



Inspiration: Late. Dr. L.C. Wallia

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IPL 2025, RCB vs CSK:
Romario Shepherd's car-nage, Yash Dayal's ice-cold finish take RCB to the top

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: The fans at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium were on the edge of their seats as Royal Challengers Bengaluru edged out Chennai Super Kings in a nail-biting thriller that went down to the final ball. From the outset, the contest promised nerves and fireworks — and it delivered on all counts. Half-centuries from Virat Kohli and Jacob Bethell, followed by Romario Shepherd's explosive finishing touch, powered RCB to a formidable total. In response, 17-year-old Ayush Mhatre stole the spotlight for CSK, forging a crucial partnership with Ravindra Jadeja to take their side within touching distance of a stunning win. But in the end, CSK fell just two runs short. The final over, bowled by Yash Dayal, was a theatre of nerves and drama. With CSK needing 15 off 6 and Dhoni and Jadeja at the crease, the pressure was immense. Dayal began with a dot, then conceded a single. On the third delivery, he removed the legendary Dhoni, swinging the match back in RCB's favour. Then came chaos — a waist-high no-ball followed by a single from new batter Shivam Dube. With six needed off three, Jadeja managed just a single. Four were needed off the final ball. Dayal bowled a low full-toss, Dube struck it to long-on, but RCB's fielding held strong. Only two runs were scored. Dayal's calm under pressure sealed a memorable win for RCB, lifting them to the top of the points table amid wild celebrations.

Pakistani goods worth \$500 million reportedly entering India via intermediary countries

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: Amidst heightened tensions following a terrorist attack, India is reportedly considering a complete ban on direct and indirect trade with Pakistan. Concerns have arisen over \$500 million worth of Pakistani goods, including dry fruits and chemicals, entering India via countries like the UAE and Sri Lanka. Pakistani goods worth \$500 million reportedly entering India via intermediary countries, says official **AI-generated image** Trade items including dry fruits and chemicals worth around \$500 million are reportedly entering India via intermediary nations such as the UAE, Singapore, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, according to an official, quoted by news agency PTI. The official indicated that a considerable portion of the Pakistani exports previously sent directly to India are now being channelled through alternative countries. The UAE reportedly serves as a repackaging and relabelling point for Pakistani fruits, dry dates, leather, and textiles before their dispatch to India, whilst chemicals are reportedly sent via Singapore. Indonesian territory is



utilised for transiting Pakistani cement, soda ash, and textile raw materials. The official claimed that Pakistani dried fruits, salt, and leather products are being transported to India through Sri Lanka. Given the likelihood of \$500 million worth of exports reaching India through alternative routes, the official emphasised the necessity to implement a complete prohibition on Pakistani exports to India, whether direct or indirect, and to monitor and identify goods that might enter through origin manipulation. "This comprehensive ban imposed by India including a ban on indirect exports would enable the customs authorities to prevent Pakistan exports from entering India through circumvention," the official added. This report comes as the central government

imposed a ban on trade with Pakistan amid escalating tension after the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, that resulted in 26 fatalities. "India's already minuscule imports from Pakistan—barely \$ 0.5 million a year—will now drop to zero. No one in India will miss anything except perhaps Himalayan pink salt (Sendha Namak), extracted from salt deposits of Pakistan," said Ajay Srivastava, Founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), in a recent statement. This also comes against the backdrop of long-standing trade restrictions. Following the Pulwama attack in 2019, India had imposed 200 per cent tariffs on Pakistani goods. As a result, direct trade between April 2024 and January 2025 dwindled to just \$ 0.42 million, restricted mostly.

CRPF jawan dismissed for hiding marriage to Pakistani woman

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has dismissed jawan Munir Ahmed for allegedly concealing his marriage to a Pakistani national, a move deemed detrimental to national security, officials said on Saturday. Ahmed, who was serving with the CRPF's 41st battalion, was terminated without a formal inquiry under rules allowing immediate dismissal in sensitive matters.



According to CRPF spokesperson DIG M Dhinakaran, "Munir Ahmed has been dismissed from service with immediate effect for concealing his marriage to a Pakistani national and knowingly harbour-

ing her beyond the validity of her visa. His actions were found to be in violation of service conduct and detrimental to national security." Ahmed married Menal Khan from Pakistan via video call on May 24, 2023. His relationship surfaced recently after the Centre directed Pakistani nationals to leave the country in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives.

Elon Musk says 'Yes' to the 'slogan': Don't Google it, just ...

Elon Musk has a new slogan for internet users. Or rather say is giving shoutout to a new catch phrase for xAI's AI chatbot Grok. In a post on Twitter, Elon Musk wrote an affirmative 'Yes' to a post from 'Tesla Owners Silicon Valley' that says: 'Don't Google it. Grok it.' Grok is positioned it as competitor to OpenAI's ChatGPT as well as Google Gemini and other AI Chatbots. Not just this, the account shares a series of post on Grok, and the reasons one should be using them.

"Grok 3 images are insanely real ????", goes one. There are also other post that tell: 'How to download and install Grok?', 'How to use Deep Search with Grok AI?' An earlier post shared the meaning of the word Grok, quoting Elon Musk. "Grok is a word from a Heinlein novel, Stranger in a Strange Land, and it's used by a guy who's raised on Mars." For those unaware, Elon Musk founded xAI in 2023 as a counter to OpenAI's ChatGPT. Musk has openly criticized.

Odisha HC grants bail to thief with 'sapling plants' condition

Orissa
An Orissa HC judge has granted bail to a man facing prosecution for alleged theft on the condition that he plant 200 saplings of local varieties such as mango, neem, and tamarind around his village in Jharsuguda district and maintain them for two years, reports Lalmohan Patnaik. Manas Ati had been in judicial custody since December 25 last year for allegedly stealing six electric poles in villages under Kolabira police.

'Debate over Virat Kohli's strike-rate and intent should stop now'

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli has once again shown why he's considered one of the greatest batters in IPL history. On Saturday night against Chennai Super Kings, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru star smashed a brilliant 62 off just 33 balls, putting to rest all the chatter around his strike rate and intent. Former India cricketer Mohammed Kaif summed it up best in a post on X:



"Very impressive, very aggressive, very very Virat Kohli. Strike rate and intent debate around Kohli should stop now." The 35-year-old not only batted with authority but also brought up multiple personal milestones. He became the

first-ever player to hit 300 sixes for a single IPL franchise, continuing his deep legacy with RCB. Kohli's form this season has been nothing short of spectacular. With his latest innings, he has now scored 505 runs in 11 matches, reclaiming the Orange Cap. This is also his eighth IPL season with over 500 runs, making him the most consistent batter in the league's history, surpassing David Warner.

'False' toll fee deduction? NHA cracks the whip

NEW DELHI: Have you ever received a toll deduction message from your FASTag wallet even though your car was parked or you hadn't passed through a toll plaza? Officials explain that this can occur when toll operators mistakenly enter the vehicle number, often due to issues with the FASTag being unreadable for various reasons, or when people carry tags in their wallets. Cracking down on such instances of "false" deductions from FASTag wallet, the NHA has penalised toll collectors in at least 250 cases. For each violation, the highways authority's toll management entity, IHMCL, has started imposing a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

SC likely to hear plea on May 5 seeking contempt action against BJP MP Dubey over remarks against CJI

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is expected to hear a plea on May 5 demanding initiation of suo motu contempt proceedings against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey for allegedly making derogatory and scandalous remarks against the apex court and the Chief Justice of India. The petition, listed for likely hearing this week, seeks the court's intervention over what it terms an attack on the dignity of the judiciary. It also urges the top court to direct the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to issue an advisory to all state Chief Secretaries to curb hate and provocative speeches by political leaders, especially in relation to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. The controversy stems from Dubey's remarks on the Supreme Court's handling of the Waqf (Amendment) Act. In an interview to ANI on



Saturday last week, he said, "The Supreme Court is going beyond its limits. If everything is to be decided there, shut down Parliament," alleging that the judiciary was provoking religious discord and accusing CJI D Y Chandrachud of being responsible for "civil wars." He also criticised the court's ruling on Article 377 and claimed it had usurped legislative powers, saying, "You want to take this country towards anarchy." The BJP swiftly distanced itself from Dubey's comments. Party president J P Nadda stated that the remarks were Dubey's personal opinion and reiterated the BJP's respect for the judiciary.

FIR filed against Sonu Nigam over 'emotionally provocative' remarks at Bengaluru concert

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: An FIR has been registered against renowned singer Sonu Nigam following allegations of disrespectful comments about the Kannadiga community during a musical programme in Bengaluru. The complaint was initiated by Dharmaraj A, who heads the Bengaluru city district unit of Karnataka rakshana vedike, an organisation advocating for Kannada interests. The allegations claimed that Sonu Nigam made "objectionable and emotionally provocative" remarks that offended the Kannadiga community's sensibilities and fostered discord amongst various linguistic groups in Karnataka. The official complaint stated, "This complaint is lodged against the



renowned singer Shri Sonu Nigam for making objectionable and emotionally provocative statements during a musical event held on April 25 and 26, at East Point College of Engineering and Technology, Virgonagar, Bengaluru, which falls under your police station's jurisdiction. His statements have deeply hurt the sentiments of the Kannadiga community, incited hatred among various linguistic communities in Karnataka, and are likely to provoke

violence. A video of Shri Sonu Nigam's statement has gone viral, causing widespread outrage among millions of Kannadigas across the state." The event took place while the singer was performing at East Point College of Engineering and Technology in Virgonagar, Bengaluru, on April 25. When a fan persistently requested him to perform a Kannada song, Sonu refused, stating that the fan was making demands in an aggressive manner. He then

stated, "Yahi kaaran hai, Pahalgam mein jo hua hai na. Yahi kaaran hai jo kar rahe ho, jo kiya tha na abhi. Dekho toh kaun saamne khada hai." The response drew severe backlash from not just the Kannadiga community but also from public across India, who spoke against making the comparison. Police officials have registered the case under Sections 351(2), 352(I), and 353 of the Indian Penal Code and have commenced their investigation. The controversial remarks were delivered during a stage performance and were recorded on video, which subsequently spread across social media platforms, triggering significant backlash from Karnataka residents.

Maharashtra stipend for 8L Ladki beneficiaries cut

Vatika Times
MUMBAI: The state govt has reduced the stipend of eight lakh beneficiaries of its flagship Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana because they were also receiving benefits under another govt scheme, the Nammo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi (NSMN). The eight lakh women will receive a payout of Rs 500 instead of Rs 1,500 per month because they already receive Rs 1,000 under Nammo Shetkari programme. The Ladki Bahin scheme stipulates that its beneficiaries can avail of other govt schemes only if the benefit is capped at Rs 1,500 per month. This is part of state's move to scrutinise beneficiaries of the Ladki Bahin scheme and to restrict the stipend only to those who fit the eligibility criteria. In Oct, state had around 2.63 crore applicants for the scheme. The scrutiny process reduced that figure.

