



Amid bid to rebuild China ties, Rajnath Singh to attend SCO meet

**Vatika Times**  
**NEW DELHI:** Defence minister Rajnath Singh is set to visit China later this month for Shanghai Cooperation Organisation defence ministers' meet, which comes amid efforts by New Delhi and Beijing to rebuild and stabilize bilateral ties, though de-escalation between the rival armies is yet to take place along the Line of Actual Control. Singh is likely to have a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart Admiral Dong Jun on the sidelines of the SCO meet on June 24-25, in what will be his first visit as defence minister to China. "The final details are still being worked out," an official said on Saturday. Pakistan defence minister Khawaja Asif is also slated to attend the SCO meet, which is taking place soon after intense cross-border military hostilities between India and Pakistan from May 7



to 10. Both India and Pakistan in 2017 became full members of the SCO, which also includes Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus. Along the 3,488-km LAC with China, there are as yet no signs of de-escalation and de-induction of troops after disengagement at the two remaining face-off sites at Depsang and Demchok in eastern Ladakh last Oct, which has led to

restoration of patrolling by the rival soldiers and grazing by herders as well as reduced the risk of any inadvertent escalation. China has continued to strengthen its military positions & infrastructure build-up all along LAC, with PLA troops continuing to be forward deployed with heavy weapon systems in large numbers, as earlier reported by TOI. Moreover, the deep military collusiveness between Pakistan and

China was quite evident during Operation Sindoor. Pakistan used several Chinese weapons and platforms, ranging from J-10 fighters firing the PL-15 beyond visual range air-to-air missiles to HQ-9 air defence missile batteries, during the hostilities with India. Pakistan is also set to acquire at least 40 J-35A fifth-generation stealth jets and the HQ-19 long-range air defence missile systems from China.

Iran-Israel war: Nuclear talks between Iran and US cancelled; Israel strikes oil refinery

**Vatika Times**  
**Iran** President Donald Trump, left, and a handout of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. (AP)  
**US** Oman's foreign minister Badr al-Busaidi announced on Saturday that the planned talks between Iran and the United States on Tehran's fast-moving nuclear programme have been called off following Israel's recent strikes on the West Asian country. Al-Busaidi, whose country has been acting as a mediator, confirmed the cancellation in a social media post, saying: "The Iran-US talks scheduled to be held in Muscat this Sunday will not now take place. But diplomacy and dialogue remain the only pathway to lasting peace." Israeli BOMBS Only



Damage, Not Destroy Iran's Fordow & Isfahan Nuclear Facility | Khamenei STUNNED An Israeli drone struck and caused a "strong explosion" at an Iranian natural-gas processing plant, news agency Associated Press reported, citing semiofficial Iranian news agencies — the first Israeli attack on Iran's oil and natural gas industry, if confirmed. The meeting in Muscat would have marked the sixth round of backchannel discussions, but

Iran's foreign minister had earlier called any negotiations "unjustifiable" amid the ongoing Israeli attacks. Israel carried out what it termed "pre-emptive" airstrikes on Iran's nuclear infrastructure on Friday, citing an imminent threat. In a statement on X, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said: "Iran is closer than ever to obtaining a nuclear weapon. Weapons of mass destruction in the hands of the Iranian regime are an existential threat to the

State of Israel and to the wider world. The State of Israel has no choice but to fulfil the obligation to act in defence of its citizens and will continue to do so everywhere it is required to do so." The strikes killed several high-ranking Iranian officials, including senior military commanders and nuclear scientists. Iran retaliated with missile and loitering drone attacks on Tel Aviv, prompting further Israeli counter-strikes, intensifying the rapidly escalating conflict.

Andhra Pradesh: Sweeper performs delivery on woman; baby dies

**KAKINADA:** A sanitary worker allegedly performed a delivery at the Tallarevu community health centre in Kakinada district in the early hours of Saturday. The baby died after delivery, leading to protests at the hospital by family members who alleged that the newborn died due to the negligence of doctors. Medical and health authorities, however, refuted the allegation, stating that the sanitary worker did not perform the delivery. They said an inquiry has been ordered and stern action would be initiated if anyone at the hospital was found to be negligent in connection with the death of the newborn. The incident led to tension in Tallarevu. Health officials said a 22-year-old woman was admitted to the hospital on Friday morning and had been under constant observation. The woman's relatives, however, said she developed pains in the early hours of Saturday and the sanitary worker on duty performed the delivery. Doctors said the baby died due to meconium aspiration syndrome, a breathing problem that can affect newborns when they inhale a mixture of foetal stool and amniotic fluid into their lungs during or shortly after birth, causing respiratory distress.

