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'If Pakistan does something, response will be more devastating': PM Modi told JD Vance

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NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi told JD Vance India's response would be "more devastating and strong" if Pakistan does something, sources said on Sunday, reacting to The New York Times' account of the US Vice President reaching out to the prime minister as tensions between India and Pakistan soared. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi told US Vice President JD Vance clearly that if Pakistan does something, the response will be more devastating and strong. 'Precautionary blackout imposed across parts of Rajasthan, Punjab 'Indian Navy was in position to strike Karachi': Vice Admiral on Operation SindoorOn the same night, attacked 26 sites and India responded very strongly. Strikes were launched on their bases," news agency ANI quoted sources as saying. According to the report, Vance, who was in India with his Indian-origin wife Usha and their children on the day (April 22) of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which led to the conflict between the nuclear-armed neighbours. called PM Modi on Friday (local time) with the message that the US officials had assessed there was a "high probability of a dramatic escalation of violence that could tip into full-scale war." No, diplomacy should be prioritized. Yes, a strong response is necessary. PM Modi listened but "did not commit to any of the ideas" proposed by the US Vice President to de-escalate.

'Pakistan Army reported to have lost 35 to 40 personnel between May 7

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: The Indian armed forces held a joint press conference on Operation Sindoor on Sunday, a day after cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan. The press conference was addressed by lieutenant general Rajiv Ghai from the army, air marshal AK Bharti of the air force, and vice admiral AN Pramod from the navy. Here are key takeaways from the briefing: 35-40 Pakistan army personnel killed: According to lieutenant general Ghai, 35-40 Pakistani soldiers were killed during artillery exchange with Indian troops from May 7-10.

Operation Sindoor 'We lost 5 soldiers in Operation Sindoor,' says DGMO
5 Indian casualties: From India's side, five soldiers were killed in action during Operation Sindoor. Over 100 neutralized terrorists neutralized: India's precision strikes



on nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the early hours of May 7 killed more than 100 terrorists. **Top terrorists killed: Top terrorists, including those behind the IC-814 hijack and Pulwama attack, were eliminated.** 'Many' Pakistani planes downed: The Indian Air Force downed "many Pakistani jets," said air marshal AK Bharti, adding that he would not go into the numbers despite having a number. All Indian pilots safe: All Indian pilots who participated in the operation are safe home, Bharti said. Pakistan's attempts to hit India's military installations foiled: air defence

foiled Pakistan Air Force's attempts to hit India's military installations. 'Fierce' cost in case of terrorist attack in India: DGMO Ghai asserted that there would be "fierce" cost in case of a cross-border terrorist attack on Indian soil. Pakistan approached India for ceasefire: The DGMO also confirmed his Pakistani counterpart called him with a ceasefire proposal, which was accepted. Indian Navy's actions part of "escalation ladder": Vice admiral AN Pramod said the navy's actions are part of an "escalation ladder," adding that if Pakistan "dare take any action, they know what we are going to do."

US announces trade deal with China after two days of negotiation

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: The US on Sunday announced that it had struck a trade deal with China after two days of negotiation facilitated by the Swiss government in Geneva. The details of the deals have not been announced yet. The weekend talks marked a significant step toward thawing US-China trade relations as ahead of the talks, President Trump indicated that he was willing to lower the tariff rate on China to 80 per



cent from the current 145 per cent, saying in a post to social media that it was "up to Scott B.," referring to Bessent. "I'm happy to report that we made substantial progress between the United States and China in the very important trade talks. First, I want to

thank our Swiss host. The Swiss government has been very kind in providing us this wonderful venue, and I think that led to a great deal of productivity we've seen," US treasury secretary Scott Bessent said in his statement. "We will be giving details tomorrow, but I can tell you that the talks were productive. We had the vice premier, two vice ministers, who were integrally involved, Ambassador Jamieson and myself.

Auction missteps behind CSK's struggles: Ajay dissects Dhoni-led side's IPL

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: Former India cricketer Ajay Jadeja has attributed Chennai Super Kings' dismal IPL 2025 campaign to their failure at last year's auction, calling it the starting point of their sharp decline. Speaking during a JioStar Expert interaction, Jadeja, a self-proclaimed fan of both CSK and Mumbai Indians, reflected on the franchise's emotional high in 2024 after their 2023 title win. Go Beyond The Boundary

with our YouTube channel. **SUBSCRIBE NOW!** "The last one was probably more emotional. Sometimes when you win, you stick to the same players, hoping it'll happen again. But there was a curve that was heading down," Jadeja remarked. Who's that IPL player? Pointing directly at the auction strategy, Jadeja said, "I think that the auction was where you could see that they did not have the firepower most other teams acquired.

KKR suffer big blow! Umran Malik ruled out of IPL 2025

NEW DELHI: Kolkata Knight Riders have suffered a major setback ahead of IPL 2025, as their pace sensation Umran Malik has been ruled out of the tournament due to injury. KKR have roped in left-arm pacer Chetan Sakariya as Umran's replacement. Known for his raw pace, Umran, who represented Sunrisers Hyderabad from 2021 to 2024, was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders for Rs 75 lakh at the IPL 2025.

All our pilots are back home': Air Marshal confirms as India strikes

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: Air Marshal AK Bharti on Sunday confirmed that all pilots involved in Operation Sindoor have returned home safely, adding that the Air Force achieved all its objectives in the precision strikes launched against Pakistan. "We are in a combat scenario and losses are part of combat. However, we have achieved all our objectives, and all our pilots are back



home," Bharti said at a press briefing. "We have downed a few Pakistani planes," he added, while declining to specify the number, citing ongoing technical assessments. "Pakistani aircraft were prevented from entering

Indian airspace, so we don't have wreckage, but we are certain of the hits." Bharti's remarks came amid heightened military tensions following Pakistan's mass drone attack on cities, including Srinagar and Naliya, on the night of May 8-9. He revealed that nearly 300-400 drones, including Turkish-origin Songar UAVs, were launched in a coordinated assault targeting 36 locations.

'Operation Sindoor remains active, normal relations with Pakistan cannot resume'

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: A day after ceasefire was declared between India and Pakistan, reports suggested that Operation Sindoor was still active. ANI quoting sources said that "Operation Sindoor remains active, signifying a new reality that the world and Pakistan must acknowledge. Normal relations cannot resume." Earlier on Sunday, the Indian Air Force (IAF) also confirmed in its release that the operation was "still ongoing" IAF confirmed its successful completion of designated responsibilities during operation with accuracy and according to national directives. "We have a very clear position on Kashmir, there



is only one matter left- the return of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). There is nothing else to talk. If they talk about handing over terrorists, we can talk. We don't have any intention of any other topic. We don't want anyone to mediate. We don't need anyone to mediate," said ANI sources. PollShould India engage in dialogue with Pakistan regarding the Kashmir

issue?No, negotiations are futileYes, dialogue is essential"The message India conveyed after hitting terror camps of Muridke, Bahawalpur that are closely tied with ISI is that we have not lost sight and we will hit you at the headquarters. We will not go after small camps. The situation worsened for Pakistan in every round; they lost to India in every round of the battle. After

our strikes on Pakistan air bases, Pakistan has realised they are not in this league. A clear message was given by India, no one is safe, it is the new normal," ANI report said. "India made it clear to the world that we cannot equate victims and perpetrators. The attacks were carried out with precision. The runway of Rahim Yar Khan airbase (in Pakistan) was totally flattened," the report added. Initiated on May 7, the operation targeted nine terrorist facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir, responding to the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 tourists. The operation encompassed all subsequent responses.

'Repatriate Kerala man's mortal remains killed in Jordan':Tharoor

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and BJP leader V Muraleedharan have sought ministry of external affairs' intervention in the repatriation of the mortal remains of the Kerala man shot dead at the Israel-Jordan border last month. Tharoor said that he had written to MEA and the embassy "requesting urgent action to expedite the return the mortal remains to the family in Thiruvananthapuram." "This is the most unfortunate and tragic situation, Thomas Gabriel from my constituency, was shot dead by apparently by Jordanian security forces in Jordan at the border with Israel, we are not fully aware of the circumstances.

Gujarat Titans first IPL team to resume training after India-Pakistan

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: Shubman Gill-led Gujarat Titans (GT) have become the first Indian Premier League (IPL) team to restart their training session following the announcement of a 'agreement' between India and Pakistan, TimesofIndia.com has learnt. The table-toppers hit the ground running on Sunday evening at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Gujarat Titans, as of now, are leading the table with 16 points and a superior net run rate of 0.793. "Yes, we have started training. It has been reliably learnt that the BCCI and the IPL Governing Council have verbally asked the franchises to assemble their squads for the remaining 16 games, which are likely to start by Friday (May 16). GT's full squad was part of the training ses-

sion. Barring former England captain Jos Buttler and South Africa's speedster Gerald Coetzee, all the overseas players stayed back. "Our entire squad stuck around. Only Jos and Gerald, but they will come back as required," said the official. GT have looked like one of the favorites to win the title. They have three batters - Sai Sudharsan (509 runs), Shubman Gill (508 runs), and Jos Buttler (500 runs) - in the fray for the Orange Cap and in the top five leading run-getters. Prasidh Krishna, with 20 wickets at an impressive economy rate of 7.65, is leading the Purple Cap race. He has been ably supported by fellow Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj, who has 15 scalps, and Sai Kishore, with 14 wickets, who are placed at eighth and tenth in the leading wicket-takers list.

2016 Nabha jailbreak fugitive Singh arrested by NIA in Bihar

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday arrested a key Khalistani operative associated with foreign-based Babbar Khalsa International terrorist Harwinder Singh Sandhu @Rinda, and who was among the prisoners who had escaped in the Nabha jail break of 2016. NIA nabbed Kashmir Singh Galwaddi of Ludhiana, Punjab, from Motihari, Bihar in coordination with the Bihar police, in connection with a Khalistani terror conspiracy case. Since the jailbreak, Kashmir Singh was actively associated with designated Khalistani terrorists including Rinda. Kashmir Singh was declared a proclaimed offender by an NIA court. In a 2022 Khalistani terror conspiracy case. A cash reward of Rs 10 lakh was announced by NIA for information leading to his arrest. An important node of the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and Rinda's terror gang in Nepal.

Karachi among targets as Navy stayed combat-ready in Arabian Sea: Vice Admiral

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: Vice Admiral AN Pramod on Sunday said that in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, the Indian Navy immediately mobilised its carrier battle group into the northern Arabian Sea in full combat readiness, adopting what he called a "decisive and deterrent posture." Speaking at a joint press briefing alongside Army and Air Force officials, he confirmed that the Indian Navy had remained forward deployed with the capability to strike high-



value targets, including Pakistan's financial capital, Karachi, under Operation Sindoor. "In the aftermath of the cowardly attacks on innocent tourists at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir by Pakistani-sponsored terrorists on 22nd April, the Indian Navy's Carrier battle

group, surface forces, submarines and aviation assets were immediately deployed at sea with full combat readiness," said Vice Admiral Pramod. "We tested and refined tactics and procedures at sea during multiple weapon firings in the Arabian Sea within 96 hours of the terrorist attack," he added. Vice Admiral also mentioned that Pakistan's naval and air units were forced into a largely defensive stance, retreating to harbours or staying close to the coastline.