'I am deeply sorry': Kagiso Rabada provisionally banned for use of recreational drug

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: South Africa and Gujarat Titans pacer Kagiso Rabada has been provisionally suspended following the use of a recreational drug, the cricketer confirmed in a statement on Saturday. "As has been reported, I recently returned to South Africa from participating in the IPL for personal reasons. This was due to my returning an adverse analytical finding for the use



of a recreational drug," Rabada said in a statement. "I am deeply sorry to all those that I have let down. I will never take the privilege of playing cricket for granted. This privilege is much larger than me. It goes beyond my personal aspirations. "I am serving a provi-

sional suspension and I am looking forward to returning to the game I love playing." "I couldn't have gone through this alone. I'd like to thank my agent, CSA, and Gujarat Titans for their support. I'd also like to thank SACA and my legal team for their guidance and counsel. Most importantly, I'd like to thank my friends and family for their understanding and love," Rabada added.

Editorial

The airport is being developed through a public-private partnership

Ritu Walia

Some geopolitical weight in the region. It presents no hesitation in developing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). It knows the disputed character of PoK and exercises no restraint. Instead, it tutors India on what it does in its sovereign territory. India understands China's cunning and exercises patience and quietness, making necessary preparations to check the latter's possible misadventures. However, the work-in-progress frontier highway will significantly strengthen India's border infrastructure and seamless connectivity. It will present a significant impetus for encouraging economic engagement in the region. Infrastructure and connectivity have always played a pivotal role in modernising the economy and opening the scope for economic.

Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) at Jewar, in the Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, conducted its first flight validation test on 9 December. According to NIAL officials, the first commercial flight from Noida International Airport is scheduled to take off on 17 April 2025. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the construction of NIAL during a well-attended foundation stone-laying ceremony on 25 November 2021. An IndiGo test flight travelled from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) to NIAL, completing the final security-related analysis for the facility. Officials stated that the flight was conducted under close coordination between the pilots and the air traffic controllers (ATC). There were no passengers on board when the flight landed on the 3.9-kilometre runway shortly after noon. Earlier, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had granted flight and security approvals. Technically, the airport will now be readied for commercial operations. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) oversaw the exercise, and all data collected will be submitted to the DGCA for review. Supervising personnel included officials from the DGCA, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), NIAL, and the Uttar Pradesh Civil Aviation Department. The test assessed systems such as airspace coordination, communication protocols, emergency response readiness, and runway performance. Previous milestones included the successful calibration of the Instrument Landing System (ILS) and the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) in October 2024.

With the validation flight completed, we are committed to finishing the airport project before the end of April", said Union Minister. for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu. "Today marks a very important occasion in the progress of the airport and definitely whatever support is required from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, we will continuously provide, so that the early operations from the airport can begin," he said. The aim is to complete the validation process by December 15, after which the airport concessionaire will apply for an aerodrome license, a key requirement for commercial operations. This greenfield airport will be the largest in the country. It is located approximately 72 kilometres from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), which, until now, has been the only other international airport in the National Capital Region and is nearing its capacity. Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, currently has 15 operational civil airports. The airport is being developed through a public-private partnership (PPP) model. It will be owned by Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) and operated by Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Zurich Airport AG. In June 2022, Tata Projects was awarded the construction tender.



To stand in this house is to be reminded of what is most beautiful about religious faith

Suman

To stand in this house is to be reminded of what is most beautiful about religious faith: its ability to give solace and to inspire, its aspiration to these great and lovely heights, in which strength and delicacy are so perfectly conjoined. In addition, to be asked to speak here on this day, the fourth anniversary of the notorious fatwa of the late Imam Khomeini, is a particular honour. When I was an undergraduate at this college, between 1965 and 1968, the years of flower-power and student power, I would have found the notion of delivering an address in King's Chapel pretty far-out, as we used to say; and yet, such are the journeys of one's life that here I stand. I am grateful to the Chapel and the college for extending this invitation, which I take as a gesture of solidarity and support, support not merely for one individual but, much more importantly, for the high moral principles of human rights and human freedoms that the Khomeini edict seeks so brutally to attack. For just as King's Chapel may be taken as a symbol of what is best about religion, so the fatwa has become a symbol of what is worst. It feels all the more appropriate to be speaking here because it was while in my final year of reading history at Cambridge that I came across the story of the so-called satanic verses or temptation of the Prophet Muhammad, and of his rejection of that temptation. That year, I had chosen as one of my special subjects a paper on Muhammad, the rise of



Islam, and the caliphate. So few students chose this option that the lectures were cancelled. The other students switched to different special subjects. However, I was anxious to continue, and Arthur Hibbert, one of the King's history dons, agreed to supervise me. So as it happened I was, I think, the only student in Cambridge who took the paper. The next year, I'm told, it was not offered again. This is the kind of thing that almost leads one to believe in the workings of a hidden hand. The story of the 'satanic verses' can be found, among other places, in the canonical writings of the classical writer al-Tabari. He tells us that on one occasion the Prophet was given verses which seemed to accept the divinity of the three most popular pagan goddesses of Mecca, thus compromising Islam's rigid monotheism. Later he rejected these verses as being a trick of the devil

saying that Satan had appeared to him in the guise of the Archangel Gabriel and spoken 'satanic verses.' Historians have long speculated about this incident, wondering if perhaps the nascent religion had been offered a sort of deal by the pagan authorities of the city, which was flirted with and then refused. I felt the story humanized the Prophet, and, therefore made him more accessible, more easily comprehensible to a modern reader, for whom the presence of doubt in a human mind, and human imperfections in a great man's personality, can only make that mind, that personality, more attractive. Indeed, according to the traditions of the Prophet, even the Archangel Gabriel was understanding about the incident, assuring him that such things had befallen all the prophets, and that he need not worry about what had happened. It seems

that the Archangel Gabriel, and the God in whose name he spoke, was rather more tolerant than some of those who presently affect to speak in the name of God. Khomeini's fatwa itself may be seen as a set of modern satanic verses. In the fatwa, once again, evil takes on the guise of virtue; and the faithful are deceived. It's important to remember what the fatwa is.

One cannot properly call it a sentence, since it far exceeds its author's jurisdiction; since it contravenes fundamental principles of Islamic law; and since it was issued without the faintest pretence of any legal process. (Even Stalin thought it necessary to hold show trials!) It is, in fact, a straightforward terrorist threat, and in the West it has already had very harmful effects. There is much evidence that writers and publishers have become nervous of publishing any material

about Islam except of the most reverential and anodyne sort. There are instances of contracts for books being canceled, of texts being rewritten. Even so independent an artist as the filmmaker Spike Lee felt the need to submit to Islamic authorities the script of his film about Malcolm X, who was for a time a member of the Nation of Islam and performed the hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca. And to this day, almost one year after the paperback of The Satanic Verses was published (by a specially constituted consortium) in the United States, and imported into Britain, no British publisher has had the nerve to take on distribution of the softcover edition, even though it has been in the bookstores for months without causing the tiniest frisson. In the East, however, the fatwa's implications are far more sinister. 'You must defend Rushdie,' an Iranian writer told a British scholar recently. 'In defending Rushdie you are defending us.' In January, in Turkey, an Iranian-trained hitsquad assassinated the secular journalist Ugur Mumcu. Last year, in Egypt, fundamentalist assassins killed Farag Fouda, one of the country's leading secular thinkers. Today, in Iran, many of the brave writers and intellectuals who defended me are being threatened with death-squads. Last summer, I was able to participate in a literary seminar staged in a Cambridge college and attended by scholars and writers from all over the world, including many

When a country actually sort of does not observe written agreements

Abhinav

Between the Indian and Pacific Oceans and resulted in the creation of the Quad. The centrality of India today to the Indo-Mediterranean and the Indo-Pacific, is a result of former prime minister Abe's strategic genius and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's eventual vision and persistence. The Indian move increases pressure on China which attaches great political, spiritual and strategic importance to Tibet. Tibet's Dalai Lama and its government in exile has sheltered in India, adding to tensions between the neighbours. The rumoured creation of a new Indian fighting command on the land border creates pressure for China at a time when it seeks to achieve dominance in the seas, both the South China Sea as well as the Indian Ocean. At the same time, Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu Jaushieh was interviewed by a national Indian channel, infuriating the Chinese Communist Party. A

public protest was quickly issued by the Chinese embassy in New Delhi condemning the interview's content as "totally unacceptable". Taiwan and India have moved closer in several spheres as China's threat to Taiwan has increased with increased investments and manufacturing by Taiwanese companies in India to protect their value chain in case of an invasion by the mainland. India's policies at countering China have been deliberate, with the country starting to respond to Chinese aggression swiftly, especially given the upcoming general election. During his bilateral visit to Japan, India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said that China has not respected its agreements with India. "We can disagree on many things, but when a country actually sort of does not observe written agreements with a neighbour, I think, you have caused ... because ... then raises a question mark about the stability of the relationship and frankly.

The battle for freedom of expression, and for political and gender rights

Syed Hussain

Since it was issued without the faintest pretence of any legal process. (Even Stalin thought it necessary to hold show trials!) It is, in fact, a straightforward terrorist threat, and in the West it has already had very harmful effects. There is much evidence that writers and publishers have become nervous of publishing any material about Islam except of the most reverential and anodyne sort. There are instances of contracts for books being canceled, of texts being rewritten. Even so independent an artist as the filmmaker Spike Lee felt the need to submit to Islamic authorities the script of his film about Malcolm X, who was for a time a member of the Nation of Islam and performed the hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca. And to this day, almost one year after the paperback of The Satanic Verses was published (by a specially constituted consortium) in the United States, and imported into Britain, no British publisher has had the nerve to take on distribution of the softcover edition, even though it has been in the bookstores for months without causing the tiniest frisson. In the East, however, the fatwa's implications are far more sinister. 'You must defend Rushdie,' an Iranian writer told a British scholar recently. 'In defending Rushdie you are defending us.' In January, in Turkey, an Iranian-trained hitsquad assassinated the secular journalist Ugur Mumcu. Last year, in Egypt, fundamentalist assassins killed Farag Fouda, one of the country's leading secular thinkers. Today, in Iran, many of the brave writers and intellectuals who defended me are being threatened with death-squads. Last summer, I was able to participate in a literary seminar staged in a Cambridge college and attended by scholars and writers from all over the world.

touched by the friendship and enthusiasm with which the Muslim delegates greeted me. A distinguished Saudi journalist took my arm and said, 'I want to embrace you because you, Mr Rushdie, are a free man.' He was fully aware of the ironies of what he was saying. He meant that freedom of speech, freedom of the imagination, is that freedom which gives meaning to all the others. He could walk the streets, get his work published, lead an ordinary life, and did not feel free, because there was so much he could not say, so much he hardly dared to think. I was protected by the Special Branch; he had to watch out for the Thought Police. Today, as Professor Fred Halliday says in this week's New Statesman & Society, 'the battle for freedom of expression, and for political and gender rights, is being fought out not in the senior common rooms and dinner tables of Europe, but in the Islamic world.' n his essay, he gives some instances of the way in which the case of The Satanic Verses is being used as a symbol by the oppressed voices of the Muslim world. One of the many Iranian exile radio stations, he tells us, has even named itself Voice of the Satanic Verses. The Satanic Verses is a committedly secular text that deals in part with the material of religious faith. For the religious fundamentalist, especially, at present, the Islamic fundamentalist, the adjective 'secular' is the dirtiest of dirty words. But here's a strange paradox: in my country of origin, India, it was the secular ideal of Nehru and Gandhi that protected the nation's large Muslim minority, and it is the decay of that ideal that leads directly to the bloody sectarian confrontations which the subcontinent is now witnessing, confrontations that were long foretold and could have been avoided, had not so many politicians chosen to fan the flames of religious hatred. Indian Muslims have