How Iran's nuclear progress triggered Israeli strike

**Vatika Times**  
**Iran** Israel on early Friday launched its "greatest military operations in history" against Iran, targeting nuclear sites and military camps. The 'preemptive strikes' by Israel resulted in killing of top military commanders and scientists in Khamenei-led Islamic Republic. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu called it a strike at "the heart of Iran's nuclear weaponisation program." The move



sparked global concern, especially as the United States and its intelligence community maintain that Iran's nuclear program is not currently designed to build weapons, according to CNN. -However, that didn't stop Israel from acting on what it claims are growing signs of a serious threat in the Middle East region. Iran has repeatedly

insisted that its nuclear efforts are only for peaceful purposes specifically for generating energy and powering its economy. Yet, the fact that Iran is enriching uranium to high levels and limiting international inspections has deepened global suspicion. Critics say Iran may be positioning itself to be just a step away from building a bomb if it decides to. The roots of Iran's nuclear program.

Man held for murder in Australia in 2003 got passport only in 2016, discharged

**Vatika Times**  
**NEW DELHI:** A Delhi court discharged a man apprehended last month for a murder in Redfern, Australia, in 2003, saying it was a case of mistaken identity. After considering forensic reports, the court of additional chief judicial magistrate Pranav Joshi noted in his order that the fingerprints of the accused, Mohammed Basheeruddin, 37, did not match with that of the murderer. The counsel claimed



The lawyer representing the arrested man told the court that the name of the actual accused mentioned in the foreign records was Bashiruddin Mohd, who was a different individual. The counsel claimed

Urgent checks on AI's 787 fleet: Aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu

**Vatika Times**  
**NEW DELHI** Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner fleet is undergoing urgent safety checks following the June 12 crash, civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said Saturday, while promising "all necessary steps" to strengthen aviation safety. Air India posted on X that checks directed by DGCA are underway across its 787s. "Checks have been completed on nine aircraft. We are on track to complete the remaining 24 within the regulator's timeline," the airline said. AI warned of possible delays on long-haul routes due to extended turnaround times. "Customers will be duly notified about any delays. They



are advised to check the status of their flights before heading to the airport," the airline said. Addressing his first presser since the tragedy, Naidu said Modi govt had set up a high-level committee led by Union home secretary Govind Mohan to examine the crash and recommend long-term aviation safety reforms. The committee was announced after Modi visited the crash site Friday. Naidu said the panel will not interfere with ongoing investigations but will focus on systemic reforms to prevent future disasters. Airports Accident Investigation Bureau is conducting the primary probe. The committee will work in parallel, identifying the root cause and contributing factors, including mechanical failure, human error, and regulatory lapses. The panel will also draft updated SOPs, benchmarked to international practices. Its report is due by Sept 13.

"The black box has been recovered," Naidu said, adding that decoding the data will clarify what went wrong. Union aviation secretary Samir Sinha said the same aircraft had arrived uneventfully from Paris to Ahmedabad. "On A h m e d a b a d - London flight, pilot gave a Mayday call to ATC just after take-off. ATC responded, but there was no reply from the cockpit. It crashed 2km from airport," he added. Meanwhile, Air India CEO Campbell Wilson announced, "Air India will be making an interim payment of Rs 25 lakh to each of the families of the deceased and also to the survivor. This is in addition to Rs 1 crore already committed by Tata Sons."