Editorial

Diriyah is one of the fore-most cultural hubs

Ritu Walia

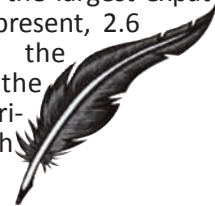
This year, the Media Ministry dedicated the Suwaidi Park festival exclusively to India. The 10-day festival saw a celebration of Indian culture, food, music and art. People from all communities streamed into the vast Suwaidi Park to savour a slice of India. The Global Harmony project attempts to present Saudi as an inclusive and harmonious society where people from all backgrounds live and celebrate their own cultures, traditions and festivals. And, it's not some civil society gig. It's a government policy initiative with clear objectives and plans.

That makes it an attempt worth emulating for many countries that are facing social fissures due to their diversity. As Saudi strides into modernity, it is also conscious of its history and heritage. It's encouraging studies and excavations at heritage sites, such as at al Ula, and is promoting its pre-Islamic history too. Nouf Marwaai, a yoga instructor .

and also a consultant with the Saudi government, gave us a presentation on the historical and social similarities between India and Saudi Arabia. In her talk, she went back to 6000 BCE to trace the Almagar Civilisation. Clearly, the new Saudi Arabia projects itself as an old civilisation, and not just as a society defined by the advent of Islam 1,400 years ago. That is now portrayed as only an important event, not the sole marker of the civilisational identity. The Kingdom is also promoting its historical sites. The Diriyah town, just outside Riyadh, is one such heritage site that has a UNESCO tag. It was the home of the Saudi royal family and also served as the capital of the Emirate of Diriyah under the first Saudi dynasty from 1744 to 1818. Today, Diriyah is one of the foremost cultural hubs and the centre of many sports and adventure activities in the Kingdom. Even so, its historical character has been maintained all along. On the one hand, you have mega infrastructural projects, new businesses and modern wave sweeping Saudi, and on the other, there is a renewed focus on its over 1,400-year-old history. Coming back to the India connect: wherever there are Indians, there is music. Indian film music has been a great brand ambassador and unifier across the world. Saudi Arabia is no different. My local support, Abdulwahab al Ghamdi, a young, peppy guy in his late 20s, played Hindi songs for me in the car while we drove around Riyadh. He told me that he and his friends dance to Punjabi numbers at their parties. And how he loved Shah Rukh Khan and Indian film music.

He also showed me a video of a Saudi artist singing a popular Hindi film song at a Saudi talent show.

The presence of women in the workforce has also meant increased intermingling of genders and rewriting of many social norms and gender behaviours. A big focus of Vision 2030 is also the cultural and social integration of all those living and working in Saudi Arabia. The Media Ministry's Global Harmony project is aimed at enhancing understanding and collaborations between diverse groups that call Saudi home. According to the Saudi Deputy Minister of Media, Dr Khaled Bin Abdulqader al Ghamdi, the Global Harmony project aims to make expats feel more at home. But more than that, it aspires to make local Saudis understand better the various communities that live among them. So, during the Riyadh Season, which starts in September and continues till February-March, you see a host of public cultural and social events to bring communities together. It's a true celebration and appreciation of diversity. Even among the expats, special attention is on Indians, who are the largest expat group in Saudi Arabia. At present, 2.6 million Indians live in the Kingdom, working in the domestic sector as well as private jobs, and running both start-ups as well as big.



He also promised NATO membership to Ukraine

Mahesh Singh

Marco Rubio met the Russian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Saudi Arabia, to discuss peace. Ukraine was not invited. Putin—who had been shunned by the US and its allies since the invasion of Ukraine—was delighted. A frustrated Zelenskyy dismissed the Riyadh talks as worthless. Trump did not like those comments and called the Ukraine President a dictator, even accusing him of starting the war. Zelenskyy said the US President was living in a Russian-made “disinformation space”. This infuriated Trump, who does not take kindly to any criticism. The proposal has been dismissed by Russia, which currently has about 600,000 troops in Ukraine. But even Britain and France, with much smaller armies than Russia, can't send troops to Ukraine without some backup from the United States. And that looks unlikely, for now. Trump's Ukraine envoy, General Keith Kellogg, who visited Kyiv and met Zelenskyy on Thursday, said all options must be open to deal with the outcome of peace talks. But he knows that any decision to provide any US military cover will be made by Trump who looks less inclined to do that. He described Zelenskyy as “a modestly successful comedian” who “talked the United States of America into spending \$350 Billion, to go into a War that couldn't be won, that never had to start, but a War that he, without the U.S. and 'TRUMP,' will never be able to settle.” Trump's behaviour towards Zelenskyy is in stark contrast to Biden's, who had backed Ukraine against Russia with all the possible military and financial



aid. President Biden travelled to Ukraine many times since the Russian invasion in February 2022 to display his administration's full support. He also promised NATO membership to Ukraine at a future date. Russia was severely punished for invading Ukraine. The US joined hands with its allies to isolate Moscow. Russia faced tough sanctions and its assets in the West were seized. The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against Putin for alleged war crimes in Ukraine. There were even plans to put Putin and his close allies on Nuremberg-style trials. Until a year ago, Ukraine's leader was talking about even liberating all its territory, including Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, with the help of Western military equipment. Ukraine even succeeded in occupying the Russian territory of Kursk, which it had thought would be used as a bargaining chip during negotiations with Moscow. But all that now looks like a distant dream. With Trump back in the White House, Ukraine fears that Russia will be allowed to keep all the occupied territory as part of the deal to end the war. Kyiv is now likely to be denied NATO membership. That could be a promise to Russia to end the war. The US under Trump has

now even opposed calling Russia an aggressor in a G-7 statement being prepared to mark the third anniversary of the war. The US team removed the phrase from the first draft, which was prepared by Canada, the current holder of the group's presidency. It is not just Ukraine, America's European allies are also now nervous about the intent of Trump. Since the Second World War, they enjoyed the US security umbrella under NATO. But now they are unsure if the US under Trump will honour Article 5 of the NATO, which is triggered when a member state comes under attack. It implies that an attack on one member is an attack on all. There is even fear in Europe that Donald Trump may sign a deal with the Russian leader Vladimir Putin that will lead to the withdrawal of US forces from Baltic states and effectively kill the NATO alliance. That could be similar to the non-aggression treaty signed by the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany on August 23, 1939, sending shockwaves to other European countries and prompting Hitler and Stalin to annex neighbouring countries. It is another matter that Hitler invaded the Soviet Union two years later, putting an end to the treaty. European members of NATO may call them-

selves major powers, but they can't match Russia's military might without US support. Even after losing more than a hundred thousand men and lots of military equipment in the Ukraine conflict, Moscow remains a strong power, mainly because of its nuclear arsenal. So Why Has Trump Changed The Narrative? Trump has always been an admirer of strongmen like Putin. Even during his first term, he developed a rapport with him. He also dislikes Zelenskyy, whom he sees as more of a roadblock in ending the Ukraine conflict. As a former businessman, Trump sees things from the perspective of profitable deals. Western sanctions have hit Russia, but American companies have also suffered business losses, running into billions of dollars. He would like to reverse that. And despite Ukraine's resistance, Trump believes Zelenskyy will have to give access to critical minerals in return for any future US support. Some in the Trump administration suggest Kyiv should provide Americans with those minerals in return for the US military and financial aid already received by Ukraine. Trump has blamed European leaders for not doing enough to end the Ukraine war. He has also complained for a long time that Europe has lived off the US for too long and it must pay for its security. Europeans have increased their defence budgets but not enough to survive without US support. In the face of changing US policy under Trump, European leaders are working on a plan to guard against a Russian attack. This involves a proposal to deploy tens of thousands of peacekeeping troops in Ukraine. The proposal has the support of

Britain and France and is in response to Zelenskyy's request of 100,000 troops. But the idea doesn't have wider support in Europe. Germany, another big power in the continent. Donald Trump has spent only a month in his second term as the US President. However, he has disrupted the international order, weakened the Western alliance and created a sense of insecurity and uncertainty among its members, surprising even some of his supporters. There has been a paradigm shift in US foreign policy under Trump. He is now closer to Moscow than Washington's traditional allies. He has embraced the Kremlin's narrative on Ukraine and has sidelined US allies. Although senior members of the Trump administration have denied that the US has abandoned Kyiv and ignored its European allies, Trump himself has not made any serious attempts to pacify Ukrainians and Europeans. His closeness to Russia has been on display since he talked for 90 minutes on the phone with Russian leader Vladimir Putin, in which they agreed to start negotiations to end the Ukraine war, which will mark its third anniversary on Monday. Trump did speak to Zelenskyy soon after that call with Putin, but a nervous Ukrainian President warned that excluding his country from the talks would be “very dangerous”. Events after that only made Ukrainians feels sidelined. Trump's Vice President, JD Vance, met European leaders in Munich two days later. But his comment that Europe will not be included in the peace talks only helped fuelled the speculation that they were being left out of the future of Ukraine

Will Bihar Pay Attention This Time?

Suman

Even though he was in Uttar Pradesh, Rahul still decided not to visit Prayagraj. However, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who was on his side, continued the custom and dipped his head in the holy water. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of Uttar Pradesh took great delight in hosting the Maha Kumbh and retaliated in the state assembly against the opposition for criticizing the Kumbh arrangements. Dead bodies are all that vultures see. All pigs can see is dirt. For those who are sensitive, relationships are a thing of beauty. A sense of fulfillment is found by those who have faith. The impoverished find work, the wealthy make money, and gentlemanliness is upheld. Faithful discover God, he declared. Unlike the 2013 Kumbh, when Mohammad Azam Khan was appointed head of the religious assembly in Prayagraj and Akhilesh Yadav was chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi stressed that he had personally overseen preparations during Maha Kumbh. At the 2013 Kumbh, he recalled that the prime minister of

Mauritius had declined to bathe in the sacred waters. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar were among the dignitaries that visited the Sangam, which he emphasised this time. The event was a resounding success on a global scale, as it drew the King of Bhutan as well as delegates from seventy-four other countries. Additionally, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh brought attention to the fact that for the past fifteen days, social media has been inundated with "poisonous statements" on the Maha Kumbh from lefties and socialists. Nothing else was visible to them save dirt, disarray, and the discomfort that tourists experience. However, he maintained that their ideology does not affect reality beyond what they criticize.