, including many Muslims.I was

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme

Simran

"One can expect new allocations towards augmentation of power distribution infrastructure, especially in high density/urban. load centres, in view of the sharp rise in peak demand over the last few years," said Anujesh Dwivedi, Partner at Deloitte India. He noted that there may be some allocation towards supporting the preparatory work especially on the listing of power utilities, or some incentive mechanism for promoting initiatives on private sector participation or listing of utilities at the state level because they are increas-

ingly being seen as the much needed structural reforms the sector needs. The industry is optimistic of a wider coverage of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme by including smart metering in infrastructure definition. "This would direct more financing for a sector which seeks to bring down India's transmission and distribution losses to 12% and improve recovery for state utilities," Goyal said. Goyal also noted that power transmission despite significant potential has not seen any notable monetisation events which could address the latent investor demand. "Government should

announce a time-bound privatisation programme for assets owned by PGCIL," he said. The sector also sees the PLI scheme for solar value chain to continue with possible reduction in the duty structures for solar equipment. Jacob highlighted. that there may be some rationalisation of duties on capital goods required for solar upstream manufacturing could be seen so that overall that industry can really take off. "We expect continuation and maybe broadening of the PLI support towards the solar module value chain. We already have a few interventions there, which are likely to

be extended deeper," Dwivedi said. Similarly, on the battery manufacturing front, the industry expects localization of the value chain given competing countries have already advanced beyond India. In the green hydrogen segment, the industry believes the government may bring in hydrogen purchase for specific sectors like (green) steel. On the EV front, the industry seeks more support towards building public charging infrastructure given the anticipated increase in the EV penetration. "Under the PM E-drive, we already have an allocation of about Rs 1,100 crores for FY26. Given that the final guidelines.

Gurukul Kurukshetra Hosts Colourful Display of Creativity and Patriotism



Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: Gurukul Kurukshetra came alive with vibrant hues and youthful enthusiasm as the school organised a Painting, Poster Making, and Slogan Writing Competition, aimed at encouraging artistic expression and social awareness among students. The event was conducted under the visionary leadership of Director Parveen Kumar and Principal Subey Pratap, with seamless coordination by Activity Incharge Sunil Ahuja. Each class group was given a unique topic to reflect

their age group and creative potential. Students of Classes 6 and 7 engaged in a colourful and imaginative Mask Making activity, displaying an array of cultural and fantasy-themed designs. Classes 8 to 10 worked on the powerful theme "Proud to be an Indian", presenting visually compelling artworks and slogans that echoed patriotism and national pride. The senior-most students of Class 12 were challenged with the sophisticated theme of Still Life, where their detailed compositions and use of

colour reflected maturity and technical skill. The competition saw enthusiastic participation, with students expressing their ideas through a blend of creativity, craftsmanship, and conviction. The entries were judged based on creativity, relevance to the theme, and presentation. Director Mr. Parveen Kumar applauded the students' talent and was happy to see the creativity of them. The event concluded on a note of pride and inspiration, reinforcing Gurukul Kurukshetra's commitment to holistic education.

Social Work Promotes Unity and Cooperation in Society: Laxmi

Jasbir Singh Duggal Shahabad Markanda: At PM Shri Govt. Senior Secondary School Shahabad, social worker Chaudhary Balbir Singh from the nearby village of Landi provided school uniforms to 12 underprivileged students. The school staff expressed their gratitude for this humanitarian contribution. The school principal, Laxmi Prasad, stated that social work fosters a sense of unity and cooperation in society. Acts of service like these not only bring people together but also empower society to move forward collectively. Addressing the stu-



dents, he said that when you all reach significant milestones in your future lives, never forget the importance of serving society. Such efforts help us become responsible citizens. He further added that social work is essential in every field of life, and by engaging in it, we can bring posi-

tive changes in areas like education, health, environment, and social equality. On this occasion, senior teachers Ranveer Singh, Mukesh Sharma, Jaiprakash, Sanjeev Kumar, Tarsem Sharma, Sanjay Kumar D.P., and Ajay Singh were also present.

NDMC puts in place plans for cleanliness in markets

New Delhi: New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has formulated a fresh plan to ensure cleanliness in its markets before and after the New Year's Eve celebrations. This includes deploying extra workers, managing parking facilities effectively, ensuring the effi-

cient operation of streetlights, and making further arrangements to prevent any waterlogging. Meanwhile, in view of the week-long mourning period for former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the council has dropped its plans to install decora-

tive floral displays and organise special programmes to ring in the new year. A special 10-day cleanliness drive is already underway in NDMC areas. Deep cleaning of footpaths, sweeping of avenue roads, removal of construction



Rs 11.39 Crore to Be Spent on Strengthening Government School Infrastructure and Nurturing Talent : Neha Singh

Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh stated that the government is placing special emphasis on strengthening the infrastructure of government schools. Along with providing all necessary facilities, efforts are also being made to implement schemes that help nurture the hidden talents of students.

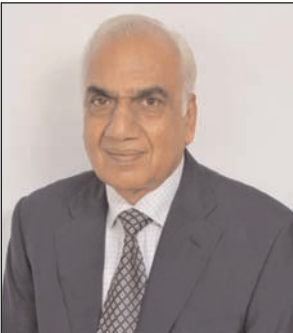


According to a report by the Education Department, a budget of approximately Rs 11.39 crore has been allocated by the government for crucial areas such as school infrastructure and talent development in the district. Speaking on the matter, Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh said that in Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's home district Kurukshetra, the government is actively working to upgrade government schools to provide students with all essential facilities. Under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, over 35 areas of focus have been identified for development in the district's schools. These include the construction of classrooms, providing platforms for students to showcase their talent through events like Independence Day, Republic Day, and cultural festivals, and carrying out school repairs and renovations.

Symbol of Inspiration: Women's Power to Shine at the Women Achievement Award Ceremony

PNGI Institute to host the 5th Women Achievement Award Ceremony on May 14
"Women are not just a source of inspiration, but also agents of change":
Vinod Bapna
Gurugram: The role of women in society today is no longer confined to

limited boundaries. In every field, women are establishing a new identity through their talent, hard work, and dedication. They are bringing pride to the nation at both national and international levels and inspiring other women to break free from traditional roles and chase their dreams to reach the heights of success. Dedicated to this spirit of inspiration, the 5th Women Achievement Award Ceremony will be organized by PNGI. Providing this informa-



tion, PNGI and CII Gurugram Zone Chairman Vinod Bapna said that the 5th Women Achievement Award Ceremony will be held on May 14 at Lingaya's Lalita Devi Institute of



Management and Sciences (LDIMS), located near Gurugram. The event will not only feature guests from Gurugram but also from across the country. The chief guest will be Yogesh Munjal, Founder

and MD of Munjal Showa Limited; the guest of honor will be Arjuna Awardee SSO Neha Rathi; and other distinguished guests include ASK Automotive Group Chairperson & CHRO Eebha Lal, Regional PF Commissioner (Gurugram West) Vikram Singh, and Watermark Associate Director of People Lalaj Sharma. They will honor women who have made remarkable achievements in various fields. Chairman Vinod Bapna

stated that women are not only sources of inspiration but also carriers of change. Women today have not only proven their mettle across diverse sectors but have also become beacons of hope for those who hesitate to step out despite having talent. He added that this event aims to encourage all such talents who are playing a vital role in the nation's progress. Meanwhile, Sh. Yogesh Chandra Munjal, Founder and MD of

Munjal Showa Limited, who will attend the ceremony as the chief guest, praised the organizers' vision and said that women's empowerment is not just a women's issue—it is a human issue. It means ensuring equal rights, opportunities, and respect for all. He emphasized that equality is a fundamental human right and that women deserve equal access to education, employment, health-care, and decision-making. By safeguarding

these rights, we build a just and progressive society. On this occasion, PNGI Co-Founder Zoha Ashfaq Ahmed and Business Advisor Ashu Kashyap stated that when a woman is encouraged to move forward, it is equivalent to advancing the nation itself. Such events not only uplift women but also contribute to national development. Therefore, the significance of this ceremony lies in celebrating women's achievements.

Hrithik & Rakesh Roshan on-screen together for the first time, taking drivers on an 'Unforgettable Journey' with the Mobil 1 brand

Vatika Times GURUGRAM: ExxonMobil Lubricants Pvt Ltd, an ExxonMobil affiliate in India that markets Mobil™ branded lubricants, today announced the launch of its new commercial as part of its ongoing 'Unforgettable Journeys' campaign, with the latest installment spotlighting Mobil 1™, the world's leading synthetic engine oil brand. Featuring Bollywood icon Hrithik Roshan, the commercial draws a powerful synergy between Hrithik's drive, India as a nation of dreamers and doers and the performance of Mobil 1™, all united by shared passion and the relentless pursuit of excellence. The latest commercial brings together Bollywood icon Hrithik Roshan



and his father, Indian film producer and director, Rakesh Roshan, on-screen for the very first time. As Hrithik marks 25 years in the film industry since his successful debut in Kaho Na Pyaar Hai, the campaign celebrates his unwavering passion and pursuit of excellence to deliver unforgettable performances. His journey also mirrors India as a nation—where dreamers defy odds and doers turn ambition into achievement. It reflects the spirit of a

country that is constantly evolving, where every generation dares to imagine a better future and works tirelessly to achieve it. Sharing this same spirit is Mobil 1™—a brand that continues to redefine the possibilities of engine oil. Powered by cutting-edge technology, it evolves with the times to deliver the most innovative and highest performance engine oils that keep your engine running like new. Charlene Pereira, Managing Director, ExxonMobil Lubricants Private Limited, said, "For decades, Mobil 1™ has proven to perform in the toughest conditions—lab-tested, road-driven, and track-proven—with engines still in remarkable condition after significant mileage.

Vatika Times KARNAL / SONIPAT: CMF, the sub-brand of London-based technology company Nothing, has today announced the open sales for CMF Phone 2 Pro across Flipkart, Flipkart Minutes, Vijay Sales, Croma and all leading retail stores in India, starting 5 May, 12 noon onwards. As a special introductory offer on day 1, Phone 2 Pro will be available for as low as ₹16,999 (including all offers). CMF by Nothing launched the

Phone 2 Pro globally on April 28, 2025, with a best-in-segment three-camera system, a wonderfully bright display, and a premium design, CMF Phone 2 Pro is the ultimate daily smartphone. The slimmest and lightest smartphone Nothing has ever designed. At 7.8 mm, weighing just 185 g, CMF Phone 2 Pro is nearly weightless - 5% thinner than CMF Phone 1. It comes in an elegant body with an aluminum camera surround - evolved from the first-genera-



tion design - and features stainless steel screws for an authentic Nothing feel that unveils the craft behind it. Plus, increased water durability with IP54 - CMF

Phone 1 was IP54. CMF Phone 2 Pro features an advanced three-camera system, complete with a 50 MP main camera with the largest sensor in its segment and capturing 64% more light than CMF Phone 1. For faraway scenes, the first-in-segment 50MP telephoto lens offers 2x optical zoom and up to 20x Ultra Zoom. To wrap it up, the 8 MP ultra-wide camera provides an expansive field of view, perfect for everything from land-

scapes to skylines, while the 16 MP front camera is ready to snap your sharpest selfies. Now its 6th generation, the newly upgraded MediaTek Dimensity 7300 Pro 5G processor packs an 8-core CPU that clocks in speeds of up to 2.5 GHz - ready to live up to the demands of heavy multi-taskers. For cutting-edge performance, with 10% quicker processing and a 5% improvement in graphics when compared to CMF Phone 1.