Lost in translation: statement sinks drug case in Tamil Nadu

**Vatika Times**  
**CHENNAI:** An important narcotics case here fell apart after the prosecution submitted a key witness's statement only in Hindi-without any Tamil or English translation-leaving the court unable to understand its contents. The city court acquitted the accused, Nag Narayan Prasad from Kolkata, citing a lack of admissible evidence. Besides, there were a host of other lapses in the case. The accused was arrested in connection with the seizure of 4.6 kg of hashish hidden inside 38 woollen sheep-like toys in a courier parcel intercepted in Ekkatuthangal near Chennai in March 2021. The parcel, booked under a Bengal sender's name, was flagged as suspicious during X-ray screening. NCB officers confirmed the contraband.

PM Modi to begin 3-nation tour from Cyprus today



**Vatika Times**  
**NEW DELHI:** PM Narendra Modi will travel to Cyprus on Sunday for the first leg of his three-nation tour that will see him participating in the G7 Summit in Canada and also visiting Croatia on his way back. Modi is also expected to have several bilateral meetings on the margins of the summit in Kananaskis. While the PM will have a meeting with his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney, his other bilateral engagements are still being worked out, official sources said. Modi will also come face to face with US President Donald Trump for the first time

since their meeting in Feb. The ministry of external affairs said in a statement that the visit to Cyprus - the first by an Indian PM since AB Vajpayee visited the country in 2002 - will reaffirm the shared commitment of the two countries to deepen bilateral ties and strengthen India's engagement with the Mediterranean region and the European Union. The visit to Cyprus is significant also as it comes in the middle of India's tensions with over the latter's support to Pakistan. Ankara's recognition of the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern



Editorial

What’s bringing India and Australia closer

Ritu Walia

The recent visit of Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles to New Delhi has provided a significant boost to the burgeoning ties between India and Australia. This diplomatic outreach underscores Australia’s unwavering support for India in its battle against terrorism in all its manifestations. Notably, Marles’ visit comes shortly after the Albanese administration’s re-election, marking an early and decisive engagement with India at a time of heightened global uncertainty. Reflecting on the trajectory of India-Australia relations, it is remarkable how far the partnership has come in a relatively short period. Just a decade ago, Australia was not a prominent feature in India’s strategic considerations. However, shifting geopolitical dynamics have brought the two nations closer. The year 2025 marks the fifth anniversary of the elevation of the bilateral ties from a strategic partnership to a comprehensive strategic partnership, placing Australia among a select group of countries with which India maintains a 360-degree engagement framework. This enhanced partnership encompasses multiple overlapping mechanisms, including the 2+2 dialogue for high-level coordination on defence and foreign affairs, intergovernmental consultations, and a Free Trade Agreement. These initiatives reflect a shared commitment to deepening cooperation across various sectors, from security to trade and technology. At the heart of this evolving relationship lies a mutual recognition of the importance of defence and security collaboration. During Marles’ visit, both nations welcomed the signing of the Australia-India Joint Research Project and agreed to intensify and diversify defence industry collaboration. The upcoming third India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue later this year is expected to further advance defence science and technology cooperation, enhancing interoperability and addressing common security challenges. Beyond bilateral engagements, both countries are active participants in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), an informal grouping that includes the United States and Japan. The Quad aims to promote a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, serving as a counterbalance to China’s growing influence. The inclusion of Australia in the Malabar naval exercises, alongside India, Japan, and the US, has further built interoperability and trust. The Quad stands as the most prominent example of the plurilateral cooperation linking the United States and India with two of their closest strategic partners. Yet, America’s current relationship with India has lost the sheen it was expected to have. While Washington has not formally withdrawn from key security alliances like NATO or informal groupings such as the Quad, the Trump administration’s flippant foreign policy toward its allies and partners has irked all. Trump’s semi-betrayal of Europe on Ukraine has unsettled allies around the globe—including Australia and New Zealand, both formal defence partners of the US. As the US-China rivalry develops, regional states are scrambling to protect their interests. There is little clarity on how Western powers might respond to a potential Chinese military takeover of Taiwan. A direct military confrontation between the US and China remains improbable, a reality acknowledged both overtly and implicitly by voices within and outside the US government. For Indo-Pacific nations caught in the geopolitical crossfire—reliant on China for trade and the US for security—investing in their own strategic resilience appears to be the most prudent path forward. Global military spending surged by 9.4 per cent in 2024—the steepest increase since the Cold War—driven by the return of attritional warfare and China’s growing maritime assertiveness.



