. The guideline suggested that the state government allow aggregators to share non-transport motorcycles for passenger travel, reducing traffic congestion and vehicular pollution and providing affordable passenger mobility, hyperlocal delivery, and livelihood opportunities. The guideline states that the State government may allow passengers to travel on non-transport motorcycles under sub-section (3) of Section 67 of the Act. "The State government may, under sub-section (3) of



Total bids for three initial public offerings (IPOs) reached 22.5 billion rupees

Delhi: Nearly 22,500 crore rupees were raised in three separate initial public offerings (IPOs) that concluded. The combined target amount for all three was 2,562 crore rupees. According to data from the exchanges and merchant bankers, the 119 crore rupee IPO of Globe Civil Projects was subscribed 86 times, the 853 crore rupee IPO of Ellenbarrie Industrial Gases was subscribed 22 times, and the 1,590 crore rupee IPO of Mumbai-based real estate giant Kalpataru was subscribed 2.3 times.

impose fees on the aggregator for issuance of authorisations permitting non-transport motorcycles to undertake journeys through such aggregator, on a daily/ weekly/ fortnightly basis, as may be determined by the state government," noted.

Embark on the InvIT expressway with Gadkari's invitation to investors

Delhi: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will offer units valued at 25,000 crore in its infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) issue this fiscal year to retail investors. The state-run road builder is now pursuing ambitious goals, including the completion of the monetisation of over 50,000 crore worth of highway assets and the construction of 10,000 km of roadways. This ambitious endeavor aims to entice small investors to the highways. In its pursuit of higher-quality consultants, NHAI will also forgo



the habit of going with the lowest bidder when preparing highway detailed project reports (DPR). After all, a separate cadre would be formed by the NHAI subsidiary responsible for border road construction. According to Gadkari, the objectives

of the new regulations were to reduce India's logistics costs, which are currently over ten percent, and to construct infrastructure that meets international standards.

NCLAT reduces penalty on Google to 216 crore in Play Store matter

Delhi: Appellate tribunal NCLAT upheld the order passed by fair trade regulator CCI against Google for abusing its dominant position with respect to Play Store policies, however, reduced the penalty on the tech giant to 216 crore from 936.44 crore. A two-member bench comprising Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan and Technical Member Barun Mitra said Google "has abused its dominant position and has violated Section", however in some sections, violation was "not proved, but penalty was still leviable on proof of violation".

Small savings program interest rates unchanged

Delhi: For the fifth quarter, 2025, the government maintained interest rates on PPF and NSC. The rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter of FY 2025-26, starting on 1 April 2025 and ending on 30 June 2025, would stay unaltered from those notified for the fourth quarter of a finance ministry notification. The notification states that Sukanya Samridhhi deposits will earn 8.2% interest, while three-year term deposits will earn 7.1%. Popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) and post office savings deposit scheme interest rates remain at 7.1% and 4%, respectively. Kisan Vikas Patra investments mature in 115 months at 7.5%. National Savings Certificate (NSC) interest rates will stay at 7.7% for April-June 2025. Like the current quarter, investors will earn 7.4% from the Monthly Income Scheme. Small savings programs, mostly run by post offices and banks, have had the same interest rates for the sixth quarter.

Bank loan growth drops for eighth straight month in February, RBI data reveals

Delhi: Central bank statistics revealed that personal and credit card loans fell for the eighth straight month in February due to Reserve Bank of India tougher policies. Last month, banks' credit rose 12% year-over-year, slower than 16.6% a year earlier,

excluding HDFC Bank's merger. Housing Development Finance Corp. Loans rose 11% in February, compared to 20.5% a year earlier, including the merger. In January, loan growth fell to 12.5% excluding the merger and 11.4% including it. Retail

demand for unsecured loans drove strong loan growth for several years in the banking sector. However, in late 2023, the RBI tightened capital requirements for personal, credit card, and non-banking finance company loans. in its Mumbai headquarters.