CMF Phone 2 Pro sale starts 5 May; Available for as low as 16,999

BJP wary of Nitish's erratic behaviour', fears it will give ammo to opposition before Bihar

NEW DELHI: As Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar continues with his unpredictable and "erratic" behaviour, a section of BJP is worried about the repercussions of his "poor health", even as the party remains firm on contesting the assembly polls due this year under his leadership.

In a fresh controversy, Kumar abruptly got off the stage when the announcement for the national anthem was made after the inauguration of the Sepak Takraw World Cup in Patna on Thursday and began exchanging pleasantries with the participants. Later, when the national anthem

was played, he stood smiling and waving at bystanders. Kumar came under heavy opposition fire in both Houses of the state legislature for disrespecting the national anthem. His latest act led to much mirth and has given fodder to opposition parties, RJD and Congress, to exploit in the

upcoming state polls. arguing he can't be given another term in view of his health condition. BJP, sources said, is confident of winning another term alongside JDU and LJP, but the party's worry is that Kumar's unexpected behaviour in the public glare has often given openings to opponents.

Einstein International School
Students Visit Sugar Mill for
Educational Tour

Jasbir Singh Duggal
Shahabad Markanda:

An educational tour to the local sugar mill was organized for students of classes 7 and 8 from Einstein International School, Shahabad. The objective of the visit was to familiarize students with the actual process of sugar production and to enhance their practical knowledge. On this occasion, the school's chairman, Mr. Devender Singla, stated that such educational visits not only provide technical insights to the students but also help them better understand the functioning of the country's economy. He noted that learning about the complex and organized process involved in producing something as common as sugar was a valuable experience for the children. At the mill, Chief Engineer Satbir Saini and Lab In-charge



Jitender Kumar Bains gave the students a detailed introduction to the machinery used in the mill, various stages of production, and the storage of sugar. They explained that the production process includes several stages such as cane sorting, crushing, boiling, drying, crystal formation, separation, and finally, packaging. Students also learned that Shahabad Sugar Mill produces several tons of sugar annually and even generates electricity used to power its operations. The students were visibly surprised and excited to hear this information.

School Director

Deepali Singhal expressed her gratitude to the mill management and emphasized that introducing students to industrial processes is an essential part of education. She added that such tours deepen students' interest and understanding of academic subjects. Vice Principal Sandhya Verma mentioned that while many students were familiar with sugarcane farming, the actual process of making sugar from sugarcane was a completely new and exciting experience for them. She assured that the school would continue to organize similar educational tours in

After Yunus cosies up to China,
India terminates trans-shipment
facility for Bangladesh

NEW DELHI: India has withdrawn a key trans-shipment facility granted to Bangladesh, days after the chief adviser of Bangladesh's interim government, Muhammad Yunus, described India's Northeast as a "landlocked" region reliant on Dhaka for access to the ocean — remarks that triggered strong diplomatic backlash. The decision, announced via a circular issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs on April 8, effectively ends a 2020 arrangement that had

allowed Bangladesh to route its export cargo to third countries through Indian Land Customs Stations and onward to ports and airports. "It has been decided to rescind... circular...dated June 29, 2020, as amended with immediate effect. Cargo already entered into India may be allowed to exit the Indian territory as per the procedure," the circular mentioned. The facility had enabled smoother trade for Bangladesh to Bhutan, Nepal, and Myanmar. But Indian exporters, particularly in the

apparel sector, had long objected to the arrangement. Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Sudhir Sekhri earlier said that 20–30 Bangladeshi trucks arrived daily in Delhi, clogging cargo terminals and spiking freight costs. "Now we will have more air capacity for our cargo," said FIEO Director General Ajay Sahai. "In the past, exporters have complained about lesser space due to the trans-shipment facility given to Bangladesh."

Body of youth found floating in Bhadbhada

Bhopal: Body of a 19-year-old youth, who went missing from his home on Friday, was found floating under mysterious circumstances in Bhadbhada in Kamla Nagar area on Sunday early morning. Police said a suicide note written in English was recovered

from his pocket, in which he mentioned that he was betrayed by a girl, whom he was in love. The suicide note was partially readable as it was in water for past two days. Police said that the deceased identified as Pintu resided at his aunty's home in

Kotra, Kamla Nagar, since he was three. His parents reside in Uttar-Pradesh. He was a student of class 12. Police said that on Friday afternoon, Pintu left home without informing anyone in the home. Till early morning, when he did not return home.



Woman shot dead by husband in Bihar; locals say she is minister Manjhi's kin



A 32-year-old woman was allegedly shot dead by her husband in Bihar's Gaya district after an altercation, police said on Wednesday. The incident happened in Tetua village in the Atari police station area, they said. Sushma Devi's husband Ramesh Singh, a truck driver, had come home from Patna on Tuesday. "They had an argument last night. Amid that, he shot her dead and fled in the morning," alleged Poonam Kumari, Sushma's younger sister. Police said a country-made pistol was seized from near Sushma's body, which was found lying in a pool of blood. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anand Kumar said the body was sent for the post-mortem examination. "Investigation is on and a search is underway to nab the accused," he said. Villagers claimed that Sushma was distantly related to Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, who represents the Gaya seat in the Lok Sabha. Despite repeated attempts, state minister Santosh Kumar Suman, Majhi's son, could not be reached for a comment.

Art and Craft Seminar Held at Gita Vidya Mandir

Students Learned the Art of Creating Beautiful Crafts Using Colors and Paper

Jasbir Singh Duggal

Shahabad Markanda: A creative and enriching Art and Craft Seminar was organized at Gita Vidya Mandir, where students were introduced to various techniques in art and craft. The program was inaugurated by the school's Principal, Nisha Goyal, through a ceremonial lamp lighting. In her inspiring address, Principal Nisha Goyal said that art and craft are two



essential forms of human expression. While art reflects a person's imagination and creativity, craft is the skill of creating useful and aesthetically pleasing items. Such activities not only foster creativity in stu-

dents but also enhance their mental balance and self-confidence. The seminar featured a special session by organic craft art expert Mahender Rai, who was invited from Delhi. He taught students how to

create a variety of beautiful items using colored paper. These included candles, roses, Christmas trees, candle trees, lotuses, Japanese fans, and rangoli designs. His creative approach and easy-to-follow teaching style left a strong impression on the students. Throughout the program, students participated enthusiastically and showcased their artistic talents. Through the seminar, they also learned that beautiful and useful items can be crafted even with limited resources. On this occasion, senior faculty members and staff including Rajwant Kaur, Sunil, Vikram, Surya, Shaily, Mamta, Khushi, Anuradha, Pooja, Rammi, and Sumedha Rani were also present.

AI puts flyer who urinated on co-passenger on no-fly list for 30 days

NEW DELHI: A business class passenger seated in the second row of an Air India Airbus A320 flying from Delhi to Bangkok Wednesday urinated on a traveller in the front row, just before landing. Sources say this person "had alcohol like a significant number of travellers on flights between Delhi & the Thai capital but he was not sloshed." Air India has barred him from flying for 30 days, pending action to be decided by an independent panel like the first peegate the airline



had seen in Nov 2022. Cabin crew "provided assistance" to the victim — who declined to file a complaint against the passenger after he apologised profusely — and shifted the latter to another seat on the erstwhile Vistara A320 which has 2 by 2

seating in business. In Nov 2022, a business class passenger on AI's New York-Delhi flight had urinated on an elderly lady in the same cabin class. "Air India confirms that an incident of unruly passenger behaviour was reported to the cabin .

Supreme Court pulls up Centre for
missing deadline on establishing
cashless medical treatment scheme

NEW Delhi:

The Supreme Court on Wednesday slammed the Centre regarding delays in establishing a cashless medical treatment scheme for motor accident victims. The court summoned the road transport ministry secretary for clarification. Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan noted non-compliance with their 8 order. "The time granted has expired on 15, 2025. This is a serious breach and violation of not only orders of this court but a violation of implementing a very beneficial legislation. We direct the secretary, ministry of road transport and highways to appear on video-conferencing and explain why the directions of this court were not complied with," stated the bench. The court observed that senior

government officials respond seriously only upon being summoned. Additional solicitor general Vikramjeet Banerjee, representing the Centre, cited "bottle necks" as reasons. The court responded firmly, stating that the legislation was meant to benefit common people and prevent loss of lives due to lack of cashless treatment facilities. They warned of potential contempt proceedings. The secretary was instructed to appear on April 28 for explanation. The court additionally instructed the transport department secretary to provide written directives to district magistrates regarding uploading hidden hit-and-run claims on the GIC portal. On 8, the court had directed the Centre to create a scheme for cashless treatment dur-

ing the 'golden hour' as per law. Referencing Section 162(2) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the government was ordered to implement the scheme by . The Act defines golden hour under Section 2 (12-A) as the crucial one-hour period post-trauma when medical intervention is most effective. The court emphasised that financial and procedural delays often result in fatalities. It highlighted the Centre's statutory obligation under Section 162 to create a cashless treatment scheme, supporting Article 21's right to life guarantee. The law requires insurance companies to provide treatment for accident victims during the golden hour according to the MV Act scheme. scheme remained unimplemented.

Under construction mosque in cemetery razed, case registered

Kanpur: A mosque being constructed illegally on a burial ground was razed by the district authorities in Hamirpur district. The administration obtained land details from the municipal records and after confirming that the construction was illegal, demolished

the structure. A case was registered against six identified and 250 unidentified people. A search has been initiated for the suspects. Officials received information about the construction of a mosque at a burial ground near Chhimoli Road. SDM

Rajkumar Gupta sought land status report from regional records officer Satyam Awasthi, who verified that the property, situated in Mauja Maudha, spanning 2.09 hectares, was officially documented as a cemetery. Following the report, authori-

ties, anticipating potential unrest, conducted a late-night demolition of the incomplete structure. The operation was overseen by SDM Rajkumar Gupta, tehsildar Anubhav Chandra, CO Vinita Pahal, and Kotwali officer Umesh Kumar Singh.

New I-T bill may be introduced in House on Tuesday

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to introduce the new income tax bill in Parliament on Tuesday, with the legislation likely to be referred to a standing committee for examination. "I hope to have it introduced in Lok Sabha in the coming week. The process is the committee gives its recommendation, it comes back, and then the government, through the Cabinet, takes a call on whether these amendments.