In this context, many questioned whether Modi was in Bihar trying to test the ideological limits of the BJP. "Those who believe in jungle raj hate our heritage and our faith," he said, slamming the opposition for "abusing" the current.

Forget voyeurism—this is the industrialisation of image-based sexual abuse

Rashi Singh

This lucrative venture raked in Rs 8 lakh a year. To the credit of UP Police, their social media monitoring team has moved swiftly, and identified 15 more accounts across Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram participating in this ecosystem of exploitation. The state government has now banned cameras at bathing ghats, deploying CRPF and state police personnel to enforce this prohibition. In 2019 too, the Allahabad High Court had banned the publishing of photos and videos of women at the Kumbh Mela: “The court said no pictures of women bathing or taking a holy dip should be shared. It also warned that action would be taken if the order was broken. This rule applies to both print and visual media.” This violation and commodification of women's bodies at the Maha Kumbh represents a betrayal across three interconnected spheres. It's not as if Indian women are unfamiliar with such trespasses—that's our daily reality. But the Kumbh videos expose a particularly perverse intersection of faith, trade, and technology. First, there is the sacred:

In a space of spiritual liberation, the crowd provides both cover and target for predators. Elaborate systems.

at Indian temples and other places of worship prevent photography to protect idols and deities. Those regulations don't extend to the bodies of women who show up at these sites. Then comes the betrayal by the profane, a carefully constructed marketplace where every assault is catalogued, priced, and traded. What's most chilling about the Kumbh videos is the clinical efficiency of their distribution. The “Megha Demos Group” operated with the precision of a tech startup, complete with a freemium business model.

Finally, there is the betrayal by technology, where algorithms ensure that these offences achieve digital immortality, forever circulating in the dark corners of the internet. The perpetrators weren't operating from some shadowy underground cave; they used mainstream platforms like Telegram, Instagram, and Facebook. But perhaps the deepest cut comes from how unremarkable this all seems—just another day in a society where consent remains an alien concept and women's bodies are meant for public consumption and dissemination. Forget voyeurism—this is the industrialisation of image-based sexual abuse that has turned sacred spaces into content farms, and hospital labour rooms into film sets. This is the emergence of a new economic model where violation is normalised and monetised. The accused who traded in these videos, however, present only one part of the equation. The men who run these channels deserve every second of what's coming to them. But let's focus on the culpability of the men who made their business model viable; the ones who actively sought out and paid for this sexual abuse. In an era where consensual sexual content is freely available, these men chose to pay for videos of women at their most vulnerable. The non-consensual nature of these videos isn't a bug, it's the feature. What drives these buyers isn't desire. It's the intoxication of watching women who never consented to be watched, who never imagined their moments of privacy would be relayed for mass entertainment. One can only imagine what consent means for these men in their daily lives—an unwanted intrusion in a fantasy of total dominance. In Uttar Pradesh, this commodification of abuse has a precedent. An Al Jazeera investigation from 2016 revealed that videos of rape were being sold .

Such issues have been extensively reported in the media from time to time

Saariq

Rather, leveraging cross-community expertise and efficient technology in effecting a scientific process to manage waqf properties has the potential to transform waqf institutions into inclusively governed national resources. After all, waqf boards are India's largest landowners after Defence and Railways, holding approximately 8 lakh acres of land with an estimated value of about Rs 1.2 lakh crore. The view that waqfs have a 'public' character is evidenced by the fact that many Islamic nations—including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Bangladesh, and

Turkey—have state-regulated legal For waqf administration. In fact, some Islamic nations do not have waqf institutions at all. It is rather unfortunate that acrimonious divisions within the parliamentary committee marred the tabling of the report in Parliament. While a certain degree of politicisation is natural in a parliamentary democracy during any law-making exercise, the underlying values of non-partisan deliberation, consensus-building, and effective communication between ruling and Opposition parties are essential for advancing the national interest. As such, these values must inform the

future parliamentary course of action on the waqf reforms. Data from the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) from April 2022 to March 2023 further reveals that out of 566 complaints received, 194 related to illegal encroachment and transfer of waqf land, while 93 were against waqf officials and mutawallis. Moreover, an appraisal of the functioning of waqf tribunals reveals that 40,951 cases are currently pending, of which 9,942 have been filed by Muslims themselves against institutions managing waqfs. In addition, there are inordinate delays in

the disposal of cases, and there's no provision for judicial oversight of tribunal decisions. Over the years, a number of issues pertaining to mismanagement have come to the fore—delays in registration of waqf properties, waqf boards fetching rents below market value, rampant encroachments on waqf land, denial of inheritance rights of widows, non-completion of surveys by survey commissioners, and slow progress in digitisation of waqf property records. Many such issues have been extensively reported in the media from time to time. The proposed reforms also contemplate.

SGT University Organises International Conference on AI for Nation Building and Sustainable Development

JAG MOHAN THAKEN Chandigarh: SGT University successfully conducted the International Summit on Holistic Innovations for Nations' Empowerment (I-SHINE 2025 – AI). The two-day global conference, held in a hybrid format, brought together internationally renowned researchers, policy-makers, and industry leaders to explore the pivotal role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in shaping the future of nation-building. Centred on the theme “Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Growth: Envisioning a Viksit Bharat by 2047,” the summit aimed to align AI innovation with India’s long-term developmental goals. The first day began with a welcome address by Dr. Hemant Verma, Vice-Chancellor of SGT University, who emphasized the transformative power of AI in modernizing higher education and fostering innovation. He highlighted the importance of ethical use and interdisciplinary collaboration to ensure inclusive national growth. The inaugural session was graced by Prof. Mohd. Afshar Alam, Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard University, as the Chief Guest. Mr. Sunil Sharma, Managing Director of Sales (India & SAARC) at Sophos, joined the event as Guest of Honour. Day one featured an exceptional lineup of keynote speakers and thought leaders addressing diverse dimensions of artificial intelligence and its real-world impact.



Dr. Hari Prasad Devkota from Kumamoto University, Japan, spoke on “The Emerging Role of AI in Global Health and Science Communication,” emphasizing AI’s influence on public health messaging and outreach. Dr. Maanak Gupta from Tennessee Tech University presented on “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: AI’s Impact on Society,” focusing on ethical challenges and human-AI dynamics. Dr. Hari Prasad Devkota from Kumamoto University, Japan, spoke on “The Emerging Role of AI in Global Health and Science Communication,” emphasizing AI’s influence on public health messaging and outreach. Dr. Maanak Gupta from Tennessee Tech University presented on “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: AI’s Impact on Society,” focusing on ethical challenges and human-AI dynamics.

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Bharat Vikas Parishad Krishna Branch organized a dental camp

DILPREET WALIA Karnal: Bharat Vikas Parishad Krishna Shiksha organized a dental camp in SD Adarsh Public School (Kunjpura Road) under the chairmanship of Anil Madan. In this, the teeth of 96 children were examined. Dr. Preeti Bhatia told the students to take care of their teeth. She



gave full details about this. Along with the examination, the children were also given a

toothpaste which was sponsored by our branch member Kewal Garg. The project head of today's program was Rakesh Hans ji. He made the children aware that they should get their teeth checked from time to time. After this, Dr. Preeti Bhatia, the principal of the school and the president of the temple Sanjay

Chawla were honored with a memento. On this occasion Ashok Arora, Raj Arora, Meenu Chawla, Gagan Chawla, Rajni Puri, Sandeep Malhotra, Anish Arora, Naresh Arora, Sunil Madan, Rita Madan, Sanjay Saluja, Subhash Chandra Dudeja and Secretary Sonia Mehta were present.

Karya, NGO create Kannada Q&A bot for TB

Bengaluru: Not-for-profit organisation Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) has teamed up with Bengaluru-based data cooperative Karya to develop a voice-based tuberculosis Q&A bot in Kannada. Currently, the app is in beta. A patient can ask in Kannada, “What types of food are okay to eat with my TB medicines?” And get the response in the same language: “You don’t

have to worry too much about what you eat with your medication. Most things are okay, but it’s good to eat lots of Vitamins A, C and E. You can get this by adding more fruits and vegetables to your diet! Here are some examples of what you can add: orange, mango, sweet pumpkin and carrots, guava, amla, tomato, nuts and seeds.” The app has a call to action button which

connects them to a helpline when necessary. The Global TB (tuberculosis) Report 2022 showed that 21.4 lakh TB cases were notified in India in 2021, 18% higher than 2020. KHPT has built a digital Kannada repository in ten dialects including Mangaluru Kannada, Sirsi Kannada, Belagavi Kannada, Mandya Kannada and Ballari Kannada through an exhaustive data collection exercise. This

includes data anonymised from those affected with TB, caregivers, social workers, frontline healthcare workers and communities to improve health outcomes of TB patients. KHPT and Karya interviewed 1,600 people to obtain 1,000 hours of data. They collected details on symptoms, treatment adherence, side effects, cost of treatment and benefits of the direct benefit transfer programme.

Court orders CBI probe into Manipur woman's 2013 murder

Supreme Court said unresolved crimes tend to erode public trust in institutions, which have been established for maintaining law and order, and ordered a CBI probe into the death of a 25-year-old Manipuri woman 11 years ago that has remained unsolved till date, reported. Delhi Police have failed to bring to light.

World Bank Backs India's Green Hydrogen Drive

Delhi: India's Green Hydrogen Mission received a second \$1.5 billion loan from the World Bank, raising its total financing to \$3 billion. To meet National Green Hydrogen Mission goals, India's domestic green hydrogen market must be strengthened and private investment encouraged. Augustine Tano Kouame, World Bank's Country Director for India, praised India's success, highlighting \$70

billion in tenders and indications of interest. Green hydrogen generation will benefit from Second Low Carbon Energy Programmatic Development Policy Cooperation changes, focused on electrolyzers. The program supports renewable energy improvements, including battery energy storage subsidies. The World Bank wants India to produce at least 450,000 metric tons of green hydrogen and 1,500

MW of electrolyzers by FY 2025-26 under this program. Increasing private sector involvement is crucial. Mr. Kouame said, "Indian green hydrogen production is safe. The administration has taken substantial steps, and no limits appear." He suggested that banking partnerships might improve the local market and that regulatory frameworks should be expedited to attract private firms. One of the

World Bank's most ambitious undertakings is in India's green hydrogen sector. If successful, India might become a leading green hydrogen generator, creating green jobs. Mr. Kouame noted, "India's Green Hydrogen Mission seeks 600,000 jobs, a large number for one industry. These less labor-intensive, knowledge-based employment are inclusive, especially for women."

