



Inspiration: Late. Dr. L.C. Wallia



Gujarat plane crash: Air India confirms 241 dead in Ahmedabad–London flight crash

Vatika Times
Ahmedabad

Air India has confirmed that flight AI171, en route from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick which crashed shortly after take-off on Wednesday afternoon, resulted in 241 fatalities out of the 242 people on board. The 12-year-old Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner took off from Ahmedabad at 1:38 pm with 230 passengers and 12 crew members. "We regret to inform that, of the 242 aboard, there are 241 confirmed fatalities. The sole survivor is being treated in a hospital," Air India said in an official statement. According to Air India, the survivor is a British national of Indian origin. The passengers on board included 169 Indian nationals, 53 British nationals, 7 Portuguese citizens, and 1 Canadian



national. "This is a moment of profound grief. Air India offers its deepest condolences to the families of the deceased. Our efforts now are focused entirely on the needs of all those affected, their families and loved ones," the airline added. A team of Air India caregivers has been deployed in Ahmedabad to support families and assist local authorities. Air India has set up a dedicated helpline for relatives and concerned individuals: 1800 5691 444 (within

India) and +91 8062779200 (international). The aircraft crashed shortly after it took off in Meghaninagar area in Ahmedabad. The official X handle of US planemaker Boeing Commercial Airplanes said, "We are in contact with Air India regarding Flight 171 and stand ready to support them. Our thoughts are with the passengers, crew, first responders and all affected." Meanwhile, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

said it is in contact with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) regarding Air India flight AI171. "When an international incident occurs, that government leads the investigation," the FAA said in a statement. "In the event assistance is requested, the NTSB is the official US representative and the FAA provides technical support." "We stand ready to launch a team immediately in coordination with the NTSB," it said.

Air India plane crash: Boeing, a whistleblower, and his 'gap' warning - 'That's not how you build aircraft'

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NEW DELHI:

The ill-fated aircraft, carrying 242 people including 10 crew members, plunged into a residential complex minutes after takeoff from Ahmedabad on Thursday. It was meant to fly to London's Gatwick Airport — but lasted just around 30 seconds in the air. As rescue teams continue recovery efforts, aviation experts are turning their focus to the aircraft itself, the 787 Dreamliner, hailed as a technological marvel, yet shadowed by safety concerns. Read live updates **Whistleblower's chilling warnings** In 2024, New York Times reported about Boeing engineer Sam Salehpour's formal whistleblower complaint with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which alleged serious structural flaws in the



manufacturing of the 787 Dreamliner and its cousin, the 777. His claims suggested shortcuts were taken on the factory floor that could dramatically shorten the aircraft's lifespan and potentially lead to "catastrophic" failure over time. "I'm not doing this to bring Boeing down," Salehpour had said in a press briefing adding: "I'm doing this because I want to prevent a crash." According to Salehpour, improperly filled gaps in the aircraft fuselage — where different parts of the plane are joined — could

increase stress and wear during flights, potentially compromising the structural integrity of the aircraft over years. Also read: Police finds one survivor in seat 11A; 242 were onboard The 'gaps' Boeing couldn't ignore His allegations were not isolated. Back in 2021, the FAA and Boeing paused delivery of Dreamliners for nearly two years to investigate precisely the same issue: improperly filled microscopic gaps. Boeing claimed it corrected the process, resumed deliveries, and maintained that

all active aircraft were safe. But Salehpour had alleged that the problem persisted. He described shocking assembly practices — including workers "jumping on aircraft parts" to force them into alignment. "That's not how you build an airplane," he said. Boeing had, however, pushed back hard against the allegations. "These claims about the structural integrity of the 787 are inaccurate and do not represent the comprehensive work Boeing has done to ensure long-term safety," the company had said in a statement. In contact with Air India, ready to support them: Boeing Airplanes Boeing Airplanes said that it is in contact with Air India regarding the AI-171 flight with 230 passengers and 12 crew bound for London's Gatwick.

RBI defers exchange-traded currency derivatives rules

MUMBAI: RBI has deferred the implementation of its rules on exchange-traded currency derivatives by a month, resulting in traders scrambling to square off their positions. RBI's circular, which was scheduled to come into effect on April 5, said that only traders with an underlying forex exposure can trade in currency derivatives. Exchange-traded currency derivatives, like futures contracts, help companies hedge against currency risk. For instance, an Indian exporter expecting payment in US dollars in three months can use currency futures to mitigate potential losses from adverse exchange rate movements. By entering a futures contract to sell US dollars at a predetermined rate, the exporter locks in a viable exchange rate. The market for exchange-traded currency derivatives has been thriving for a decade because of positions taken by investors with a view on the currency. However, RBI said that its recent circular only reiterates its existing position. "The regulatory framework for exchange-traded currency derivatives has remained consistent over the years, and there is no change in RBI's policy approach," it said. The circular, issued on Jan 5, retained most of the earlier regulations, including a requirement that trades over \$100 million would require proof of exposure. This requirement of proof for higher value trades was being interpreted by participants to mean that those who did not have any exposure could participate in lower value transactions. However, the Jan 5 circular carried a footnote requiring exchanges to ask clients to trade only against exposures.

How the Black Box is decoded and how many days it takes

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI:

The London-bound flight AI-171 carrying 242 people issued a Mayday distress call shortly after departure at 1:39 PM IST before crashing into a medical college hostel at just 625 feet altitude. This marks the first fatal crash of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner since the aircraft entered commercial service in 2011. What is a Black Box and why it's important for the



Ahmedabad crash investigation Despite its name, the aircraft "Black Box" consists of two bright orange crash-resistant devices designed to survive extreme impact, fire, and water pressure. The Flight Data Recorder (FDR) logs thousands of technical parameters including altitude, speed, engine performance, and control inputs, while the Cockpit Voice

Recorder (CVR) captures all cockpit audio including pilot conversations, radio transmissions, and mechanical sounds. According to America's National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), an independent US government investigative agency that is responsible for civil transportation accident investigation, notes the recorders continuously store 25 hours of flight information, providing investigators .

Plane crash: What caused the crash? Engine failure, bird hit among several

Vatika Times

MUMBAI: Two short videos surfaced after AI 171 crashed outside Ahmedabad airport - many questions followed, from those who have flown commercial airliners. On social media, pilots were asking: 1. Why was the aircraft landing gear not retracted? 2. Did the aircraft suffer a dual engine failure? 3. Did the engines die because of possible fuel contamination or blockage? 4. Were the flaps on the wings lowered for take-off? 5. Could a bird hit have contributed to the crash? The final investigation report into the AI-171 accident, set to be released before June 12 next year, will have a detailed analysis of probable causes and contributory factors.



But for aviation professionals, the two videos offered many clues. "Within 5 secs of lift off, pilots normally put the landing gear up," said Capt Amit Singh, an air safety expert. Capt Manoj Hathi, ex-Air India official who has held posts of director (ops) and director (air-safety) said: "As soon as a positive rate of climb is reached, the landing gear is retracted." A lowered landing gear increases drag and fuel consumption, while reducing aircraft speed. Retracting the land-

ing gear allows for a smooth aerodynamic flow helping the aircraft climb up. But the clips showed the landing gear extended even as the plane climbed to over 400 feet above ground. DGCA statement hints at dual engine failure | What could be the reason why AI-171 had not retracted its landing gear although it had climbed to a height of around 400 feet? "In case there is a distraction the pilots could forget to put the gear up. The distraction

could be dual engine failure, bird hit or combination of both. The plume of dust as the aircraft crosses the runway end shows it was low on power and possibly a dual engine problem," said air safety expert Capt Amit Singh. Capt Manoj Hathi, a former AI official, said, "It's possible that a dual engine flame-out was the reason the landing gear could not be retracted. Dual engine failure could occur due to bird ingestion or fuel contamination. Looking at the trajectory and body angle of the aircraft, it appears as if the aircraft has stalled because of loss of speed." Other pilots, who requested anonymity, too, spoke about dual engine failure and possible fuel contamination.

Gujarat plane crash: 9,300 hours of flying experience

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NEW DELHI:

Sabharwal, a senior pilot, had 8,200 flying hours, aviation regulator DGCA said. A senior colleague, however, said his flying experience would be much more. "The regulator's eGCA platform is fairly new and may not have his entire record," the colleague said. "He was a very good, quiet person who flew the Airbus A310, Boeing 777 and B787. He kept his head down and was a diligent worker." Co-pilot Clive Kunder had 1,100 hours flying experience. Commanding a commercial aircraft requires at least 1,500 hours; Kunder was first flying officer on the nearly 10 hour flight, assisting Sabharwal. Expressing grief over the tragedy, actor Vikrant Massey wrote on Instagram, "It pains even more to know that my uncle, Clifford Kunder.

Eyewitness says heard a loud noise; 'dead bodies scattered'



Vatika Times

NEW DELHI: An Air India flight crashed on Thursday, shortly after a few minutes of takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad. The plane crashed into a hostel building. The London-bound aircraft plunged into the Meghani area of the city, sending up a massive plume of black smoke and triggering an immediate emergency response. An eye witness said that he firstly heard the massive sound and later when he came out, saw a layer of thick smoke in the air, dead bodies and debris from the crashed aircraft

were scattered all over. "I was at home when we heard a massive sound. When we went out to see what had happened, there was a layer of thick smoke in the air. When we came here, dead bodies and debris from the crashed aircraft were scattered all over," an eye witness. Fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the blaze, said fire officer Jayesh Khadia. Several injured persons were taken to city civil hospital, an official said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Union home minister Amit Shah and civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu.