'We should be a party of ... ': Tharoor's message to Congress on way forward

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader and party MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday said that the grand-old-party should represent hope and positivity instead of resentment and criticism. "The Congress must be a party of hope, not of resentment; a party of positivity not only of negativism, a party of the future not just of the past, a party with a positive narrative and not just criticism. I hope we will leave here with a resounding message to the nation, that

we are here, we will fight, we will be resolved, we will focuss on the future and we will build a better India for all," Tharoor said at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) session which is being held on the banks of the Sabarmati river, the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhai Patel. "Here in Gujarat where we have been out of power for three decades, we stand on the brink of a new revival and that is a moment of celebration

for all of us here. 2024 has given us both good news and bad news -- a good result in the Lok Sabha elections where we doubled our strength but bad news in a number of state elections that followed," the Congress Working Committee (CWC) member said. "We need to retain and restore the votes we have won before but we have failed to win in the last three elections and that is where this resolution leads us. It is a resolution in which we express construc-

tive criticism and not mere unrelenting negativity," he said, discussing the party's resolution at the Ahmedabad session. Tharoor also highlighted the need to reach out to the marginalised sections of the society and said, "Our nationalism is anchored in the well-being of all our people. It is anchored in a sense of social justice for the weakest in our society. A major theme of this resolution is protecting the weak, the marginalised.

Maharashtra CM Fadnavis receives threat message from Pakistani number



NEW DELHI: Mumbai Traffic Police received a WhatsApp message from a Pakistani number, in which a person identifying himself as Malik Shahbaz Humayun Raza threatened to attack Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, officials said on Friday.Following the threat, the Worli police registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter. Security agencies have been alerted, and efforts are underway to trace the sender and verify the credibility of

the threat. Mumbai Police officials assured that all necessary security measures are being taken to ensure the safety of the chief minister. A similar incident of threatening was also reported last week. Police arrest 2 for sending bomb threat to Eknath Shinde Mumbai Police have arrested two individuals from Buldhana in connection with an email threatening to bomb the car of Maharashtra deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde. The threat

email was received by the Goregaon Police Station, prompting an immediate response from law enforcement agencies. Upon receiving the message, officials swiftly activated security protocols and launched an investigation to identify the sender. As a result, an FIR was registered under Sections 351(3), 351(4), and 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which pertain to criminal intimidation and obstruction of duty by public servants.

Industrial City’s Shendra node gets separate power supply

Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar.

The Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC), a power regulator, gave the necessary approval. The regulator is also expected to hear the multi-year tariff (MYT) petition submitted by the MITL to decide the tariff structure within the next few weeks. The development is expected to ensure a smooth and quality power supply to the thriving industrial city that witnessed Rs 60,000 crore investment. The industrial city is expected to generate direct and indirect employment for two

lakh people. A senior official said different industries in Auric would benefit immensely due to the award of the power distribution licence to the MITL."The industries can expect power supply at competitive rates in comparison to other states. The power supply will be smoother, helping industries carry out different operations in a seamless manner," he said.The power supply distribution network at Shendra is largely underground and can work with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems that are used to monitor and

control industrial .

processes. "MITL has set up a dedicated consumer facilitation centre at Shendra. Centre will help deliver the highest quality of services to industries," Auric authorities said. Piyush Goyal, the Union minister for commerce and industry, who visited Auric on Feb 19, said the greenfield industrial city would have its own power distribution network. Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Ather Energy, Lubrizol India Private Limited, and JSW Green Mobility are among the major companies that



Inoventive 3D makes waves with Dubai’s first fully 3D-printed boat

Cyberfin, a shark-shaped boat made from recycled ocean waste plastic, was completed in just six days and nine hours, highlighting the efficiency of this innovative technology. With dimensions of 10 meters in length, 2.1 meters in width, and 2.7 meters in height, it can accommodate up to 10 passengers and is officially registered with the Dubai Maritime City Authority (DMCA).

Pran Pratistha concludes at Kalibari

Chandigarh: A three-day Pran Pratistha of Bhagwan Sri Ramakrishna at Kalibari, Sector 47 concluded with a soulful Bhakti Sammelan, special Kali Puja and cultural events. Devotional music, enlightening talks by monks and scholars and a mesmerizing Kirtan Sangeet by Padda Polash enthralled devotees. The play Divya Sparsh depicted Sri Ramakrishna's divine life. Kalibari celebrates its 56th Foundation Day on Tuesday with special Pooja, Langar, blood donation, and free health and eye camps.

Fully 3D-printed boat

"This marks a significant milestone not just for Inoventive 3D but for the entire marine industry," said M. Ali, Managing Partner of Inoventive 3D. "Our large-format 3D printing capabilities allow us to produce boats in a fraction of the time required by traditional manufacturing methods. With this innovation, we can manufacture 6-7 boats per month, transforming Dubai into a hub for 3D-printed marine solutions."Traditional boat manufacturing takes 3 to 4 months.

India's Got Latent row: Ranveer , Ashish dial cyber cell, say they want to record statements

NEW DELHI: YouTubers Ranveer Allahbadia and Ashish Chanchlani have voluntarily reached out to the cyber cell, expressing their willingness to record their statements in connection with a case regarding alleged obscenity promotion on the controversial show India's Got Latent.The Cyber Cell officials confirmed on Monday that both influencers had contacted them and agreed to appear after summons were issued for them to testify. The development comes amid a series of legal actions stemming from India's Got Latent show. Ashish Chanchlani had recently approached the Supreme Court seeking to



quash or transfer an FIR filed against him in Guwahati. The FIR relates to accusations of promoting obscenity on the show. The Supreme Court, on February 18, issued notices to both the Maharashtra and Assam governments, tagging Chanchlani's plea with a similar request filed by Ranveer

Allahbadia, also known as BeerBiceps.The case involves Allahbadia, who is the primary accused, and Chanchlani, both of whom are named in an FIR lodged by the Guwahati Police.The FIR stems from comments made by Allahbadia during his guest appearance on India's Got

Latent, a comedy YouTube show hosted by Samay Raina. Allahbadia made controversial remarks about a participant's parents, which were quickly criticised as inappropriate and sexually explicit. The remarks sparked outrage on social media, with public figures, political leaders, and citizens condemning the comments.In response, Allahbadia issued an apology, and Raina removed all videos of the show from his YouTube channel, stating that he was fully cooperating with authorities. The controversy took a legal turn as the Supreme Court criticised Allahbadia's remarks, describing them as "dirty and perverted".

Sena factions clash in Thane, raise slogans at Dighe memorial

Thane: Workers of the rival Shiv Sena factions led by deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray indulged in sloganeering and heated exchange at Anand Ashram in Thane's Ashram at Tembhi Naka area on Sunday evening. The clash led to traffic disruptions in the area. The residence of the late Shiv Sena leader Anand Dighe, Anand Ashram serves as the party office of Shinde's Shiv Sena. On Sunday, the Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) organised a

rally in Thane ahead of the civic elections. Despite a strong police presence, tensions escalated when senior leaders, including Vinayak Raut, Sanjay Raut, and Chandrakant Khaire, arrived at Anand Ashram to pay their respects to Dighe. The rival Sena faction members confronted each other and started sloganeering. The situation intensified when the Sena (UBT) leaders proceeded to Shakti Sthal, Dighe's memorial, where another round of slogan shouting erupted between

the two groups. Former Thane mayor Minakshi Shinde condemned the event, calling it an insult to Dighe's legacy. She defended Shiv Sena's decision to perform a 'Dudh Abhishek' (milk offering) at the memorial to "purify" the site. The political blame game took centre stage at the Sena (UBT) rally with Sanjay Raut launching a scathing attack on the Shinde faction. He accused the Prime Minister of orchestrating the split in the Shiv Sena and criticised Shinde.

Free limbs and calipers measurement camp organised by Narayan Seva Sansthan concludes, 447 benefitted

Chandigarh: Udaipur based Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) organized a free screening and limb/caliper measurement camp at the Community Center, Sector 49 C on Sunday. The camp was inaugurated by Sanjay Tandon, a noted politician and social worker and Shipra Bansal, Chairperson, Child Rights Protection Commission, UT in the presence of local councilor Rajendra Sharma and Vandana Agarwal, Director, NSS. Sanjay Tandon praised the Sansthan's initiatives stating that those who serve society with pure intentions are immortal. He highlighted the work of NSS in empowering the disabled and fostering human cooperation, calling it an

inspiration for society. He also announced a Rs. 1 lakh grant to NSS and assured continued support in the future. Shipra Bansal lauded the Sansthan's work in empowering differently-abled children over the past 40 years, emphasizing the importance of ongoing efforts to build a healthy society through collaboration with NGOs. During the camp, attendees heard success stories from beneficiaries whose lives were transformed by the Sansthan's work. The chief guests and other dignitaries were briefed about the measurement and fitting process by medical professionals and technical teams. andana Agarwal in her welcome

address, shared the wide-ranging services provided by NSS, including daily meals for over 5,000 people, free education for underprivileged children and training programs in computer skills, mobile repairs, and sewing. Additionally, ten wheelchairs were distributed to those in need during the camp. 447 patients attended the camp, representing all age groups and coming from Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. Of these, 70 patients were referred for free surgery by NSS. The limbs measured at the camp will be distributed in two months at the same venue.

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Spending on gaming in small towns has increased 16 times in the last five years

Delhi: According to a Visa white paper on payments, spending on online gaming increased 16 times in smaller areas between 2019 and 2024. The pattern indicates that digital consumption is becoming more and more prevalent in India's non-metropolitan regions. Spending on digital services, such as gaming, online education, and entertainment, has increased ninefold



and sixteen fold since 2019, respectively, among consumers in smaller towns. In smaller towns, the number of consumers spending more than

Rs 2 lakh a year with a single card has increased by over four times, while in category A cities, the figure has increased by 1.4 times. This change has

led to a 175% increase in total card expenditure in category C+ cities since 2019 and suggests that affluence is spreading outside of metropolitan areas. According to Niko Partners' India Market Report, the country's video game market is predicted to develop at an annual rate of 11.1%, surpassing \$1 billion in 2025 and reaching a valuation of \$1.4 billion by 2028.

Paytm migrates merchants to UPI IDs

Delhi: Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma claimed merchant clients have migrated to the new PSP bank handles. Last week, the financial startup gained NPCI approval to begin user migration. Sharma launched the new sound box at a virtual press conference and said Yes Bank, a PSP bank, can elect to undertake additional due diligence on switching merchants. "Migration of merchants has been completed and the system is running with Yes Bank as the back end," he said. The new method transfers Paytm clients to PSP banks including Axis, HDFC, SBI, and Yes Bank. A PSP bank connects the UPI app to the banking channel. Only banks can be PSPs. Paytm previously settled with OCL-affiliated Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (PPBL). The Reserve Bank of India ordered the payments bank to shut down basic banking services by 15



Swiggy moves closer to \$1.25 billion IPO

Delhi: Swiggy's shareholders have approved a \$1.2 billion initial public offering (IPO), according to Registrar of Companies papers sourced by Tofler. The documents claimed that the Bengaluru-based firm wants to raise up to Rs 3,750 crore (approximately \$450 million) through a fresh issue and up to Rs 6,664 crore (about \$800 million) through an OFS. In preparation for its IPO later this year, the business seeks Rs 750 crore from anchor investors. The company's shareholders consent and approve the creation, issue, offer, allot, and/or transfer of its equity shares up to Rs 3,750 crore by way of a fresh issue of equity shares up to Rs 6,664 crore by certain existing shareholders (OFS). Prosus owns 32% of Swiggy, SoftBank 8%, Accel 6.2, its founder group 6.7%, and Elevation Capital 4.4%. Tracxn, a market information platform, lists Norwest Venture Partners, Tencent, DST Global, and Alpha Wave.

