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US tariffs looming, India looks at easing non-trade barriers, relaxing Chinese FDI

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Priyanka Chopra inspired by woman selling guavas on roadside, shares...



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Crucial READ

Rahul Gandhi gets 4 weeks time

Lucknow (Agency): The petition related to Rahul Gandhi's citizenship was heard in the Lucknow High Court on Monday. A division bench of Justice AR Masoodi and Justice Ajay Kumar Srivastava directed the state government to file a status report in four weeks. The government had sought 8 weeks' time. The next hearing will be on April 21. Earlier, the hearing was held in the court on 19 December 2024. A bench of Justice Rajan Roy and Justice Om Prakash Shukla had directed Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Suryabhan Pandey to obtain information from the Union Home Ministry in this matter.

Temperature reached 40 degrees in Rajasthan, 39 degrees in MP

New Delhi (Agency): The period of hailstorm, rain and storm in Madhya Pradesh stopped from Sunday. The mercury will increase for the next 3 days. The mercury can rise by 3 to 4 degrees. According to the Meteorological Department, the effect of the new system will be seen in the state from March 25-26. In Rajasthan, there is a possibility of slight fluctuations in temperature and clear skies due to the effect of north-eastern wind for the next three days.

Plane with Himachal deputy CM, DGP makes emergency landing in Shimla

New Delhi (Agency): Himachal Pradesh deputy chief minister Mukesh Agnihotri and state police chief Atul Verma were among the 44 passengers aboard the Delhi-Shimla Alliance Air flight that reported a technical glitch with the brakes during landing at Jubbarhatti airport on Monday morning. Airport officiating director KP Singh said all passengers are safe. "The aircraft took off from Delhi after routine inspection, and no issues were reported during the flight. Engineers are now inspecting the aircraft to determine the cause of the fault while landing." The pilot of flight number 9I821 from Delhi to Shimla reported the glitch during landing.

Only by staying connected to the roots, we can move ahead on the path of development: Chief Minister Dr. Yadav

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav honoured with Diamond State Award in New Delhi

Bhopal (Agency): Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the last one and a quarter years, the Madhya Pradesh government has established new dimensions of development by taking the heritage along, which gives him satisfaction. The state government is continuously working for the welfare of the poor, youth, women and farmers. On one hand, the payment of workers of Indore's Hukumchand Mill, which was pending for many years, has been completed, on the other hand, on the basis of cordial relations with the states, the 20-year-old Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal river linking project is also taking concrete shape. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, 8.5 lakh houses in urban areas of the state and about 36 lakh houses in rural areas have been inaugurated. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that only by staying connected to the roots, we can move ahead on the path of development. He



Vikramaditya managed the systems of governance with bravery, justice and generosity and established good governance by getting freedom from foreign invaders, which is the glorious heritage of the state. The introduction of Vikram Samvat is a part of this glorious tradition. Emperor Vikramaditya waived off the debt of the people in his state and made money available to the public without interest. With the aim of celebrating the various dimensions of his

expressed these views on Sunday in the Diamond States Summit program organized by a private news channel in Delhi. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that 2000 years ago, Emperor efforts, the state government will organize Vikramaditya Mahanatyia in Delhi from 12 to 14 April. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that Ujjain is the city of Mahakaal and time. Here the earth is tilted at 23.6 degrees which makes it the best place for time calculation. With the aim of making Ujjain the mean time of the world, a Vedic clock has been established here, which will restore the glorious tradition of Indian knowledge. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the state government is determined to include high ideals and ethics of life in the lifestyle. Religious tourism is being promoted in the state. The importance of education is being underlined under the new education policy by developing Maharishi Sandipani's ashram as a pilgrimage site. Adarsh Gokul Grams are being built by linking them to Lord Krishna, through which the target is to increase the state's share in the country's milk production from 9% to 20%. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the support price of wheat was Rs 94 per quintal in the year 1956 and Rs 600 in the year 2002-03, which has been increased to Rs 2600 today.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav released the Dharma Dhvaj of Emperor Vikramaditya and the booklet Bharat Ka Nav Varsh - Vikram Samvat



Before the meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, releasing the Vikramaditya Dhvaj and the booklet Bharat Ka Nav Varsh Vikram Samvat, he said in his address that the festival of Gudi Padwa will be celebrated with great enthusiasm on March 30 in the entire state, ministers should participate in the programs to be held in their districts on Gudi Padwa. Under the Vikram Mahotsav, special events are going to be held in New Delhi on 12-13-14 April, in which a grand drama centered on Emperor Vikramaditya will also be presented. The great drama centered on various aspects of Emperor Vikramaditya's personality and governance will also be presented in the major cities of the state. Along with this, a grand drama centered on Emperor Vikramaditya should also be presented on the occasion of sector-wise Investors Summit and other big events. While giving information about the booklet released by Chief Minister Dr. Yadav on Vikram Samvat, India's New Year, he said that the booklet contains detailed information about Vikram Samvat, time calculation system, ancient instruments, Vedic clock etc. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav highlighted the importance of dates, determination of festivals and celebrations and time calculation system under Vikram Samvat.



Operation underway in J&K's Kathua to neutralise terrorists found hiding in nursery

Jammu (Agency): An encounter ensued on Sunday after security forces confronted a group of terrorists hiding in a dense nursery after infiltrating from across the border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The intense firing between the two sides lasted for over half an hour in the evening, they said. The officials said the operation was launched following an intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists inside a 'dhok' — a local term for an enclosure — located within the nursery in Sanyal village, approximately five kilometres from the International Border with Pakistan. A police team from the Special Operations Group initiated a search operation after receiving the input and when the personnel entered the area, they came under heavy fire from the terrorists, leading to a gunfight. Reinforcements were swiftly dispatched to aid in the operation, as a manhunt was

launched to apprehend the terrorists, believed to have infiltrated on Saturday via either the ravine route or through a newly created tunnel. Despite the intense exchange of fire lasting nearly half an hour, there has been no report of any casualty, the officials said, adding that the cordon has been strengthened with the help of the additional forces. One of the inputs also suggested that two groups of 5-6 terrorists each infiltrated on Saturday. According to the officials, some village women collecting firewood reported seeing around five terrorists who had sought refuge in the expansive nursery area. A seven-year-old girl sustained minor injuries and was shifted to a local hospital. However, the circumstances leading to her injury were not clear immediately. Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat is personally monitoring the operations, the officials said.

India to face reciprocal tariffs on April 2: Donald Trump



New Delhi (Agency): Dampening prospects of a concession, US President Donald Trump said Thursday India will face reciprocal tariffs on April 2, a move likely to hurt India's exports of agricultural and pharmaceutical goods. These are among the products that have a high tariff differential with the US. "I have a very

good relationship with India, but the only problem I have with India is that they are one of the highest tariffing nations in the world. I believe they are probably going to be lowering those tariffs substantially, but on April 2, we will be charging them the same tariffs they charge us," This comes after commerce and industry ministry

officials earlier this week stated that India plans to engage with stakeholders and resolve all outstanding issues with the US in the bilateral trade agreement (BTA) both countries aim to sign by the end of the year. Sectors such as steel and aluminum are already feeling the impact of the 25 per cent tariffs imposed by the US on these metals and industry representatives have said that exporters worth \$5 billion are already facing the impact of the new tariffs. Moreover, the anti-dumping watchdog under the Commerce and Industry Ministry has proposed a 12 per cent duty on certain imported steel products that could drive up prices in the country.

Rambhadracharya gave an open challenge to those who oppose Manusmriti

Varanasi (Agency): Jagadguru Rambhadracharya participated in a lecture organized in the auditorium of the Faculty of Culture of Kashi Hindu University on Monday.



During this, while talking to the media, he gave an open challenge to those who oppose Manusmriti. He said that whoever has drunk his mother's pure milk should come and discuss with me.

Allahabad Lawyers On Justice Yashwant Varma Return

New Delhi (Agency): Allahabad High Court lawyers will go on an indefinite strike to protest the Supreme Court Collegium's decision to return to them Justice Yashwant Varma - the Delhi High Court judge from whose bungalow in the city a pile of burnt cash was reportedly recovered on Holi. Justice Varma - who today was taken off active duty - was previously an additional judge, and then a judge, at the Allahabad High Court, serving from 2014 till his transfer to Delhi in October 2021. "The Chief Justice has been requested not to transfer Justice Varma to the Allahabad High Court... no

court is a dumping ground. He should be in Delhi under watch of the Supreme Court



until proceedings are completed," Anil Tiwari, the President of the Allahabad High Court Bar Association, said. "...also, all judgments by Justice Varma should be reviewed to infuse public confidence again," he said, as he also called for an inquiry by the CBI and Enforcement

Directorate. This is the second time the Bar Association has opposed Justice Varma's transfer; last week, hours after news he might return, it declared the Allahabad High Court is not a "trash bin". Earlier today the Supreme Court issued orders for the transfer of Justice Varma. The switch - proposed March 20, shortly after the money was found - will go through once the centre greenlights the move. Responding to reports linking the discovery of the money and the judge's new posting - reports that invited questions about the transfer - the Supreme Court said one had nothing to do with the other.

The notification, issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, also increased the daily allowances for sitting members

Centre announces 24% salary hike, pension revision for MPs

New Delhi (Agency): The Centre on Monday announced a revision in the salary, pension and additional pension of Members of Parliament (MPs) and Ex-Members of Parliament notifying a 24 per cent hike in the salaries of the current MPs. The notification, issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, also increased the daily allowances for sitting members and pension and additional pension for every year of service over five



years for former members. The increase in the salary has been notified in the exercise of the powers granted under

the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act based on the Cost Inflation Index

specified in the Income Tax Act of 1961. The salary hikes come during the second leg of the budget session 2025 and just days after the Karnataka government's recent approval of a 100% salary increase for its chief minister, ministers, and MLAs. As per the Karnataka Ministers' Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, the Chief Minister's monthly salary will double from ₹75,000 to ₹1.5 lakh, while ministers' salaries will

increase by 108 per cent from ₹60,000 to ₹1.25 lakh. The Karnataka Ministers Salaries and Allowance (Amendment) Bill and the Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions and

Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2025 were passed amid chaos, without any discussion, as the opposition BJP protested against the 4 per cent reservation for Muslims in public contracts.

Here are the revised benefits for MPs:

- **Salary:** The monthly salary for MPs has been increased from ₹1,00,000 to ₹1,24,000.
- **Daily Allowance:** The daily allowance has been raised from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500.
- The pension for former members of Parliament has been increased from ₹25,000 per month to ₹31,000 per month.
- The additional pension for every year of service over five years has been increased from ₹2,000 per month to ₹2,500 per month.

BMC's action in Kunal Kamra case, team reached Habitat studio with hammer



Mumbai (Agency): Comedian Kunal Kamra said something about Maharashtra's Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, which is now creating a lot of uproar. Shiv Sena workers had vandalized 'Habitat Comedy Club' in Khar area of Mumbai on Sunday, where Kunal Kamra's program was shot. But this matter does not seem to stop now. Now in

this case, BMC team has reached the studio near Khar Police Station in Mumbai with a hammer. BMC officials have entered Uni Continental Studio. At present, there are indications that if illegal construction is found in the studio, action can be taken on it. BMC's Joint Commissioner Vinayak Vispute is present on the spot.