Birla Co. recovers Rs 2 crore in stolen digital gold

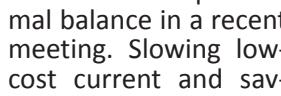
Delhi: Hackers breached the ABCD mobile app run by Aditya Birla Capital and stole digital gold valued at approximately Rs 1.95 crore from 435 user accounts, according to Delhi. On June 9, the scam was exposed after multiple consumers contacted the company's call center to express their dissatisfaction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

Delhi: After conversations with the finance ministry about the declining share of current and savings accounts in total deposits, public sector banks are reconsidering the requirement for minimum savings account balances. Since Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and Indian Bank have eliminated this rule, customers who fail to maintain the required amount will not be penalized. Finance ministry authorities may have questioned banks about penalizing clients



PSBs may waive minimum balance fines

account (Casa) deposits" Jan Dhan data reveals that many of these accounts were originally dormant, but balances climbed steadily, lenders said. Traditional public sector banks had lower balance requirements than private banks and waived Jan Dhan account requirements. Private banks waive minimum balance requirements on pay accounts and accounts with a relationship value threshold, which covers fixed deposits and other assets, in addition to Jan Dhan accounts.



who don't keep minimal balance in a recent meeting. Slowing low-cost current and savings account deposits raised concerns. RBI's financial stability report stated that "banks' liability profile is changing with the share of higher-cost term deposits and CDs growing compared to low-cost current account and savings

GST compensation fund likely to have 95k cr surplus

Delhi: They requested anonymity and stated the GST Council may determine how to use this extra compensation cess. Cess funds are used for a specified purpose and are levied in addition to taxes. These insiders claimed the GST Council, the top indirect



tax decision-making body, will meet before or after the Monsoon session of

Parliament, depending on member availability. They said the Council meeting is overdue and coming soon. Last December 21, the 55th GST Council met in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. They stated the Council will discuss tax rate rationalization, compliance

ease, and cess reform during its 56th meeting. The council may replace the GST compensation cess on sin goods and luxury commodities like cigarettes and cars with two specific-purpose levies to fund health and clean energy projects.

Jindals considered a reverse merger with Akzo to list paints

Delhi: After acquiring Dulux Paints, billionaire Sajjan Jindal aims to reversely combine JSW Paints with listed Akzo Nobel India to take it public. The Jindals will control the combined business, which will also include private equity investors and public stockholders. The Rs 13,336-crore Akzo Nobel India transaction was financed by private equity funds. Once listed, Jindal will have six publicly traded firms worth Rs 4.5 lakh crore. Jindal also plans to list JSW Cement (Shiva

Cement is already listed). "It (Akzo Nobel India) is a structured transaction where, at the time of the reverse merger, and based on the performance of the merged entity, their (private equity investors') capital would get converted to a stake in the merged entity," Parth Jindal, CEO of JSW

Paints, said. The transaction will be financed by JSW Paints internal accruals and promoter contributions of one-third each, in addition to private equity. Akzo will move JSW, which entered the decorative paints industry in 2019, to fourth after Kansai Nerolac, Berger Paints, and Asian Paints.

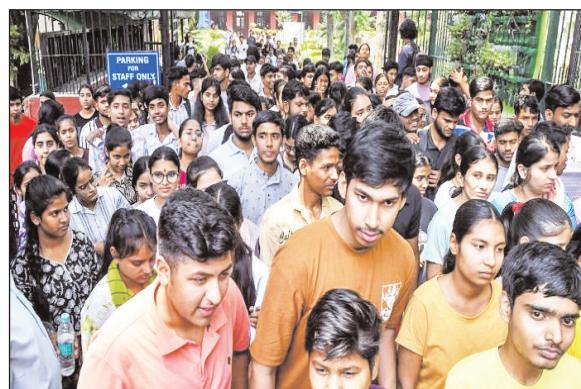


Personal, small biz loans prop bank credit growth

Delhi: Credit to small businesses and advances in the personal loans segment have helped keep the year-to-date growth in bank credit in positive territory. According to data on sectoral deployment of bank credit as of May 2025 released by Reserve Bank of India, overall bank credit grew 0.2% from end March 2025 levels. The growth over 12 months (year-on-year) was 9%. The sluggish growth in credit was because credit to large industries shrinking by 3.8% Rs 26.8 lakh crore - a drop of Rs 1.06 lakh crore from end March levels. Year on year credit to large industries was up 1% compared to 7.1% growth a year ago. Similarly, credit to the services segment fell by 1.4% to Rs 50.9 lakh crore, a drop of Rs 75,800 from end-March 2025. This was largely because of a 4.5% drop in bank credit to non-banking finance companies.

One candidate obtains 100% in four of five CUET-UG subjects

Delhi : The NTA released Common Entrance University Test-Under Graduate 2025 results on . NTA reports one candidate earned 100% in four of five subjects. As many as 17 individuals earned 100% in three subjects. A merit list will be created by participating universities and organizations. The NTA's CUET (UG)-2025 scorecard will guide university counseling. NTA prepared to host CUET (UG) - 2025 in CBT style for 13,54,699 unique registered applicants. Between May 13 and June 4, 2025, 10,71,735 candidates took the exam. Around 6.1 lakh people registered for the General category, while 4.75 lakh individuals competed. The OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) group followed with 4.4 lakh registered and 3.6 lakh appearing candidates.