60 donated blood in a voluntary blood donation camp dedicated

Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: Dr. Deepak Devgan, founder of Diya Sanstha and Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma, Deputy Inspector of Police, decorated with the President's Police Medal, organized a voluntary blood donation camp at Devgan Hospital Babain. This camp was organized to supply blood required for the treatment of children suffering from thalassemia and pregnant women. Babain Police Station Incharge Balbir Dutt and Deputy Inspector Mange Ram had specially arrived at the camp. Dr. Deepak Devgan himself donated blood for the 39th time today and while motivating the youth



to donate blood, he said that donating blood has a positive effect on health and every person should donate blood regularly. He encouraged the blood donors and said that while donating blood, the pain of needle injection is similar to the bite of an ant and this is a safe and very vir-

tuous act. Camp coordinator Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma said that blood donors selflessly save people's lives by donating blood. This is a very virtuous act. Science has not been able to find any alternative to blood till date. It cannot be manufactured in any factory.

Only a person can give it as a gift to another person. These 60 people donated blood in the camp- Dr. Deepak Devgan, Harjinder, Satbir, Surjeet, Shalender, Jaswinder, Sumit, Ashok Kumar, Satbir Singh, Rajpal, Rajesh Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Sachin, Lavkush, Jarnail, Mohit, Naveen, Lakhwinder, Ramphal, Sunny, Rakesh, Rajesh, Ravi, Gurdeep Singh, Jaswinder, Sant Kumar, Gurtej, Abhishek, Gaurav, Amarjeet, Sushil, Amrik, Sandeep, Tushar, Kamal, Ravi, Pawan, Rohit, Chaman Lal, Malkit, Rajesh, Sandeep, Gyan, Sushil, Kharaiti, Rohit and many others donated blood.

Stress is the Enemy of Memory: Dr. Himanshu Jain

Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: Under the ongoing campaign "A Step Towards Public Service - Your Health, Our Goal" by D.R. Jain Neurocare and Multi-Specialty Hospital, Kurukshetra, a free general medical and consultation camp was organized at the Shiv Mandir in village Kolapur. Renowned brain and spine neurosurgeon Dr. Himanshu Jain emphasized the importance of regular blood pressure check-ups to prevent diseases caused by hypertension. He also shared valuable information about brain-related disorders. Dr. Jain explained that Alzheimer's disease in humans is related to a deficiency of acetylcholine. In this condition, brain cells (neurons) get destroyed, leading to deterioration in memory, decision-making, reasoning ability,



motor coordination, and recognition skills. He added that memory weakening with age is quite common. Some people mistakenly consider it to be Alzheimer's and get worried, while in reality, it can also be related to stress or depression caused by loneliness. Dr. Jain informed that there are many ways to improve memory, which can help control this condition to a great extent. Activities like reading books, playing sudoku, crosswords, puzzles, or board games are recommended. Moreover, emphasis is laid on increasing social

activity and improving lifestyle, which includes physical exercise, a healthy diet, and good sleep. This was the 1999th free medical camp, held under the leadership of Dr. Sanjay Sharma, where 117 patients received consultation, checkups, blood sugar testing, pulse rate, hemoglobin tests, and free medicines. On this occasion, Village Sarpanch Baljinder honored Dr. Himanshu Jain, Dr. Rajesh Kumar (MD Medicine), Dr. Sanjay Sharma, and Dr. Preeti, stating that the presence of such specialist doctors in the village is a matter of great fortune.

Government Implementing Several Schemes in the Agriculture Sector to Double Farmers' Income : Kailash Saini

Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: Chief Minister's Office In-Charge Kailash Saini stated that Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is implementing several schemes in the state's agriculture sector aimed at doubling farmers' income. The government has introduced a subsidy on indigenous cows to promote natural farming. This subsidy is being given per acre, for one cow. Considering the current situation in the state, adopting natural farming is the need of the hour. Therefore, farmers should come forward to practice natural farming. Kailash Saini made these remarks during the concluding ceremony of a three-day Agro-Technology



Exhibition and Startup Conclave held at the auditorium of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, on Sunday. He said that for the past three days, the program, organized by MP Naveen Jindal, has been providing farmers with information about natural farming. This is the same type of farming with which agriculture originally began. Today, it is time to return to that tradi-

tional, cow dung-based method of farming. Saini emphasized that currently, around 70% of farmers have experienced a time when village farmers supported the entire village. Whatever a farmer needed was fulfilled by various people in the village—someone repaired ploughs, others repaired carts, someone offered barber services, and others helped in farming. After harvesting their

crops every six months, farmers shared their produce with different people in the village. This cycle supported the entire village. The present-day concept of sectoral organization is something that farmers already practiced in villages. He added that farmers were later advised to use urea instead of cow dung manure to increase production. Although yields initially increased, over time, the excessive use of chemicals in the fields led to health issues after consuming such produce. Appealing to farmers, he said that to protect oneself, the family, society, and the nation from diseases and to build a developed India, natural farming is essential.

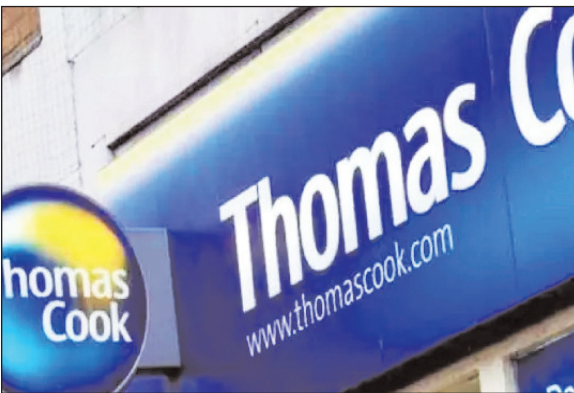
Techie working for MNC ends life in hostel room



Hyderabad: A 28-year-old woman identified as M Vidhya Sri, working as a techie with an MNC and residing in a private hostel at Kothaguda attempted suicide in the hostel on evening. She died while undergoing treatment in the early hours of . Gachibowli police registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started a probe. SI K Bhanu Prasad said they did not find any suicide note and that they are yet to ascertain the reason behind her suicide. “We are also verifying her call data records for any suspicious activity . Based on PME report, the probe will proceed,” he said.

TCPay, a revolutionary approach to international money transfers

Delhi: With the introduction of TCPay, an intuitive digital technology intended to streamline and improve the remittance process, Thomas Cook India has completely transformed international money transfers. Sending money overseas has historically required laborious procedures and irregular business hours. Customers may now easily and efficiently enjoy 24x7 remittances with TCPay. TCPay provides a straightforward and flawless digital interface for all of Thomas Cook's digital platforms, including the call center, portal, and B2C app FXNOW. Customers will have a hassle-free experience thanks to this. The use of Video KYC improves security and speeds up transactions, making it possible to send money from the comfort of your home in a convenient, safe, and timely manner. This creative addition, which is in keeping with Thomas Cook's dedication to digitization and client convenience.



China overtakes the US as India's largest trading partner with \$118.4 billion

Delhi: China overtook the US as India's largest trading partner after two years, according to Global Trade Research Initiative data. India's bilateral trade with China totaled \$118.4 billion in 2024, with imports up 3.24% to \$101.7 billion and exports climbing 8.7% to \$16.67 billion. India-US trade fell somewhat. Indian exports fell 1.32% to \$77.5 billion and imports fell 20% to \$40.8 billion in FY24, totaling \$118.3 billion. India relies heavily on Chinese imports in

telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, and advanced technology, therefore its economic relations with China are closely watched. According to GTRI, "India purchased \$4.2 billion in telecom and smartphone parts, 44% of overall imports in this category, demonstrating strong reliance on Chinese components. China supplied 77.7% of India's laptop and PC imports at \$3.8 billion." India uses production-linked incentive schemes (PLI), anti-dumping penalties.

Indian traditional knowledge and genetic resources

Delhi : A new treaty finalized by members of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) requires patent applicants to reveal the nation of origin or the source of genetic resources if the claimed invention is derived from those materials or related traditional knowledge. One of the main demands of the developing world, led by India, is the treaty that will offer extra protection for Indian genetic resources and traditional knowledge, including yoga, siddhi, and ayurveda. The agreement was finalized by the Geneva-based agency that is in charge

of developing regulations pertaining to patents and trademarks. This will force some nations to revise their domestic laws. Rather than trying to register patents to take advantage of the immense traditional knowledge and genetic resources, India has asked that the world's largest corporations give credit to these resources. Even while there is protection against misappropriation in India and other nations without disclosure requirements, the disclosure standards will offer protection internationally. Currently, there are

disclosure requirements in 35 countries, the majority of which are voluntary and lack the necessary legal framework to be implemented successfully. For the first time, the knowledge and wisdom that have long underpinned economies, civilizations, and cultures will be recognized by the WIPO treaty on intellectual property, genetic resources, and related traditional knowledge. These resources are now part of the global intellectual property system. "As a source of traditional knowledge and wisdom and a reservoir of biodiversity, India has championed

Apple's first iPad Pro redesign since 2022 uses an AI-focused M4 processor

Delhi: Apple introduced an artificial intelligence-focused iPad Pro and a bigger iPad Air to revitalize its tablet lineup after two years. The firm launched the first redesigned iPad Pro since 2018 at "Let Loose" online. The new model boasts a smaller

body, a sharper Ultra Retina XDR screen with OLED technology, and a quicker M4 CPU for AI. The new iPad Air looks like the previous model but has a bigger screen and M2 CPU. Apple claims the 13-inch iPad Pro is the thinnest apple device ever at 5.1 mil-

limeters. The larger model is a quarter-pound lighter than its predecessor, while the 11-inch weighs under one. It breaks Apple's longest iPad release gap since co-founder Steve Jobs debuted it in 2010.



OpenAI's Sam Altman denies launching Google search engine rival

Delhi: OpenAI CEO Sam Altman denied allegations that his AI business will develop a Google-like search engine. Altman said on X that OpenAI will continue its AI ambitions to strengthen ChatGPT, it's All chatbot. We've been working



on some new stuff we think folks would love—not GPT-5 or a search engine! seems magical," he said. OpenAI will webcast ChatGPT and GPT-4 updates. OpenAI is rumored to offer a search product before Google's 'I/O' conference next week. However, the business has stated that it will continue updating ChatGPT and its latest iteration, GPT-4. OpenAI's AI chatbot is now more straightforward and less verbose. Paid ChatGPT subscribers can now use GPT-4 Turbo. Until December 2018, it was trained on public data. "When writing with ChatGPT, responses will be more direct, less verbose and use more conversational language," said OpenAI.

Microsoft's cloud platform will force Indians to adopt: OLA CEO

Ola's founder and CEO, Bhavish Aggarwal, announced the company's migration from Azure to Krutrim, its private cloud platform. Aggarwal's concerns about Western tech companies' cultural integration and ideological enforcement affected the decision. Ola switched to Krutrim to support Indian technological platforms and independence from Western monopolies.