Editorial

India’s naval advance-ments will fuel its Indian Ocean ambitions

Ritu Walia

As India approaches its 75th Republic Day, the nation has achieved a significant milestone in strengthening its naval capabilities. In an exceptional move reflecting strategic foresight, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently commissioned three advanced naval platforms in a single day: a destroyer, a frigate, and a submarine. However, in a fast-changing security environment in the Indo-Pacific, the developments in naval capabilities must be measured in a relative context— capabilities of arch rivals and a swiftly evolving security domain, that is. Now, five points need to be underscored in this context. The commissioning of advanced naval platforms highlights India’s aspiration to establish itself as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Over the years, India’s maritime security strategy has significantly evolved. The 2015 Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision reflects India’s dedication to fostering regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. This vision is supported by initiatives such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Indian Ocean Island Countries (IOIC), which emphasise coastal connectivity and sustainable development. PM Modi’s address at the 2018 Shangri-La Dialogue further reinforced India’s strategic perspective for the Indo-Pacific. The SAGAR vision has gained traction through frameworks such as the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), aiming to tackle regional security issues and counter China’s expanding influence. While China’s People’s Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has grown to become the world’s largest by fleet size, it still lacks the operational capabilities and combat experience of the United States. India’s navy, although the smallest of its armed forces, has consistently demonstrated efficiency and timely acquisitions. Compared to the Indian Air Force, which faces critical squadron shortages, the navy pragmatically acknowledges domestic limitations in engine development. It relies on foreign collaborations to fill gaps, ensuring progress. However, I’ll turn to that later. To establish itself as a net security provider, the Indian Navy must sustain the momentum it has recently achieved in naval defence exports. Although this initiative began in earnest only in 2011, it gained significant traction after 2016. India has transitioned from being a cautious supplier of naval equipment, primarily targeting countries such as Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines, to a more prominent player in defence exports. For many years, India’s exports to nations such as Seychelles, the Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka were limited to refurbished ex-navy and coast guard vessels. However, this trend has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. Naval ships, as of 2024, account for over 61 per cent of India’s total defence exports. This shift highlights India’s growing capability to manufacture advanced platforms and its determination to emerge as a dependable supplier of defence equipment to neighbouring countries. This development is a critical component of India’s regional and maritime strategy, especially given China’s rapid ascent in modernising PLAN and expanding its influence in the Indian Ocean by providing naval assets to smaller nations. China has already established itself as the leading defence exporter to both Pakistan and Bangladesh.

It delivered two Ming-class submarines to Bangladesh in 2017, gifted a P625 frigate to Sri Lanka in 2019, and committed to exporting Yuan-class submarines to Thailand. Although the Thai deal encountered difficulties .



The sins of fathers shall be visited upon the sons

Suman

The sins of fathers shall be visited upon the sons—this ominous pronouncement in the Bible has now come true for Tulip Siddiq, a 42-year-old minister in the British government, but with a twist. In her case, it wasn’t her father’s sins that visited upon her but those allegedly committed by her aunt, the deposed prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina Wazed. And it cost Siddiq her job. Slapped with a range of corruption charges by Bangladesh’s Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC), which forced an internal government inquiry, Siddiq has strenuously denied any

wrongdoing—except that of ignorance about benefiting from dubious transactions. But she has paid the price and resigned as UK treasury minister on Tuesday, though she stressed that an independent review found she had “not breached the ministerial code”. If the sins of aunts can impact nieces, then can daughters escape their mothers’? Ever since Siddiq’s case hit the headlines, the spotlight has slowly but surely turned to Sheikh Hasina’s daughter, Saima Wazed, also known as Putul, who was elected regional director of the World Health Organisation’s Southeast Asia branch amid

considerable controversy in February 2024. An editorial in the eminent medical journal The Lancet had earlier questioned if she was fit for the job, as she only held a master’s degree in psychology while rival aspirants were doctors with years of public health experience. The ACC has now initiated a probe into how she got the job: on her own merit or her mother’s intervention as prime minister. All eyes are now on Putul and whether she’ll be forced to follow in her cousin’s footsteps. What does it all mean for 77-year-old Sheikh Hasina, who has been sheltering in New Delhi since fleeing Dhaka

on 5 August after a violent student uprising against her 15-year continuous tenure as Bangladesh’s prime minister? There is no doubt that the charges being hurled at her, her family, and her friends are coloured by political prejudice from those now in power in Bangladesh. But some of the mud will stick. That’s the tragedy for the daughter of Bangladesh’s founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman—even her staunchest supporters admit her chances of ever returning to her motherland look very slim. Not just her niece, several other members of Sheikh Hasina’s family .

Slowing capital expenditure is good. Don’t invest in BSNL, save for shortfall instead

Abhinav

The Union government’s capital expenditure (capex) continues to be a cause for concern. Of course, the extent of its decline has reduced somewhat — from 35 per cent at the end of the first quarter of the current financial year to 15 per cent at the end of six months. But the latest number for the April-November 2024-25 period shows that the Union government’s capex was still 12 per cent lower than what it was in the same period of 2023-24. Instead of aiming for the targeted 17 per cent growth to ~11.11 trillion in capex for 2024-25, the government will have to strive hard to at least cross the figure of ~9.48 trillion reached last year. What has led to this decline? A widely held view is that the seven-phase general elections, which began on April 19 and ended on June 1 last year, caused a slowdown in capex. But if that indeed is the reason, the decline in capex in the first quarter should have been reversed in the second quarter of 2024-25. And certainly, the first two months of the third quarter should have raised the trajectory of capex growth to a higher level. There has been some improvement, but a 12 per cent decline in the April-November 2024-25 period is no comfort. Look at the slightly different trajectory seen in the Union government’s revenue expenditure growth during the same period. The Budget for 2024-25 had projected a rise of over 6 per cent to ~37.1



trillion in revenue expenditure. At the end of June 2024, the growth was just about 2 per cent, but it has been rising since then, reaching 4.2 per cent by the end of the first six months of 2024-25 and climbing even higher to 7.8 per cent during April-November 2024-25. So, if revenue expenditure has gained momentum, why has capex failed to follow suit? A close analysis of the government’s capex numbers presents an interesting picture. Over 90 per cent of the Centre’s total capex during 2024-25 was accounted for by just six sectors — roads, railways, defence, telecom, transfer to states and new schemes. Their share in total capex in 2023-24 was a little less at 87 per cent. But the 12 per cent decline in the first eight months of 2024-25 is primarily the result of a marked slowdown in only two of these six areas — roads and defence, which accounted for over 40 per cent of the total capex outlay for 2024-25. Capex on the construction of roads and highways fell by 16 per cent, while defence saw a decline of 15 per cent. This is serious and

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

In contrast, such transfers during the entire

2023-24 had risen sharply by about 24 per cent to ~1.15 trillion. It appears that these transfers will take a hit in the current year and for the first time since this initiative to help states boost their capex was undertaken a couple of years ago. Significantly, this has not yet adversely impacted the states in a big way. The capex of 25 states (accounting for 95 per cent of all the states’ and Union territories’ total capex budget) has risen by just about 1 per cent in the April-November 2024-25 period, although states like Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram, Odisha, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal saw their capex fall by varying margins. Eventually, however, this will have an adverse impact on the states’ capex programme and its growth-enhancing effect. There are two more sectors that account for another 13 per cent of the Centre’s capital expenditure budget. But they bring out an intriguing aspect of why the government’s capex has been slowing. They suffer from a peculiar problem, which has nothing to do with either the relevant sectors’ expenditure-absorbing capacity or the absence of effective expenditure monitoring. The bulk of the capex under telecommunications was meant for infusing equity into state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd, or BSNL. Of the total capex of ~0.84 trillion, the proposed amount for BSNL’s equity

infusion accounted for as much as ~0.83 trillion. But the total expenditure under this head in the first eight months of 2024-25 is only 6 per cent of what has been budgeted. In other words, a decision to transfer the equity amount promised to BSNL would increase the government’s capex by a significant margin. Why this money has not been transferred is puzzling. Last year, against a budgeted BSNL equity infusion of ~0.53 trillion, the actual infusion was higher at ~0.65 trillion. This year, no action on this front even after eight months is a puzzle as this failure also contributes significantly to the decline in the Centre’s capex. More importantly, the Budget for 2024-25 had allocated a significant amount of ~0.66 trillion for capex on central sector schemes and projects. Of this, a large chunk, estimated at ~0.62 trillion, was earmarked for new schemes that the government would announce during the year. However, in the first eight months of the current year, only 4 per cent of that total outlay has been used up, leaving ~0.63 trillion yet to be spent. It is likely that the government may not need this amount or it may have kept its powder dry to meet any new schemes that it might announce later in the year, for which such capital allocations will be useful. For the Union finance ministry, currently busy preparing the Budget for 2025-26, such a state of play with expenditure could well be an opportunity.

Will Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Really Lead To Peace?

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

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

Extension of the Production Linked Incentive scheme for solar energy

Radhika

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

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

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



Youth Take a Pledge Against Drug Abuse at the Concluding Ceremony of Arya Veer Dal Provincial Camp

Jasbir Singh Duggal

Kurukshetra: The grand concluding ceremony of the Provincial Arya Veer Dal Yoga and Life Development Camp, inspired by Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, was held today at Gurukul Kurukshetra. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Jagbir Singh from the Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau was present as the chief guest, while renowned Vedic scholar Dr. Rajendra Vidyalkar delivered the keynote address. Present on the occasion were Gurukul President Raj Kumar Arya, Principal Sube Pratap, Administrator Ram Niwas Arya, Arya Samaj Yamunanagar President Mohit Arya, Camp Convener Mahashay Jaipal Arya, Chief Trainer Sanjeev Arya, Physical Education Instructor Sandeep Vedic, along with teachers from various participating schools and parents of the camp attendees.



Speaking at the event, DSP Jagbir Singh emphasized that the rising trend of drug use among youth is a major concern. Even young children in neighborhoods are falling prey to addiction. In such times, initiatives like drug de-addiction campaigns and life-building camps organized by Gurukul gain immense importance. He lauded Acharya Devvrat's efforts in promoting Vedic values and natural farming and inspired the youth to not only stay away from drugs but also spread awareness against it. Keynote speaker Dr.

Rajendra Vidyalkar stated that a single good thought has the power to transform a person's life. The daily routine of the camp, the teachings of Vedic principles, and lessons on moral values can greatly enrich one's life if sincerely adopted. Highlighting the issue of religious conversion, he warned of its serious consequences if not addressed and urged youth to raise their voices against such incidents. He called upon the youth to carry forward Arya Samaj's mission of eradicating social evils, blind faith, and superstition, and to bring about.