Who are these people who are cheating the farmers?

KP

Till now, factories manufacturing fake food items have been caught in the country, but never before have such large numbers of fake fertilizer factories been caught as have been caught in Rajasthan. The way raids have started on fake fertilizer factories in Rajasthan and they are being sealed is commendable. One thing that has come to light from this action is that fertilizer companies are cheating farmers in many ways, which includes looting the hard-earned money of farmers by selling expensive fertilizers, along with this, a conspiracy is also being hatched to destroy their fields. The surprising thing is that 12 fake fertilizer factories have been caught in just one district of Rajasthan, then imagine how many such factories would be there in the entire state and then in the entire country, which are ruining the farmers by making fake fertilizers. It is said that there are a large number of fertilizer manufacturing factories in Madhya Pradesh too. Talking on this matter, Union Minister of State for Agriculture Bhagirath Chaudhary said that those who cheat the farmers will not be spared at all.

They will get the harshest punishment. Actually, fake DAP fertiliz-



er and many other types of fertilizers were made in these factories and the surprising thing is that they were not made from animal bones, but from marble dust i.e. ground marble, which makes the fields barren when it falls on them. It is said that along with marble dust, such dangerous chemicals were being used in these fertilizers, which makes the land barren. It is worth understanding that the farmers who feed the people of the country and do not step back from their farming dharma even after getting low MSP and neither sell their food grains by adulterating them, are being cheated openly. In Rajasthan too, farmers were being cheated in these fertilizer factories, which was caught by the farmers themselves. In fact, three trailers were being unloaded on the road

near the fields outside a fertilizer factory named Radhika Agro located in Chhidwara and Bandarsindri areas of Kishangarh district of Rajasthan, which was opposed by the villagers. Amidst this uproar, the driver and others who had brought marble dust fled. When Rajasthan Agriculture Minister Kirori Lal Meena came to know about such a large quantity of raw material recovered, he got the factories sealed and said that strict action will be taken against the accused. Similarly, fake fertilizer was also being made in Divya Agro Food Industry, where Agriculture Minister Kirori Lal Meena has raided and assured the farmers of taking strict action against the mafia making fake fertilizer. In fact, strict action must be taken against the people responsible for

this fraud with the farmers, because this is a big fraud not only with the farmers but with the entire country. But the question is who are these people who are cheating the farmers?

Because these factories have not been caught without any uproar by farmers and villagers. Why have the names of the owners of these factories, which provide lakhs of tons of fertilizers to the farmers of the country every year, not been revealed yet? Farmers allege that how can such a big fraud happen in the state without the consent of the government and administration? Actually, the apprehension of the farmers is not wrong, because when elections come, these factory owners donate money in support of some political party, after which the elected governments pro-

vide them with all kinds of benefits after forming the government. However, this is not the issue of any one government, rather this practice has become very old in India. The funds received by the parties are a part of this, which is not even disclosed now. So should it be believed that the people who give funds and election donations to the parties adulterate the money and recover it from the public, and many times more? Why are adulterators and sellers of fake products not controlled, whose biggest consumer is the common citizen of the country, which also includes farmers. Because the elite class is completely free from adulterated products. If there is even the slightest adulteration or any other minor defect in the food grains of the farmers, then their food grains are either bought at a very cheap price in the market or are returned. But not only are fake fertilizers being sold to those farmers, but fake pesticides and fake seeds are also being sold to them. Therefore, in this matter, the Modi government at the Center, which talks of doubling the income of farmers, should come forward and work to free the farmers from the clutches of these adulterators and sellers of fake products.