March due to supervisory concerns and rule violations. Following RBI's order, Sharma resigned as

Paytm Payments Bank's non-executive chairman and board member in February.

Standard Capital Markets Ltd. Board To Consider Declaration of Special Dividend

Chandigarh: Standard Capital Markets Ltd., a leading player in the financial services sector, has announced that its board will meet on 30th April to consider Declaration of special dividend. The board will also consider issuance of equity shares/convertible securities either by way of Preferential Issue/Rights Issue/or any other mode as may be considered or as may be deemed fit. Earlier, the company effected a stock split in 10:1 ratio (subdivision of 1 equity share of FV Rs. 10 into 10 shares with FV of Re. 1 each) and bonus issue in 2:1 ratio (two bonus share of FV Re.1 for every existing equity share of FV Re. 1 held). Standard Capital Markets Limited is a leading player in the financial services sector.Embracing the uniqueness of each client, the company consistently strives to deliver personalized, professional services. It upholds an unwavering commitment to every client while adhering rigorously to the best professional norms and practices, exuding dynamism

in every interaction. The company offers a diverse range of Personal Loans, ensuring not only competitiveness but also flexible repayment terms. With their support, clients can confidently pursue their goals without confusion or worry. For businesses seeking financial support, the company extends Business Loans with flexible overdraft options. The company empowers clients to stay ahead of the competition by providing prompt financial assistance, fostering business growth with ease. The Flexi Overdraft feature simplifies cash flow management, allowing easy access to funds as needed, and eliminating the complexities of traditional loan applications. Upcoming products from Standard Capital Markets Limited include Fee Financing and Gold Loans. The Fee Financing offerings cater to aspiring students and parents, simplifying educational expenses. The tech-driven platform enables swift and effortless applications for fee financing, ensuring accessible and affordable education for

all. Simplified Gold Loans offered by the company provide an instant solution for urgent financial requirements, leveraging gold holdings without delays or excessive paperwork. The company is dedicated to nurturing a culture of learning and progress, reflected in its offerings of Educational Loans. It is an upcoming product aimed at supporting aspiring learners in accessing quality education. With a focus on flexible repayment options, the company alleviates financial constraints for students, enabling them to pursue academic aspirations. Its financial assistance endeavors ensure academic pursuits are within reach, offering competitive interest rates and streamlined online application processes. In line with its commitment to empowerment, the company is working towards extending Agriculture Loans (upcoming product), recognizing farmers as the cornerstone of the Agriculture Loan offering.Timely financial assistance for various farming activities.



Staff fraud costs M&M Financial Services 150cr

Delhi: Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services revealed a NorthEast branch fraud that could cost Rs 150 crore. Fraudsters forged automobile loan KYC documentation to steal corporate funds. Area business managers and other staff are under investigation, according to the corporation. After the announcement, firm shares fell 5.5%, resulting in a market cap loss of roughly Rs 1,700 crore. The corporation postponed its April 23 board meeting to discuss FY24 results. M&M Financial Services was regulated last year for recovery tactics. After the theft, Centrum financial indicated in a research report that the financial business had fewer provisions due to asset quality fluctuation. Macquarie's Vertelo invests \$1.5B in India for charging stations and EV loans.

Auctions for mobile spectrum to continue

Delhi: Union communications minister Ashwini Vaishnaw clarified a day after the government's application to the apex court on administrative allocation of spectrum in public interest or in pursuit of government function was mentioned in the 2G spectrum case that the government will continue to follow the auction process for spectrum allocation and was not seeking to modify the 2G judgment. Vaishnaw stated they would continue to follow the spectrum auction process for mobile services. The Telecommunications Act 2023, which was notified in the official gazette on December 24 but has not yet been enacted, requires the central government to auction all telecommunication spectrum except for activities listed in the First Schedule.

Air India CEO says India's aviation expansion might support another international hub

Delhi: Air India Ltd. CEO Campbell Wilson said India's airline business is growing quickly enough to accommodate at least one more international hub beyond Mumbai and Delhi. "India can be home to at least three hubs and plenty of point-to-point services," he said. The globe has few marketplaces like India. Southern India can flow Asia-Africa or Australia-Europe, while northern India flows east-west "added. Air India ordered 470 Airbus SE and Boeing Co. jets last year, one of the largest jet purchases in aviation history. Bloomberg says India's growing consumer class and economy might



make it a major travel market. IndiGo and Akasa are among the Indian airlines that have ordered over 1,100 aircraft and invested \$12 billion to build 72 new airports by 2025. Air India has received one new

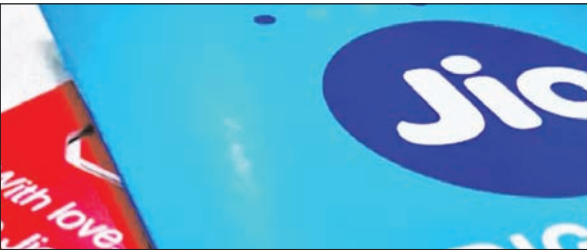
aircraft every six days for six months and will continue to do so for 12 months. "11 Boeing 777s, three Airbus A350s, and 15 Boeing 737 Maxs arrived this month. Retrofitting widebodies

Vodafone Idea FPO subscribed 7x, largest fund-raise

Delhi: Vodafone Idea's Rs 18,000-crore follow-on public offer (FPO) was subscribed seven times, the most popular fund-raising maneuver. The Rs 10-Rs 11 FPO, the largest in Indian history.

should finish in 2025 or 2026 "Wilson stated. "At the time of privatization, Air India had 43 wide-body aircraft for a population of 1.3 billion," he said. Singapore has 150 wide-body planes, Dubai 250.

Jio needs two pricing hikes to catch Airtel in Arpu



Delhi: Reliance Analysts estimate that Jio, India's largest telecom operator by market share, would need two 15-20% rate hikes over the next three years to catch up to Bharti Airtel on average revenue per user (Arpu). Tariff rises and customer mix should boost Jio's Arpu to Rs 235 by FY27. However, Airtel's Arpu should reach Rs 286 in three years. Jio's Arpu at Rs 182 has been flat sequentially for the last three quarters, despite reporting January-March quarter earnings in line with experts' projections. JP Morgan

analysts claimed Jio's Arpu deflated because of early success in JioBharat feature phones at lower prices. Furthermore, free 5G is substantially reducing 4G data top-ups. Jio's 5G subscribers reached 108 million. Its 5G network handles 28% of wireless data traffic. Users receive 28% of data traffic for free from

the company. Analysts forecast a 20% tariff hike in July-September FY25 and another in FY27 after elections. A rate boost is vital for Jio, which is focussed on increasing users, as its free cash flow went negative Rs 15,100 crore in FY24 due to a huge spike in cash interest payments to Rs 13,600 crore.

Kalibari Reached Spiritual Milestone with Pran Pratishtha of Sri Ramakrishna

Chandigarh,: Kalibari Chandigarh witnessed a deeply spiritual and historic moment with the Pran Pratistha (Installation and Consecration) of Bhagwan Sri Ramakrishna, the divine child of Mother Kali. Organized under the aegis of the Ramakrishna Mission, this sacred ceremony marked a new and divine chapter in Kalibari's spiritual journey that began in 1970.The pran pratishtha was led by Revered Swami Shantatmananda ji (RKM, Gurgaon) and Swami Sukhananda ji (RKM, Bhuj) in the presence of the executive body of Kalibari Chandigarh and a large gathering of Bengali devotees and spiritual seekers from across the region.The day's proceedings commenced at dawn with a soulful Prabhat



Feri (devotional procession), followed by the lighting of ceremonial lamps and the chanting of Vedic hymns, creating a sanctified atmosphere. The occasion was epitomised with the presence of Swami Divyanandaji Maharaj of Belur Math.who gave divine blessings to the gathering. Devotees participated wholeheartedly in the Bhog, Arati, Homa, and Puja ceremonies throughout the day, accompanied by devotional

songs (Bhaktigeeti) and a community feast (Langar).The evening segment featured the revered Mangal Arati, followed by a majestic Kali Puja that extended the whole night and was led by Swami Shantatmananda ji. The spiritual ambience was further enriched by a mesmerizing Kirtan Sangeet performance by the acclaimed Padda Polash and team from Kolkata, who captivated the audience with their devotional melodies.

RBI bans Kotak Mahindra from online and mobile customer acquisition

Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India has barred Kotak Mahindra Bank from onboarding new customers through its online and mobile banking channels and issuing new credit cards due to its failure to build IT systems and controls that grew with its growth and caused serious regulatory violations. As per RBI's announcement, . RBI's press notice stated that the bank is "materially deficient in building necessary operational resilience on account of its failure to build IT systems and controls commensurate with its growth". Kotak Mahindra Bank's IT inventory management, patch and change management, user access management, vendor risk management, data security and leak prevention strategy, business continuity and disaster recovery rigour and drill had



serious deficiencies and non-compliances. Interestingly, the press notice noted that the bank's IT Risk and Information Security Governance fell short of regulatory criteria for two years. "During the subsequent assessments, the bank was found to be non-compliant with the Corrective Action Plans issued by the Reserve Bank for 2022 and 2023, as the compliances submitted by the bank were found to be either inadequate. , incorrect or not sustained" . In the absence of a robust IT infrastructure and IT Risk Management .

Issuse over digital competition now centers on targeted advt

Delhi: The main topic of discussion in India's planned legislation governing big digital companies is how tech companies use internet users' data to bombard them with adverts. Public comments on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' proposed Digital Competition Bill are currently being accepted. It prohibits "inter-mixing or cross-using" data from various services provided by companies. in the digital economy without the authorization of the users involved.

IndiGo orders 30 long-haul planes for \$9.5 billion



Delhi: In 2027, IndiGo will fly nonstop between India and remote locations using its own wide-body aircraft. The Rahul Bhatia-founded mega budget carrier "has agreed" to order 30 twin-aisle Airbus A350-900s worth over \$9.5 billion at list price and an option for 70 more. Indian travelers will have two domestic airlines, Air India and IndiGo, running medium to ultra long-haul routes on dual aisles (Vistara merges into AI this year), as well as many foreign carriers. IndiGo "agreed to order" 60 Trent XWB engines for 30 A350s. IndiGo evaluated the B787 Dreamliner, but Boeing's ongoing issues persuaded it to stick with Airbus, which has over 1,000 A320 family single aisles on order and is the world's largest A320 operator. Airbus controls India's single aisle market, but troubled Boeing is no longer the only wide body with Indian carriers. Since last year, Airbus has been receiving orders for big birds, starting with AI. IndiGo leased two B777s from Turkish Airlines to run a daily Delhi/Mumbai-Istanbul trip. After that experience, it ordered wide bodies for delivery in 2027, IndiGo's 21st year. Airlines can acquire 70 more A350-900 "at its discretion, for possible future needs under certain conditions," they say. IndiGo had over 10 crore passengers in 2023 on 350 planes.