Nearly 1.4 lakh SCs registered and 1.15 lakh appeared, while 84,000 STs registered and 62,000 appeared. About 60,000 of 73,000 EWS students took the exam. Male candidates numbered 7.1 lakh, with 5.5 lakh appearing. At least 6.5 lakh women registered, and 5.2 lakh appeared. Only five third-gender people registered, and only three took the exam. About 22.5% of male candidates and 19.1% of female candidates did not present for the exam. Male can-

Move to delete papers on Islam, China, and Pakistan cleared by DU panel

Delhi : The request to remove papers discussing Islam, Pakistan, China, and political violence from the post-graduate syllabus of Delhi University's Political Science department was approved by the department's top academic body. 'Pakistan and the World,' 'China's Role in the Contemporary World,' 'Islam and International Relations,' 'Pakistan: State and Society,' and 'Religious Nationalism and Political Violence.'

IP University to consider CUET scores for admission to PG courses in 2025-26 session



July 15. Detailed information is available on the university's official website. The courses open to CUET-based admissions include MBA, MCA (Software Engineering), MAMC, MPT (M/N/S/C), MSc in Environment Management, LLM, MA (English), MEd, MTech (CSG),

MTech (EG), MA (Economics), PG in Applied Geoinformatics, MSc in Yoga, Medicinal Chemistry and Drug Design, Bioinformatics, Molecular Diagnostics, Microbiology, MS in Packaging Technology, BED, and BEd in Special Education.

Delhi: Offering students greater flexibility and more opportunities, IP University will now consider CUET-PG scores for admission to 20 postgraduate programmes in the 2025-26 academic session. According to the university, once the merit lists from national-level entrance exams and the university's own admission tests are exhausted, seats in the respective programmes will be filled based on CUET scores. This provision applies to a wide range of courses, including MBA, MCA, MA and LLM. Candidates interested in applying through CUET can submit their applications online along with an application and counselling fee by

CBSE mandates that all schools begin language mapping



2025. The order is in line with NEP 2020, which places a premium on multilingual education as a means to promote equity, inclusion, and cognitive development. Ideally, a student's mother tongue or a familiar regional or state language should be the first language of literacy (R1), according to the CBSE. "Until students attain foundational literacy in another language, R1 must be used as the medium of instruction," CBSE cited NCF-2023 (Part C, page 239). The board recognized that

the state language might be used as R1 where the mother tongue is impractical owing to student diversity or a lack of written heritage. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made it clear that a child's native language shall serve as the medium of teaching during the Foundational Stage (from pre-primary to grade 2, ages 3-8). R1 fundamental literacy includes reading fluently, understanding texts, and writing short sentences expressing personal.

Four-Year UG Course at DU Allows Exit After 3 Years

Delhi: Delhi University has allowed Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) students to leave after three years and still receive a degree. A major step toward implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The Thursday notification allows students who have completed six semesters (three years) of the UG Curriculum Framework 2022 to depart. An Honours degree for single-core disciplines or a general degree for multi-core subjects will be awarded. It



says: "Students interested in availing the above option can log in to the university's student portal at <https://lc.uod.ac.in> and submit their intent through the designated online process." The institution advises students to "carefully evaluate their academic and career goals" and consult lecturers or mentors before leaving early. In

August, DU will commence the fourth and final FYUP year. The NEP 2020 program offers four-year undergraduate coursework with different entry and exit possibilities. Certificates (1 year), diplomas (2 years), and degrees (3 or 4 years) are awarded based on years completed. The fourth year offers research specialization.

The dual degree option at DU will help students learn more

Delhi: The University of Delhi (DU) now allows students to pursue two degrees simultaneously. DU students can enroll in one degree through the normal mode at any DU-affiliated college or department and a second through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) through the School of

Open Learning. This policy gives existing students the option to expand their academic horizons without choosing between conventional and distant education. It has restrictions, though. Even with normal and ODL enrollment, students cannot enroll in two identical degrees (such as

BCom Hons and BCom Pass). DU dual degree qualifying requirements are simple but require careful planning. Students must meet both degrees' academic requirements. Attending classes, completing assignments, and passing tests for each program.

City schools in Delhi must get smart classrooms and renovations ASAP, according to CM



Delhi: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has ordered the following: the rapid activation of two thousand smart classrooms; the provision of state-of-the-art science laboratories in every public school; the immediate restoration of crumbling educational infrastructure; and the rapid filling of open teaching positions in all city schools. Understanding her government's dedication to building a comprehensive and modern educational environment for kids in the capital, she also ordered upgrades to the entry gates of Thyagaraj and Chhatrasal stadiums.