Diwan decorated on the occasion of Prakash Parv of sixth Patshahi Hargovind Singh Sahib



DILPREET WALIA

Karnal : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the sixth Sikh Guru, Chhathi Patshahi Shri Har Govind Ji Sahib, Guru Parv was celebrated by the women's assembly of Gurudwara Manji Sahib with the cooperation of the Guru Parv Managing Committee at Dera Karseva Gurdwara. On this occasion, the women's groups praised the glory of the Guru. On this occasion, the women's Kirtan groups

praised the glory of the Guru. The coordinator of this program and the head of the women's wing of Gurdwara Manji Sahib, Sarinder Kaur, said that on this occasion the women's assembly participated in the program. A large number of women were present in the program. She said that Guru Har Govind Sahib was the sixth Guru. On this occasion, a sweet water stall was set up. On this occasion, along with Bhupinder Kaur, the office bearers of the

Sukhmani Path Sabha of Sector 4 were also present. On this occasion, Rupinder Kaur, Kuldeep Kaur, Gurpreet Kaur, Gurmeet Kaur and many other women religious people were present. On this occasion, a sweet water stall was set up and bed pakoras were served. On this occasion, he said that Guru Har Govind Sahib showed people the path of humanity. He taught people to live together. He worked to protect humanity.

Kurukshetra's Daughter Anju Sharma Among Victims of Ahmedabad Air India Flight Crash

Jasbir Singh Duggal

Kurukshetra: In the tragic Air India flight crash that occurred in Ahmedabad on Thursday afternoon, Anju Sharma, a native of Ramsaran Majra village in Babain town of Kurukshetra district, lost her life. Anju Sharma was on her way to London to meet her daughter, Nimmy Sharma. Anju, daughter of Jagdish Sharma and sister of film star Milan Sharma, was residing in Vadodara city, Gujarat. Her daughter, Nimmy Sharma, lives in London. On this unfortunate day, Anju Sharma boarded the Air India flight bound for London to meet her daughter, unaware that this would be the last journey of her life. As soon as the Air India flight crashed, Nimmy Sharma immediately realized the gravity of the situation, knowing her mother was on that very flight. She promptly informed her maternal uncle, Milan Sharma. The heartbreaking news devastated Anju Sharma's family living in Ramsaran Majra village. The entire household was engulfed in sorrow, and the villagers gathered to console the grieving family. Following the news, family members have left for Ahmedabad.



Sikh Gurus always taught the lesson of humanity : Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand Anand

DILPREET WALIA

Karnal : Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand has said that Sikh Gurus have always taught humanity to the people. By following the path shown by them, we can unite the society. He said that the tradition started by the BJP government to celebrate the birthdays of Gurus and Saints is continuing. Today he reached the sweet water stall set up by Maninder Babbu Karaoke Club at Pratap Public School



Chowk in Sector 6. There he distributed langar prasad and sweet water to everyone with his own hands. Senior BJP leader Ashok Bhandari was with him. On his arrival, social worker and

patron of the new vegetable market Avtar Singh Tari, Arvinder Singh, Maninder Babbu, Anirudh Kalra welcomed him by presenting him a Siropa. On this occasion, potato prasad and langar prasad of pakodas were distributed to everyone. From nine in the morning till noon, thousands of passersby took advantage of this stall in the hot afternoon. They drank sweet water to their heart's

content and took langar prasad. On this occasion, MBKC Club chief Maninder Babbu, Arvinder Singh, Avtar Singh Tari, industrialist Arun Rajpal, Pradeep Tyagi, Kamal Kumar, Joginder, Anirudh Kalra, Deepak Sharma, Sahil Makkar, Vijay Sharma, Seema Sachdeva, Urnil Makkar, Poonam Rajni, Shikha Dutt, Sunita, Manju Anjali, Pushpa Kalra, Rekha Tyagi, etc. served at the Chhabil.

A Sea of Devotion Gathers on the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji Maharaj

Jasbir Singh Duggal

Kurukshetra: A massive wave of devotion surged at the historic shrine of Gurdwara Sahib Patshahi Chhevin, the sacred site touched by the feet of the donor of Miri and Piri, Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji Maharaj, on the occasion of his Prakash Purab. Devotees not only from Haryana but also from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, and other states came together to bow before Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji Maharaj. Throughout the gathering, the echoes of sacred hymns (shabad kirtan) and the chant of "Waheguru Simran" resonated in the air. On the final day of the congregation, the third series of the Sri Akhand Path Sahib concluded with the Bhog ceremony on Thursday. Former Head Granthi Bhai Gurdas Singh led the Ardas (prayer) at the

feet of the Guru. Additionally, at the historic Gurdwara Sahib Patshahi Satvin, an Amrit Sanchar (baptism ceremony) was held. Renowned Hazoori Ragi from Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, Bhai Satinderpal Singh, performed soulful shabad kirtan. Gurmeet Singh Dhanauli and Bhai Jagteshwar Singh, known for religious discourse through kavishri, shared inspiring historical narratives of the Gurus. Former Head Granthi Baba Amrik Singh also delivered a katha (spiritual discourse), narrating significant episodes from the life of Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji Maharaj. Among the distinguished attendees were Sant Baba Amrik Singh Patiala Wale, Jathedar Baba Darshan Singh Kar Sewa Wale, and several officials and members of the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management

Committee (HSGMC), including its President Jathedar Jagdish Singh Jhinda, Senior Vice President Gurmeet Singh Ramsaran, Executive Committee Member Karnail Singh Nimnabad, Balwinder Singh Bhindari, Kuldeep Singh Multani, Jathedar Baldev Singh Habri, Member Jathedar Baljit Singh Daduwal, Inderjit Singh, Bibi Kartar Kaur, Harmanpreet Singh, Kuldeep Singh Phaggu, Gurnam Singh Laddi, Bhupinder Singh Laddi, Bibi Jasbir Kaur Masana, Rajinder Singh, BJP leader Tarun Bhandari, former Vice President Bibi Ravinder Kaur Ajrana, former spokesperson Kawaljeet Singh Ajrana, Beant Singh Nalvi, former Joint Secretary Gulab Singh Munak, Sukhjinder Singh Masana, Ameer Singh, and Tajindarpal Singh Makkar among others.

Former Minister of State Subhash Sudha Inaugurates Exhibition on 11 Years of Government's Progress

Jasbir Singh Duggal

Kurukshetra: Former Minister of State Subhash Sudha stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has moved from being the world's 10th largest economy to the fourth-largest and fastest-growing economy in the past 11 years. He highlighted that the ₹29.8 lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat



package introduced by the Prime Minister during the COVID-19 crisis greatly supported MSMEs and other businesses. He further emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the government is working toward the vision of making India a developed nation by 2047. On Thursday, Subhash Sudha inau-

gurated an exhibition showcasing the government's achievements over the past 11 years. Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh and BJP District President Tejinder Singh Goldy were also present on the occasion. Subhash Sudha explained that the exhibition provides a comprehensive overview of the government's schemes and initiatives over

the last 11 years. It details which schemes were launched, how many people benefited, and in what ways they were helped. He urged the public to visit the exhibition in large numbers to learn more about the government's development initiatives. He also noted that previous governments neither informed citizens properly about their

schemes nor ensured that the benefits reached the people. In contrast, the current government is committed to transparency and outreach. District President Tejinder Singh Goldy added that the exhibition effectively reflects the pace and scale of development projects initiated under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi over the last 11 years.



Gold medal-winning school athletes to be honoured for Vidyalayi Khel Puraskar

Lucknow In a landmark move to recognise young sporting talent, the Yogi government has launched the Mukhyamantri Vidyalayi Khel Puraskar (2024–25). For the first time in Uttar Pradesh, students excelling in the National School Games will be formally honoured. On June 12, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will felicitate gold medalists at a state-level ceremony at Lok Bhavan, while silver and bronze medalists will be recognised at the district level. A total of 363 student-athletes from UP’s council schools participated in the 68th National School Games, winning 179 medals—including 51 gold, 46 silver, and 82 bronze—across more than 20 sports disciplines. A total of 363 student-athletes from UP’s council schools par-

ticipated in the 68th National School Games (2024-25) and won 179 medals—including 51 gold, 46 silver, and 82 bronze—across more than 20 disciplines, such as athletics, wrestling, taekwondo, judo, hockey, shooting, karate, boxing, volleyball, swimming, kabaddi, and handball. The Chief Minister will present cash prizes, certificates, medals, and shields to gold medal-winning students during the state-level ceremony. A total of 87 athletes (73 boys and 14 girls) who secured 51 gold medals will be honoured. Individual gold medalists will receive Rs 75,000 each, while team gold medalists will be awarded Rs 35,000 each. Simultaneously, district-level ceremonies will be held across all 75 districts of the state,

where silver and bronze medallists will be felicitated by district magistrates, ministers in charge, MLAs, or other local representatives. A total of 94 players (63 boys and 31 girls) who won 46 silver medals will be awarded Rs 50,000 each in the individual category and Rs 25,000 each for team events. Similarly, 182 players (111 boys and 71 girls) who secured 82 bronze medals will be honoured. Individual bronze medalists will receive Rs 30,000, while team event bronze medalists will be awarded Rs 15,000 each. This initiative reflects the government’s commitment to nurturing a strong sports culture in Uttar Pradesh and motivating young athletes to consider sports as a viable and rewarding career path..

The Union government wants 100% FDI in insurance

Delhi: The Union Finance Ministry proposed raising the insurance sector's FDI ceiling from 74% to 100% in a consultation paper. The insurance FDI limit was raised from 49% to 74% in February 2021. The government said the proposal to alter insurance legislation will make insurance more affordable, grow the insurance industry, and streamline corporate operations. An office memorandum dated November 26 proposed lifting the FDI ceiling in Indian insurance businesses from 74% to 100% and



allowing insurers to conduct one or more kinds of insurance business and associated or incidental operations. The suggestion also cut foreign reinsurers' Net Owned Funds from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 1,000 crore. IRDAI can also set lesser entry capital (Rs 50 crore) for underserved or unserved regions on

a case-by-case basis. The sector regulator is trying to increase capital in this capital-intensive industry. The Chairman of IRDAI suggests that the insurance market requires 50,000 crore yearly to double penetration in the country. Insurance penetration is the ratio of annual premiums issued to GDP.