More subscribers but low tariffs—why India’s telecom sector is under stress

Rashmi

The Indian telecom story, seen through numbers, could dazzle anyone. But, is it a happy story, 30 years after the first mobile call was made in India in July 1995? First, the numbers. Mobile subscribers in the country are close to 1.2 billion, out of 9.1 billion globally. Internet subscribers in India are pegged at over 970 million, compared to 5.56 billion around the world. India’s broadband subscribers stand at more than 940 million, against the global figure of 5.3 billion. On the handset side, the stats are equally impressive. From importing 75 per cent of the handsets till not very long ago, the country has moved to exporting mobile phones worth ~1.8 trillion a year. And India has wowed the world with 1.8 billion digital transactions annually. However, being the cheapest data capital (a title India may get in the near future) has its own problems — something that policymakers can’t wish away. When telecom service providers don’t hike

tariffs (both calling rates and data prices) for years at a stretch, there’s a problem. When 5G data comes at the same price as 4G, there’s a problem. When the industry debt runs into trillions of dollars, there’s a problem. When leading telcos want conversion of their pending dues into government equity, there’s a problem. And when preventing a duopoly in the industry becomes a burden, there’s a problem. As Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia told this newspaper in a recent interview, the telecom growth story of India has become the envy of the globe. While that may be the case, the high subscriber numbers and the impressive digital transaction volumes are accompanied by rock-bottom tariffs. Mobile call rates have fallen to around 0.03 paise a minute, from 50 paise a minute 10 years ago. And data cost has seen a steep fall to ~ 9 per GB, from ~287 per GB 10 years ago. Against the average global data cost of \$2.49 per GB.

Forum was taking place at a time of great uncertainty in the world

Radhika Singh

The Astana International Forum opened with a flourish in Astana, the Kazakhstan capital, on May 29. One may wonder why write about a Kazakh event when we are still debating whether Operation Sindoor is over or on pause. But it was exactly this that makes it so pertinent to write about Kazakhstan, Central Asia’s largest country and roughly just a three-hour flight away from Delhi. Over two days, there was brainstorming and information-sharing at the highest level, encompassing a range of issues, as the forum aims to tackle global challenges by amplifying diverse voices. The plenary session was inaugurated by Kazakhstan’s President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

The Guest of honour was Paul Kagame, the President of Rwanda, whose country has seen horrific violence and genocide. Other speakers were President of North Macedonia Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Alain Berset, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (now President and Chair of the Global Green Growth Institute), and Qu Dongyu, Director-

General of the Food and Agriculture Organization. But this was just the plenary session. Other sessions had speakers as diverse as Georgia Meloni, the Prime Minister of Italy, and Haji Noorudfin Azizi, the Minister of Commerce and Industry of Afghanistan.

In his opening address, President Tokayev noted that the forum was taking place at a time of great uncertainty in the world. According to last year’s data, 52 countries were involved in armed conflicts.

The economic losses from violence reached \$19 trillion, approximately 13.5% of the world’s gross domestic product. Kazakhstan views the modern turbulent world through the prism of constructive cooperation,” said the President. “In our foreign policy, we prioritise dialogue over division and rely on respect for sovereign rights. Disregarding national pride and the historical and cultural traditions of peoples is unacceptable. At the same time, it is essential to respect the rights of all national minorities to speak their languages and to develop their cultures. That is why we firmly uphold the ‘Unity in Diversity’ principle in Kazakhstan.” This is

what makes it imperative for India to partner with Kazakhstan. It is the ninth largest country in the world, equivalent in size to Western Europe, and the largest country in Central Asia. It is resource-rich with gas, oil, minerals, and rare earth metals. Militarily, it is also one of the strongest countries in the region. Yet, Kazakhstan voluntarily gave up its nuclear weapons. It has had border problems with a number of its neighbours, including giant China, but has been able to solve them. Solving territorial disputes goes a long way in enabling the development of a nation and society. Though India is a giant with a billion population and Kazakhstan is a nascent republic, only 34 years old with a population of about 20 million, there are many convergences in their foreign policies and positions on global issues. Like India, Kazakhstan has an autonomous multi-vector foreign policy. It has adroitly managed its relations with competing and rival powers. It shares the longest land border with Russia and continues its cooperation and relations with it, notwithstanding Western sanctions against it. The US is the largest investor in the country.