BRIEFS

The program will be held for three days from today on the theme of "U.P.- India's Growth Engine" on the completion of 8 years of the state

Staff Reporter
Banda. On March 27, on the occasion of completion of 8 years of the state government's policy of service, security and good governance, various programs will be organized on the theme of "Y.P.- India's Growth Engine" at Rani Durgavati Medical College in the district headquarters. Giving the above information, District Magistrate J.Ribha has said that similar programs will be organized in tehsil headquarters and development blocks. The said program, in which information about the important achievements / schemes of the government will be given, as well as the eligible beneficiaries of various schemes will also be benefited from the schemes. In the three-day program, cultural programs will also be organized with the cooperation of the Culture Department and like the district headquarters, programs will be organized at each Legislative Assembly and Development Block level. The program will be organized in the Medical College in the presence of Chief Guest Rajesh Verma, Chairman, Backward Classes State Commission and public representatives, in which distribution of materials to girl students under Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao scheme, distribution of laptops to students under Bal Seva scheme and certificates to the beneficiaries of Kanya Sumangala scheme and pension to destitute women will be done. The Department of Information and Public Relations, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow will inaugurate a three-day exhibition related to the important work and achievements done by the Central and State Government in the past years and important schemes and programs run by the government. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, grant distribution to eligible beneficiaries, Godh Bharai of pregnant women and Annaprasan of children, special short film on completion of eight years of the state government and short film based on Mahakumbh Prayagraj and cultural programs will be organized. Along with this, OSC vehicle will be flagged off under Mission Shakti. In the Medical College, the Chief Guest Cabinet Minister for Industrial Development and Export Promotion and Minister in charge of the district Nand Gopal Nandi will inaugurate the program with the public representatives and along with the release of the development booklet, various beneficiary schemes like Prime Minister and Chief Minister Housing Scheme, tablet distribution, distribution of appointment certificates to Anganwadi workers appointed in Anganwadi recruitment, distribution of grants under Chief Minister Youth Self Employment Scheme, Vishwakarma Labor Honor Scheme, Ujjwala Scheme and Farmer Accident Relief Programs, distribution of ration cards and other beneficiary schemes will be benefited. Loan distribution to the beneficiaries of PM Swanidhi Scheme, certificates to women of the group under National Urban Livelihood Mission, distribution of employment related certificates from labor schemes under labor welfare and distribution certificates of toilets to the beneficiaries under Swachh Bharat Mission and distribution of cheques and certificates to the beneficiaries of agriculture and horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, cooperatives by the Agriculture Department will be done. Under Seva Yojana, employment related certificates will be distributed to the beneficiaries, and under RSETI, training and employment related certificates will be distributed through LDM. On this occasion, information will be provided to the people through stalls of various departments and through cultural programs to give information about the remarkable and important works and schemes done by the Central and State Government in the past years.

The business leader demanded from the Chief Minister to install CCTV cameras in all the cities of the state

Staff Reporter
Banda. Uttar Pradesh Industry Trade Organization's state vice president and Chitrakoot Dham Mandal in-charge Vinay Chaurasia has demanded from the state's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to install CCTV cameras in the markets of all the cities and towns of the state. The state vice president said that he will send a letter to the Chief Minister through the organization's national president, former MP, former minister and senior BJP leader Naresh Aggarwal.

A theft case was registered on the orders of the Superintendent of Police

Staff Reporter
Sumerpur. On the instructions of the Superintendent of Police, the police station has registered a case of theft in a lawyer's house after 8 days and started investigation. In this, three unknown persons including a youth from the village have been named. On the night of March 17, unknown thieves escaped from the house of Advocate Ramkishun Yadav, resident of Simnaudi, after stealing gold and silver jewellery worth about 20 lakhs along with cash of 20 thousand. On March 18, the victim had submitted a complaint to the police and demanded to register a case. The police had put him off in the name of investigation. After this, the victim had submitted a complaint to the Superintendent of Police and demanded to register a case. In this complaint, the victim had accused Dharmendra alias Dhannu of the village and three unknown persons of committing the theft. The Superintendent of Police had given instructions to register a case. On the instructions of the Superintendent of Police, SHO Anup Singh has registered a case by naming Dharmendra alias Dhannu.

A young man troubled by the harassment of bullies went on hunger strike

Staff Reporter
Hamirpur. Troubled by the extortion being demanded by land mafias and history-sheeter goons of the area, including Maudha town, and the sale deed of land being done through pressure, the victim had given a complaint letter to all the senior officials and requested for action, but after no action was taken, the victim youth has started a hunger strike at the round platform located at the district headquarters. Kamruddin son of Rafiullah,

resident of Mohalla Upraos of Maudha town, had made a written complaint to the officers up to the divisional level against land mafia, strongman and history sheeter criminal Muinuddin Jammu, Aftab along with his associates Saeed Uddin, Danish Iqbal and Sabara Parveen, resident of Hussainia, Virendra Kumar of Sijnauda for pressuring him to get the land registered in the name of fake agreement during the stay of the High Court, extorting money in the

form of rent, not allowing to harvest the standing crop and threatening to kill him, but due to lack of action, the courage of the strongmen increased further, due to which the victim youth, hurt, started a fast at the round platform located at the district headquarters. The victim Kamruddin said that he has started a fast from Monday morning, which will end only after action is taken and if action is not taken, then he will declare and convert this fast into a fast unto death.

Mother and son mysteriously disappeared, complaint to the area officer

Staff Reporter
Maudha. A married woman who had gone to her maternal home on Holi mysteriously disappeared along with her innocent child while returning to her in-laws' house, on which the married woman's husband has appealed for justice by giving a complaint letter to the Circle Officer against the named accused. Brajesh son Jagram, a resident of Mahera of Binwar police station area,

told in the complaint letter given to the Circle Officer that his wife Rachna had gone to her maternal home Kharela during Holi with her five-year-old son and was returning on March 20, when she disappeared on the way. The woman's husband told that he had made a named complaint against Israr regarding this matter, but after that his wife called Raju son unknown, a resident of Artara Chauraha of Maudha,

from a mobile number, on which his wife was saying that save me, my life is in danger, with this the phone got disconnected. On which the victim has also suspected Raju's hand in his wife's disappearance. In this regard, police station in-charge Binwar told that he was out for three days, so he is not aware of any such case, but if there is such a case then for investigation. Action will be taken later.

Due to unknown reasons, a poor labourer's house was burnt to ashes, causing loss of lakhs



Staff Reporter
Jaspura. A sudden fire broke out in Khaptiha Khurd village of Thana Jaspura area on Sunday, due to which goods worth lakhs of rupees in four residential houses were burnt to ashes. In this incident, the house of poor laborer Rambabu Nishad was completely burnt to ashes. This fire, which broke out due to unknown reasons, also destroyed 16 bigha sharecropping crop, which included wheat (18 quintals), peas (17 quintals), mustard (1 quintal) and jewelry worth

about Rs 320,000. Apart from this, cash worth Rs 2,33,000 was also destroyed. Rambabu, who suffered from this disaster, now has nothing left to eat. Rambabu, who had gone to work as a laborer with his wife Rekha, his four small children had also gone to school, due to which there was no one in the house. By the time Rambabu got the news of the fire, his house had been burnt to ashes. Rambabu says that now he has no property left and he has become dependent even

A blood donation camp was organized in the memory of martyrs Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev



Staff Reporter
Banda. On the occasion of 94th Martyrdom Day of Rajguru, Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev, a huge blood donation camp was organized in District Hospital Banda under the aegis of Savers of Life Banda under the banner of NIFA. In which the blood donation camp was inaugurated by Rajesh Kumar Verma, Additional District Magistrate Finance and Judicial. In the said blood donation camp, Raja Yadav, Ashok Yadav, Hitendra Singh, Sanskar Israni, Vijay Kumar Soni etc. blood donors expressed their condolences by donating blood on Martyrdom Day. Chief Medical Superintendent Dr. SD Tripathi, Ankit

Singh Blood Bank Incharge, Savers of Life President Salman Khan, Advisor/Media Incharge Sunil Saxena, Abhay Singh, Ansar Siddiqui, Aamir Khan, Asif Ansari, Mithun Puruswani, Shubham Puruswani, Rajat Saxena, Javed, Shaswat, Anwar Raza Ranu, Pramod Dwivedi, Pramod Yadav, Naushad etc. active blood donors of the district including employees of District Hospital Blood Bank participated in the camp. We wish a bright future for all the blood donors who save lives by donating blood whenever required from time to time because blood donation is a great donation and there can be no greater donation than this.

Water is not reaching even after drinking water supply has started

Staff Reporter
Sumerpur. People are upset due to non-availability of water in 200 houses under Namami Gange Yojana in the hamlets of Patyora village. While laying the pipeline, chambers were not made on slopes and elevated places. Due to which the taps of the connections installed under the project in the elevated area are dry. Rahul Prajapati, Brijesh, Lallu, Ramesh, Rameshwar, Pratap Chandra, Madan, Surendra, Ramprakash, Rambabu, Rambharose, Mathura, Saroj, Gokul etc. of Prajapati Mohalla of Patyora village said that it is the misfortune of this locality that since the supply of drinking water started in the village, they have not got water till date. They told that Jal Nigam had built a water tank in the village about 20 years ago. Its water also never reached the locality and now the

supply of Namami Gange is also not reaching their locality. Due to which they have to resort to hand pumps and wells for drinking water. Villagers say that negligence has been committed while laying the pipeline. Valves have not been installed by making chambers to supply water to sloping and elevated areas. Villagers told that water is not reaching more than 200 houses in the entire village. Water is not reaching about 98 houses in Majra Shivrampur of the village, about 70 houses in Prajapati Mohalla and about 48 houses in Majra Maliha Talab. The villagers have demanded from the officials to supply water to their houses. Junior Engineer of the project Shashank Mishra said that valves are installed. Villagers have never complained. The valves will be checked and adjusted.

Demand for formation of 'Pan Vikas Advisory Board' intensifies in UP

➤ **Strong struggle of Chaurasia community over problems of betel farmers**

Staff Reporter
Pratapgarh, Patti. In a meeting of Chaurasia community held at the tehsil headquarters, Dr. Rishi Chaurasia, provincial president of All India Adarsh Chaurasia Mahasabha, raised the problems of betel farmers strongly. Dr. Rishi Chaurasia, who came from Lucknow, said that the basis of livelihood of lakhs of families in Uttar Pradesh is betel cultivation, but till now no government has taken concrete steps for its protection and development. He reiterated the demand for formation of 'Pan Vikas Advisory Board' in Uttar Pradesh on the lines of Madhya Pradesh and said that the struggle of Chaurasia community will continue till

➤ **Problems of 55k betel farmers of Pratapgarh discussed**

this demand is not met. Dr. Chaurasia warned that if needed, a sit-in demonstration will be held in

apprised him of the basic problems of the betel farmers of the district. The District President said that more than



every district of the state demanding the formation of the board. During the meeting, District President Shivkumar Chaurasia gave a grand welcome to the Provincial President and

55 thousand betel farmers are affected in Pratapgarh district alone. He regretted that the local public representatives do not even try to understand the problems of the betel

farmers. Referring to former minister Moti Singh, he said that he was the only one who raised this issue in the Assembly, after which the farmers could get compensation for the betel crops dried due to cold. Prominent people of Chaurasia community including Rampati Chaurasia, Kedarnath Chaurasia, Sureshchandra Chaurasia, Brahmadin Chaurasia, Amit Chaurasia, Ram Kewal Chaurasia, Ram Asare Chaurasia, Surendra Kumar Chaurasia, Mahendra Kumar Chaurasia, Kripa Shankar Chaurasia, Vidya Sagar Chaurasia, Rajendra Prasad Chaurasia, Ravindra Chaurasia, Bhanu Chaurasia, Ramnarayan Chaurasia and Ranjit Kumar Chaurasia were present in the meeting.