Gold loans rise 50% in seven months

Delhi: Bank loans against gold jewelry rose 50.4% in the first seven months of the year. Despite single-digit growth in every other personal loan area, credit rose sharply. RBI issued sectoral deployment of bank credit Gold loans totaled Rs 1,02,562 crore in March 2024. Growth was 56% year-over-year, up from

13% in October 2023. NBFCs' move and a preference for secured loans over unsecured ones contributed to the first-seven-month gold loan surge, bankers said. Bank loans to NBFCs fell 0.7% to Rs 1.5 lakh crore in the first seven months. Bankers also said that rising gold prices allow borrowers to repay previous loans

and get higher new ones. Analysts see rising gold loan demand as an indication of financial instability. RBI ordered banks and financial companies to review and fix their gold loan rules and procedures within three months last month. After an examination, evergreening was found to hide bad loans.

Govt. drafts comprehensive action plan to strengthen Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control BoardS

Lucknow Under the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a comprehensive plan has been prepared to expand and strengthen Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) in order to bolster pollution control and environmental protection across the state. The proposal is currently under review at the administrative level and, once approved, is expected to bring transformative changes in environmental governance in the state. To further strengthen UPPCB’s financial base, the fee structure for applications will be revised, and a tech-enabled portal will be launched to simplify and

bring greater transparency to its operations. It is worth mentioning here that in light of Uttar Pradesh’s rapid industrialisation and urbanisation under CM Yogi’s leadership, pollution levels have also gone up in the state. To address the issue, a plan has been drafted to make UPPCB more effective by expanding its presence across the state. As per the proposal, regional offices of the Board will be established in all divisional headquarters and key industrial districts, while district-level offices will be opened in the remaining districts. This decentralisation aims to ensure better local monitoring and man-

agement of pollution. Additionally, dedicated cells will be set up to manage different types of waste—solid waste, liquid waste (STP and CETP), hazardous waste, e-waste, and biomedical waste—making waste management more structured and efficient. To encourage environmental research and development, a dedicated cell will be created within UPPCB to work on innovative technologies and solutions for pollution control. A separate cell will also focus on environmental awareness and public outreach. Furthermore, a proposal to amend the fee structure of applications is also included to strengthen

the financial resources of UPPCB. The proposal recommends an increase in the existing fee structure—last revised in 2008—based on capital investment and pollution load. The new structure proposes a reduction in classification from 12 to 7 categories, simplifying the process and ensuring better transparency. A modern portal equipped with IT and AI capabilities is also part of the plan to make UPPCB’s functioning more efficient and transparent. Industrial units will be able to upload their compliance reports directly through the portal. Automated e-alerts will notify them of consent renewals.

New Honda Amaze Variants and Top Features

Delhi: India will launch the third-generation Amaze on December 4, 2024, and unofficial bookings have begun. The car is arriving at dealer yards nationwide ahead of its much-anticipated launch. It will rival the new Maruti Suzuki Dzire, Tata Tigor, and Hyundai Aura. The 2025 Honda Amaze will come in three variants—V, VX, and ZX—with many interior and exterior changes. Since its inception in India over a decade ago, the Amaze has been a popular sedan. Several new features and technolo-

gies will be added. The top model will have a floating touchscreen infotainment system with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity, automatic climate control, ADAS technology, six airbags, reversing camera, wireless smartphone charger, multi-functional steering wheel with mounted controls, rear AC vents, dual cup holders, type-c charging ports, and more. However, an electric sunroof, motorized seats, and 360-degree camera will be missing. It will keep its 1.2L four-cylinder

VTEC naturally aspirated petrol engine, which produces 90 PS, and no major mechanical alterations. A CVT or five-speed manual transmission will accompany the powerplant. The sedan’s redesign is inspired by Honda’s Elevate and City models. Redesigned front end with crisp LED headlamps and slim LED DRLs. Chrome accents were added to the grille and bonnet. The 2025 Honda Amaze’s road presence is enhanced with the reworked front bumper and fog lamp housing.s.

French energy giant Total puts Adani Gp investments on hold

Delhi: Total Energies, a French oil company, has suspended investments in Adani Group entities pending the conclusion of US bribery allegations against its founder. The Paris-based company, which owns key investments in Adani Group’s renewable energy and gas distribution operations, said it was unaware of the US solar power corruption inquiry. "Total Energies rejects corruption in any form," it declared. "This indictment does not target Adani Green Energy (AGEL) itself, nor any AGEL-related companies." Total Energies claimed it learned about Gautam Adani's and others' indictment from US public pronouncements. Gautam Adani, his nephew



and Adani Green Energy executive director Sagar Adani, and others are accused of a \$265m bribery scam. Total Energies bought 19.7% of Adani Green Energy in January 2021. It invested \$444 million in an equal joint venture with the Indian company to acquire three 1,150MW operational renewable assets in September. Additionally, it owns 37.4% of Adani Total Gas, which supplies CNG to cars and natural gas to homes.

NBCC India will buy sick PSUs and redevelop land banks

Delhi: Two sources say NBCC India Ltd. wants to buy defunct public sector undertakings (PSUs) to redevelop and monetize their land. The state-run construction company wants to leverage its success in developing land for government-owned companies. Developer is in talks to acquire non-operational PSUs through a new entity to monetize their land banks. Details are not yet

Govt strengthens education through leadership development

Lucknow The Government of Uttar Pradesh has taken a significant initiative to strengthen the primary education system at the grassroots level. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, a three-day residential training programme for Block Education Officers (BEOs) commenced on June 11 at Deendayal Upadhyay State Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow. The programme, sponsored by the State Project Office of Samagra Shiksha, Uttar Pradesh, focuses on the integrated development of leadership qualities, innovation, and administrative efficiency. By placing leadership at the center of the education system, this strategy is guiding Uttar Pradesh towards becoming a model state for education

governance. The training will not only enhance coordination within the department, but will also help schools create a better academic environment and accelerate progress towards the goals of NIPUN Bharat. 500 officers to be trained in five phases. The training programme is divided into five phases, with 100 BEOs participating in each phase. The remaining officers are also scheduled to be trained soon. The training focuses on academic leadership, financial management, use of departmental portals, NIPUN Bharat Mission, ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education), Operation Kayakalp, and management of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas. The first phase has already begun, and dates for the remaining batches have also been final-

ized. The second phase will be held from June 16 to 18, the third from June 19 to 21, the fourth from June 23 to 25, and the fifth from June 26 to 28. Training aims to transform thinking, not just provide information. The training is not limited to providing information about departmental schemes; its broader goal is to prepare BEOs as strategic leaders. Creative elements such as case studies, group discussions, technical demonstrations, and sharing of field experiences have been included in the sessions. Key focus areas of the training agenda* NIPUN Bharat Mission and quality education* Operation Kayakalp* Management and administration of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas* Activities and programmes under inclusive education.

Tgana rejects Adani's 100-cr contribution

Delhi: Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy announced that the state government will not accept the ₹100 crore CSR donation from the Adani Group for the Young India Skills University in Ranga Reddy district, citing current circumstances and controversies. We thank you for committing 100 crore to Young India Skills University on behalf of your Foundation via letter. We have not sought donors for physical transfers of monies since the university did not acquire the IT exemption under section 80G, Ranjan wrote. The official added that he was “instructed by the chief minister not to seek the transfer of funds in view of the present circumstances and arising controversies”. According to the US Department of Justice indictment, Adani executives and Azure Power executives bribed Indian government officials in five states to win solar energy supply contracts worth over \$2 billion over 20 years between 2020 and 2024. The scam purportedly started in Odisha and spread to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The Telangana chief minister said everyone may lawfully invest, despite accusations that the state government accepted Adani Group funding.



You Don't Check Students' Bags": Delhi

Delhi: At least 30 Delhi schools got an email bomb threat for the second this week. Officials said police have uncovered nothing untoward. The threat targeted Delhi Public School in East of Kailash, Salwan School, Modern School, and Cambridge School. This has led authorities to send students home. Schools also notified parents not to send their children to school. The sender claims a "secret dark web" gang is behind the bombings. "You probably don't check pupils' baggage when they enter school. Strong bombs demolish structures and harm people. December 13 and 14 could be bombing days at your school. Some of the schools indicated have parent-teacher meetings. It is a strong possibility and benefit for bombs to detonate "email reads. It requested that authorities respond to the email to learn the sender's "demands". Officials say fire, police, bomb



detection, and dog squads are checking schools. The IP address and email sender are being investigated by the Delhi Police. AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal called the bomb threats "extremely serious and worrying". This is the second bomb threat to Delhi schools this week, which is very concerning. Police eventually called it a bomb hoax. The sender demanded \$30,000 to defuse bombs.

When the bombs explode, several individuals will be injured but the building will endure little damage. The fake email said you deserved to suffer and lose limbs.

BBL: Melbourne Stars sign Adam Milne

Melbourne: The Melbourne Stars have signed New Zealand fast bowler Adam Milne to play in the Big Bash League (BBL) before Christmas. He will replace Pakistan leg-spinner Osama Mir, who will not be able to play in the first three matches of this season. The Stars are set to announce a new captain this week after Glenn Maxwell became captain at the end of last season. Maxwell is unlikely to be fit for the first match against the Perth Scorchers on December 15.

This IIM Got Rs 54 Lakh Highest Salary, Rs 5 Lakh Summer

Delhi: IIMs and other premier management institutes are conducting their final placement drives. Final placement season at IIM Mumbai began on November 25 and ended. Microsoft offered the highest remuneration, Rs 54 lakh per year. Coca-Cola paid a record Rs 5 lakh for a two-month summer internship. This year, 78 firms offered 373 jobs at IIM Mumbai's final placement season. Popular brands include Amazon, Microsoft, and Coca-Cola. IIM Mumbai placements saw a 15% boost in average stipend, according to a report. Top 10% of the



cohort received an average pay of Rs 48 lakh in job placements. Additionally, the top 50% of the batch received an average remuneration of Rs 35 lakh. IIM Mumbai ranks sixth in NIRF 2024. After being known as NITIE

Mumbai and then NIIE, it became the Indian Institute of Management in 2023, becoming the 21st IIM in the country. MBA registration at IIM Mumbai began on November 4. Registration ends January 31, 2025.