Public sector oil firms' earnings rose 25-fold to Rs 86,000 crore

The statement indicates that the three oil marketing organizations' combined earnings for FY was Rs 86,000 crore



India and rewarded shareholders' trust with an outstanding annual performance, according to a Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas note. The statement indicates that the three

oil marketing organizations' combined earnings for FY 2023-24 was Rs 86,000 crore, 25 times better than the exceptionally challenging previous fiscal year. HPCL posted a record

net profit of Rs 16,014 crore in 2023-24, outperforming a loss of Rs 6,980 crore. Indian Oil Corporation ended the year with record refinery throughput, sales volume, and net profit. BPCL's FY 2023-24 earnings after tax was 26,673 crores, about 13 times greater than the previous year.

According to the statement, the company's anticipated 1.7 lakh crore capital spend over five years under 'Project Aspire' shows its commitment to long-term shareholder value.

Tata Group's wants Haldiram's control and \$10 billion valuation

Delhi: Tata Group's consumer division is in talks to buy a 51% share in Haldiram's, India's famed snack food company, in a deal that could change the snack food sector. However, sources told Reuters that Tata is struggling with Haldiram's \$10 billion valuation. Haldiram's, a popular Indian brand, is also in talks to sell a 10% share to private equity groups like Bain Capital, sources

added. The Indian company will compete with global giants like Pepsi and billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail in the intensely competitive Indian consumer market if the talks succeed. Sources told Reuters that Tata Consumer Products, the conglomerate's branch that owns Tetley and a successful Starbucks deal in India, is actively negotiating to acquire its targeted percentage.

Sources stated Tata indicated interest in acquiring more than a 51% stake but informed Haldiram's that the valuation requirement is high. Haldiram's consumer market share is enormous." This is not the first time a company has shown interest in the family business. In 2019, US-based Kellogg's expressed interest in buying Haldiram's and expanding beyond cereals. Talks fell

through. Private equity fund General Atlantic reportedly wanted to buy a 10% share in the food brand. A small company founded in 1937, Haldiram's is known for its delicious "bhujia" snack, sold at mom-and-pop stores across India for Rs 10. The corporation controls approximately 13% of India's \$6.2 billion savory snack market, according to Euro Monitor International.

Why does Musk call Meta Super greedy' for claiming credits?

Delhi: Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk again boldly criticized Mark Zuckerberg-run Meta. Musk has called Meta "super greedy" for taking credit for marketers who execute campaigns on its platform. The Musk follower posted that numerous of his advertisers have found that Meta accounts for almost all conversions while running advertising on both X and Meta, "with X reporting almost no conversions." "Interestingly, turning off X ads significantly reduces total conversions, including Meta. No research is needed to grasp this, the follower said. The X owner said, "We're terrible at credit claims, and



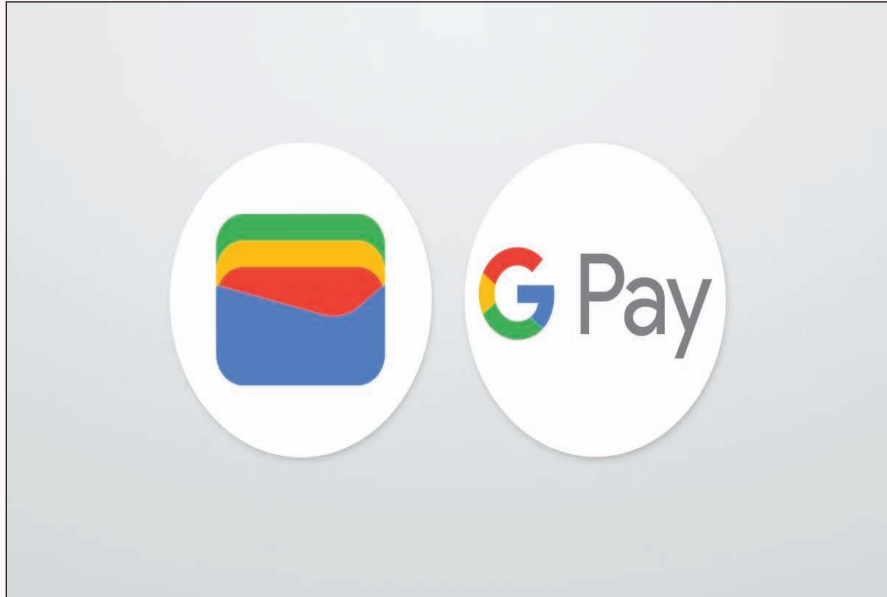
Meta's greedy." Another Musk fan said, "Meta will need to revise their attribution model, revealing the truth to advertisers who are already noticing a decline in results." "For X, refining the attribution model to match reality is easy. This will boost advertiser results, the X user said. Musk and Zuckerberg are recognized rivals. Musk just added long-form articles, monetisation initiatives, full-length films, and more. The

billionaire claimed subscribers may publish movies, TV shows, and podcasts and get money. Musk just added long-form articles, monetisation initiatives, full-length films, and more. The billionaire claimed subscribers may publish movies, TV shows, and podcasts and get money. Musk announced the change in a response to his sister Tosca Musk, who co-founded Passionflix, saying users can now submit full-length movies.

Knowing the main distinctions between Google Pay and Google Wallet

Unlike the worldwide version of the program, the Google Wallet version that was introduced in India is not able to hold bank cards or be used for digital pay Google Wallet was made available in India. Users can safely save IDs, movie tickets, plane cards, and other confidential papers on the platform.

Google Pay's presence in India will remain unaffected by the debut of Google Wallet, the company announced at launch. The Google Wallet app, which was launched in India, is unable to accept digital payments or hold bank



cards. Unlike the worldwide version of the program, the Google Wallet version that was introduced in India is not able to hold bank cards or be used for digital payments. Conversely, among the most widely used UPI services in

India is Google Pay. Users can transact, view their account balance, and acquire information about their spending patterns with it.

Google Pay will continue to be the payment app for India, and the com-

pany has verified that Google Wallet will work in addition to it.

The company has confirmed that Google Wallet will complement Google Pay, which will continue to serve as the payment app for India.

Apple plans to make 25% of its iPhones in India by 2028

Delhi: Apple plans to create 25% of its iPhones in India over the next 3-4 years by building a network of local vendors instead of using Chinese suppliers. Mint was informed that the Cupertino-based tech giant has begun building its supply chains, while Foxconn Technology Group and Tata Electronics will scale up their manufacturing capacities to handle most of its production. "India is one of their key markets. They produce 14% of their iPhones in India for local and export sales as of December 2023. They want to raise levels to 24-25% by 2027 or 2028." One person, who requested anonymity, said the conversations were private. In 2022, JP Morgan analysts predicted that 25% of Apple products would be made outside China by 2025, up from 5%. India produced in iPhones in FY24, 14% of the global total. India makes iPhones 12, 13, 14, and 15.

"We The Change – Season 2: Transformative Journeys in Sports and Spirituality"



"New Delhi
"We the Change," a groundbreaking talk show that explores the intersection of sports and spirituality, is set to premiere on DD Sports starting May 26th. The show's unique concept revolves around identifying the changes that have already occurred within ourselves, emphasizing the importance of introspection and spiritual growth. Through engaging discussions and insightful anecdotes, "We the Change" aims to inspire viewers to recognize their own spiritual evolution. This innovative program promises to inspire viewers to embark on a journey of self-discovery and personal growth through engaging discussions and transformative insights. Presented by AUM sportainment private limited and under the auspices of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the show is directed by Raadhika Khetarpal, with spiritual mentorship provided by Aushim Khetarpal. The show's concept revolves around recognizing the changes within ourselves, emphasizing introspection and spiritual evolution. Drawing inspiration from the teachings of Shirdi Sai Baba, renowned Spiritual Mentor Aushim Khetarpal leads the conversation, setting the tone for meaningful dialogues and profound revelations. "We The

Change" offers a platform for athletes to share their personal journeys and seek mentorship. Rooted in the guiding principle, "If I change, you can change; if you can change, the world can change," the show invites viewers to explore the transformative power of practices like meditation in expanding perspectives and understanding the world. Season 1, comprising seven episodes, kicked off with introspective discussions airing every Sunday and Monday in the month of 2024. In Season 2, commencing May 26th and running until July 22nd, "We The Change." continues its exploration with a diverse lineup of guests.

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Whitewashing of Sambhal Jama Masjid began after the orders of the high court

NEW DELHI: Whitewashing of Sambhal Jama Masjid began after the orders of the Allahabad high court, which also allowed the mosque to be decorated with lights without any tampering. The high court, in its 12 order, permitted decorative lighting of the Masjid's exterior, provided no structural modifications are made. The court scheduled the next hearing in the case for 8. The mosque, a Mughal-era structure, gained national attention following unrest on 24, which left four people

dead after a local court ordered a survey of the site. The dispute around the Shahi Jama Masjid arose after a legal petition claimed that the mosque was built over an ancient Hari Har Mandir. The petition led to a court-ordered survey, which sparked significant tension in the area. In clashes erupted between protesters and the police, reportedly resulting in multiple deaths as security forces attempted to control the unrest. The dispute also reignited debates around the Places of

Worship Act, 1991, which legally upholds the religious status of sites as they existed on August 15, 1947. **What is the Places of Worship Act?** The Places of Worship Act, 1991, aims to maintain the religious character of places of worship as they were on August 15, 1947. It prohibits the conversion of any religious site from one faith to another and bars courts from entertaining any legal disputes regarding such conversions. The only exception to this law is the Ram Janmabhoomi.

Zyodus Wellness Ltd on said its wholly-owned arm

NEW DELHI: Zyodus Wellness Ltd on said its wholly-owned arm has received a GST demand of Rs 56.33 crore, along with applicable interest and penalty from the tax authority. Zyodus Wellness Products Ltd (ZWPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary company, has

received an intimation from the Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence, Surat Zonal Unit, alleging GST demand of Rs 56.33 crore, along with applicable interest and penalty, Zyodus Wellness Ltd said in a regulatory filing. The intimation

alleges that the GST was payable in relation to the acquisition of intellectual property rights from Heinz Italia S.P.A. by Heinz India Pvt Ltd, now merged with ZWPL, it added. "ZWPL believes that there is a strong merit in the case, and ZWPL is evaluating.

Bengal counters Centre in SC, says CBI can't conduct probe sans state consent

NEW DELHI: Countering Centre's stand that it wields no power over CBI which is an independent agency, West Bengal govt on Wednesday told Supreme Court that Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, under which the agency was formed specifically says that its superintendence shall vest in the central govt in all cases except those related to corruption and contended CBI probe can't be ordered in the state without its



consent. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta that Sections 4 and 5 of the Act confer the power pertaining to superintendence and jurisdiction of the agency to the Centre.