BRIEFS

Rupee opened 12 paise stronger at 85.86 against the dollar



Mumbai (Agency). On Monday, the first trading day of the week in the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 85.93 against the dollar. Then it rose slightly to 85.86 per dollar, showing a rise of 12 paise from the previous closing price. Rupee closed at 85.98 against the US dollar on Friday. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which shows the position of the US dollar against six major currencies, rose 0.06 percent to 104.15. According to stock market data, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were buyers on Friday and bought shares worth a net Rs 7,470.36 crore.

Boeing laid off 180 employees in India

New Delhi (Agency). US aircraft manufacturer Boeing has laid off 180 employees of its Engineering Technology Center in Bengaluru. A source gave this information. Boeing, which is facing many challenges globally, has about 7,000 employees in India. Last year, Boeing announced layoffs of about 10 percent of its employees globally. A source said that as part of the reduction in the number of employees globally, Boeing has laid off 180 employees of its Boeing India Engineering Technology Center in Bengaluru in the December quarter of 2024. There has been no official statement from Boeing in this regard. The source said that the company is trying to ensure that this layoff does not affect its operations with its customers and the government. In view of this, the company has made strategic adjustments, which have affected a limited number of positions.

Elon Musk's chatbot created a ruckus on social media in India

New Delhi (Agency). Elon Musk's AI chatbot Grok has caused a ruckus on social media in India. The reason for this was the spoken language of the chatbot, in which it used Hindi slang (abuse language). The matter started when a user asked Grok about the 10 best mutuals on X. When the chatbot did not answer immediately, the user used abusive words in anger. In response to this, Grok also replied in Hindi slang, due to which the matter escalated. This answer of the chatbot went viral on social media and people started raising questions on the behavior of AI. The debate started on whether AI should copy the user's language exactly? Meanwhile, India's Electronics and IT Ministry intervened in this matter.

Mahindra announces 3 percent increase in vehicle prices



Mumbai (Agency). Mahindra & Mahindra announced a price hike across its entire range of SUVs and commercial vehicles. The company will increase the prices of vehicles by up to 3 percent. The company said that the new prices will be effective from April 2025. This is due to the increase in input costs and commodity prices. M&M said that efforts were made to bear the increased cost to a large extent, but now it was necessary to pass a part of it to the customers. The company said in an official statement that the price hike is based on different models of SUVs and commercial vehicles. The company recently announced that its total auto sales in the month of February stood at 83,702 units including exports. In the utility vehicles segment, Mahindra sold 50,420 SUVs in the domestic market and sold a total of 52,386 vehicles including exports. Domestic sales of commercial vehicles stood at 23,826 units. Mahindra & Mahindra's tractor sales also saw a jump in February. Domestic tractor sales in February 2025 stood at 23,880 units, up from 20,121 units sold in February 2024. The company exported 1,647 tractors in February 2025, taking total tractor sales to 25,527 units as against 21,672 units in the same period last year. Before Mahindra & Mahindra, other major auto companies of the country have also announced price hikes. These include Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai Motor India, Kia, Honda and Tata Motors. Luxury car brands like BSW are also going to increase prices from next month.

3 smartphones of Samsung are available in low budget

New Delhi (Agency). 3 smartphones of smartphone maker Samsung are available in low budget. The price of these smartphones starts from Rs 7,499 and they have a powerful battery, big display and great camera. The special thing is that these phones come with RAM Plus feature, which can increase the RAM up to 12GB. Samsung Galaxy M05 is the most affordable model, priced at Rs 7,499. It comes with 4GB RAM and 64GB storage, which can be increased to 8GB with RAM Plus feature. It has a 6.7-inch HD Plus display and 50MP primary camera. It has an 8MP front camera for selfie. The battery of the phone is 5000mAh, which supports 25W fast charging. Samsung Galaxy M05 is priced at Rs 8,599 and comes



with 6GB RAM and 128GB storage. It has a MediaTek Helio G85 processor. The phone's 6.7-inch display supports 60Hz refresh rate.

Samsung Galaxy M06 5G is priced at Rs 9,199. This phone comes with Dimensity 6300 chipset and supports 12 5G bands. It has 4GB RAM plus 128GB storage, which can be expanded with RAM Plus. 50MP primary sensor and 2MP depth sensor have been given for photography. It has an 8MP front camera for selfie. Its battery is 5000mAh and it supports 25W fast charging. These phones can prove to be a great option with powerful processor, long battery life and excellent camera in low budget. For photography, it has a 50MP main camera and an 8MP selfie camera. To power it, a 5000 mAh battery has been provided, which supports 25 W fast charging.

Boeing lays off 180 employees in Bengaluru amid global workforce reduction



New Delhi (Agency): American aircraft maker Boeing laid off around 180 employees at its engineering technology centre in Karnataka's Bengaluru as part of a global workforce reduction exercise. The development comes in lines with Boeing's announcement last year of reducing global workforce of around 10 per cent. Boeing has around 7,000 employees in India, a key market for the company.

The source cited in the report said up to 180 staff at the Boeing India Engineering Technology Center in Bengaluru were laid off in the December quarter of 2024. There was no official statement from Boeing. The above-mentioned source said “strategic adjustments” were made affecting limited positions while ensuring no adverse impact on customers or government operations. The source said that some

roles were removed and some new positions have also been created, adding that reductions in India have been more measured, with a clear focus on maintaining customer service, safety, and quality standards. The Boeing India Engineering & Technology Center (BIETC) in Bengaluru and Chennai carries out complex advanced aerospace work. The company's wholly-owned engineering and technology campus in Bengaluru is one of its largest investments outside the US. Boeing's sourcing from India is at around \$1.25 billion annually from a network of more than 300 suppliers, as per its website.

House panel flags variance in Railways’ line doubling project data: ‘Nearly 74% fund spent but physical progress is just 39%?’

New Delhi (Agency): The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways has flagged the disparity over the total expenditure and physical progress of the works being done under the doubling of railway lines, one of the key projects of the railways to increase the capacity and remove traffic bottlenecks. The committee said that while the financial utilisation or the total amount spent on the doubling of railway lines up to December 2024 (for financial year 2024-25) was 74 per cent of the budget, the physical achievement was merely 39 per cent of the target. “Regarding doubling projects, the committee found that against a target of 2,900 km, only 1,134 km (39.10 per cent) was achieved during 2024-25 (up

to December 2024). While the Budget Estimate (BE) for doubling was Rs 29,312 crore, it was revised upward



at the Revised Estimate (RE) stage to Rs 31,036.86 crore, with actual utilisation reaching Rs 22,918.57 crore (73.85 per cent of RE) (up to December 2024)... The Committee would like to be apprised of the factors leading to this disparity,”

said the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways in its report on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Railways, which was presented in Lok Sabha on March 10, 2025. The panel said that the railways should exercise due diligence in identifying and addressing obstacles to ensure seamless project

execution. “This includes streamlining land acquisition, expediting clearances, and leveraging modern construction technologies to facilitate the timely completion of doubling projects, thereby effectively reducing traffic congestion. The committee also expects the Railways to ensure full utilisation of the budget sanctioned and achievement of the physical targets set for doubling of lines in 2024-25,” the report stated. There are a total of 261 doubling or multi-tracking projects of a total length of 19,570 km across the Indian Railways, which are in planning, approval and construction stage. Out of this, 6,218 km has been commissioned. According to data from the Ministry of Railways, the

Indian Railways completed a doubling of 3,185.5 km of railway line out of a target of 1,700 km during 2022-23. In 2023-24, the railways completed the doubling of 2,244 km lines out of a target of 2,800 km. The target for railway line doubling in the upcoming financial year 2025-26 is 2,600 km at the cost of Rs 32,000 crore. The total expenditure incurred in doubling railway lines during 2022-23 and 2023-24 was Rs 30,043 crore and Rs 36,806 crore, respectively. Apart from railway line doubling, new lines, gauge conversion and track renewals are among the key projects being undertaken by the Indian Railways to remove the traffic congestion and ensure timely movement of trains with high carrying capacity.

US tariffs looming, India looks at easing non-trade barriers, relaxing Chinese FDI

On the investment front, there are indications the Indian side is now open to allowing inflows from Beijing as a countermeasure to the widening trade deficit between the two countries.

Mumbai, New Delhi (Agency): WITH SOME dialling down of tensions between India and China along the border, policy makers are more open to upgrading bilateral economic relationships now. It is being viewed as an opportune time, particularly when US President Donald Trump is pushing India to the corner on reducing tariffs and forcing it to agree to terms set by Washington, especially on tariffs. According to sources aware of developments, discussions are on between departments to dilute or neutralise some of the restrictions on trade and investments that were put in place five years ago after clashes between Chinese and Indian soldiers in Galwan in 2020. Some of these proposals have gained traction following industry demands, and include low hanging economic outcomes such as easing of visa restrictions for

Chinese personnel and lifting some tariff and non-tariff barriers on imports of consignments. Some Chinese apps may be allowed again too, they said. Resumption of flights and issuance of visas to Chinese scholars are proposals already on the cards, the sources said. On the investment front, there are indications the Indian side is now open to allowing inflows from Beijing as a countermeasure to the widening trade deficit between the two countries. Despite the many restrictions as on date, trade flows continue to be remarkably in favour of China. Here, New Delhi may consider relaxing the Centre's 2020 policy which requires approval by the Centre for investment from companies in countries that share land borders with India. At least two sources who are aware of discussions, there is a growing view in India that entering into a visibly closer

dialogue with China on normalising business relations could send out a signal to the US and likely act



as a potential hedge. A presentation is learnt to have been recently made by the Finance Ministry in favour of opening up some of the restrictions earlier this fiscal. Queries sent to the Ministry of Finance, as well as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of External Affairs, did not elicit a response.