Exam centers to get CCTVs from NIOS to reduce malpractices

Delhi: To ensure transparent and seamless assessments, the Board of Secondary Education (BSE) will use AI-powered CCTV cameras and web-casting of the annual High School Certificate (HSC) exam 2024. Pauses, violations of rules, such as logistical issues in storing or distributing ques-

tion papers, cheating, malpractice, invigilator incompetence, or cell phone use in HSC exam centers, can now be identified quickly. The board has strategically placed AI-supported CCTV cameras and web-casting for real-time test hall surveillance. Advanced features in

these cameras can detect strange behavior in the medical room. "The annual matric examination 2024 will be completely hi-tech and technology-enabled to make the process transparent and error-free," stated BSE secretary Nihar Ranjan Mohanty. Over 5.5 lakh students

Three months after the med portal launch, just 6.5k 12L physicians registered.

Delhi: Three and a half months after the national medical registry was began, less than 6,500 doctors have registered and 284 have been approved. The projected 12 lakh doctors working in India would take 40 years to register and approve at the current rate. Union health minister JP Nadda launched the National Medical Register (NMR) Portal



of the National Medical Commission (NMC) to register all Indian MBBS doctors. "The uniqueness of NMR is that it is linked with doctors' Aadhaar IDs, which ensures authenticity," claimed the health ministry. NHA and NMC's NMR site will provide dynamic, authentic, and consolidated doctor data, it stated. The government claimed that "the speedy and easy registration process on the portal will facilitate the timely updation of the data", yet doctors have had registration issues. The Kerala State Medical Council confirmed my NMC registration. In 110 days, my application has been returned with unrelated questions four times, including questions about the University and state medical council name changes. They want me to file an affidavit about the Aadhaar card name not matching the pre-Aadhaar registration. The NMR is required by Section 31 of the NMC Act, 2019. "If they cannot put together a digital database for just 12 lakh doctors who come through a highly regulated education system, can you imagine them being able to create databases for other categories in healthcare who would be well over 50 lakh and whose training is very poorly regulated?"

"With mantra of fitness" Parliamentarians' friendly match

Delhi: Rajya Sabha Chairman XI and Lok Sabha Speaker XI are playing a friendly cricket match at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. Anurag Thakur led Lok Sabha Speaker XI and Kiren Rijiju headed Rajya Sabha Chairman XI. The friendly match is called 'TB Mukht Bharat awareness cricket match'. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "MPs have arrived. With the motto of fitness, this event will energize individuals via sports. I think everyone will play energetically. We advocate 'TB Free India' and 'Fit India Movement'." "You cannot serve the nation without fitness. Mental and physical fitness are required" said. PM Modi wants India TB-free by 2025; the world-



"Mental and physical fitness are required "said. PM Modi wants India TB-free by 2025; the worldwide aim is 2030. India has had a 38% decline in TB-related mortality since 2015. The number of new cases fell 18%. This is about 8% globally."

wide aim is 2030. India has had a 38% decline in TB-related mortality since 2015. The number of new cases fell 18%. This indicates India outper-

First Indian bowler to break Kapil Dev's record.

India pacer Jasprit Bumrah was at his best in their third Test against Australia at The Gabba, Brisbane. After Travis Head's 152-run innings, Bumrah's 5 for 72 helped the visitors recover. Australia scored 405 for 7 with Alex Carey and Mitchell Starc at the crease. A spectacular second new ball from Bumrah helped India recover. Australia were 316 for 3 when Bumrah unleashed the guests. It was Bumrah's 12th five-wicket haul in Tests and 8th in SENA countries. He is the first Indian to do so.

Delhi: Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) launched its strategic vision statement, Vision@2047 Roadmap, and premiered its new logo, silver jubilee postal stamp, and coin to honor its 25th anniversary. The milestone event also announced a new dual degree program in Master of Science in Digital Production for Sustainable Manufacturing with AGH University of Krakow, Poland. GGSIU's offshore campus in Guinea was also announced. Delhi's L-G, VK Saxena, Ashish Kundra, and Nandini Paliwal, Higher



Education secretary, attended the ceremony. Saxena praised GGSIU's 25-year history as a light of hope for students and a hub for creative academic endeavors. He highlighted the university's global linkages and the relevance of social welfare and the Indian Knowledge System. GGSIU Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma noted the university's expansion, saying that it currently offers 190 academic programs in 40 disciplines to over 1.13 lakh students. He highlighted the Dual Degree program with AGH University of Krakow, which will allow students to study two semesters in Poland and two in India for only the Indian cost, making foreign education more affordable. The cel-

IIT-D named top Indian sustainability university

Delhi: Among Indian universities for sustainability, IIT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally, according to 2025 QS Rankings released. The QS Sustainability Rankings include 78 Indian universities, with nine of the top 10 improving and 21 new institutions entering. Two IITs—Delhi and Kanpur—are in the world's top 100 for environmental impact. With 177 and 67 rank improvements, each became fourth and fifth in India. Bangalore's IISc is among the world's top 50 environmental education schools. The University of Delhi is the only Indian university to drop from 220 to 299, yet it still ranks sixth. DU leads India in Knowledge Exchange at 121 international-



ly. At seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth places are IISc, Vellore Institute of Technology, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, and Anna University. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University ranks 951-960. It is a leader in sustainable education and research, ranking 35th in India and 288th in Asia. "The rankings show that Indian universities are forging ahead with their sustainability initiatives," said.

Adani cancels \$533mn US port loan in Sri Lanka

Delhi: After US securities and wire fraud allegations, Gautam Adani's Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone withdrew from a finance deal with a US agency for a Sri Lankan port terminal project and used its own resources. After the US indictment, American loans are harder to get. The US International Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) agreed to lend \$553 million to Sri Lanka. 's

Indian students in Canada panic as Ottawa requests docus again

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



Indian students have made up a large portion of Canada's rising international student enrollment. The ministry of external affairs reports that Canada has 4.2 lakh Indian students, followed by the US with 3.3 lakh.

required to verify their credentials at IRCC headquarters in person. "Many students are confused and worried,". Indian students have made up a large portion of Canada's rising international student enrollment. The ministry of external affairs reports that Canada has 4.2 lakh Indian students, followed by the US with 3.3 lakh. The sudden

email flood left pupils unsure about their future. "We chose Canada for its welcoming environment, but this unfair," said Adilabad-based business management student in British Columbia. Students want IRCC to clarify and resolve their concerns. For now, urge students to submit documents quickly to avoid difficulties. "

IIT Kharagpur teachers petition governors. Restore HoD positions

Delhi: The IIT Kharagpur Teachers' Association (IITTA) urged the institute's board of governors to expunge show-cause notices issued to 86 faculty members, restore their administrative positions, and protect the association's office bearers from arbitrary or retaliatory actions amid the faculty-administration dispute. In September, the IIT Kharagpur teachers' association accused director Virendra Kumar Tewari of "nepotism" and "arbitrary faculty recruitment" in a letter to the Union Ministry of Education, sparking a confrontation. They wanted an academically qualified, inclusive governance-experienced successor. When the administration sent show-cause notices to IITTA office bearers and disciplined them for not answering within seven days, tensions rose. Show cause notices were sent to 86 academic members who signed a petition supporting the IITTA, worsening the situation. The IITTA said several of the 86 academic department heads were replaced. The administration also said people who answered or apologized would not be punished. After an unusual general body meeting the IITTA approached the board of governors. They worry the administration may act fast and deny office bearers a fair hearing, further undermining trust.





Success comes from struggle, not shortcuts: Yogi

Lucknow Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended a felicitation ceremony for meritorious students organized by a media group at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan on Thursday. On this occasion, top three students from the UP Board's high school and intermediate examinations were awarded e-scooters, Sanskrit Board toppers were given smartphones, and students who excelled despite financial hardships received financial assistance of Rs 50,000 each. The Chief Minister remarked that there was a time when a political party that ruled Uttar Pradesh had turned cheating into a "birthright," damaging the state's image and creating an identity crisis for its youth. He added that over the last eight years, Uttar Pradesh's education system has been made transparent through cheat-free examinations. Recalling past efforts to curb cheating in exams, Chief Minister Yogi



Adityanath highlighted the role of former CM Kalyan Singh and then Education Minister Rajnath Singh in bringing integrity back to the education system. He criticised a political party that once openly promoted and defended cheating, leading to a severe credibility crisis for the youth of Uttar Pradesh. "At one time, UP was seen as a drag on the nation's progress, even labelled a BIMARU state," he said, noting how young people from the state were looked down upon across the country. However, in the last decade, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India has seen a resurgence — and Uttar Pradesh has played a key role in that transformation. CM Yogi reiterated that

governance is not about ruling, but about serving the people. 'The government is not a master, but a partner of the common man,' he stated. Congratulating the meritorious students, CM Yogi said that shortcuts in life can never lead to lasting success. He shared the example of a student from Barabanki who, despite poverty, secured first division in high school and became the first child from his village to pass the exam. CM Yogi advised students to use smartphones in moderation, cautioning that excessive use can harm both eyesight and cognitive abilities. He emphasized that smartphones should serve as tools for learning, not sources of distraction. .

Government to observe 'Child Labour Prohibition Week' from June 12 to 19

Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Labour Minister Anil Rajbhar participated in a crucial session on child labour at the International Labour Conference (ILC) held in Geneva, the capital of Switzerland. The International Labour Organization (ILO) underscored the urgent need to eliminate all forms of child labour. Minister Rajbhar shared the efforts of the Uttar Pradesh government in this regard and called on factory owners and the public to pledge that no child will be made to work—whether at home or in factories—on the occasion of 'World Day Against Child Labour'. Minister Rajbhar highlighted that the Atal Residential Schools established under the Yogi Government serve as an exemplary model for delivering international-standard education to children of labourers. He urged the global community to adopt this innova-

tive model from Uttar Pradesh and establish similar schools worldwide to prevent children from becoming labourers. Rajbhar announced that the Yogi Government will observe 'Child Labour Prohibition Week' across Uttar Pradesh from June 12 to 19. The campaign will culminate on June 19 in Lucknow. The week-long drive aims to reinforce the need for complete eradication of child labour in the state. UNICEF will partner with the Uttar Pradesh government in this campaign. Anil Rajbhar stated that inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', India has achieved remarkable global success in expanding social security coverage over the last 11 years. The ILO has acknowledged this progress—India's social security coverage has grown from just 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025. With over 94 crore citizens

covered, India now ranks second globally in social security coverage. This expansion is a direct result of the focused policies for the poor, workers, and those in the unorganised sector under the leadership of PM Modi. The International Labour Organization has officially featured India's achievement on its ILOSTAT dashboard. ILO Director General Gilbert F. Houngbo also commended the Indian government's welfare-centric policies for the poor and workers under PM Modi's leadership. Minister Rajbhar also attended a special session on the social security rights of gig and platform workers in Geneva. He said that the session sent a powerful message to all countries that the welfare of gig and platform workers is being taken seriously at the global level. He described the session as an eye-opener, highlighting.