Putting forward the stand of the state govt that the central agency could not conduct a probe within its jurisdiction without its consent, Sibal said that it would destroy the federal structure if Centre forced its way into the state and conducted a probe. "Centre has no jurisdiction to allow its investigating agency to come in my state against my consent. Such an act is unconstitutional. It would be an encroachment on the rights and jurisdic-

tion of the state and its police. It would be constitutional overreach and exceeding of jurisdiction and would destroy the federal structure of the country," Sibal said. The lawyer referred to various sections of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act to make a point that Centre controls CBI but clarified that role of Centre is only upto the registration of case but not investigation and probe was not influenced by it. Reading Section 4.

To fulfil 70-year-old's last wish, Kerala driver makes 2,500km dash

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Arun Kumar is no stranger to navigating the bustling streets of Kerala's Kollam or racing down the highway to Thiruvananthapuram with sirens blaring. Yet, when faced with the daunting prospect of a 2,400km journey from Kollam to Raiganj in Bengal, doubts crept in. With the doctors advising minimal stops for food and fuel, the challenge seemed insurmountable. For 15 years, ever since she moved to Kollam with her son Sowthish, 44, in



search of greener pastures, Bodhini Bhahan had never had the urge to return to the hard-scrabble life she had left behind. Sowthish worked at a brick factory in Mynagappally and the family was getting by blissfully. However, earlier this year, Bodhini suffered a stroke and

became bedridden. She wished to return to her hometown and reunite with her close relatives. Sowthish understood her wishes but faced challenges in fulfilling them. He was at a loss - he couldn't afford the exorbitant airfare, and his mother wouldn't survive a midsummer train journey from

Kollam to Raiganj. "The only option was an ambulance, but no ambulance driver was willing to take us to Bengal due to the distance," Sowthish said. In his search for a solution, Sowthish came across Emirates Ambulance Service. Contacting its owner Kiran G Dileep, he found a glimmer of hope. Despite financial constraints, Emirates Ambulance Service agreed to transport Bodhini to Bengal for a reduced fare, driven by compassion rather than profit.

WB governor to show CCTV clip to 100 people, not Didi or cops

KOLKATA: West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose, facing molestation charges from a former employee of Raj Bhavan, announced Wednesday that he would present Raj Bhavan's CCTV footage to 100 private citizens of Bengal, excluding "Mamata Banerjee and her police". "Under the Sach Ke Samne programme, anyone who wants to see the CCTV footage can send an email to adrcrajbhavankolkata@gmail.com or call the Raj Bhavan to register their names at 033-22001641. The first hundred would

be allowed to see the footage inside Raj Bhavan at 11.30am on May 9," Raj Bhavan said in a statement. The programme is aimed at addressing what was described as "mischievous and fabricated allegations" by police regarding the handling of CCTV footage related to the case. In response, state finance minister Chandrima Bhattacharya questioned governor Bose's decision, asking why he was withholding the CCTV footage from police if he was innocent. She said: "The CCTV footage

should be on public display if he is such an honest and innocent person. But here he is playing with the dignity of women, so he wants to shield it from police and is even unwilling to show it to the CM. Why can't the CM see it, if there is no foul play?" CM Banerjee and Trinamool have been going after the governor since the former Raj Bhavan employee filed a police complaint against Bose last Thursday. "He is now trying to show it (footage) to his own henchmen and get a certificate from them.

SC: Can't carry Raj-era bias to tag castes, tribes 'history-sheeters'

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court has ruled that police cannot carry colonial era biases against persons belonging to certain tribes and scheduled castes to mechanically brand them in their records as 'bad characters' or 'history-sheeters' and said such archaic mindset violated individuals' right to dignity guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. After nudging the Delhi Police to amend the format for history-sheeters, which was copied from 90-year-old Punjab Police Rules of 1934, to exclude the minor children and wife of a person from getting included with him as a bad character, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and K V



Vishwanathan on Tuesday asked all states to revisit their rules within six months regarding inclusion of a person in police's 'history-sheeter/bad character' record and weed out colonial era biases from relevant provisions. After deciding the case from Delhi, the bench resorted to its suo motu jurisdiction and examined the desirability of ensuring that no mechanical entries in 'history sheet' are made of innocent individuals, simply

because they hail from socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, along with those belonging to backward communities, SCs and STs. Referring to certain studies on this aspect and without going into their authenticity, Justice Kant-led bench said these reveal a pattern of an unfair, prejudicial and atrocious mindset as they allege that police diaries are maintained selectively of individuals belonging

to vimukta jatis (denotified tribes that were listed originally under Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, as criminal tribes because of their alleged addiction to committing crimes) reflecting biases of colonial times. Writing the judgment, Justice Kant said, "All state governments are expected to take necessary preventive measures. to safeguard such communities from being subjected to inexcusable targeting or prejudicial treatment. We must bear in mind that these preconceived notions often render them 'invisible victims' due to prevailing stereotypes associated with their communities, which may often impede their right to live a life.

CSIR: No circular issued on ironed clothes

NEW DELHI: A day after CSIR reposted the visual of a campaign 'Wrinkles Achhe Hain', posted by one of its institutes, it clarified on X Wednesday that it has not issued any order to its labs to refrain from wearing ironed clothes. On May 7, CSIR-NIScPR posted on X that "join C S I R 's #WAHMondayscampaign and say #WrinklesAccheHain. Wear your non-ironed clothes every Monday. Let's iron out climate change, not our clothes!" CSIR Wednesday said, "With regard to certain news reports, CSIR wishes to clarify that No CIRCULAR or OFFICIAL ORDER has been issued by CSIR HQ to its labs asking staff to refrain from wearing ironed clothes."

Government should start new rules to combat fraudulent e-commerce reviews



Delhi: Consumer affairs secretary Nidhi Khare said the Union government will use an Indian Standards code to combat fake customer reviews and inflated ratings on e-commerce platforms, a global issue, as online shoppers complain more on the national consumer helpline. Online shoppers are heavily influenced by customer reviews and ratings. E-commerce sellers manipulate ratings and add paid reviews to encourage sales. "The presence of fake reviews online jeopardizes the trust-

worthiness and credibility of shopping platforms and can cause consumers to make wrong purchase decisions," said Khare, who led a stakeholders' meeting with Amazon and Flipkart executives. Mordor Intelligence estimates that India's e-commerce market would expand from \$112.93 billion in 2024 to \$299.01 billion in 2029, a 21.5% CAGR. The new standard (IS 19000:2022) assigns reviewers and administrators particular duties. New regulations compel organizations to identify

review authors in certain ways. E-commerce grievances on the national consumer helpline increased from 95,270 in 2018 (22% of all grievances) to 4,44,034 in 2023 (43% of total grievances). E-commerce platforms in India must create a documented code of practice and share it with management and workers. Khare said they must show how they will follow this constitution and the guiding principles. Amazon and other platforms have acknowledged the issue globally.

Sebi proposes tighter SME listing requirements over misuse worries

Delhi: Sebi and stock exchanges aim to tighten standards for SMEs seeking public listings, according to Reuters. Concerns over exploitation of a 2012 platform to help small firms access financing markets prompted this change. According to sources in the report, the planned modifications might boost the minimum amount of public offerings to Rs 30 crore to Rs 50 crore (\$3.59 million to \$5.99 million).

In response to stakeholder engagements, these new regulations are due later this year. There's no minimum issue size, but corporations listing on this



market must have Rs 25 crore in post-issue capital. One source told Reuters that a minimum offer size will ensure that genuine enterprises can access financial markets, protecting investor interests. During the fiscal year ending March 2024, more SMEs went public due to India's

strong equities markets. On PRIME Database, 205 companies raised Rs 60 billion through public offerings, up from 125 firms raising Rs 2200 crore the year before. Companies with yearly turnovers between Rs 5 crore and Rs 250 crore are Indian SMEs.

Air India, Vistara try to resolve staff issues before merger

Delhi As the Vistara merger process begins, Air India hopes to resolve employee fitment difficulties. The Vistara-Air India integration committee has identified certain occupations that will be duplicated following the merger. Vistara has 6,500

employees and Air India 17,000. At a recent town hall meeting, employees were notified that the merger may eliminate some positions. The Tata Group will upskill some employees and place others in other group entities to avoid job losses. Prior to the

merger, Air India employed consultants to design the new structure. Some Air India staff would be kept, while others may join Air India Express. Some employees worry about their career advancement and seniority in the new framework.

Order mandating SpiceJet to pay Sun Group's Kalanithi Maran 270 crore overturned by Court

Delhi: Judge ordered SpiceJet to refund over 1270 crore to Sun Group promoter Kalanithi Maran, but a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court overturned it. SpiceJet and CMD Ajay Singh appealed the single-judge's ruling to a Division Bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dudgeja. Appeals are allowed. The July 31, 2023 order is vacated "By the Court. The Division Bench denied SpiceJet's request to postpone the single-judge ruling upholding an arbitral tribunal award ordering the airline to reimburse over 270 cases. The issue between Maran and SpiceJet began in



January 2015 when Ajay Singh bought SpiceJet from him. Maran reportedly gave Singh his 58.46% airline ownership. According to the contract,

Maran would receive redeemable warrants for his airline promotion investments. Maran was entitled to 18 crore warrants and 26% SpiceJet shares. No con-

vertible warrants or preference shares were issued to Maran, and he received no money. Maran sought roughly 1,323 crore in damages. Arbitration was ordered by the Delhi High Court. The arbitral tribunal ordered SpiceJet to return Maran 1270 crore in July 2018. The tribunal also ordered the airline to pay 12% interest on warrant payments and 18% on Maran awards if they are late. The tribunal also found no breach of Maran, SpiceJet, and Ajay Singh's share sale and purchase agreement. Thus, Maran's shareholding return and damages claims were denied.

Government e-commerce platform accepting unicorns



Delhi: Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a UPI-like alternative to e-commerce heavyweights, is onboarding unicorns like Makemytrip, Policybazaar, Cars24, and Zerodha to build traction. While ONDC was created to support small businesses like kirana stores and democratize online shopping, the government believes large players will give consumers more choice and boost demand in smaller towns and cities. The goal is to assist consumers and

businesses without platform fees."It gained popularity in the last two years. Five lakh sellers—70% small and medium—have joined. ONDC processed 72 million transactions in April "Rajesh Kumar Singh, industry and internal trade secretary, told reporters. Singh

expects all types of players to join, when asked if big startups would overwhelm smaller ones. "The intent is noble, let us see how it works and to what extent we can actually crack some of the issues you raised in terms of market concentration," said.