At a high-level review meeting at the Delhi Secretariat, these directives were issued by the Chief Minister, who was meeting with senior officials of the Education Department to evaluate current infrastructure projects, examine staffing gaps, and devise plans to guarantee that all Delhi Government schools provide a quality education. "Our Government is working with full commitment on both resource and policy levels to ensure every child in Delhi, irrespective of their background, receives equal opportunity and world-class education," stated Governor Gupta following the meeting.

image.png

Sikh resistance during the Mughal period to be covered in DU's upcoming UG course

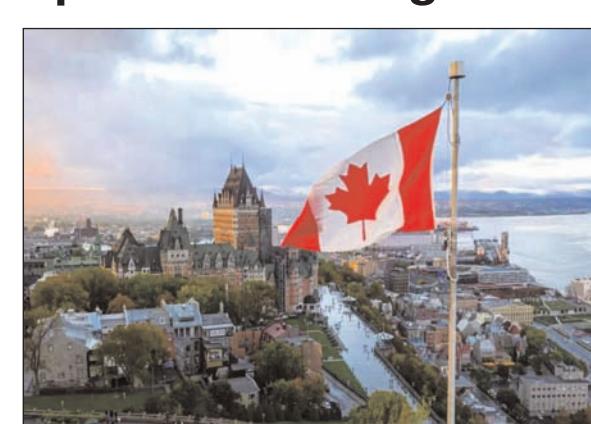


Delhi: The Sikh community arose in reaction to "religious persecution" and "state oppression" in the Mughal era and subsequent foreign invasions and Delhi University intends to institute a course on Sikh martyrdom for all undergraduates. The course covers the years 1500-1765 and shows how the Sikh identity developed via resistance events, such as the murder of Sikh gurus and the ascent of Sikh fighters like Banda Singh Bahadur.

Framework, 2022. At their meeting on July 5, the University's Academic Council will consider the course for approval. The highest decision-making body at DU, the Executive Council, has the last say. Course materials state that students will "throw light on the moral basis of emergent struggle by Sikhs to resist religious persecution" and "focus on the neglected social-religious history of martyrdom in the Indian context."

Indian students in Canada panic as Ottawa requests docs again

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



credentials at IRCC headquarters in person. "Many students are confused and worried." Indian students have made up a large portion of Canada's rising international student enrollment. The ministry of external affairs reports that Canada has 4.2 lakh Indian students, followed by the US with 3.3 lakh. The sudden email flood left pupils unsure about their future. "We chose Canada for its welcoming environment, but this unfair," said Adilabad-based business management student in British Columbia. Students want IRCC to clarify and resolve their concerns. For now, urge students to submit documents quickly to avoid difficulties." This measure looks to be part of Canada's broader attempt to reduce the number of international students," said Toronto immigration consultant Mehbub Rajwani. Caps and financial requirements send a message.

The government of Maharashtra says it would not pay for eggs for the midday meal

Delhi: The opposition vehemently criticized the decision, as Maharashtra became the latest BJP-ruled state to ban eggs from midday meals for students in grades 1 through 8. The school education department changed the list of foods served during midday meals in a government resolution this week, eliminating the inclusion of sugar and eggs. Rather, it instructed schools to serve nachni sattu and "egg pulao" as optional meals. Nonetheless, it stated that these things, as well as sugar for desserts, had to be organized by the general public without the need for further government support. The state has changed the list to adhere to the meal items prescribed by the Center, according to an official who defended the action. While some states use their own resources to offer eggs, the federal government, which provides 60% of the funding for midday meals, does not include them in its list. Goa and Madhya Pradesh recently banned eggs due to criticism from some groups. Aaditya Thackeray, a Sena (UBT) MLA, criticized the move and questioned why the government chose to substitute rice kheer and nachni sattu for eggs and sugar. He maintained that the interests of the populace, especially schoolchildren, are not served by the government.

The regulator met with the carrier to discuss restoring



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

reactivated in 15-21 months. "Overall, the airline anticipates it will take 18-24 months to bring all grounded planes back to service," source said. SpiceJet announced that it will lease seven planes to improve flying operations immediately while repairing grounded planes. It said the seven leased planes will join the fleet by November 15. Sources say the carrier's grounded jets will undergo Airbus and Boeing-mandated return-to-service (RTS) procedures. The DGCA will allow commercial passenger flights after the RTS process.