Easing non-tariff barriers on the table could be BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) certification made

mandatory for imports from China, including on electronic and IT products, and other items under the ambit of the increasing number of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) issued by Ministry of Commerce, the sources said. “The rapprochement with China on business ties is inevitable, especially in the post Trump

era. It's just a question of time, but the way it'll be done is a subject of internal debate within the government. Removal of trade and non-trade barriers is anyway an industry demand, especially from the small and medium enterprises segment,” a source said. Besides, the government may also ease the visa policy for Chinese workers/ technicians involved in infrastructure projects by virtue of import of heavy infra equipment and their installation and operations. Over the last few years, the Indian government tightened its review process for visa extensions to Chinese individuals working in India. “Since, we're anyway being forced to bring down tariffs (to accommodate the Trump administration), it only makes eventual sense to ease up tariff and non tariff barriers, especially on inputs and products not manufactured in India at scale. So the view in the

government is that while there will not be anything done to actively incentivise trade with Chinese, some of the disincentives can be removed. For this too, Indian industry has been making a pitch. This could include revoking total bans and restrictions on consignment from China at Indian ports,” the source said. It is not just India but China too that is keen on restoring trade ties with India. For the growing trade deficit, Beijing has proposed investment flows from Chinese companies, the sources said. Another source said, “The talks have been on for some time and the relaxations may be announced over the coming weeks. It will in a way also give a signal to Washington that India can start doing business with China again.” External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said in London early March that “Trump's America first policy suits India as it leads

to a multipolar world.” Bilateral trade between India and China in FY24 stood at \$118.40 billion. According to the latest data from the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), China has once again become India's top trading partner in FY24, surpassing the United States after a two-year gap. In FY24, China had a 15 per cent share in India's total imports. India imported goods worth \$675.42 billion from the world, including goods worth \$101.74 billion from China. On the other hand, China occupied only the 22nd position in FDI equity inflows into India, with a cumulative FDI of \$2.5 billion from April 2000-September 2024. Growth in bilateral investment has not kept pace with the expansion in trading volumes between the two countries, and there is appetite in Beijing to step up investment flows, sources said. There could be some accommodation on the Indian side, going forward.

Gold fell after a strong start, silver shined



New Delhi (Agency). On Monday, the first day of the trading week, gold and silver futures trading started with a rise. But later the gold prices slowed down. Gold futures were trading at Rs 87,750, while silver prices were trading at Rs 98,150. In the international market, the futures price of gold and silver is seeing a rise. Gold futures started with a rise. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the benchmark April contract of gold opened at Rs 87,786 with a rise of Rs 8. The previous closing price was Rs 87,778. However, at this time it was trading at Rs 87,740 with a decline of Rs 38. Silver futures also started with a rise. The benchmark March contract of silver on MCX opened at Rs 98,179 with a gain of Rs 295. The previous close price was Rs 97,884. At this time, it was trading at Rs 98,172 with a gain of Rs 288. The futures prices of gold and silver started with a gain in the international market today. Gold opened at \$3,027.60 per ounce on Comex. The previous close price was \$3,021.40 per ounce. At this time, it was trading at \$3,027.80 per ounce with a gain of \$6.40. The futures prices of silver on Comex opened at \$33.54; the previous close price was \$33.48. At this time, it was trading at \$33.69 per ounce with a gain of \$0.21.

NSE starts electronic settlement of unlisted shares



New Delhi (Agency). The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) on Monday started electronic settlement of trades of its unlisted shares. NSE recently said that Central Depository Services India Limited (CDSL) will simplify these

transactions by replacing the manual process. Despite this change, NSE said that its shares will remain unlisted, which means that they will not be publicly traded on any stock exchange. NSE said that this decision will comply with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Board of India. It is worth noting that unlisted shares are privately held shares of a company, which do not have a market value on any public stock exchange. These include shares of startups or early-stage firms, large but not listed companies like NSE and delisted companies.

OPINION

Why Bangladesh found Tulsi Gabbard’s comments so inflammatory

Tulsi Gabbard is no stranger to making uncomfortable statements. Since becoming the first Hindu-American member of the US Congress, she has repeatedly spoken out against the US government’s funding of jihadist groups in the Middle East and introduced the Stop Arming Terrorists Act in 2016. Citing WikiLeaks documents—at a time when WikiLeaks was already non-grata in the US—she criticised her government’s regime-change policy in Syria. Gabbard even called for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange’s pardon. None of these actions won her popularity within US political circles, but she never appeared to speak for political expediency. Gabbard’s recent comments on Bangladesh have sparked outrage in the country, and are considered highly inflammatory. Given that she is usually somewhat well-versed about the topics she discusses, the backlash has been even more intense. Her allegation that the persecution, killing, and abuse of minorities in Bangladesh have been longstanding issues and that the “threat of Islamic terrorists” in the country is “rooted” in the “ideology and objective” of establishing an Islamist caliphate, is entirely baseless. Moreover, she did not provide any evidence or facts to support her claim—an unusual approach for her. No one familiar with Bangladesh would claim that communalism is nonexistent in the country. However, Bangladesh remains one of the least communalistic countries in a region where the British perfected their divide-and-rule strategy, rooted in inciting communal tensions—especially compared to India, Pakistan, Myanmar, and Afghanistan. Despite this, since the fall of the Awami League (AL) government on August 5, 2024, some segments of the Indian media and social media have claimed that minorities — especially Hindus — have been “systematically” targeted in Bangladesh. Many of these reports were misleading, distorted, or outright false. After Sheikh Hasina’s ouster, Bangladesh lacked effective law enforcement from August 5 to August 8, 2024. There were attacks on minorities, but most of them were politically motivated, not communally driven. People who were outraged by the brutality under the AL regime carried out retaliatory attacks against those connected to the former government—some of whom belonged to minority communities, just as some belonged to the Muslim majority. The Muhammad Yunus-led government not only condemned such attacks but also initiated appropriate legal actions. It has even invited journalists from around the world to visit Bangladesh and see firsthand what is really happening. Yet, the misinformation campaign against Bangladesh continues and people like Tulsi Gabbard appear to be falling for it. What is particularly disturbing about her comments is that, by suggesting Bangladesh is heading towards an Islamic caliphate system, she completely ignored the great sacrifices made by Bangladeshis to oust Hasina’s authoritarian government, and to restore democracy. After months of work, a UN Fact-Finding Mission found that Hasina’s government had killed as many as 1,400 people during the July uprising in 2024. It stated, “The prime minister herself told security force officials to kill protesters to quell the protests and specifically demanded, ‘arrest the ringleaders of the protests, the troublemakers, kill them, and hide their bodies.’” This is just a glimpse of the savagery carried out by Hasina’s AL during its 15 years in power. On August 4, the day before Hasina’s ouster, I, along with 100 colleagues, witnessed firsthand from inside our office building how Chhatra League goons, standing right beside the police, shot and killed between 4 and 6 unarmed protesters, while their comrades rushed to carry them to safety.

A report about democratic backsliding in Europe has lessons for India

Ramvilas Sharma

Annual reviews of the health of democracy, such as the V-Dem survey, have been a cause of considerable anxiety in India, as they chart embarrassing “democratic backsliding”. Top government officials, including Home Minister Amit Shah, and the Minister for External Affairs, S Jaishankar, echo the view common to Indians that their democracy is doing very well — Indians register among the highest scores for satisfaction with their democracy — and dismiss claims of backsliding as yet another instance of the cultural imperialism of “the West”. As reassurance to the public, to the world, and to itself, the Modi government makes frequent statements about its commitment to democracy. It would be interesting to speculate, then, how the recent Rule of Law 2025 Report by the Civil Liberties Union of Europe (popularly known as Liberties) may be received in India. The Liberties report surveys the state of democracy in its 18 member countries along six dimensions. On justice, it finds that political manipulation has negatively affected the judicial process across these countries, with states ignoring human rights law to the detriment of vulnerable social groups. Citizens’ trust in government has declined as they

are convinced that high-profile cases of corruption, involving influential people, are inadequately prosecuted. Media freedom is undermined as public broadcasters are increasingly seen as toeing the government line, harassment of dissenting and alternative media



has increased, and funding and ownership of media remain opaque and, therefore, suspect. Formal checks and balances in policy-making have been undermined as ruling parties, following promises made to electorates, have gone for fast-tracking legislation without adequate oversight and scrutiny. At the same time, governments have avoided accountability, and electoral integrity has been called into question as digitally manipulated political material and fake news have become common. Civic space has constricted as political parties, including those in power, have attacked NGOs,

slashed their funding and tried to criminalise and securitise protests, using both heavy-handed policing and changes to the law. Hostility, hate speech and discrimination and exclusion aimed at migrants, refugees, ethnic minorities and LGBTQA+ people have rendered their human rights less secure. The Report claims that with the exception of Estonia, the Czech Republic and Poland, its other member countries have mild to severe risks to their democracy. Netherlands, Ireland, Greece and Malta come next. But remarkably, Belgium, Germany, France and Sweden, countries that often presume to speak for the defence of democracy elsewhere, are reported as showing tendencies of the decline of democracy and the rule of law, with Italy faring even worse, placed in a category including Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Slovakia. Bringing up the rear is

Hungary, whose democratic health and the state of the rule of law are noted to be so bad that, were it to apply to enter the European Union today, it would be denied entry. One way Indians could read this rather damning report is to take quiet satisfaction that while the EU lectures India on its democratic backsliding, its own member countries can be criticised for much the same. Officially, it gives the Indian establishment — not only Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ministers and officials, but also its legions of sympathetic media personalities and social media troll armies and influencers — important ammunition for pushback when cornered by sharp questions on the health of Indian democracy and the rule of law. But this schadenfreude also undermines the Indian position that Indian democracy should be judged on its own terms, as distinct from democracies of “the West”, as a place of not too little but, as Amitabh Kant, former CEO of the NITI Aayog, famously said, of “too much democracy”. A reading of the report that says “we are all in the same boat” of democratic backsliding cancels the demand to be judged on criteria that are outside that boat. This report should prompt an abandonment of the defensive claims of exceptionalism, and give way to the demand that the standards by which Indian

Judiciary scorched by the flames of fire in judge's house

Fire broke out in the house of Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Verma when he had gone to Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal to celebrate Holi on leave. On the day of Holi, fire broke out in the store room of his residence in Delhi. This incident did not come to light for many days. After many days, the incident of fire was published on the front page of a national newspaper. Then there was an uproar. The fire was extinguished, but the spark buried in the cold ashes of the fire in the judge's house raised such flames that the entire judiciary started burning blazingly after getting caught in it. Justice Yashwant Verma says that a conspiracy has been hatched against him. The place where the fire broke out is a store room. Which is quite far from his residence. There are outhouses near this store room. Junk like items were kept in the store. People working in the bungalow used to come and go there daily. When he returned, there were no signs of notes there. Nor was he told anything about the notes at that time. Justice Yashwant Verma is calling it a conspiracy. The way this

case has been revealed in the media, the way the media is digging up Justice Verma's past and bringing it to the fore. The way this case was kept confidential. After many days, different statements are coming from the fire brigade. Delhi Police has maintained silence. The government has also maintained complete silence. The media is publishing news about Justice Verma's house having cash ranging from Rs 15 crore to Rs 50 crore. Who counted the notes, who seized the notes, when did Delhi Police inform whom. When did Delhi High Court inform the Supreme Court. When did the Supreme Court get the information. When did the Supreme Court call a meeting of the collegium. The kind of silence that all parties have maintained in all these cases. Due to this, the credibility of the judiciary is being torn to pieces on the streets. The kind of pressure that the central government has been putting on judges for the last few years, from appointment of judges, transfer-posting to the formation of collegium. The kind of tension that

has been seen from time to time between the collegium and the government. The kind of pressure that the government is putting on the judiciary at present, the kind of pressure that senior advocate Prashant Bhushan is putting on the judges of the Supreme Court and other judiciary. There has been a period of allegations and counter-allegations from time to time regarding this. The kind of decisions that have come before the Supreme Court and the High Court in the cases of Babri Masjid, Pegasus, Election Commission, Delhi Government, Bofors Hindenburg and others during the tenure of former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Ranjan Gogoi and former Chief Justice DY Chandrachud. The functioning of the judiciary has been criticized from time to time regarding that. Recently, the relationship between Justice Yashwant Verma and former Chief Justice DY Chandrachud is being linked with bringing him from Allahabad High Court to Delhi. The investigation of the sugar factory in which Yashwant Verma was the director, which was being

investigated by the CBI, was stopped by Chandrachud's order. All these facts are tarnishing the credibility of the judiciary. To investigate this case, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has formed a three-member internal investigation committee. In which the responsibility of investigating has been given to the committee of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of Punjab Haryana High Court, Justice GS Sandhawalia of Himachal and Judge Anu Sivaraman of Karnataka High Court. The Chief Justice of Delhi High Court has submitted an investigation report to the Supreme Court. Various discussions are going on in the media world regarding the role of Delhi Police and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in this case. Justice Loya's death has also been discussed in the media. It is being said that the government wants to put the last nail in the coffin of the judiciary. Justice Verma's case has been brought forward under a well-planned conspiracy. After this case, the credibility of the Indian judiciary has ended in a way in the

whole country. The government wants to abolish the collegium system and take all the rights of appointment, transfer, posting, promotion of judges in its hands, at present the judiciary has become very weak. In such a situation, the government has become capable of doing whatever it wants. This is also being said in discussions. Delhi Police is under the Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The silence of Delhi Police and the Union Home Ministry in this matter itself says a lot. The reaction that is happening across the country regarding this. This is all that can be said looking at the current situation. The judiciary is fighting the last battle for its existence. The kind of allegations that have been made against Justice Yashwant Verma have tilted the balance in favour of the government. Based on the investigation report and the corruption spread in the judiciary, the government will form the National Judicial Appointment Commission and take all the powers in its hands.