Microsoft, I4C remove 1,000 cybercriminal Skype accounts



Delhi: The Indian Cyber Coordination Centre (I4C) and Microsoft have blocked over 1,000 Skype accounts linked to intimidation, blackmail, extortion, and 'digital arrests' of citizens by cyber criminals posing as police, CBI, narcotics, RBI, or ED personnel. A MHA statement stated I4C helps prevent SIM cards, mobile devices, and mule accounts used by criminals. Many complaints are being reported on the National Cyber Crime

Reporting Portal (NCRP) about how these fraudsters call potential victims and claim they have sent or are the intended recipient of a parcel containing illegal goods, drugs, fake passports, or other contraband. They may also claim that a loved one is in their custody for a crime or accident. Money is demanded to compromise the "case". Some victims face 'digital arrest' until their demands are granted. Many victims have

lost a lot of money to such thieves. The home ministry stated cross-border crime syndicates run this online economic crime. MHA said it is collaborating with other ministries, agencies, RBI, and other organizations to combat these frauds. I4C assists police in all states and Union Territories in identifying and investigating cases. Citizens should be aware of these frauds and disseminate knowledge. image

Airtel partners with Google Cloud to provide Indian businesses cloud and gen-AI solutions

Delhi: Bharti Airtel and Google Cloud are partnering to offer Indian businesses cloud and generative-AI solutions. The telecom company will use Google Cloud products to accelerate cloud adoption and modernization through the agreement. Airtel will offer cloud-managed services to its corporate customers, including over 2,000 large organizations and a million developing businesses. This partnership targets India's big and rising public cloud services industry, which IDC predicts will be worth \$17.8 billion by 2027.

Bharti Airtel managing director and CEO Gopal Vittal said, "Cloud and AI solutions will drive India's digital transformation. We're excited to collaborate with Google



Cloud to provide safe and scalable cloud solutions for government, companies, and startups. Our collaboration will speed the implementation of generative AI in the country and uncover its potential to solve challenges. Airtel will also use Google Cloud's generative AI to improve its mobile, broadband, and digital TV consumer experiences and internal processes. Airtel will also offer similar services to its Indian and global B2B customers.

According to Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian, "Our strategic partnership with Airtel is a major step for accelerating cloud and AI adoption in India. We want to develop disruptive solutions to improve Airtel's customer experience through our relationship." Airtel will train artificial-intelligence and machine-learning solutions on its enormous dataset using the two businesses' strengths—connectivity and AI technology.

IFC provides \$500 million to HDFC Bank so that it can offer microloans to female clients



Delhi: HDFC Bank said that it has received \$500 million from the IFC to support low-income women borrowers through onlending. According to an official release, the largest private sector lender in the nation would provide financing for income production, promoting financial inclusion and socio-economic growth. The microloans will be extended to women registered in the lender's

Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI) as well as self-help and joint liability groups. Arup

Rakshit, group head of Treasury at HDFC firm, stated that the firm has opted for a longer-term loan facility that will support the bank's endeavors to empower women. According to the statement, banks' wide distribution and cheaper funding costs can be used to provide microloans to women, despite the fact that non-banks now service two thirds of the microfinance market. "Having access to financial services is essential for enhancing the economy and empowering women.

India's servers will host DeepSeek's AI models for security

Delhi :The Indian government said it will host Chinese startup DeepSeek's AI models on its computers to monitor security and safety. The country increased its efforts to give computers to entrepreneurs and researchers to accelerate the development of localized AI 'foundational models' or tech solutions to offset US and Chinese AI developments. IT and electronics minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government is buying 18,693 GPUs to provide "affordable compute" to large and growing IT enterprises and AI researchers. Foundation models are AI solutions educated on large datasets to fulfill several tasks. The models are adaptable and can be customized for special uses. Vaishnaw noted that DeepSeek was constructed with 2,000 GPUs, therefore the Rs 10,372 crore IndiaAI mission's high-tech GPUs are enough to power



India's AI quest. He dismissed concerns about India being late in its AI quest, saying it has US assistance as a valued partner. We are punctual. Computer access is most vital. This is now accessible. We are fit. Getting the computer facility was crucial to the goal." He added India is optimistic Nvidia will provide GPUs regularly despite US government limitations on some countries. "I'm reiterating that we are seen as a trusted country, we're seen as a country which respects IP rights, (and) we're seen as a country which understands the technological development prospects and all the

points related to that." DeepSeek's recent popularity hasn't concerned the government. The good news is that DeepSeek is open source and we will soon host it on Indian servers like we did Llama. Everything open source can be hosted on our servers to ensure data privacy. He said we'll do that soon. Vaishnaw claimed preparations have begun. "The team has worked out the details on how many servers are required, how much capacity is required." Ministry sources informed that numerous institutions, including CERT-In and the National Cyber Security.

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

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

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

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

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

Tamil Nadu should appeal SC ruling on domicile quota

Delhi: A day after the Supreme Court banned domicile-based reservation in specialized and higher education including PG medical courses, MK Stalin's Tamil Nadu government declared it would file a review petition to vindicate its rights and uphold social justice. Health minister Ma

Subramanian said the SC order would affect the state's 69% reservation and quotas for in-service applicants in government medical colleges and minorities in self-financing medical colleges. He said that the order would violate state rights. The Union government receives 15% of under-

graduate medical seats and 50% of postgraduate medical and super speciality seats through the state quota each year. "All super speciality seats were lost. "TN gave government doctors a quota for super speciality courses after a court battle," he told reporters. He stated the Centre



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

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

Health and wealth benefit from flexible work hours.

Delhi: The Economic Survey supports allowing manufacturers to average legally capped working hours over three weeks or longer rather than week-by-week. Industry captains want larger hours. It claims that agile regulations will assist management satisfy production demands and grow."New Labour Laws are an improvement. With flexible legislation and competent implementation, firms may develop and create more jobs.

Senior students joined Business Blasters

The Delhi government created the Business Blasters Senior project to foster entrepreneurship among state-funded university and Industrial Training Institute students to create jobs. At the event, chief minister Atishi used a McKinsey research to say India will need 90 million non-agricultural jobs by 2030. Who will create jobs if everyone focuses on JEE and UPSC or job hunting? She stated this project answers that question. This 2021 program, previously limited to government schools, has expanded. Startup teams will receive Rs 50,000 in seed funding, up from Rs 2,000 in the school version. Atishi noted that India's 42% graduate unemployment rate necessitated such programs: "Despite



Indians leading some of the world's most innovative companies, the country struggles with unemployment." Economics was presented in textbooks in Class 9. India was a 'developing country'. The books optimistically predicted India's development by 2020. For many, education is about getting a good job. Failure if that doesn't happen. "Everyone fears risk, plays safe, and settles for a stable

job," she remarked. Atishi shared success tales of students who conquered obstacles through the school-level program, including one who ran a logistics and courier firm with 50 employees before graduating. Another low-income student produced low-cost Bluetooth speakers during the pandemic and won capital by outlining a thorough expansion strategy, including hiring IIT grads.

DU to expand PhD admission slots by 20-25 pc

Delhi: Delhi University's executive council (EC) resolved to boost PhD admission seats by 20-25% from the last round of admission. The EC also allowed a university representation on St. Stephen's College's governing body to connect DU and the college. DU also updated donation rules to fund scholarships, honors, and capital assets. Under this, the government, trusts, and corporations may set up scholarships. Under this, the establishment of scholarships will be allowed by government entities, trusts, business houses.

Bengal counters Centre in SC, says CBI can't conduct probe sans

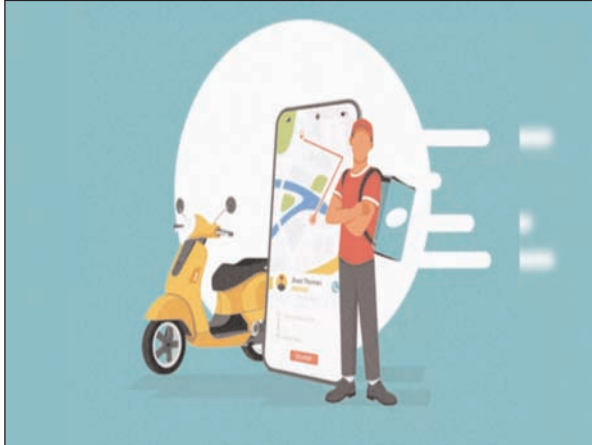
NEW DELHI: Countering Centre's stand that it wields no power over CBI which is an independent agency, West Bengal govt on Wednesday told Supreme Court that Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, under which the agency was formed specifically says that its superintendence shall vest in the central govt in all cases except those related to corruption and contended CBI probe can't be ordered in

the state without its consent. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta that Sections 4 and 5 of the Act confer the power pertaining to superintendence and jurisdiction of the agency to the Centre. Putting forward the stand of the state govt that the central agency could not conduct a probe within its jurisdiction without its consent, Sibal said that it would destroy the federal structure if

Centre forced its way into the state and conducted a probe."Centre has no jurisdiction to allow its investigating agency to come in my state against my consent. Such an act is unconstitutional. It would be an encroachment on the rights and jurisdiction of the state and its police. It would be constitutional overreach and exceeding of jurisdiction and would destroy the federal structure of the country," Sibal said.

Over three months, doorstep delivery has been discontinued

Delhi: Residents could register for Delhi's doorstep delivery program. Over three months, home-accessible documents are unavailable. Reports say the plan was Administrative reforms prolonged the plan until last November, but Delhi cabinet approval was delayed. The effort gave Delhi citizens over six lakh papers, certificates, permits, and licenses in four and a half years, 100 services until March 31. After free Wi-Fi, this is AAP's second major project. A senior Delhi government official said that while extending the project in, the department made it plain that it will either last till March 31 or be replaced by a new program. "The government must revive the initiative after its term. The cabinet must receive a suitable concept paper after plan-



ning, finance, legal, and other ministries approve it. "An anonymous official unexpectedly quit working."Model code of conduct blocked policy renewal. A government source said the cabinet would soon get it. The 30-service plan started in September 2018. The project added 40 and 30 services in March and September 2019. The government first engaged visa-related private company VFS Global to handle the system for three years.

Core Doc2 and CSC e-Governance were hired after retendering. Core Doc2 served the rest. After calling 1076 to schedule a service, a mobile sahayak, the last-mile agent, collected the necessary papers, saving customers time and travel to government organizations. The system supplied income, caste, and domicile certificates; sewage, water, and power connections; ration cards.