Two dozen demonstrators were killed, scores of them

Sunil Sharma

A huge crowd headed towards Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli’s Baluwater residence from downtown in Kathmandu, chanting slogans in favour of the restoration of the Hindu monarchy, which was abolished in 2008. The crowd, led by former Home Minister Kamal Thapa, tried to break the police cordon. This was on June 1. The police responded to protesters with batons. As they continued to push, the security forces fired tear gas shells to prevent the crowd from entering the premier’s residence. Subsequently, as the crowd dispersed, police arrested Thapa. Most strikingly, he was dragged to a police van

with his hands and legs tied, before being taken into custody. Hours later, Thapa and the other arrestees were released. Clashes of this kind have become the norm in Nepal of late. Thapa, a leader of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) Nepal, was the Home Minister during the 2006 popular uprising that flared across the country. Those protests ended the centuries-old constitutional monarchy. Back then, dismayed by the direct rule of the then King Gyanendra Shah, tens of thousands of people had taken to the streets for nearly a month demanding the abolishment of the centuries-old Hindu monarchy. The government, led

by the King’s men, had ordered the police to open fire at the protesters. More than two dozen demonstrators were killed, scores of them injured, and thousands of others were detained. Now, nearly two decades later, monarchists like Thapa have taken to the streets, followed by their supporters. The then rulers, who suppressed the people’s movement under the guidance of King Gyanendra, are now the protesters. The roles have reversed in less than two decades. Yet, protests continued. The nationwide uprising forced the King to abandon the Royal Palace, ending a 239-year-old tradition. And thus,

Nepal was declared a Republic. India, China, the US and other influential countries endorsed the political shift. The King’s residence, known as Narayanhiti Royal Palace, was subsequently converted into a museum. This time, backed by the frustrated populace, pro-royal forces are hitting the streets, vowing to bring back the King to the Narayanhiti Royal Palace. To amplify their demands, smaller parties, academicians and well-wishers have joined the movement for the restoration of a constitutional monarchy. The royal family itself has been backing the protesters, hosting lunch for leaders and defending their campaign in press state.



# Blood has no caste or religion but it is a symbol of humanity: Prof. Kartar

**Jasbir Singh Duggal**

Kurukshetra: 545th voluntary blood donation camp was organized at Shri Krishna Ayush University on World Blood Donor Day. Vice Chancellor of Shri Krishna Ayush University Prof. Vaidya Kartar Singh Dhiman encouraged the blood donors by putting badges on them and said that blood donation is not only an act of saving lives but it is also a symbol of social harmony and humanity. Blood has no caste, religion or creed. This great donation gives us the message of eradicating discrimination and strengthens the spirit of unity. This camp was organized by Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma, the highest blood donor of the Indian Police and Paramilitary Forces. Registrar Prof. Brijender Singh Tomar, Medical Superintendent of the hospital Prof. Rajender Singh, Dr. Kuljeet Kaur, Dr. Magesh Rajamani, social worker Naresh



Saini, Bharatendu Harish, star blood donor Prashant Kumar, retired assistant registrar from KU Devender Sachdeva and many other dignitaries were present. Registrar Prof. Vaidya Brijender Singh Tomar said that blood donation is an act that not only saves someone's life, but also strengthens the spirit of cooperation, dedication and service in the society. Such events develop a sense of social responsibility in the youth. Medical Superintendent of Ayurveda Studies and Research Institute (Hospital) Prof. Vaidya Rajender Singh

Chaudhary said that when we donate blood, we become a ray of hope in the life of an unknown needy. This is a work in which there is no limit, no discrimination. Camp coordinator and social worker Dr. Ashok Kumar Verma, Sub Inspector of Haryana Police, said that on World Blood Donor Day, a blood donation camp has been organized with the cooperation of Shri Krishna Ayush University family, in which not only the members of the university family, but also great donors from the city have donated blood.

# Congress to Launch Public Awareness Campaign to Expose Failures of BJP Govet : Satnam

**Jasbir Singh Duggal Pehowa (Kurukshetra):**

Congress state spokesperson Satnam Singh Virk stated that the BJP government has trapped people in a web of digital portals. Over 200 public services have become inactive due to portal shutdowns, causing widespread inconvenience to citizens. During his visit to rural areas, Virk highlighted that the government had mandated the updating of Aadhaar cards that are over 10 years old. However, the excessive formalities involved in updating Aadhaar have made it nearly impossible for common people to comply. For example, even to register a child's birth certificate, people are being asked to produce Family IDs and various other documents, creating



unnecessary hurdles. He added that people seeking new pensions—be it old-age, widow, or disability—are also entangled in the complexities of online portals. If approached through middlemen, the work gets done quickly in exchange for money, clearly exposing the grip of corruption and bureaucracy on the government. Virk further said the state's electricity supply and roads are in a poor state. Long power cuts at night have become a routine issue, causing major discomfort. In Guru