CM Yogi to disburse Rs 21 crore to farmers in Ambedkar Nagar on 13 June

Lucknow

Reaffirming his government's commitment to farmers' welfare, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will disburse Rs 20.78 crore in aid to 431 beneficiaries under the Mukhyamantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana in Ambedkar Nagar on June 13. Launched in 2019, the scheme provides up to Rs 5 lakh assistance to families of farmers facing accidental death, or disability. At the event, 408 families will receive Rs 5 lakh each, while others will get varying amounts, with all payments made via DBT. So far in the financial year 2025–26, the scheme has approved 11,690 applications across all 75 districts of the state. A total financial assistance of Rs 561.86 crore will be disbursed under the scheme this year. Top 10 districts in approved claims and disbursed amount: District Approved Claims Amount (in Rs) Ambedkar Nagar 431 20,78,25,000 Kushinagar 392 19,55,00,000 Kanpur Dehat 403 19,51,50,000 Mainpuri 355 17,66,00,000 Jaunpur 417 17,20,00,000 Etawah 352 17,00,80,000 Hardoi 342 15,99,00,000 Lakhimpur Kheri 334 15,82,50,000 Sonbhadra 307 13,75,75,000 Sant Kabir Nagar 280 13,35,25,000 Budget allocation has grown steadily year by year. The Yogi government has significantly increased the scheme's budget over the years to expand its reach and impact: Financial Year Budget Allocated Beneficiaries 2020–21 Rs 500 crore 11,275 2021–22 Rs 600 crore 13,645 2022–23 Rs 650 crore 15,231 2023–24.

Govt to set up Dream Labs in secondary schools

Lucknow

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is charting a future where education and industry move hand in hand. In a transformative step, the Department of Secondary Education has signed an MoU with Tata Nelco and Yaskawa to set up cutting-edge Dream Labs in government secondary schools. This initiative aims to infuse practical and tech-driven learning into classrooms, creating a skilled, future-ready workforce. Taking cues from global models like the US, Germany, Japan, and South Korea, UP is now aligning school education with industry needs to boost

employability and innovation. From ODOP to Dream Labs — advancing self-reliance. The success of the 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme has already elevated traditional crafts and local industries. Building upon this foundation, Dream Labs will now equip students with advanced technical training in areas such as robotics, manufacturing, automation, and design thinking. This will not only empower local MSMEs with technical support but also strengthen product quality, innovation, and global competitiveness. Based on the hub and spoke model, Dream Labs are designed on the hub and spoke model, where students will receive

hands-on training, industry-relevant expertise, and preparation for employment opportunities. Skill development will be tailored to meet local needs across both rural and urban areas — such as agriculture, handicrafts, renewable energy, drone technology, and 3D printing. Access to international technologies. The international component of Dream Labs will expose students to future-driven technologies like electric vehicles, artificial intelligence (AI), industrial automation, and robotics — technologies that are set to become the backbone of upcoming economies.

These Dream Labs will cover a total of 15

specialized skill domains. It is not merely an educational initiative, but a transformational mission by the Yogi government to link education with employment and innovation, ultimately positioning Uttar Pradesh as a national industrial and technological power. From classroom to industry, local to global. This initiative by the Yogi government aligns state policies with the evolving needs of industries, building a skilled workforce that bridges classrooms and factories, and connects local impact with global opportunities — shaping the future of not just Uttar Pradesh, but of India as a whole.

Indian shooters start Junior World Championships with two golds

Delhi: Indian shooters started their ISSF Junior World Championship Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun campaign in the Peruvian capital with two team golds in both men and women's 10m air pistol. With two golds India led the medal tally after competition day one, with Romania and Chinese Taipei winning the two golds and five other nations winning medals. Umesh, Pradhyumn, and Mukesh, the junior men's three, led India to the top of the 10m air pistol men's team category with 1726 points.



Romania finished second, 10 points behind, Umesh shot 580 and Pradhyumn 578 but finished sixth and eighth, respectively. Luca of Romania won gold and Hsieh Hsiang-Chen of Taiwan silver. Mukesh scored 574 to finish eighth in qualifying. Kanishka Dagar, Lakshita, and Anjali

Chaudhary won the junior women's 10m air pistol team gold with 1708. They beat Azerbaijan by one point and bronze-winning Ukraine by four. Kanishka and Kanika, who shot 573 but with lower inner 10s, made the individual final in third and fifth place, respectively. Kanishka finished sev-

SC calls Punjab's NRI quota a 'fraud' on medical education

Delhi: The Supreme Court called Punjab's medical colleges' extension of the non-resident Indian (NRI) quota a "fraud" that excludes meritorious candidates. A bench chaired by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud dismissed petitions challenging a Punjab and Haryana high court ruling that invalidated the Punjab government's proposal to widen the NRI quota criteria to include distant relatives. We must end NRI quotas today! The bench, which included Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said the NRI quota was being used to circumvent merit-based admissions. The bench called such a broad interpretation of NRI eligibility, which permitted distant relatives to qualify, a "money-spinning tactic" that



undermined the school system. "All three petitions fail. Keep this under control. This scam must end. This scam must end. This scam must end. Senior counsel Shadan Farasat stated that Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh previously employed the larger NRI quota interpretation during the hearing. The Court rejected these arguments, stressing that the larger definition weakened merit and permitted less deserving individuals to be admitted based on money and connections rather than academic.

'For the next 10 years, we've got players who will make our country proud' says VVS

NEW DELHI: VVS Laxman admitted that he took over as the chief of BCCI Centre of Excellence with trepidation, but now he is a contented person after setting in place a robust bench strength that will allow India to dominate world cricket for the next 10 years, if not more. Laxman took over as the head of the erstwhile National Cricket Academy (NCA) in 2021.

India's GenNext looks to 'Test' red-ball mettle against Australia

Delhi: The India U-19 team is set to step into unfamiliar territory. With youth Tests being a rarity, India will play their first multi-day match in over five years when they cross swords with Australia U-19 in the first of two games that begins on Monday here. The India U-19 side had last featured in a red-ball fixture way back in February 2019. At the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Soham Patwardhan & Co, all new kids on the block, should tackle an element of uncertainty and handle the vagaries of long-format cricket besides adapting to the pitch and weather. Both India and Australia will have their work cut out, having had only three days to acclimatise to the challenging conditions in Chennai - in the one-day series that preceded the Tests



and ended on Thursday in Puducherry, the hosts produced a 3-0 whitewash. India U-19 head coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar acknowledged that the home team has a tough task in front of it. "It is a great initiative to play Tests. Red-ball cricket really tests you. For every player, it is the ideal challenge to see where they stand," Kanitkar said on Sunday. "There is enough time for the bowlers to plan and devise their strategies. Playing against a foreign side is a great thing. Playing foreign teams at the U-19 level has helped a lot of players, including myself," said Kanitkar,

a former India batter. While India will head into the assignment as the favourites, considering the home advantage and recent results over their rivals, Kanitkar stressed that they will start afresh. "The boys are confident, we had a good one-day series. But having said that, this is a different format altogether. The place is different. It is better to take the good things and leave the highs as we prepare for the Tests. That is what we have done," said Kanitkar. As for the Oliver Peake-led Australia, they will be keen to open their account after having a frustrating start to the tour.

.New Jersey to host the final as FIFA unveils Club World Cup venues

Delhi: The final of next year's expanded Club World Cup will be held at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced. The stadium, which is home to the NFL's New York Giants and New York Jets, had already been chosen as the venue for the 2026 World Cup. The first edition of the expanded 32-club tournament will kick-off on June 15 and conclude at MetLife on July 13. A total of 12 venues will be used for the tournament with only two of them on the West Coast - the Rose Bowl in Pasadena near Los Angeles and Lumen Field in Seattle. The tournament is taking place at the same time as the regional CONCACAF Gold Cup which will be held mainly on the West Coast. The other venues which will host games are -- Mercedes-Benz Stadium (Atlanta), Bank of America Stadium (Charlotte), TQL Stadium (Cincinnati), Hard Rock Stadium (Miami), GEODIS Park (Nashville), Camping World Stadium (Orlando), Inter&Co Stadium (Orlando), Lincoln Financial Field (Philadelphia) and Audi Field (Washington, D.C.). The draw for the tournament will be held in December -- 30 of the 32 places have already been secured through the qualification procedure. The Club World Cup will feature title winning teams from each of FIFA's continental confederations. Real Madrid, Manchester City and Bayern Munich are among the 12 European teams who have qualified for the tournament while Argentina's River Plate and Boca Juniors and Brazil's Flamengo are among six South American teams.