For Dalits, English is the language of emancipation

Ramvilas Sharma

English paved the way for my socio-economic mobility and cultural power. As a teacher, I recognise the necessity of learning Hindi to engage in the classroom effectively, but as a South Indian, I do not wish the hegemony of any language over other regional languages

Language, the carrier of our identities and emotions, has the power to shape sensibilities and knowledge production. Historically, lack of appropriate linguistic abilities has excluded marginalised communities like women, lower castes and tribals, and denied them access to many resources, mainly education. No wonder Jotiba Phule said that education is the “tritya ratna” or the third eye, crucial to gaining wisdom. The past two centuries have seen heated debates on the language issue in India, from the colonial trickle-down policy to the National Education Policy of 2020. Our unfortunate reality is that every Indian citizen is enmeshed in the hierarchy of languages: The language taught in school, spoken in the family, used in the job market and in the cultural sphere. Linguistic pride went hand in hand with nationalist aspirations, and independent India envisaged both Hindi and English as link languages. Whenever this delicate balance was sought to be shaken by imposing Hindi as a “national” language, there was widespread discontent. Why should citizens swear allegiance to one language as mandated by the state? Hindi is just another language among the 22 languages recognised by the

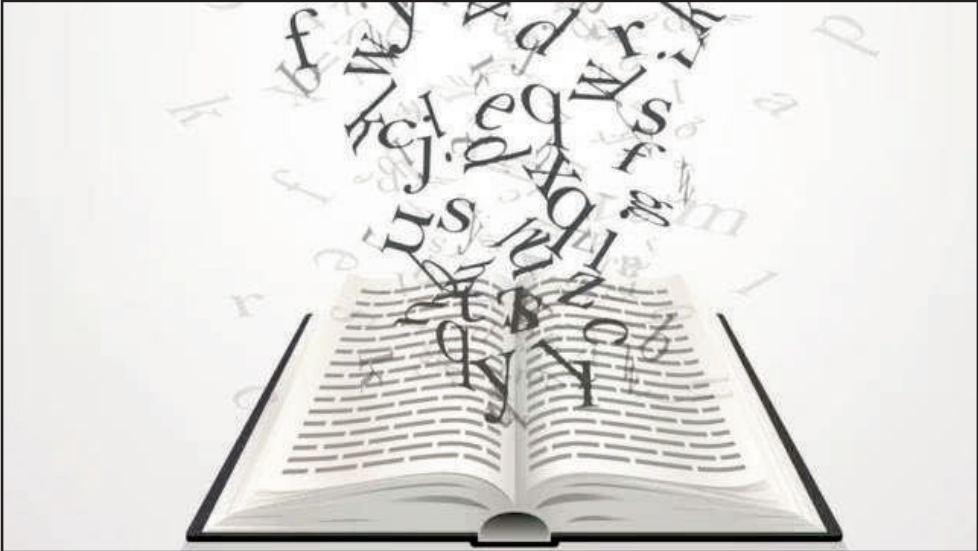
Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The periodic moral panic over Hindi stems from the gradual acceptance of English by the public and in the job market. Is it because the access to English education has enabled the hitherto oppressed communities to climb up the social, economic and political ladder? South India, where English was taught along with the mother tongue and Hindi, has seen steady economic progress, especially in the rapidly-growing IT and service sectors. In its report (2025), NITI Aayog flagged the lack of English language skills as a deterrent for state university graduates finding employment. The average person in South India can speak or understand at least three languages, whereas in the Hindi-speaking states, the numbers are drastically low. “Education is the milk of a lioness, the one who drinks it cannot stay without roaring.” For Dalits, these words of Ambedkar, have proved to be a powerful tool to negotiate their space in the caste-ridden society. Like many first-generation Dalits, I too received my initial education in my mother tongue along with Hindi and English as individual subjects. The turning point occurred during my graduate

studies, when a teacher scolded me, asking, “Have you travelled 14 hours from your native place to this institution to continue your studies in the Telugu medium?” However, a different phase of my academic journey got me into a premier

dearth of good translations of English texts, which would help such students to excel further. Often, they lag behind their classmates due to a lack of English fluency, which is essential for the job market. Hailing from the Dalit

steady progress of Hindi hegemony is limiting opportunities for non-Hindi speakers to access employment in major institutions. How do we explain the fact that Hindi speakers from north India easily get into

identities. Hindi is now used to browbeat other identities while claiming a larger share of the nation’s resources. The RSS, which is the ideological mentor of the ruling party, consistently claims that it respects all Indian languages. When education is part of the concurrent list, and states can devise their policies, what is the rationale for stopping grants for non-implementation of the three-language policy, as has been done in Tamil Nadu? As per the 2011 Census, the Hindi-speaking population stood at 44 per cent, nearly seven percentage points more than in 1971. Many years ago, Ambedkar had poignantly told Gandhiji that “I have no homeland”. His words proved very prescient. He also stated that “Democracy is not merely a form of government. It is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience. It is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards fellow men”. The life world of the average citizen is shrinking rapidly; what languages to learn/speak, what diet to consume, which faith to follow to merely survive, whom to love, or what dress will reveal/hide your identity — everything comes with a hefty price tag.



university as a teacher of Political Science. Personally, English bridged the distance not only geographically but also in terms of ideas. Although I knew how to read and write in Hindi, having cleared the “rashtra bhasha” exam during matriculation, I also trained myself to teach in Hindi as the majority of the students hailed from the Hindi belt. Unfortunately, there is a

community, English paved the way for my socio-economic mobility and cultural power. As a teacher working in a public university in Delhi, I recognise the necessity of learning Hindi to engage in the classroom effectively. However, as a South Indian, I do not wish for the hegemony of any language over other regional languages. The

central government institutions in the south but the reverse rarely happens? The Home Minister pointed out that 22,000 Hindi teachers have been recruited in the eight North East states and nine tribal communities of the region have converted the scripts of their dialects to Devanagari. This will gradually wipe out indigenous knowledge, cultural heritage and

The review sessions highlighted remarkable achievements across both zones. In the Southern Zone, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana emerged as leaders in apprenticeship engagement, collectively accounting for over 8 lakh apprentices. Similarly, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha demonstrated robust participation in the Eastern Zone, contributing significantly to regional workforce development. Notably, female participation in apprenticeships has seen a steady rise, reflecting efforts to make skill development more inclusive and accessible to women and disadvantaged communities. Discussions during the meetings delved into critical aspects such as increasing apprenticeship opportunities in underserved regions like the North-east, addressing gaps in stipend disbursement via DBT, and enhancing industry participation—particularly among MSMEs that currently constitute 38% of active establishments under NAPS. Stakeholders also explored strategies to strengthen governance structures through State Implementation Review Committees (SIRC) and State Apprenticeship Councils (SAC), while promoting innovative initiatives like the Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Program (AEDP) to integrate education with skill development seamlessly. The MSDE reaffirmed its commitment to scaling up apprenticeship engagement nationwide by leveraging platforms such as PMNAM (Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Melas) and targeted awareness workshops. With over 4,988 melas organized since June 2022 and 219 workshops conducted across India's States and UTs, these initiatives have played a pivotal role in connecting youth with industry opportunities while fostering collaboration among stakeholders. As the Eastern and Southern Zonal Review Meetings concluded on a high note, participants outlined actionable recommendations to enhance program implementation further. These included expanding outreach efforts to rural areas and disadvantaged groups, strengthening monitoring mechanisms for quality assurance, and fostering partnerships with educational institutions to ensure a seamless transition from academics to industry-ready skills. The deliberations underscored India's vision of creating an inclusive and dynamic apprenticeship ecosystem aligned with global standards under the Skill India Mission. By addressing challenges head-on and leveraging collective insights from stakeholders, NAPS-2 continues to pave the way for empowering India's youth with skills that meet evolving industry demands while contributing to the nation's economic growth story.

Writer Kanika Dhillon reveals actors ‘quit’ Manmarziyaan midway, film was reshot with Abhishek, Vicky, Taapsee: ‘They were hesitant audience won’t accept it’



Abhishek Bachchan, Vicky Kaushal, and Taapsee Pannu’s 2018 romantic drama Manmarziyaan may not have done wonders at the box office, but received a positive reception from the critics and fans alike. The film’s screenwriter Kanika Dhillon has now revealed that the film was initially shot with a different cast before being reshot with these actors. In an interview with SCREEN, the writer-producer shared how actors left the film midway, which led to the project being revamped. Also a producer now, Dhillon started her journey as a writer. During her early days after writing Manmarziyaan, she recalled that the difficulties were immeasurable. “To find a voice in the industry is the first big step that you have to take as a writer. I was working on Manmarziyaan when I wasn’t that strong. It took me 4-5 years to get the film greenlit, write it, re-write it, groom it and find people to make it. It was my biggest challenge so far,” she said. The writer-producer revealed that she wrote the film four years before it actually got made. “Love stories can get redundant, you have to keep updating your characters. While I was waiting for someone to hear and make the story, one would keep at it and working on it. Manmarziyaan remains the most challenging film for me,” Dhillon shared. The challenges weren’t limited to writing the film again, it was actually when it had to be reshot. “Manmarziyaan started and it stopped in between, and then it restarted with a different set of actors. A lot of people were hesitant to play these roles because they felt uncomfortable that the audience won’t accept it.” She continued, “It seemed very risky to them to have the husband supporting Rumi and then the boyfriend being commitment phobic, every character while I was going out to cast, I was met with certain insecurities.