White House confirms 'Politico' received \$8 million USAID funds

White House said Politico received more than \$8million in subsidy for subscription which DOGE will cancel. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt Wednesday confirmed that many media outlets including Politico received funds from the US Agency for International Development -- the agency that would be shut down soon on the advice of Elon Musk's Department of Government Agency. "I was made aware that USAID has funded media outlets like Politico who I know has a seat in this room. I can confirm that more than \$8M taxpayers' dollars that have gone to essentially subsidizing subscriptions on the American taxpayers' dime will no longer be happening. The DOGE team is working on canceling those payments now." "This is a whole-of-government effort to ensure that We are going line by line when



it comes to the Federal Government's books. This president and his team are making decisions across the board on: Do these receipts serve the interests of the American people? Is this a good use of the American taxpayer's money? If it is not, that funding will no longer be sent abroad and American taxpayers will see significant savings because of that effort," Leavitt said.MAGA commentators made the claims against Politico on X and cited an unusual delay in payment for the first time at the news organization. This, according to them, happened because of DOGE's action on USAID.

Politico has not issued any statement yet but it sent a mail to its employees blaming the delay in payment on a technical error. "Due to what we believe to be a technical error, employees did not receive their paychecks as scheduled. We understand the urgency of this matter and sincerely apologize for the inconvenience. Our team is working diligently with our systems vendors and the bank to identify the root cause and implement a solution as quickly as possible. We will keep you updated as we learn more and work to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

Who is Sandip , ex-principal of RG Kar MCH Look at his educational

Delhi: Dr. Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, has recently faced intense scrutiny after the tragic rape and murder of a doctor on duty at the institution. He resigned from his position as principal on August 12, three days after the incident. On Sunday, he appeared before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for the third time, due to an alleged connection to the murder. This situation has led many to question Ghosh's professional qualifications and career trajectory.

Becoming a doctor

Sandip Ghosh's journey began in the small town of Bangaon, West Bengal. He completed his higher secondary education at Bongaon High School in 1989. Pursuing a career in medicine, Ghosh enrolled at RG Kar Medical College, a prestigious institution in Kolkata, where he earned his medical degree in 1994. Ghosh's early career in medicine was marked by steady progression. Initially, his career appeared unremarkable as he advanced through various roles within the medical field. However, he rose to prominence

when he was appointed as the principal of RG Kar Medical College in 2021. This role was a significant leap, marking a return to the institution where he had completed his medical education. Before joining RG Kar Medical College, Ghosh was the vice-principal at Calcutta National Medical College. Despite being an orthopaedics professor and surgeon, he had been unable to establish a reputation in the field due to professional irregularities, which later came to light during his tenure at RG Kar Medical College, again fraught with controversy.

MAGA Civil War: Why Indian-Americans, the new Jews, are irking Donald Trump supporters

There's a theory out there—wild, audacious, but surprisingly hard to dismiss—that just about everything worth celebrating in Western civilization was dreamed up, built, or perfected by Jews. From splitting the atom to decoding life itself, from rewriting the

rules of music to redefining what it means to be human, Jewish brilliance turned the world into their intellectual playground. Let's take a stroll down the hall of fame: J. Robert Oppenheimer, the "father of the atomic bomb," quite literally blew the lid off 20th-

century science. Albert Einstein, the cosmic poet, bent time and space to his will. Jonas Salk saved millions from polio, and Rosalind Franklin cracked the code of life itself with her DNA discoveries. And that's just the lab coats.

Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market

NEW DELHI: Franco-Italian regional aircraft major ATR sees India emerge as its biggest market in the next five years. And as that happens, the turboprop-maker says "it will be foolish not to increase our footprint here" in terms of sourcing of components, pilot training and others. "India currently has 65 ATRs - 45 with IndiGo and 20 with Alliance Air. IndiGo is to get five more. Startup carrier Fly91 (which is being launched by aviation industry veteran Manoj Chacko) will get its first leased ATR anytime now and the second in a week or so," Jean-Pierre Clercin, ATR's head of commercial for Asia Pacific,



said. "Indonesia has about 100 ATRs and is currently our biggest market. India and Brazil come after that. But the way Indian economy and air travel in the country is booming, within five years India will have the maximum ATRs given

the government's focus on regional air transport through ude desh ka aam naagrik (UDAN) scheme," Clercin said. ATR feels India will need 50-150 such planes in the next decade. "That is the official estimation. But given the way India is developing, the actual

number could be even higher. Much higher," he said. The turboprop major is in talks with several Indian airlines for more orders. "The focus here is on regional and ATR is for that. So we are talking to all the airlines in India," he said. Asked if ATR plans to make in India, Clercin said: "We do already have a presence in India. There are some simulators (for pilot training) operated by third parties in India. The footprint depends a lot on the size of the markets, and India is one of the most promising aviation markets globally. We've seen the amazing resilience of the country.

Pregnant teenager among five Ukrainians killed by Russian missile

IZYUM: A Russian ballistic missile strike on Tuesday killed five people including a pregnant teenager and wounded more than four dozen others in the east Ukrainian town of Izyum, officials said. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after the attack that it was "impossible to reconcile with this cruelty" and urged allies to pile pressure on Moscow to end its nearly three-year invasion. Oleg Syneubov, governor of the wider Kharkiv region, said 55 people had been wounded in the Russian strike, and that two young women



were among the dead. "They were 18 and 19 years old and one of them was pregnant," he wrote on social media. An AFP journalist at the scene saw tearful women consoling each other after identifying one of the victims laid out in a body bag lined up by police. Larysa Chyghrynets was at work in the local tax office

when she heard the air raid siren sound and then the missile strike seconds later. "Everything was covered in blood and the windows were smashed," the 51-year-old told AFP of the scenes in her office. She said that life in Izyum some 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the front line had been relatively calm and that residents had been returning. "Everything was calm, nothing indicated trouble. We thought everything would be fine by now. But you can see what they have done," she said.

From White House firestorm to UK fortune: Zelenskyy secures \$3.3 bil-

London Just a day after a fiery confrontation with Donald Trump in the Oval Office, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was met with cheers, handshakes, and a \$3.3 billion loan in London. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer personally welcomed Zelenskyy outside 10 Downing Street, where he reaffirmed the UK's unwavering support for Ukraine. "That is the people of the United Kingdom coming out to demonstrate how much they support you, how much they support Ukraine," Starmer said, as onlookers applauded. "We stand with you and Ukraine for as long as it may take." The leaders then signed a \$3.3 billion agreement aimed at boosting Ukraine's military production—funds that will be repaid using revenues from frozen



Russian assets. "This is true justice—the one who started the war must be the one to pay," Zelenskyy declared on X, thanking the UK for its continued support. From Washington fury to British diplomacy The warm reception in London stood in stark contrast to Zelenskyy's tense visit to Washington, where a heated argument erupted between him, Trump, and Vice President JD Vance inside the Oval Office. The confrontation reportedly stemmed from Trump's frustration over Zelenskyy.

Ramaswamy-critic Ann says H-1B workers are indentured servants

Author and Conservative commentator Ann Coulter, who once said she would not vote for Vivek Ramaswamy only because he is of Indian origin, has commented on the ongoing H-1B row and said that H1B workers can't leave a company, unlike American workers. And that's what tech like Elon Musk, Vivek Ramaswamy, Sriram Krishnan want -- she implied. "American workers can leave a company.

Japan Airlines plane collides with parked Delta Airlines aircraft at Seattle-Tacoma

A Japan Airlines aircraft collided with a parked Delta Airlines plane while taxiing at Seattle-Tacoma Airport on Wednesday morning, causing damage to both planes but no injuries were reported. The incident took place at 10:17 am when the moving aircraft's wing struck the tail section of the parked Delta aircraft. Travellers at the airport shared photographs on social media platforms showing the Japan Airlines wing sliced halfway through the Delta aircraft's tail section. The airport authorities said that the incident caused minimal disruption to regular operations. "There are no injuries reported at this time. SEA is working with both airlines to safely deplane passengers and bring them to the terminal," the airport's said. The collision happened when the the aviation



sector is facing heightened concerns in the US. A collision between a US Army helicopter and an American Airlines aircraft at Reagan National Airport claimed 67 lives just a week ago. Later, in Philadelphia, a medical transport aircraft crashed onto a crowded street and burst into flames, resulting in seven fatalities - six aboard the aircraft and one pedestrian. Adding to these incidents, the Federal Aviation Administration's Notice to Air Missions system (NOTAM), crucial for communicating

flight safety information, experienced a failure on Saturday night. Although the system was restored by Sunday, the disruption had already caused hundreds of flight delays across the network. A Japan Airlines aircraft collided with a parked Delta Airlines plane at Seattle-Tacoma Airport, causing damage but no injuries. The incident led to minimal disruption. This collision adds to recent aviation accidents, heightening concerns in the sector. The Federal Aviation Administration's NOTAM system also experienced .

Vietnam's restrictive internet law comes into force

A new internet law in Vietnam, Decree 147, gives the government increased control over internet access and content in the name of national security and social order. It mandates tech companies to store user data, verify accounts, and remove deemed illegal content within 24 hours. Critics argue this suppresses free speech and impacts livelihoods. A new internet law that gives the Vietnamese government expanded powers over internet services and people using them is set to officially take effect Wednesday. Decree 147 expands government control over access to information on the internet for reasons of "national security" and "social order." The law requires social media platforms providing services to users in Vietnam to store user data and provide it to authorities on demand. The government issued the decree this November, and it requires organizations to take down anything the authorities consider "illegal content" within 24 hours. Decree 147 has sparked concerns, with researchers and experts tracking the country saying that the law is part of a growing crackdown on civil society. "Because the Vietnamese police treat any criticism of the Communist Party of Vietnam as a national security matter, this decree will provide them with yet another tool to suppress dissent," said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. The decree requires tech giants like Facebook and TikTok among other organizations., to verify user accounts using people's phone numbers or personal identification numbers. It requires companies to store that data. Decree 147 also requires organizations to provide search and content-scanning tools to government authorities upon request. It limits certain functions, like live video streaming.

DeepSeek source code can send data to Chinese company that America banned

Security researchers have discovered computer code on the website of Chinese AI company DeepSeek, whose chatbot recently became the most downloaded app in the US, that could potentially send user login information to China Mobile, a state-owned telecommunications company barred from operating in the United States. The code, found within the chatbot's web login page, connects to infrastructure owned by China Mobile and appears to be part of the account creation and login process. The code linking DeepSeek to one of China Mobile was first discovered by Feroot Security, a Canadian cybersecurity company, which shared its findings with news agency The Associated Press (AP). This discovery is said to raise significant national security concerns for US officials, particularly given the increasing use of sen-

sitive data in generative AI systems. Experts warn that this connection could expose personal and proprietary information, representing a potential intelligence goldmine for China. The implications are reportedly considered even greater than those associated with TikTok, as the information shared with AI systems often includes highly personal and sensitive business data. Ban on China Mobile The US Federal Communications Commission unanimously denied China Mobile authority to operate in the United States in 2019, citing "substantial" national security concerns about links between the company and the Chinese state. In 2021, the Biden administration also issued sanctions limiting the ability of Americans to invest in China Mobile after the Pentagon linked it to the Chinese military.