Congress and SP never spoke against foreign invaders due to Muslim vote bank politics: CM

Bahraich Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a scathing attack on the Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP), and other opposition parties on Monday, questioning why national icons like Maharaja Suheldev were not honoured earlier. He asked why no grand memorials, universities, or medical colleges were named after such figures in the past. He asserted that fear of losing their Muslim vote bank prevented these parties from even uttering a word against foreign invaders. Speaking at the Vijayotsav of Maharaja Suheldev in Chittora block's Masihabad Gram Sabha, the CM said, "While BJP commemorates Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with the Statue of Unity, SP sings praises of divisive figures like Jinnah. When we talked about celebrating Suheldev's valour, SP and Congress

argued over holding weddings for Ghazi Miyan. We have made it clear — glorifying invaders must end, and national heroes must be honoured."CM Yogi inaugurated a grand memorial built at a cost of Rs 40 crore and unveiled a 40-foot bronze equestrian statue of Maharaja Suheldev. He also inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 384 development projects worth Rs 1,243 crore, and planted a sapling under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. He thanked those who discontinued events held in the name of Ghazi Miyan and also remembered Maharaja Balbhadra Singh on birth anniversary. The CM noted that Maharaja Suheldev, a millennium ago, had presented a strategic and valiant response to foreign invaders, yet never received the honour he deserved in history. "PM Modi's

campaign for development and heritage inspired our double-engine government to honour him," he said. He noted that Bahraich's medical college has been named after Maharaja Suheldev, as has the state university in Azamgarh. The hospital is named after Rishi Balark. "Our main events in Bahraich will now be dedicated to Suheldev, Rishi Balark, and Maa Pateshwari—not any foreign invader," the CM declared. CM Yogi recounted that Salar Masud, a foreign invader who marched into India with an army of 300,000, was systematically stopped from Mathura to Bahraich by Maharaja Suheldev's strategic brilliance. By the time Masud reached Chittora, half of his army had been defeated. In the decisive battle, Suheldev's 20,000-25,000 warriors.

PM Modi has become a symbol of trust for 140 crore Indians

Lucknow Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Tuesday, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only given India a global identity but has also turned 140 crore Indians into a symbol of faith through his tireless service. Addressing the media on the 11th anniversary of the Modi government, CM Yogi said the last 11 years have transformed service into a pledge, governance into a culture, and security into a priority—marking the rise of a developed, self-reliant New India. CM Yogi also congratulated the Prime Minister on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh government and the people of the state for ushering in a golden era in UP, and presented the Centre's report card highlighting good governance and welfare initiatives for the poor. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Prime Minister Modi believes that where there is technology, there is progress—

and where there is a BJP government, there is also welfare of the poor. He added that PM Modi has redefined governance as a medium of service and partnership with the people. "In the last 11 years, service has become a resolution, good governance a culture, and security the highest priority. This is the new India—an India the world trusts," said CM Yogi. The Chief Minister said that in the 65 years after independence, Congress-led and unstable governments broke the people's trust and damaged India's global image. In contrast, the last 11 years under Prime Minister Modi have given the country a corruption-free, nepotism-free, and appeasement-free leadership. He added that Modi ji has realized the vision of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, turned India into a symbol of trust, laid the foundation of a developed and self-reliant nation, and presented a

clear roadmap for the next 25 years. CM Yogi said that in the last 11 years, India has carved out a distinct identity not only socially and culturally, but also in the areas of security, governance, and the economy. "Governance today is defined by policy clarity, transparency, and accountability. Development is no longer just a slogan—it now reflects inclusive progress that balances heritage with growth. Every citizen now benefits from government schemes based on eligibility, not identity. 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas' has become the foundation of governance, driven by citizen satisfaction rather than appeasement. The country has witnessed a strong model of zero tolerance for corruption, 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' through Digital India, and unwavering commitment to national unity and internal security," he remarked.

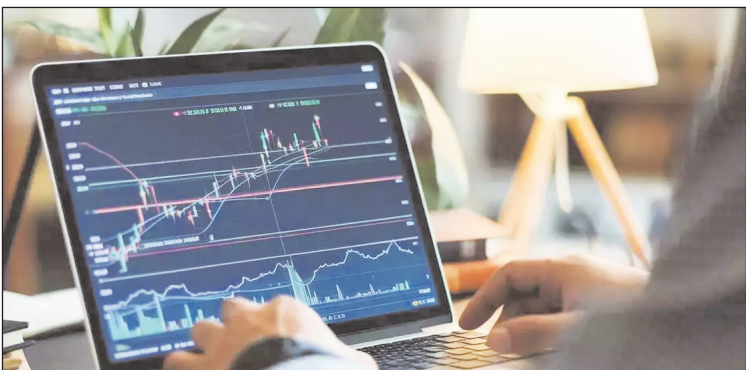


US Polo targets Rs 3,000 cr in India, boosts marketing

Delhi: Arvind Fashions aims to increase marketing investments for its flagship brand, US Polo, to reach ₹3,000 crore in revenue, up from the current ₹2,000 crore. Over 3% of our corporate budget goes to advertising. This has reached 4% for US Polo and is rising. He noted that US Polo's company was predicted to increase 12-15% due to its strong omnichannel presence, taking advantage of the emerging rapid commerce channel and the square-foot expansion of stores, which can become supply hubs in smaller towns. Like-for-like growth is solid, including virtually double-digit full-price growth. Other categories including kids, women, and footwear are developing faster than the mother brand. Nearly 20% of the brand's revenues are in adjacent categories. "US Polo dominates the domestic market. We will invest in the brand and grow quicker than the market, he stated. Deloitte India and the Retailers Association of India reported in February 2025 that urban and rural families will spend more on discretionary items due to a doubling of per capita income by 2030. The report noted that "the Indian apparel and footwear market was valued at \$78 billion in 2023 and is expected to reach \$106 billion by 2028 at a compounded annual growth rate of 7.5–8%, driven by increasing disposable incomes, rising urbanisation, growing organised retail penetration, and a large pool of young and aspirational population".

When oil prices drop every month, US stocks go up

Delhi: Wall Street indexes rose in choppy rises as in-line European markets ended flat, continuing their 10-week winning streak. The Federal Reserve is expected to decrease interest rates twice this year, according to U.S. inflation figures. crude prices fell 1%, the first monthly decline since November, as markets braced for fresh levies from Washington and crude exports from Iraq's Kurdistan region. According to a White House source, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine will depart the Oval Office early Friday after a contentious meeting with Trump. Following reports of falling yearly inflation and sluggish consumer spending in the lat-



est statistics tracked by the Federal Reserve, U.S. Treasury rates hit multi-month lows. A drop of 2.93 points, or 0.34%, was recorded by MSCI's global stock index. Crypto values dropped after the Trump boom waned. The U.S. personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index fell from 2.6% in December to 2.5%

last month, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, which is part of the Commerce Department. Core personal consumption expenditure, the favored inflation indicator of the Federal Reserve, fell to 2.6% from 2.9% following an upward revision. Inflation of 2% is the target of the central bank.

Manufacturing activity slows to a 14-month low in February

NEW DELHI: Activity in the country's manufacturing sector grew at its slowest pace in 14 months as production and new orders moderated but it still remained robust, a survey showed. The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) registered a reading of 56.3 in Feb, down from 57.7 in Jan, but still indicative of further improvement in the health of the sector. The 50-point mark separates from contraction in the survey, which is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to 400 manufacturing firms.

Keep existing FY interest rate at 8.25%: EPFO board

Delhi: The central board of trustees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation proposed keeping the interest rate at 8.25% for the current financial year. The finance minister must approve this before money is credited to seven crore subscribers. The Employees Provident Fund EPF has high and predictable returns compared to other fixed-income instruments, ensuring savings growth. The finance ministry taxed interest income obtained by people



who pay over Rs 2.5 lakh yearly a few years ago, claiming it would affect only 1% of subscribers. EPFO's 8.25% returns are far greater than PPF's 7.1%. Compounding is available with PPF's Rs 1 lakh annual investment cap. SBI is offering 7.5% on two- to three-year fixed deposits, however the interest income is

taxed and compounding is not available. A 30% taxpayer will receive 5.25% post-tax FD returns. The EPFO board also amended the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance EDLI program to provide a minimum payment of Rs 50,000 to EPF members who die without one year of continuous service.

NITI Aayog suggests that state public universities work with international language org.

Delhi Divya: Using the success stories of Punjab and Karnataka, the NITI Aayog suggests that state public universities work with international language organizations to provide programs for English and foreign language proficiency. The employability of the students who graduate from these institutions is greatly impacted by their "inadequate" skill in the English language. State public universities are essential to reaching the NEP 2020 objectives; they educate more than 80% of all college-aged students and were the focus of a new report from the National Institution of Transforming India Aayog, "Expanding Quality Higher Education Through States and State Public Universities," which



NGT requests DPCC report after plea says unlawful dyeing units continue.

Delhi: The applicant, an environmental activist, told the National Green Tribunal that more illegal dyeing facilities were operating in Khyala and Meethapur village in Delhi after the authorities alerted them of their actions. The tribunal ordered the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to act and report in four weeks. In another matter related to such units, a joint committee recommended a campaign to sensitize the public about illegal industrial activity. was published. Local businesses in a lot of states rely heavily on outside expertise and materials. One factor

Apple will invest \$500bn and employ 20k in the US

Delhi: Apple will invest over \$500bn in the US over the next four years, starting with a Texas advanced manufacturing complex. Over that period, the tech giant intended to add 20,000 positions, with the "vast majority" in R&D, software, and AI. How much the spending accelerates the com-



pany's current activity is unclear. The amount includes

supplier and Apple TV production costs, according to Apple. Days after Apple CEO Tim Cook met with President Donald Trump, who has prioritized US business investment, the news was made. It stated that the 250,000-square-foot. Houston factory will construct servers "previously manufactured out-

side the US" to power Apple Intelligence, its AI system. The iPhone maker said it would open in 2026 and employ "thousands". Apple is also boosting its data center capacity in , Arizona, and Nevada and doubling its \$5bn funding for Trump's first-term manufacturing fund to \$10bn.

U.S. bankruptcy court rules, Byju's parent business

Delhi: U.S. bankruptcy court rules Riju Ravindran, Byju's parent business Think & Learn, and hedge fund Camshaft Capital guilty of \$533 million fraud and "breach of fiduciary duty." The beleaguered edtech business Byju's Alpha has been found to have engaged in several fraudulent financial transfers and conversions, according to a ruling issued by the Delaware Bankruptcy Court. Byju brother Riju Ravindran was found to have

breached his fiduciary duty as director of Byju's Alpha, according to the court. The court's clear recognition that Riju Ravindran, Camshaft, and Byju's engaged in a worldwide fraud including the theft of \$533 million is something we are grateful for. In a statement, the lenders hailed this as a major victory in their fight to reclaim the stolen assets that properly belong to them. Byju successfully obtained a \$1.2 billion five-year term

loan from Glas Trust through the establishment of his Alpha special purpose financial organization. Having defaulted on its loans, Byju's Alpha was placed under trusteeship in March 2023. A group of 37 banks and other lending organizations gave Byju \$1.2 billion. Byju's Alpha's limited partnership interest in Camshaft Capital was transferred to William Morton's hedge fund, Camshaft Capital Fund.