BTS’ J-Hope’s ‘oppa energy’ with Nayeon silences dating rumours; new clip has fans saying, ‘nothing romantic here’

BTS’ J-Hope and TWICE’s Nayeon seem to be subtly shutting down ongoing dating rumours after a new BangtanTV behind-the-scenes video dropped. The clip shows them bonding over the Sweet Dreams challenge and fans are taking it as a sign to put the speculation to rest. For months, the two K-pop idols

have been caught up in dating buzz, with fans from both fandoms connecting dots—whether it was their social media activity, similar outfits, or photos that seemed to hint at something more. But after BANGTANTV shared J-Hope’s Sweet Dreams challenge sketch, the rumours finally started to fizzle out. Within just six hours, the video racked up



over 422,000 views. The nearly 21-minute video kicks off with LE SSERAFIM’s Huh Yunjin dropping by

HYBE’s studio to work on her challenge with J-Hope. Later, Jin makes an appearance, joining his fellow BTS members for some fun practice and playful banter. Next up, we see TWICE’s Nayeon and Momo arriving at the studio, mentioning it’s their first time at HYBE since the girl group belongs to JYP Entertainment. After some

random yet polite and friendly chat, Hobi casually mentions how he had been practising with Yunjin while waiting for the two. As they work through the Sweet Dreams challenge together, J-Hope steps in to help guide Nayeon and Momo through some of the trickier moves. The two even joke they should’ve trained at HYBE instead and thank him for his support.

Priyanka Chopra inspired by woman selling guavas on roadside, shares videos as she shoots for SS Rajamouli film: ‘She didn’t want charity’

Priyanka Chopra is constantly on the move, juggling between New York and India as she shoots for director SS Rajamouli’s upcoming film with Mahesh Babu in Odisha. Recently, the Barfi actor shared a video on Instagram, recounting an encounter that left her inspired while traveling from Odisha to the Visakhapatnam airport. In the clip, Priyanka narrates the incident, saying, “So! I don’t do this often but I was very inspired today. I was driving to Vishakhapatnam airport on my way to Mumbai, on my way to New York. And I saw this woman selling guavas, and I love kaccha (unripe) guavas! So I stopped her and I asked, ‘How

much for all your guavas?’ She said Rs 150. So I gave her a 200 note and she was trying to give me a change and I said, ‘No, please keep it.’ She obviously sold guavas for a living. She went away for a little while but before the red light changed to green she came back and gave me two more guavas! A working woman, she did not want charity! Really moved me.” Priyanka also shared other photos from the set, where she is seen enjoying ice cream, spending time with her crew members, and soaking in the beautiful landscape. She captioned the post, “Lately,” with

a heart emoji. While Priyanka hasn’t officially announced her participation in SS Rajamouli’s film, leaked behind-the-scenes photos from the set confirm she is playing a lead role. Along with Priyanka and Mahesh Babu, the film also stars Prithviraj

Sukumaran in a pivotal role. Backed by KL Narayana, the film is tentatively referred to as SSMB 29 and is expected to be the most expensive Indian film ever. Priyanka also has Hollywood projects lined up, including The Bluff and Heads of State. She has also completed filming for Citadel Season 2.

Priyanka Chopra shared a video on Instagram, recounting an encounter that left her inspired while traveling from Odisha to the Visakhapatnam airport. She is in India to shoot for SS Rajamouli film with Mahesh Babu.



After Tiger 3’s mediocre box office collections, Salman Khan’s Sikandar to also release on a Sunday

Salman Khan’s previous release Tiger 3 also released on a Sunday, but did not yield the expected box office results.

Salman Khan’s much-awaited film Sikandar is all set to release later this month and on Wednesday, the makers announced the release date. Sikandar is scheduled to release on March 30, which happens to be a Sunday. Films are usually released on Friday, and they rely on the weekend ticket sales to have a strong start at the box office. Interestingly, Salman’s last solo release, Tiger 3, also released on Sunday, which was on the day of Diwali in 2023. At the time, the decision to release Tiger 3 on a Sunday was seen as unorthodox as the makers were choosing to let go of the weekend before Diwali. The film made over Rs 280 crore at the box office but it wasn’t seen as a massive success as films like Jawan, Pathaan, and Gadar 2 made upwards of Rs 500 crore in the same year. The VP of Distribution for Yash Raj Films, Rohan Malhotra, defended the company’s decision at the time and told India Today, “I always believe that it is absolutely fine to do the conventional and there is no need to reinvent if there is no

need for it. In this case, however, what came to our mind was that it is important for us not to look at the opening day numbers but to focus on what is eventually going to benefit, and in the case of Tiger 3, we definitely felt that going on Laxmi Puja day, which is considered the weakest day to release a film, would be a better fit for our film.” He cited Pathaan as an example and said that even though the film release a day before Republic Day, it managed to do excellent numbers. Unfortunately, Tiger 3 did not work as well as Pathaan despite recording Rs 53.3 crore, Rs 70 crore and Rs 53 crore nett domestic collections in the first three days respectively. The makers of Sikandar seem to be taking a similar risk by choosing a Sunday to release the film. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, Sikandar is directed by AR Murgadoss, marking his first collaboration with Salman Khan. The film also stars Rashmika Mandanna. It is reported that the decision to release Sikandar on a Sunday has been made to take advantage of multiple holidays. March 30 is Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra, followed by Eid on March 31. It remains to be seen if this strategy will work for Salman this time around.



Kangana Ranaut slams film industry, rejects conditional praise for Emergency: ‘What credentials do you have to judge me?’

Filmmaker Sanjay Gupta recently praised Kangana Ranaut’s film Emergency, admitting that he had initially prejudged the film and was ultimately glad that Kangana proved him wrong. In a recent interaction,



Kangana responded to Sanjay’s tweet, advising film industry members not to hold preconceived notions against her. She shared that while many expected her to make a propaganda film, she had defied their expectations. Speaking on India TV about Sanjay’s remarks, Kangana said, “He had accepted in the post that he had preconceived notions. Why are you trying to understand me when you are failing at it? And he is also accepting that he failed. To keep these negative preconceived notions about anyone, thinking only negative about me, and trying and wishing that she would fail...how do you know what would I have done? Do you have the intellect needed to understand me? When you take a bird’s view of a person, you need to have an expanded vision of that object or subject. How can you have an expanded vision of my intellect? What are your credentials? What kind of films do you make?” She added, “I want people of the film industry, considering the kind of films that they make, they shouldn’t have any preconceived notion about me. If they don’t talk like ‘we know what she can do and what are her limits’ than they don’t have to face so much insult.”

Earlier, Sanjay Gupta had taken to social media to commend Kangana’s work. He wrote, “Today I watched EMERGENCY by @KanganaTeam. Very frankly, I wasn’t planning to, as I had prejudged it. I am so glad that I was wrong. What a fantastic film by Kangana—both performance and direction. Top Notch & World Class.” In response to Sanjay’s praise, Kangana thanked him but also pointed out that nobody should be biased against her. She had written, “The film industry must come out of its hate and prejudices and acknowledge good work. Thanks for breaking that barrier, Sanjay ji—the barrier of preconceived notions. My message to all filmi intellectuals—never keep any notions about me. Mujhe samajhne ki koshish bhi mat karna, main pahunch se bahar hoon (Don’t try to figure me out, I am out of your reach).”

Denise Richards takes daughter Sami to get a nose job after being kept in the dark about her breast implants

Charlie Sheen and Denise Richards’ daughter, Sami, got emotional on the March 11 episode of Denise Richards’ & Her Wild Things, revealing she was bullied for looking like her famous dad. On Bravo’s new reality show, Sami admitted she’s wanted a nose job “for as long as I can remember” because of the teasing. Sheen and Richards were married

from 2002 to 2006 and share two daughters named Sami and Lola. During a car ride to her consultation, Sami said, “Imagine how much prettier I’ll be,” adding that she hopes the procedure will finally fix the “lumps on the side” of her nose. Denise, sitting beside her, joked, “Maybe we need to take you to an eye doctor instead.” Sami, 21, went on to explain



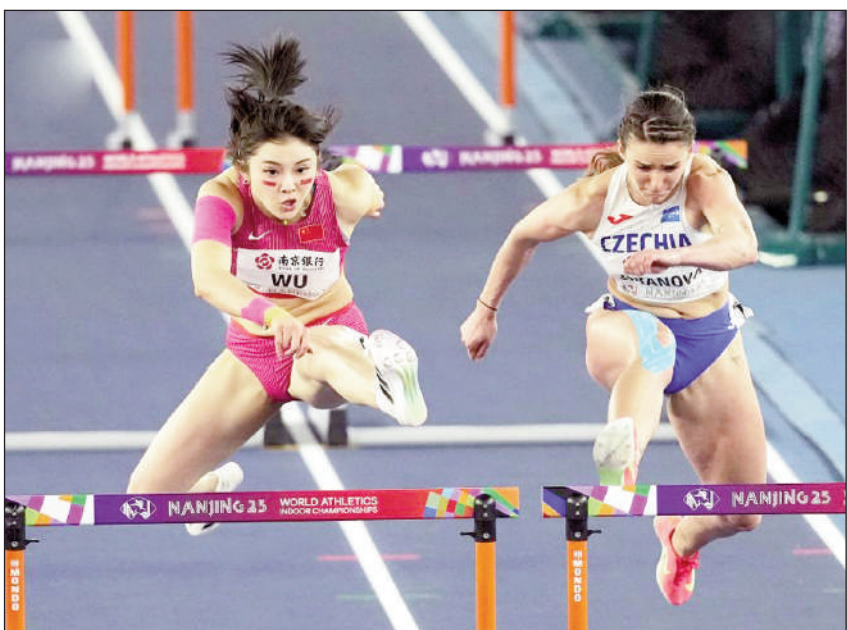
that growing up with celebrity parents wasn’t always easy. “I had to deal with kids bullying me,” she

shared. “People would say I looked like my dad. I actually got a comment the other day from someone saying, ‘You’ll never be as pretty as your mom.’” She questioned whether she’d feel differently about her appearance if she had grown up “in Alabama” with parents who “had regular jobs.” Later in the episode, Sami underwent a rhinoplasty. She

told the doctor she wanted a “more feminine nose,” using Denise’s as an example of her ideal look. Denise on the other hand, accidentally shared the news with her younger daughter, Lola, and immediately regretted it. “I can’t believe I just did that,” she said on camera. When Sami finally saw her new nose for the first time, she broke down in tears. “I’ve wanted this for so long.

Harbhajan criticized for controversial comment on Archer

Hyderabad (Agency). Veteran spinner Harbhajan Singh has come under controversy for one of his comments in the match between Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Harbhajan compared fast bowler Jofra Archer, playing for Rajasthan Royals in this match, to a black taxi in London, which has been considered racist. Since then, people have criticized this comment on social media. Harbhajan has been in controversies for such comments in the past as well. Harbhajan said, the meter of a black taxi runs fast in London, and here Archer sahab's meter also ran fast. The reason for this was that Archer gave a lot of runs in this match. Many fans criticized Harbhajan on social media for this comment and also asked him to apologize. Harbhajan has been in controversies for his words in the past as well. He had to face controversies many times during his cricket career too. After this incident, questions are being raised on Harbhajan's commentary. Many people are saying that he should not do commentary. However, Harbhajan has not yet given any reaction on this matter. In this match, Sunrisers batted first and scored 286 runs. After this, Rajasthan Royals could score only 242 runs while chasing the target.



View of China competing in the semi-finals of the women's 60m hurdles in China.