RTS is the procedure of restarting a grounded aircraft.

Maintenance, repairs, inspections, and regulatory compliance are required.

Change in rules marks discount broker turning point

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

Ola Electric violated consumer rights as a recipient of the govt.

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

service/repair delays are additional cited infractions. Old Electric is a FAME-II and PM E-DRIVE beneficiary under ARAI's eligibility requirements. Thus, MHI must get your opinions on the issue promptly "The ministry's letter to the testing centre stated. It further stated that under two EV incentive schemes, all OEMs, including Ola Electric, must maintain service centres to address consumer issues and provide warranties. Earlier, Union consumer affairs secretary and CCPA chief commissioner

Nidhi Khare confirmed that the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) has been receiving complaints for about a year. The company didn't answer problems effectively." CCPA can open a "class action" under the Consumer Protection Act if comparable complaints affect a 'class' of customers.' CCPA reported almost 10,600 complaints wheeler producer. The statute allows the CCPA to mandate recalls, price refunds, and the end of unfair and deceptive conduct. Sources.

Toyota Urban Cruiser Hyryder Festival Edition Launched

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

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

special launch, TKM is offering a complimentary package worth ₹50,817 for the customers opting for Urban Cruiser Hyryder Festival Limited Edition made available at dealerships across India until 31st October 2024. This exclusive package is available for the V and G grades of both the Neo Drive and Hybrid variants.

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

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

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

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

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



Delhi: According to a survey by CBRE South Asia, the real estate sector registered equity investments of \$8.9 billion (Rs 74,815 crore) in the first nine months of 2024, surpassing the increase of \$7.4 billion (Rs 62,210 crore) in 2023 and demonstrating a year-over-year rise of 46%. The Indian real estate market has experienced a massive boom, reaching its highest point since 2018. A significant quarterly equity investment totaling \$2.6 billion (Rs 21,857 crore) between July and September 2024 is highlighted in the report.

Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai drove this expansion, contributing 66 percent

of equity inflows in Q3 2024 with their respective subscriptions of \$0.96 billion (Rs 8,070 crore), \$0.40 billion (Rs 3,362 crore), and \$0.34 billion (Rs 2,858 crore). With capital inflows of \$0.31 billion (Rs 2,605 crore), \$0.27 billion (Rs 2,269 crore), and \$0.02 billion (Rs 1,681 crore), respectively, Delhi-NCR,

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

The Income Tax Department is set to revamp the e-filing ITR portal with substantial changes aimed at making it more user-friendly for taxpayers. Internal circular from the tax department dated October 8, 2024, which is not publicly available, "The operations phase of the existing Integrated e-filing and Centralised Processing Centre (IEC) 2.0 is coming to an end and the process of bringing in a new Project.

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



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

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

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



Delhi: Solar panel maker Waaree Energies is gearing up to float its initial share sale involving fresh issue of shares worth Rs 3,600 crore. The Mumbai-based company's Initial Public Offering (IPO) will conclude on 23 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on October 18,

Globe Civil Projects files draft papers with Sebi for IPO

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

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



280 kmph, marking a significant step forward in the country's high-speed rail journey. The trains will feature a fully air-conditioned, Chair Car configuration, offering modern passenger amenities such as reclining and rotatable seats, special provisions for passengers with restricted mobility, and onboard entertainment systems, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable travel experience.

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

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

Delhi: In the last five years, the average cost of newly constructed residential properties in India's top ten cities has increased by an astounding 88%, per a report released on Monday by real estate data analytics company PropEquity. The greatest increase in prices was seen in Gurugram, where average prices shot up 160% from ₹7,500 per square foot in 2019 to ₹19,500 per sq foot in 2024. Mumbai, on the other hand, saw the least gain over the same period, going from ₹25,820 per sq ft to ₹35,500 per sq ft, or 37%. Noida (146%), Bengaluru (98%), Hyderabad (81%), Chennai (80%), Pune (73%), Navi Mumbai (69%), Kolkata (68%), Thane (66%), and Mumbai are the next cities in terms of price growth after Gurugram. In the top 10 cities—Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Noida, and Gurugram—the survey examined 15,000 new launch projects that included flats, floors, and villas. In the past five years, real estate prices have increased dramatically in all major cities. The factors that have contributed to such a steep rise include the massive infrastructure development, the growing interest from NRIs, HNIs/UHNIs, and stock market gainer looking to create wealth and generate income through real estate investment, rising sentiments towards homeownership, and the general shift towards luxury/super luxury homes as a result of rising aspiration and affluence.