Mittal's \$976 million Airtel stake sale

Delhi: Sunil Bharti Mittal's business sold \$976 million in India's No.2 wireless carrier to raise funding for new ventures. According to an exchange statement, Bharti Airtel Ltd. founder Indian Continental Investment Ltd. sold 0.84 percent interest or 51 million shares for Rs 8,485 crore (\$976 million), nearly a fourth of which was bought by Bharti Telecom Ltd. Other investors were not named in the trade at Rs 1660.46 per share, a tiny discount to

Monday's finish of Rs 1,675.6. The document said the shares were "allocated only to key marquee long only names, both global and domestic." Mittal is investing in Africa and OneWeb, which merged with Eutelsat in 2023, at the time of the sale. Last year, closely held Bharti Enterprises Ltd. bought 24.5% of BT Group Plc. Bharti Telecom now owns 40.47 percent of Airtel, reinforcing its "previously stated intent of strengthening its position."

We will be able to significantly increase our production

CHANDIGARH: Servotech Power Systems Ltd. (NSE: SERVOTECH), a prominent manufacturer of Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers, solar solutions, and power-backup solutions, revealed its impressive financial performance for the quarter ended June 30, at its Board of Directors meeting on 30th July. Commenting on the results, Raman Bhatia, Founder and Managing Director, Servotech Power Systems Ltd. said we got outstanding results in Q1FY25, but we are not satisfied and working for even better and are confident that we will achieve our goals in the coming quarters. We are committed to providing our customers with the best possible



products and services and are constantly innovating and improving them. We are also expanding our sales and marketing efforts. We are excited about the future of our company. With the Safiabad plant set to become fully operational soon, we will be able to significantly increase our production capacity to meet the growing demand of our products and this plant will become a major asset to our company. We are confident that we have a bright future ahead, and remain committed to achieving high

growth and becoming a leading player in the global market. Recently, the company announced that it has received an additional order of approx. 400 units of DC Fast EV Chargers from Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and other EV charger OEMs. The project valued at around ₹20 Crores will involve manufacturing, supplying, installing, and deploying these chargers nationwide, particularly at BPCL petrol pumps as part of the BPCL E-drive Project.

Women own almost 50% of small manufacturing businesses

A survey found that 58% of manufacturing businesses were owned by women in 2023-24, up 4% from the previous year. The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2023-24 found that 28.1% of workers were women. More than one-third (33.7%) of OAES' workforce is female in OAEs (owned enterprises). Female-owned businesses rose to 26.2% in 2023-24 from 22.9% in and 9.7% to 14.2% in other services. Female workers comprised 18.5% of recruited workers. Female workers were



most prevalent in manufacturing (46.5%), followed by other services (22.5%) and trade. West Bengal has the most female workers (12.7%), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10.4%) and Maharashtra (9.7%) in ASUSE 2023-24. West Bengal and Maharashtra have the most rural and urban female workers, at 16% and 13%,

respectively. Non-incorporated non-far establishments are not registered under the Companies Act 1956 or the 2013 Act. Every fourth proprietary establishment in India was owned by a woman. Women run one-third of private businesses in Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, and West Bengal.

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. "They protect labor rights and boost wages," it stated. The Survey complained that labor laws like the

Factories Act (1948) limit working hours to 48 per week, whereas other nations "allow these caps to be averaged over multiple days and weeks". It said India's working hour laws impede manufacturers from satisfying demand and competing globally.

Text, voice, and video messages contain what? Post July 1, digital documents are admissible as evidence

Delhi: Text, voice, and video messages contain what? Post July 1, "digital documents" are admissible as primary evidence, not simply emojis, PPTs, PDFs, group conversations, forwards, or tete-a-tete. The last one is a rewrite of the 1872 Indian Evidence Act and an acknowledgment of digital information's importance today. The 2023 Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam defines and interprets evidence. It states that "an electronic or digital record" can be "admissible" in a case under certain conditions, taking into account technical improvements and the widespread use of digital communication. Senior counsel Amit Manchanda said protections must be addressed first to prevent misuse given the uncharted field of artificial intelligence and new software to manipulate words, photos, and digital content on a recipient's device. Advocate Mohit Bhardwaj called Section 57 BSA's "singularly significant" inclusion because it makes digital data, including messages, primary evidence "without much ado," until disputed. For disputed digital records, the new rule mandates a certificate proving authenticity from a specific computer or device. Thus, under Section 61 of BNS, the court cannot deny the acceptance of an electronic or digital document given specified conditions under Section 63. Any print or copy of an electronic record is admissible "without further proof" or production of the original content if the device (say, a phone) was "used regularly" by the person with "lawful control" of its usage. Texts could be evidence under the old Indian Evidence Act. with a Section 65B certificate.

IT panel to propose TV, print, online media umbrella

Delhi: The Parliamentary panel on communications and information technology, led by BJP lawmaker Nishikant Dubey, will recommend that the Union government form the Media Council of India to regulate print, television, and online media, sources said. A senior panelist suggested an umbrella body because the same content occurs across platforms. You work for a paper. The Press Council of India oversees your newspaper articles. No regulation exists for the identical story in the paper's online edition." There is no central regulator for online material, but two groups regulate print and electronic media. The Press Council of India, a statutory quasi-judicial



autonomous authority established by Parliament, protects press freedom and improves newspaper and news agency standards. Among other major media regulatory reforms, the panel, which addressed fake news extensively will recommend this. In the discussion,

Dubey added, "Paid news is rampant. Illiterate and gullible individuals think alike. Without strict regulations, ethical boundaries are crossed. Investigative journalism is discouraged by expensive and lengthy legal fights for journalists and media corporations.

Foreign insurers gain ownership via 100% FDI

Delhi: 100% FDI will attract new capital, as multinationals can now invest without worrying about control or Indian partners. The capital gains tax rate of 12% applies to ULIP proceeds, which do not benefit from tax exemptions, instead of the higher marginal tax rate of 30%. Crop cover reinsurance is exempt from service tax, and the threshold for tax deduction at source on insurance commission has risen from Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000. M Nagraju, financial services secretary, said the FDI relaxation was one of the suggested insurance measures. , and the modifications would

WhatsApp claims Israeli spyware Paragon targets users

Delhi: After the hack, WhatsApp issued Paragon a cease-and-desist letter. WhatsApp stated it "will continue to protect people's ability to communicate privately." Paragon wouldn't comment. WhatsApp officials reported a hacking attempt on 90 users. A number of civil society and media figures were targeted, although the official did not specify who or where. He said WhatsApp has stopped the hacking and was referring targets to Citizen Lab. Officials would not reveal how they determined

Paragon was responsible for the hack. He claimed law enforcement and industry partners were informed but declined to elaborate. Paragon sells high-end surveillance software to government clients, claiming it is essential to combating crime and defending national security. However, journalists, activists, opposition politicians, and at least 50 US officials have found surveillance capabilities on their phones, raising fears about the technology's unregulated expansion. Paragon, which was

apparently acquired by Florida-based investment group AE Industrial Partners last month, has strived to identify as a responsible industry actor. The company's website promises "ethically based tools, teams, and insights to disrupt intractable threats," and media reports suggest Paragon only sells to stable democratic nations. Natalia Krapiva, senior tech-legal counsel at Access Now, claimed Paragon was a better spyware company, "but WhatsApp's recent revelations.

Public infrastructure spending rises, but private sector participation falls

Delhi: The 2024-25 Economic Survey delivered to Parliament found that India still struggles with infrastructure development despite government efforts. The union government's capital investment on major infrastructure sectors grew 38.8% from FY20 to FY24, although private sector participation in core areas remained low, according to the survey. "India needs a continued step-up of infrastructure investment over the next two decades to sustain a high rate of growth," the research says. The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) program has met its FY22-24 objective of 4.30 lakh crore with



The National Critical Mineral Mission gets 16,300 crore from the cabinet

Delhi: The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with a 16,300 crore expenditure and a projected 18,000 crore investment from PSUs and other businesses. "Several crucial decisions have created new scientific and technology prospects for our children, future generations, and the economy. Minister told a Cabinet briefing that PM Modi the National Critical Minerals Mission today.

transactions totaling 3.86 lakh crore.

Price pressure caps senior citizen health premium hikes at 10%

As medicare policy rates skyrocket for seniors over 60, Irdai has ordered insurers not to raise senior people's health premiums by more than 10% without approval. Before canceling senior health coverage, insurers must get regulator clearance. As healthcare prices rise, insurers are



advised to standardize hospital empanelment and negoti-

ate package rates like the government's PM Jan Arogya Yojana. Irdai reported a large increase in prices for various health insurance policies for subscribers over 60. Premium rates depend on projected claims, administrative expenditures, and acquisition costs, the regulator said. Private

insurance doesn't standardize hospitalization expenses, unlike PMJAY, which negotiates consistent package rates, which drives these rises. Seniors have reported virtually doubling their costs when entering a higher age category during an insurer's pricing change.

Redesigning agri export policies

Delhi: Three sources intimately involved in the process said India's six-year-old Agricultural Export Policy (AEP) will be overhauled as export destinations vary and the country's farm export basket diversifies. The planned study will improve Indian agricultural products' competitiveness, assure global standards compliance, and promote value-added products. The officials quoted above added on condition of anonymity that



it will also aim to enhance commercial links with emerging countries while maintaining strong partnerships with old partners. "Our agricultural

exports have grown over the past five years. We must examine the policy to match export targets with market demands. One of the three persons

Norms to stop annoying calls and surrogate advertisements next month

Delhi: Thirteen businesses, including significant producers of alcohol, tobacco, and paan masala, have received notifications from the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) for using surrogate advertising. The dishonest practice of using the

cited above claimed the agriculture ministry will assist with the review and set a deadline. India was the

same brand name to promote products that are prohibited from direct advertising is known as "surrogate advertising." Pralhad Joshi, the union minister of consumer affairs, stated that the CCPA is creating regulations to control the issue.

eighth-largest agricultural exporter in 2023 despite a drop from \$51.12 billion to \$48.77 billion.