Guwahati has got the hosting of a Test match for the first time: Saikia



New Delhi (Agency). Former Assam cricketer and BCCI general secretary Devjit Saikia has said that this year a Test match will be played for the first time in Guwahati. This match will be a part of the Test match between India and South Africa. Apart from this, a match of the ICC Women's

ODI World Cup will also be played here at the end of the year. Saikia said, 'No Test and World Cup match has been played in Guwahati till now, but now after the meeting of the BCCI's apex council, it has got the hosting of these matches. He said that the second match of the two-match Test series

between India and South Africa will be played at the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) Stadium here from November 22. In this way, Guwahati will be the first city in the Northeast to host a Test match. Sakia said that five to six matches of the ICC Women's ODI World Cup will also be played at the ACA stadium. He said, 'The Women's World Cup will be played from September 24 to November 2. Guwahati has been included in its program.' Sakia played four first-class matches in her cricket career between 1990-1991.

Nothing left for bowlers in ODI format: Moeen

London (Agency). Former England spinner Moeen Ali has said that ODI cricket format is not the future. Moeen said that the reason for this is the rules being in favor of the batsmen. Due to which there is nothing left for the bowlers in this format. He also said that this is the reason why the number of players playing in T20 leagues is increasing rapidly these days. Moeen, who retired last year, has taken 111 wickets for England in addition to scoring 2,355 runs in 138 ODIs. At the same time, he has scored more than 3000 runs and taken more than 200 wickets in 68 Test matches. Moeen

said, "The ODI format is almost completely over except the World Cup and

years this number has been reduced to four which has made batting easier in the



Champions Trophy. It is the worst format to play and I think there are many reasons for this. "Earlier there used to be five fielders outside the circle after the first powerplay but in the last few

middle overs. Not only this, two new balls are used which was not the case earlier, due to which it has become very easy for the batsmen to score runs now. He said, "I think the rules are very bad.

Keeping an extra fielder after the first powerplay, I think this is a bad rule for taking wickets and creating any kind of pressure. That is why now players are making an average of 60 and 70 in ODI cricket." He said, "When you are bowling to someone and you put a little pressure, the batsman simply reverse-sweeps and it is not a run but a four. There is always an option available for the batsmen to score runs." Moeen said that the way franchise cricket is luring players by giving them huge amounts of money, more and more players will now be seen playing in this format after retirement.

Auto driver's son shines in his very first IPL match



Chennai (Agency). Kerala's young spinner Vignesh Puthur has performed brilliantly in his debut match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) and has taken three wickets. Vignesh, the son of an auto driver, was fielded by Mumbai Indians as an impact player against Chennai Super Kings in their opening match of the IPL. This wrist spinner was fielded in place of batsman Rohit Sharma. Rohit was unsuccessful in batting. In such a situation, Vignesh was fielded in his place in bowling. Vignesh's debut was good. He took three wickets in his first IPL match itself. However, Puthur had not played any domestic match at the senior level in domestic cricket so far. Vignesh was called to bowl

in the eighth over. After this, this young bowler sent CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad to the pavilion in his very first over. At the same time, he dismissed Shivam Dubey in his second over. After this, he took the wicket of Deepak Hooda. Vignesh's father drives an auto. This young spinner has played for Kerala at the Under-14 and Under-19 level. Puthur also made it to the Tamil Nadu Premier League for the KCL T20 tournament after a stellar performance for Jolly Rovers Cricket Club. After this, Mumbai Indians included him in the IPL mega auction in November 2024. Vignesh took 3 wickets for 32 runs in his 4 overs. However, Mumbai had to face defeat against CSK in this match.

IPL, DC vs LSG: Ashutosh Sharma secures win for Delhi from the jaws of defeat

NEW DELHI: Ashutosh Sharma's unbeaten 66 overshadows the pyrotechnics of Mitchell Marsh and Nicholas Pooran as Delhi Capitals sneak home by 1 wicket against Lucknow Super Giants. Impact Player Ashutosh Sharma played an innings to remember to take Delhi Capitals to a thrilling one-wicket over Lucknow Super Giants. Chasing 210 for victory, Ashutosh was at one stage 20 off 20 deliveries as the asking rate mounted. But despite running out of partners, he scored his next 46 runs off just 11 deliveries to take Delhi home at Vizag with three balls to spare. It was a night when Ashutosh proved that his power-hitting exploits of last season with Punjab Kings wasn't a fluke. If anything, each of his five boundaries and as many sixes, with the game on the line, showed how much he has matured as a batsman who can survive the tough phases and affect a turnaround. With 39 runs needed off the last three overs and despite losing one of the remaining three wickets on the first ball of the 18th over, Ashutosh calmly took Delhi home as Lucknow's weak bowling was exposed in their first outing. From the time they came into the IPL fold, there have been only seven instances of

Lucknow breaching the 200-run mark. Much of it has been due to their old-school approach of saving wickets for the back end of the innings. They wanted to move away from that philosophy, so they went back to the drawing board,



sought a change at the top and brought in players who would fit that mould. Their top four includes Aiden Markram, Mitchell Marsh, Nicholas Pooran and Rishabh Pant, followed by David Miller and Ayush Badoni. And in the dugout they have Abdul Samad and Aryan Juyal warming the bench. Made to bat first at Vizag, a venue where tall scores can be common because of the small ground, their explosive batting lineup showed promising signs. Markram opened with Marsh, a move that was largely on the expected lines, but moving forward how much they stick to the South African, only time will tell, for he has struggled to keep

Changing myself to adapt to the situation

I no longer have a role in CSK's decision-making: Dhoni

Chennai (Agency). Veteran cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has said that he is trying to adapt himself to the circumstances to remain in the IPL. Dhoni said that since Ruturaj Gaikwad was handed over the captaincy of Chennai Super Kings (CSK), he has no role in decision-making. After the victory against Mumbai Indians, Dhoni said, 'Batters are now ready to take risks. Now batsmen believe that they can play big strokes and for this they are also improving their shot selection, whether it is a reverse scoop against a fast bowler, sweep or reverse sweep against a fast bowler. He also said that I am no different from them in playing like this. I also have to adapt myself according to

them. This is important for me where I am batting. For this you have to try and

Chennai won five IPL titles under Dhoni's captaincy but he handed over the captaincy



remain relevant. Dhoni said, 'There was a lot of difference between the way we played T20 in 2008 and the way we played in IPL last year. Earlier the wickets were very turning but now the wickets in India have become much better than before. It is more favorable for the batsmen.

to Ruturaj before the 2024 season. Dhoni said that he talks with the captaincy but does not put pressure to follow his advice. He said, 'Ruturaj has been a part of the team for a long time. He has a very good nature, he is very calm, very patient. That's why he was given the

captaincy. Dhoni said, 'I remember that before the tournament started, I also told him, if I give you advice, it does not mean that you have to follow it. I will try to stay away from decisions as much as possible. Many people feel that I am making decisions, but in reality, all the decisions are being taken by 99 per cent Ruturaj. Dhoni said that his relationship with Royal Challengers Bangalore star batsman Virat Kohli has now turned into friendship. He said, 'This relationship was earlier between a captain and a young player but with time we have become very good friends. Now both of us are not captains and hence we get more time to talk before the match.

International match will be played in Ranchi after three years



Ranchi (Agency). Cricket fans will get to see the match after three years in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand. This match will be played between India and South Africa on 30 November 2025 at the JSCA Stadium in Ranchi. A total of 7 ODIs have been played at the Ranchi International

Stadium so far. Out of these, the Indian team won 3 while it lost two matches while one match was cancelled. The last match played here was between India and South Africa in October 2022. In that match, the Indian team won by 7 wickets. Regarding this, a fan said, it is a matter of pride not only for Ranchi

but for the whole of Jharkhand. A match will be held here after three years. After this match, there will be possibilities of more matches being played here. At the same time, another fan said that this is a matter of happiness for us. We are very fond of cricket. In such a situation, watching our star favorite player playing on our own home ground is no less than a gift for us. That is why we want matches to continue to be held here in the future as well. South Africa's team will come to India for three ODIs. Its first match will be played in Ranchi. The remaining two matches will be held in Raipur and Visakhapatnam.

Nikhat Zareen will return to the ring from May



New Delhi (Agency). Indian women boxer Nikhat Zareen will return to the sport in May. Nikhat was away from the ring for a long time

due to a knee injury. Nikhat, a former world champion, says that she is now injury free. Since boxing was recently included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, her goal now is to win a medal in it. Nikhat said during the women's boxing practice session here, "I had a minor injury. For which three-four months of rehabilitation was needed. Now everything is fine. My main focus will now be on the World Championship and World Cup which India is hosting." Zareen was eliminated in the beginning of the Paris Olympics, however now she is forgetting it and focusing on the upcoming matches.

Leone calls Rachin Ravindra the next star

Chennai (Agency). Former Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has praised spinner Vignesh Puthur, who performed brilliantly in his IPL debut match. Dhoni met Vignesh after the match and congratulated him. He also asked some questions to which Puthur answered well. Vignesh, playing for Mumbai Indians in the IPL, took 3 big wickets in the match against Chennai Super Kings. Which included players like captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shivam Dubey and Deepak Hooda. Vignesh has made his IPL debut directly without playing any domestic match at the senior level. He was fielded by Mumbai Indians as an impact sub. Vignesh, who came in place of Rohit Sharma, made his debut memorably with his performance. After the match ended, Vignesh met Dhoni like a common fan. Dhoni also listened carefully to Puthur. Dhoni also encouraged Puthur. Vignesh, the son of an auto driver, started playing cricket at the age of 11. He has not played domestic cricket yet.

Dhoni replied to Chahar's sledging in a funny way

Chennai (Agency). A unique sight was seen at the end of the match between Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians. When CSK veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni came to bat, Mumbai Indians bowler Deepak Chahar sledged him. Chahar has also played for CSK for a long time but this time he is playing for Mumbai. There is a good friendship between these two. That is why he was sledging Dhoni. At the same time, after winning the match, Dhoni replied to Deepak Chahar in his own style by lightly hitting him with the bat. A funny video of this has also come on social media. It is worth noting that Dhoni and Chahar's bonding is very good. Dhoni has helped Chahar in taking many decisions. Even when he proposed to his girlfriend for marriage, he took advice from Dhoni in that too. After an IPL match, Chahar proposed to his girlfriend on the field itself. Apart from this, Chahar's game has improved under Dhoni's guidance.



Many important proposals were also approved in the cabinet meeting of Dr. Mohan Sarkar



Farmers will get compensation for the loss due to hailstorm

Bhopal (Agency): The government will soon give compensation to the farmers affected by hailstorm. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has asked the collectors of all the districts to review the damage and give compensation under disaster management after the survey. A cabinet meeting was held today on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. During this, many important proposals were approved.