Fewer dropouts, but school retention issues

Delhi : The Economic Survey 2024-25 released in Parliament shows that less than half of Indian students complete higher secondary education, despite declining dropout rates across all levels. Dropout rates were 1.9% for primary (Classes I to V), 5.2% for upper primary (Classes VI to VIII), and 14.1% for secondary. Retention rates—the percentage of children who stayed enrolled since first grade—were 85.4% for primary, 78% for elementary, 63.8% for secondary, and 45.6% for higher secondary. According to the education ministry's Unified



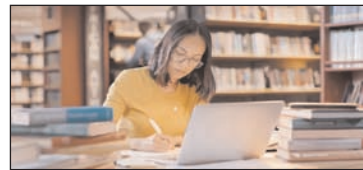
District Information System for Education-Plus (UDISE+ 2023-24) report, India's enormous educational system serves 248 million students in 1.5 million schools with 9.8 million instructors. Government schools make

up 69% of schools, enroll 50% of pupils, and employ 51% of teachers. The research showed 22.5% private schools, 32.6% student enrollment, and 38% teachers. Digital infrastructure has improved. Computers in

schools rose from 38.5% in 2019-20 to 57.2% in 2023-2024, while internet connectivity rose from 22.3% to 53.9%. The poll said the NEP 2020 is based on the idea that "education and human capital development are among the foundational pillars of development."The union government introduced NEP on July 29, 2020, to modernize the education system from school to higher education while maintaining it "rooted in Indianness". Higher education enrollment rose 26.5% to 43.3 million in 2021-22 from 3.42 crore in 2014-15, according to the poll.

While smaller departments struggle with faculty shortages, DU adds PhD seats

Delhi : Delhi University's executive council (EC) increased PhD admission slots by 20-25% from the previous round. The EC authorized a university representative on St Stephen's College's governing board to communicate with the DU.DU amended scholarship, prize, and capital asset giving guide-



lines. Under this, government bodies, trusts, corporate houses, PSUs, NGOs, and other national and international organizations, as well

as individuals, can establish scholarships. Scholarships must be funded by Rs 5 lakh for 10 years and Rs 10 lakh for 20 years. The EC authorized Anil Kumar Aneja, HOD-English and St Stephen's university representative, to communicate. The Indian National Teachers' Congress chairman, Pankaj Garg,

claimed teachers who requested for promotions after 2020 are still waiting. The second PhD admission round for 2024-25 will consider June and December 2024 UGC NET scores. NET + JRF passers are preferred. Additional seats for single girl child students in DU PG programs were also approved.

India-made Micron Tech semiconductor chips to launch globally in 2025



Delhi: Micron India Managing Director Anand Ramamoorthy said that Micron Technology's packaging operation in Gujarat's Sanand will produce the first Indian semiconductor chips in the first half of 2025. "We expect to have products roll-out early next year, in the first half, which is a very good turnaround given that we had announced this whole engagement in the middle of last year," he said. Sanand may become a worldwide semiconductor powerhouse since Ramamoorthy predicted most of its chips will be exported. The chips will be utilized in data centers, smartphones, notebooks, and IoT devices, said Ramamoorthy. Demand, cost, and customer needs will dictate chip allocation closer to manufacturing. Micron also wants to explore two-wheeler electric vehicles and Indian government contracts. Micron's semiconductor supply chain is moving to India, with Simmtech opening operations in Gujarat. Ramamoorthy said the company is working with the government and suppliers to capitalize on India's semiconductor ecosystem. Micron is building an ATMP plant in India under the government's \$10 billion semiconductor production and assembly incentive program. The initiative, funded by central and state governments, will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs, boosting India's semiconductor industry.

AI reduces the lowest-fare luggage limit to 15kg

Delhi: Air India economy class domestic fliers on reduced fares can now check in 15kg of baggage instead of 25kg. AI's substantial allowance for economy fliers within India was its USP, and it would help make up for the long-awaited enhanced cabin product on the airline's outdated planes. All major Indian airlines give 15kg check-in for free. AI spokesperson: "Last year, we adopted a menu-based pricing strategy for branded fare families to comply with worldwide airline industry standards. Air India's 'comfort', 'comfort plus', and 'flex' fare families offer dis-



tinct features and limits at varying prices. We offer tariff families to help guests choose the finest meal and services for them." "Bundled fares provide passengers more value and choice for less. On a domestic sector like Delhi-Mumbai, the price difference between 'comfort plus' and 'flex' fares is typically about Rs 1,000, with the 'flex' fare offering nearly Rs 9,000, including 10kg extra baggage, zero change or cancellation fees, more loyalty points, and more free seats." On domestic economy class routes, 'comfort' and 'comfort plus' price families allow 15kg baggage, while 'flex' allows 25kg. Domestic business

Apple may employ 5 lakh Indians

Delhi: Government sources that Apple will significantly increase its vendor workforce in India. In the next three years, Apple's suppliers and component makers might employ nearly 5 lakh people, up from 1.5 lakh. Apple's Indian vendor with the most jobs is Tata Electronics,

which runs two factories. A senior government official "Apple is hiring faster in India. They may employ five lakh people through vendors and component suppliers in the next three years, conservatively." Apple has not commented on this forecast. Apple's ambitions to boost Indian manufacturing coincide with this announcement. The corporation aspires to surpass five-fold manufacturing production in India, aiming for USD 40 billion (3.32 lakh crore) in the next four to five years. This surge aligns with Apple's Indian success.

CAPSULES

Home loan outstanding rises Rs 10 lakh cr

Delhi: Household debt has skyrocketed in the past two years. According to RBI's 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit' data, housing sector credit grew by about Rs 10 lakh crore in the last two fiscals to a record Rs 27.23 lakh crore in March. Experts credit this to a significant home market recovery following COVID-19. Buyers who delayed buying homes during the pandemic are now buying. Government efforts to provide affordable housing have also driven this increase. An analogy: Imagine a house loan pool. This pool has risen dramatically in the past two years, signaling a homebuying boom. People catching up on delayed purchases and government affordable housing schemes may explain this. While the pool will undoubtedly increase, its rate may slow. Home ownership remained one of the top three goals in 2023, according to the BankBazaar Aspiration Index. Despite rising interest rates, bank loan books exceeded Rs 21 lakh crore as housing loan demand rose. Bankbazaar's average house loan ticket size in 2023 was Rs 28.19 lakh. Metros had an average house loan ticket size of Rs 33.10 lakh and non-metros Rs 22.81 lakh. Existing customers can move to lower home loan rates and prepay a portion of the loan to minimize the strain of rate spikes.

Ola Cabs announces 10% layoffs; CEO leaves in three months.

Delhi: Sources say Ola Cabs is laying off 10%, or 200 workers, as part of its restructuring before an IPO. The company plans to file its draft IPO papers with SEBI in three months and list on the bourses later this year.

Eight US publications sued OpenAI and Microsoft for copyright infringement

Delhi: OpenAI and Microsoft are being sued by eight US newspapers for "purloining millions" of copyrighted news stories to train its artificial intelligence chatbots. New York federal court received the lawsuit from the Daily News, Chicago Tribune, Denver Post, and others. The MediaNews Group and Tribune Publishing executive editor Frank Pine wrote, "We've spent billions of dollars gathering information and reporting news at our publications, and we can't allow OpenAI and Microsoft to expand the Big Tech playbook of stealing our work to build their own businesses at our expense." The lawsuit also



names MediaNews Group's Mercury News, Denver Post, Orange County Register, St. Paul Pioneer-Press, and Tribune Publishing's Orlando Sentinel and South Florida Sun Sentinel. Alden Global Capital owns all publications. Microsoft declined comment. A request for comment from OpenAI was delayed. The New York Times sued OpenAI and Microsoft in December for Copyright infringement in ChatGPT's con-

struction and training. Teams of wealthy lawyers seeking to stop us from publicizing their stories. Lobby groups with unclear funding that debunk climate emergency and other science. Authoritarian regimes that disregard press freedom. Bad actors propagating online falsehoods to subvert democracy. Something powerful is on our side. We got you. The Guardian is funded by Indian readers like you, and our editor selects what we publish. This week is the 31st World Press Freedom Day, a time to reflect on free expression as the foundation of all rights. It's also a chance to assist independent media worldwide.

Jio Financial Services will hire the head of consumer banking at Standard Chartered Bank

Delhi: Kusal Roy, the head of Standard Chartered Bank's consumer banking division in India, has tendered his resignation and is anticipated to join Jio Financial Services. The news of upcoming consumer-focused initiatives that Jio Financial Services would soon offer coincides with the development. Roy is a seasoned banker who joined StanChart Bank in 2020 after heading Tata Capital. He had previously worked for Citibank and ICICI Bank.



Roy's departure was verified by StanChart in response to an email inquiry. Following the release of the company's most recent financial results on April 19, Jio Financial Services announced a number of initiatives, which were unveiled concurrently with the announcement of Roy's resignation.

Godrej & Boyce to own Godrej land bank exclusive construction

Delhi: According to sources and regulatory filings, Jamshyd Naoroji Godrej and his sister Smita Crishna Godrej-controlled Godrej & Boyce will have exclusive construction rights over a vast land bank, including a prime 3,000-acre property in Mumbai, they received as part of the family agreement that split the Godrej empire. Deal splits the 127-year-old organization into two groups commanded by Adi Godrej and his brother Nadir and their cousins Jamshyd and Smita. The former would oversee Godrej Industries Group, which includes listed firms Godrej Industries Ltd, Godrej Consumer Products Ltd, Godrej Properties Ltd, Godrej Agrovet Ltd, and Astec Lifesciences Ltd. Jamshyd Godrej, 75, will manage Godrej Enterprises, which includes Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co., which operates in aerospace, aviation, defense, energy, construction, IT, and software. His niece Nyrika Holkar will be executive direc-

Bandhan Life hires 1,000 avatars

"Most of our partner distribution operations are tech-enabled, so once a consumer knows what they want to buy, it's quick" said

Delhi: After acquiring Aegon Life Insurance, Bandhan Financial Holdings rebranded it Bandhan Life. The new company plans to become a multi-channel life insurance in five years as part of its expansion strategy. It will hire 1,000 people soon. After buying BCCL and Aegon Indian Holding's shareholding



in February 2024, BFHL became the promoter. "Our vision for the next five years is set," stated Bandhan Life MD and CEO Satishwar B. We will grow into all important product areas to improve our offerings." He continued, "To support our tech-enabled approach, we have extensively invested in technology and data-driven operations. This combination will enable us to develop with the new Bharat."

Currently, Australia is monitoring Indian spices

Given their size and scale, Bandhan Bank may be the largest distribution partner initially. Satishwar said it serves mass and conventional banking customers. We sell offline too, even though we're mostly on the internet. Most of our partner distribution operations are tech-enabled, so once a consumer knows what they want to buy, it's quick "said."

Children under 12 must sit with parents on flights without charge



Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered airlines to seat children under 12 with a parent or guardian. This change follows many complaints from consumers, particularly group travelers, who were seated separated from their children after opting out of extra seat selection expenses. Under the new rule, airlines must seat children under 12 with their parents or guardians on the same booking reference. The DGCA stressed the need of recording seating arrangements for compliance. "Airline shall ensure that children upto 12 years are allocated seats with at least one of their parents/guardians, who are travelling on the same PNR and a record of the same shall be maintained," a revised DGCA rule stated. Passengers can opt out of opt-in services including premium seating and meals. Airlines may automatically assign seats before departure if passengers do not pick seats during web check-in. "Airline 'opt-in' unbundled services are optional.