Feroot Security's findings were reportedly verified by two academic cybersecurity experts who confirmed the presence of China Mobile code within DeepSeek's login system. While testing in North America did not reveal data transfer to China Mobile, researchers could not rule out the possibility of such transfers for some users or under certain conditions. The analysis focused solely on the web version of DeepSeek; the mobile app, a top download on both Apple and Google app stores, was not analyzed. "DeepSeek more dangerous than TikTok" Experts like Ivan Tsarynny, CEO of Feroot, expressed disbelief that such a connection could be accidental, highlighting the numerous unusual aspects of the code. Stewart Baker, a former Department of Homeland Security and NSA official, emphasized.

Elon Musk’s Grok AI chatbot app to become available for Android users

The chatbot developed by Elon Musk-owned artificial intelligence (AI) startup xAI, Grok, will soon be available for Android users as a standalone app. The app, which is not yet available for download, has been listed on the Google Play Store, where users can pre-register for it. This follows a brief beta testing period in which some users had access to the app. However, xAI has yet to announce an official release date for the Android app. xAI seems to be preparing to launch an Android version of its AI chatbot a month after releasing Grok's app for iPhones.

An xAI engineer has also confirmed the Android app in a post on social media platform X (earlier Twitter). In the post, the xAI engineer wrote: "Grok Android app is now open for testing in Australia, Canada, India, Philippines, and Saudi Arabia. Visit the Google Play Store to try it. Be among the first 1,000 users and share your feedback." Grok's Play Store listing notes that the app will be free to use, with no sign-in required to access its features. However, users who may want a personalised experience or wish to connect the AI to their X account may also have the option to sign

in. It's important to note that Grok's iPhone app allows users to sign in via their Apple accounts. Similarly, the company may also allow Android users to sign up for the app via their Google accounts. To compare, the web version of the chatbot requires users to be signed in for access. Just like the iPhone app, Grok's standalone Android app is also expected to include features such as text responses, image generation, and real-time information sourced from X. However, it remains unclear whether the Android app will support web search-based queries.

Bank of Japan ends negative rates, closing era of radical policy

TOKYO: The Bank of Japan ended eight years of negative interest rates and other remnants of its unorthodox policy on Tuesday, making a historic shift away from a focus of reflating growth with decades of massive monetary stimulus. While the move will be Japan's first

interest rate hike in 17 years, it still keeps rates stuck around zero as a fragile economic recovery forces the central bank to go slow in any further rise in borrowing costs, analysts say. The shift makes Japan the last central bank to exit negative rates and ends an era in which

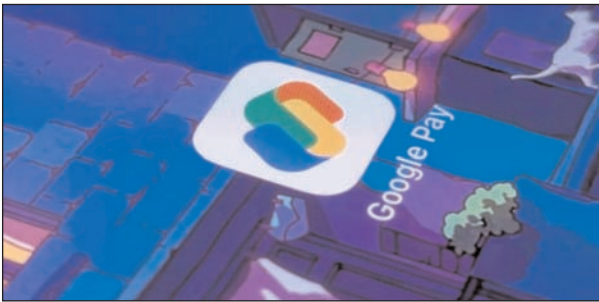
policymakers around the world sought to prop up growth through cheap money and unconventional monetary tools. In a widely expected decision, the BOJ ditched a policy put in place since 2016 that applied a 0.1% charge on some excess reserves financial institutions.

HDFC Bank’s home loan business head to lead Poonawalla Fincorp

MUMBAI: HDFC Bank's mortgage business head Arvind Kapil has filed papers to take charge as MD & CEO of Poonawalla Fincorp. Kapil is a 25-year veteran of HDFC Bank and was placed in charge of the legacy housing finance business of HDFC after its merger with the bank last year. "Given the sheer size of the mortgage portfolio (Rs 7.5 lakh crore) and the material importance of distribution, we believe there is key managerial personnel risk (for HDFC Bank)," said Suresh Ganapathy of Macquarie. He noted that this is the second major exit in mortgages with the head of HDFC sales Santosh Nair quitting to join Bandhan Bank last month. Poonawalla Fincorp, in a statement to stock exchanges, said that Kapil will join the company on June 24, subject to approvals. Shares of Poonawalla Fincorp rose 1.5% after the announcement. Before taking charge of the Rs 7.5-lakh-crore mortgage business at HDFC Bank, Kapil led the retail lending business at the bank, which included unsecured loan20s, auto loans, two-wheeler loans, retail working capital loans, gold loans, loans against shares, home loans, microfinance, and business loans. "Given his leadership, execution skills and business acumen, (Current MD & CEO) Abhay Bhutada has been elevated to group level and will be taking up a strategic and larger role at the Cyrus Poonawalla Group for managing its strategy, investment and finance," said Adar Poonawalla, chairman, Poonawalla Fincorp.

How to disable autopay on GPay

Google Pay (GPay) has made managing payments easier with its autopay feature, allowing users to automate recurring transactions like subscriptions, utility bills, and more. However, there may come a time when you want to stop these automatic payments—whether it's to manage expenses, cancel a subscription, or simply regain control over your finances. Canceling autopay on GPay is a straightforward process, but knowing where to find the right settings can save you time and effort. In this guide, we'll walk



you through the steps to cancel autopay on GPay, ensuring you can stop recurring payments with ease. Here's how to do it 1. Open the Google Pay app: Launch the Google Pay app on your device. 2. Access autopay settings: Tap on your profile picture in the top right

corner. Select "Autopay". 3. Find the subscription: You'll see a list of your active autopay subscriptions. Locate the specific subscription you want to cancel. 4. Cancel the subscription: Tap on the "Cancel Autopay" option for that particular sub-

scription. You might be asked to confirm your action. Enter your UPI PIN to authorize the cancellation. 5. Confirmation: Once the cancellation is successful, you'll receive a confirmation message. Some important things to keep in mind: Cancellation timing: The effective date of the cancellation may vary depending on the merchant. Contact the merchant: In some cases, you might need to contact the merchant directly to cancel the subscription, even after canceling the autopay.

India’s own GPU could arrive in 3-5 years, 18,000 AI servers to go live soon says Ashwini Vaishnaw

India is gearing up to make a significant breakthrough in high-end computing by developing its own Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) within the next three to five years, while also working on an indigenous foundational Artificial Intelligence (AI) platform expected to be ready in just 10 months. Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw made these announcements during the Budget Roundtable 2025, organized by India



Today and Business Today. In a major step towards AI development, the government will roll out 18,000 high-end GPU-based computing facilities in the coming days, making advanced com-

puting power accessible to researchers, startups, and academic institutions. This move is crucial for reducing India's reliance on foreign chip manufacturers, particularly Nvidia, which currently dominates over

80% of the global GPU market. With AI becoming a critical driver of global innovation, India's efforts to develop self-sufficient semiconductor and AI ecosystems mark a pivotal shift. This article explores India's GPU development strategy, AI advancements, computing infrastructure expansion, and the broader impact of these initiatives on the country's technological future. Developing an advanced, high-performance GPU requires cutting-edge research, skilled engineering.

Apple and Fortnite maker are fighting again, this time over an app

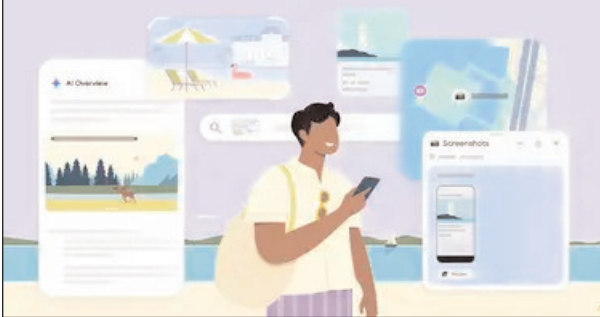
Apple and Fortnite maker are fighting again. This time not over the App Store billion, but over a porn app. To give context, Apple recently slammed the European Union (EU) over a porn app. The iPhone maker warned that the bloc's digital rules opening the way for third-party app store downloads undermines consumer confidence in the tech giant. The app in question here is the Hot Tub iPhone app, available on AltStore PAL, an alternative app marketplace made possible under Europe's Digital Markets Act (DMA). The Hot Tub app is described as an adult content browser. AltStore PAL claimed in a social media post on Monday that Hot Tub is "the world's 1st Apple-approved porn app." Apple slams the app's claim

Apple reportedly rejected that description, saying the availability of such an app would "undermine consumer trust and confidence" in its mobile ecosystem. "Contrary to the false statements made by the marketplace developer, we certainly do not approve of this app and would never offer it in our App Store," the company said in a statement. "The truth is that we are required by the European Commission to allow it to be distributed by marketplace operators like AltStore and Epic who may not share our concerns for user safety." The Europe's Digital Markets Act rulebook forces Big Tech companies to open their services to more competition, including allowing phone users to download from alternative app stores instead of being limited

to the official app stores from Apple and Google. How Fortnite maker Epic Games comes in picture AltStore is backed by a grant from Epic Games, which has spent years battling Apple over the way iPhone apps are distributed and the fees for digital transactions that occur within them. AltStore fired back at Apple, saying the iPhone maker "continues to use safety as a pretext to protect their monopoly power and evade compliance with the DMA." Epic Games CEO Tim Sweeney also took to social media to blast Apple, saying that on other platforms like Windows, Mac, and Linux, "developers can make and release apps without the platform maker adding junk fees and rendering moral judgments on their decisions."

Google makes its most advanced AI chatbot Gemini 2.0 available to everyone

Google has publicly released its latest AI models, Gemini 2.0, which include Flash, Pro Experimental, and Flash-Lite versions. These models offer enhanced capabilities such as large context windows, code execution, and cost-efficiency. The focus is on developing agentic AI



systems capable of understanding complex tasks and improv-

ing response accuracy. Google makes its most advanced AI chatbot

Gemini 2.0 available to everyone: Top features of the ChatGPT and Deepseek rival Google has made its latest artificial intelligence models, Gemini 2.0, available to the public today, expanding access to its most powerful AI technology, catching up to the rivals like ChatGPT.

China accuses Evergrande of \$78 billion fraud, among worst ever

China Evergrande Group's alleged \$78 billion revenue overstatement escalates the legal peril of founder Hui Ka Yan, who now stands at the center of one of the biggest financial fraud cases in history. The nation's top securities

regulator said the developer's onshore unit inflated revenue by recognizing sales in advance in the two years through 2020 that led up to its default. It imposed a 4.18 billion yuan (\$581 million) fine against the unit. Evergrande's alleged

fraud dwarfs that of Luckin Coffee Inc. and Enron Corp., dealing a blow to the reputation of its former auditor and the country's financial oversight. It fuels concern about how widespread such accounting issues are, just as the

new China Securities Regulatory Commission chairman is trying to tighten oversight. "The CSRC fines may serve as a warning to owners of other defaulted developers that failing to collaborate with authorities over The allegations.

Star Health eyes NRI business through GIFT

CHENNAI: Star Health and Allied Insurance Company will offer dollar-denominated insurance from GIFT City for NRIs. The company is launching international insurance product suite from the facility in FY25. Star Health is the first health insurance company to be granted registration to establish an International Financial Services Centre international office in GIFT City. It plans to commence operations with a branch by the end of this month, facilitating access to health insurance solutions in US dollars for the global Indian community, the company said in a statement on Monday. Noting that the facility will enable the company to significantly expand.