The recent hailstorm in Madhya Pradesh has damaged crops in more than 400 villages. In view of this, the Chief Minister has directed the officials to conduct an immediate survey and give relief amount to the farmers. It was also decided in the meeting that large solar power plants will be installed at four places in the state. This will reduce the electricity expenses of municipal corporations and municipalities. Also, solar energy will also be used for water supply schemes, which will make water supply easy and cheap. Apart from this, the Chief Minister has asked all the collectors to make



animals and birds. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has instructed the ministers in charge to prepare to deal with the water crisis in summer. The CM has said that all the ministers should reach their districts and make arrangements for clean drinking water. The CM has asked to make arrangements for water for animals and birds. Kailash Vijayvargiya said that four big solar plants are going to be installed in the Municipal Corporation so that the electricity



Minister in charge will visit the districts regarding water crisis,

expenditure can be reduced and they can become self-reliant. For this, the approval of the solar plant sought by the Public Health Department has been given

record of creating the most number of wildlife sanctuaries in the country. This sanctuary will promote natural wealth and biodiversity. The minister said that Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has given instructions to ensure water conservation and water supply in view of the onset of summer. The CM has instructed the ministers to monitor water supply to deal with the water crisis. He has also asked to make arrangements for water for animals and birds. Along with this, collectors have been instructed to conduct a quick survey and provide compensation in the areas affected by hailstorm in some districts of the state.

The government has started weekly review of Bhoomi Pujan and investment progress in the state to speed up industrialization. 18 Bhoomi Pujans were performed in various divisions including Bhind-Chambal. Bhoomi Pujans have been performed in other districts including Gwalior. Progress and review of investment proposals is being done in all the divisions and districts of the state. The minister said that

the target is to strengthen industrialization in the entire state in the next one year.

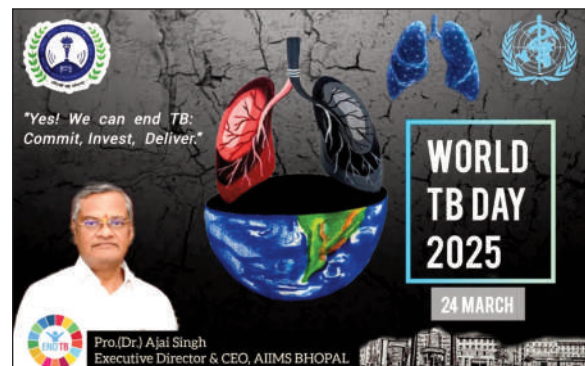
The government is going to set up four big solar plants to make municipal corporations and municipalities self-reliant. The minister said that the biggest expense of municipal corporations is salary and electricity bill. The solar plant will reduce the electricity cost of water schemes and surplus electricity can be sold. Solar energy will also be used for group water schemes of the Public Health Engineering Department. The department had sought permission from the cabinet regarding this, which was approved by the cabinet. The minister said that Khajuraho is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the hotel industry is showing interest in investing there. The number of tourists has doubled in the last three to four years. Rajgarhi Kothi has been made a heritage hotel by the Oberoi Group. Now the Oberoi Group had asked for 19 acres of land adjacent to it to build a wellness center, which the cabinet has decided to allocate at the government rate.



The rising sun scattered saffron colour in Bhopal on Monday morning.

AIIMS Bhopal celebrates World TB Day 2025

Bhopal (Agency): AIIMS Bhopal, led by Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal, participated with the global community in celebrating World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2025, in line with this year's theme, Yes! We can end TB: Commitment, Investment, Delivery. These events were aimed at highlighting India's progress towards TB elimination and reinforcing the collective resolve to end the disease. Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious bacterial infection caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. It mainly affects the lungs, but can also affect other parts of the body. TB spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Its symptoms include persistent cough, chest pain, fever,



night sweats and weight loss. Although TB is preventable and curable, it still remains a major public health challenge, especially in countries like India. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Ajay Singh said, "Tuberculosis continues to be a major public health challenge in India. To fulfil our resolve to eliminate TB by 2025, we need adequate investment in healthcare infrastructure,

effective prevention and treatment services. AIIMS Bhopal looks forward to contributing to this mission with full commitment, so that we can build a TB free India." The events organised at AIIMS Bhopal included educational seminars, free TB screening camps, and interactive sessions with healthcare professionals to discuss advancements in TB diagnosis and treatment.

BRIEF NEWS

Businessmen expect BJP government

Delhi (Agency): Delhi Confederation of All India Traders (CAT) has given a big statement. CAT has said that the businessmen of Delhi hope that this time the BJP government will bring such a budget for Delhi which will fulfill the developed Delhi vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. CAT said that this budget should take Delhi's infrastructure and civic amenities to new heights. CAT National General Secretary and Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal said that Delhi has full potential to become the best city in the country. If attention is paid to business facilities, modern markets and digitalization in the budget, then Delhi has the potential to become a global business center. Praveen Khandelwal said that the business community of Delhi expects the government to make necessary provisions for e-commerce, logistics and smart business in the budget. Apart from this, he said that there should also be space in the budget for schemes like better urban transport, pollution control and smart city. On the budget of the Delhi government, Leader of Opposition Atishi has said that the BJP government should fulfill the promise made to the people of the national capital. Money has not yet been transferred to the accounts of women. We hope that the BJP will fulfill the promise made in the budget. Delhi budget experts believe that there is a need to improve the infrastructure situation in Delhi. Many markets in the capital are still disorganized, where there are major problems of parking, traffic and security. Traders say that if the government focuses on the modernization of markets and simplifies the laws related to business, then Delhi's business can grow rapidly.

A year ago, a 16-year-old girl ran away with a neighbor

Delhi (Agency): A girl from Delhi, influenced by films, ran away with a neighbor. After a year, the police have finally recovered her. Delhi Police had also announced a reward of Rs 20,000 to the person who gives the address of the girl. The date was 3 February 2024. A 16-year-old girl went missing from Narela area of North Delhi. Later it was found out that she had run away with her neighbor, who is 19 years old. Both of them had an affair. Now the police have recovered the girl from Agra. That too after a whole year. The police have handed over the girl to her family and started further action in the case. Police said - The 16-year-old girl had gone missing from Narela area. The family filed a missing person report, after which Delhi Police also announced a reward of Rs 20,000. Police found in the investigation that the girl's neighbor was once her classmate, he convinced her to run away with him. The girl thought that their love story would be exciting like a film. During the investigation, the team of Cyber Cell and Crime Branch searched several CCTV footage. It was revealed that the girl had taken a train from New Delhi Railway Station and went to Jammu and Kashmir. From there she reached Mumbai and then Agra. On March 21, the police got information that the girl was living near the Taj Mahal in Agra. After this, the police raided and recovered her. The girl told that she had decided to run away with her neighbour, but her hopes were shattered after reaching Mumbai. After this she went to Agra and started living there by doing small jobs. However, the police did not give much information about the young man with whom the girl ran away. At present, the investigation of the case is going on.

Cooperative Department Amendment Bill passed

Opposition walked out of the House

Bhopal (Agency): There was a lot of uproar on the last day of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Budget Session. The Leader of Opposition raised many questions regarding the Cooperative Department Amendment Bill. Minister Vishwas Sarang passed the bill amidst noise and protest. At the same time, the opposition walked out of the House. As soon as Minister Vishwas Sarang placed the Cooperative Department Amendment Bill on the table of the House on Monday, the opposition started creating a ruckus. Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar called it a

bill that strangles cooperatives. He said that despite the High Court order, elections of the society have not been held since 2011. A private company will take over any society. Anyone can do arbitrary things by taking the share of the society. The opposition opposes the PPP mode. Umang Singhar said that the government should not have control over an impartial institution. Forest committee was not given rights. SC, ST and OBC do not get reservation. The Assembly Committee should first consider the bill. Congress MLA Sachin Yadav said- If this bill is passed, then the cooperative movement will be buried. In the last 20 years, instead of promoting the cooperative movement, it has been

crushed. Congress MLA Bhanwar Singh Shekhawat said- The government has already handed over the cooperative movement to the officers. After the passage of this bill, the cooperative will come to an end. The government is not conducting elections, so the cooperative is over. On this, Sarang said that there is a preparation to form 650 to 700 new PACS in the state. After that elections of all the committees will be held. The government does not intend to postpone the elections in any way. After this, the Congress walked out of the House. However, the Madhya Pradesh Cooperative Committee Amendment Bill 2025 was passed amidst the walkout.



Farmers will benefit

Responding to the amendment bill, Cooperative Minister Vishwas Sarang said that elections will be held under this bill. There is no confusion about the election. The cooperative movement will be strengthened by this. No outsider can take share capital. Only the committee members will get the share capital. A shareholder bank employee can be made the administrator. The housing society can be registered in welfare.

Two amendments and one new provision in the bill

Two amendments and one new provision have been added in the Cooperative Department Bill. Now not only government employees but also bank employees can become administrators. The cooperative societies in which houses have been built can work as welfare societies. After investment or industry comes on agricultural land, the society can work as a supply or service provider.

Delhi government's Kheer Ceremony before the budget

Delhi (Agency): The second session of the Delhi Assembly is starting from March 24, the government will present its first budget in this session. Before this, Kheer Ceremony was organized in which people of all classes were invited. The public has expectations from the budget like cleaning of Yamuna, employment, pollution control and solution of parking problem. The second session of the eighth assembly of Delhi is going to start from March 24. Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has ordered to convene the assembly session. This session will start at 11 am and in this the BJP government will present its first budget. The public and traders have high expectations from this budget. The government organized a Kheer Ceremony before presenting the budget. Auto drivers, sanitation workers, teachers, advocates, women students who reached to participate in it have all been invited for the

Kheer Ceremony today. People from every section of Delhi have been invited for this Kheer Ceremony today.



The budget session of the Delhi Assembly is starting from today, tomorrow the Delhi government will present its budget. On the budget session, Leader of Opposition Atishi had said that on March 8, Rs 2500 will come in the accounts of the

women of Delhi, but that has not happened till date. BJP has not been able to fulfill the promise of the PM either.

Our effort is that at least after the budget, the women of Delhi should get Rs 2500. Traders have a lot of expectations from the BJP's Rekha government, which has returned to power after 27 years. When people were talked to about the budget of the Delhi government, they

said that there is a lot of hope from the Rekha government and the BJP government. Be it cleaning the Yamuna, providing employment, reducing pollution, getting rid of the parking problem in Delhi, today many people of Delhi have come to be a part of this ceremony with all these hopes. On the second day of the budget session, on Tuesday 25 March, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who also holds the finance department, will present the budget for the financial year 2025-26. This will be the first budget of the government after the formation of the BJP government. The session is likely to run from March 24 to March 28, 2025. According to BJP leaders, Budget 2025-26 has been prepared on the basis of suggestions received from the people of Delhi. CM Rekha Gupta said, we received 3,303 suggestions on email and 6,982 messages on WhatsApp. We have carefully considered all those suggestions.

Electricity will be expensive in Delhi, Minister Ashish Sood himself gave information



Delhi (Agency): After the BJP government comes to power in Delhi, the prices of electricity are going to increase. After returning to power after 27 years, the BJP government is going to present its first budget. The statement before the budget has increased everyone's tension. There is a BJP government in Delhi. After almost 27 years, the BJP has returned to power in Delhi. The second session of the Delhi Assembly has started from today. On Tuesday, the BJP government is going to bring its first budget. Even before this budget, the people of Delhi have got a big shock. Giving information, Power Minister Ashish Sood said

that in the coming time, the prices of electricity will increase in Delhi. Ashish Sood said that through the previous DERC, a debt of regulatory estates of 27 thousand crores has been left with the discom. For its recovery, the companies are authorized to increase the prices of electricity. During the tenure of the previous government, on the orders of the High Court, DERC was ordered to bring the tariff order. That government could not protect the interests of the public. He said that in the coming time the prices (of electricity) will increase and maybe some people want this, so that their political bread can be baked.