Nanak Colony, Pehowa, there has been no electricity at night for the past two days. The same neglect is visible in the condition of rural roads. Contractors, backed by political connections, win tenders but fail to start the work. In response to these growing issues, Satnam Singh Virk announced that Congress will soon launch a Jan Jagran Abhiyan (Public Awareness Campaign) to directly reach the people and expose the government's failures.



## JJP to Launch Statewide Membership Drive from Today: Kuldeep Jakhwala



**Jasbir Singh Duggal**

**Kurukshetra:** Kuldeep Jakhwala, District President of the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) in Kurukshetra, announced that under the guidance of Dr. Ajay Singh Chautala and former Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, the party will begin a state-level drive to induct new and dedicated members starting June 15. Meetings will be held in each constituency as part of this initiative. He stated that all party workers are working diligently to strengthen the party's grassroots support across Haryana, and these meetings will inject fresh energy into the organization. As part of this campaign, meetings will be held in all four constituencies of Kurukshetra on June 15, where Haj Committee Chairman Mohsin Chaudhary and former MLA Ramesh Khatak will meet with party workers. District spokesperson Shekhar Dogra informed that the meetings will see participation from senior party officials, youth leaders, the women's wing, and ward-level workers from across the district.

# Aakash Educational Services Limited Star Shines Bright: Avika Aggarwal from Faridabad Ranks AIR 5 in NEET UG 2025

**Vatika Times Faridabad :** Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces that Avika Aggarwal from Faridabad has secured AIR 5 in the highly competitive NEET UG 2025 examination. This exceptional performance is a result of the students' commitment, academic discipline, and the world-class coaching and mentorship provided by AESL. The results were declared today by

the National Testing Agency (NTA). The student was enrolled in AESL's classroom program, specifically designed to help aspirants tackle NEET – one of the most challenging medical entrance exams in the world. The students attributed his success to the strong academic foundation laid by AESL, their conceptual clarity, and a consistent and disciplined study routine. "I am extremely thankful to Aakash for guiding me throughout this



journey. The structured content, expert teach-

ing, and personal mentoring helped me mas-

ter complex topics in a short time. Without

AESL, this success would not have been

possible," the student shared. Dr. Yash Pal, Chief Academic and Business Head at AESL, congratulated the achievers, saying, "We are immensely proud of our students' stellar performance in NEET UG 2025. Scoring such good marks is no small feat, especially in an exam that sees participation of students from nationwide. These results showcase not only the students' hard work and perseverance but also the support from their parents and

the committed efforts of our academic team. We wish them continued success in their medical careers." NEET is conducted annually by National Testing Agency as a qualifying test for students who wish to pursue undergraduate medical (MBBS), dental (BDS) and AYUSH (BAMS, BUMS, BHMS, etc.) courses in government and private institutions in India and also, for those intending to pursue primary medical qualification abroad.

## Arsh Gandhi of Genesis ranks 11th in the country in NEET UG Festive atmosphere with the announcement of NEET result



**DILPREET WALIA**

**Karnal :** The result of NEET UG, an exam conducted by NTSC for admission in various medical colleges of the country, was declared today. Today, there was an atmosphere of happiness everywhere. Arsh Gandhi of Karnal secured 11th rank in the NEET UG exam across the country. Probably, he also

secured first rank in the state and North India. Arsh Gandhi of Karnal studies in Genesis Classes. Arsh Gandhi's father Arun Gandhi and his mother are also doctors. They run a private hospital. There are five doctors in Arsh Gandhi's family. There was an atmosphere of celebration in Genesis Classes of

Karnal. Arsh Gandhi, who secured 11th rank in the country, secured 674 marks out of 720. Jitendra Ahlawat, director of Genesis Classes of Karnal, said that 100 students of his institute secured more than 550 marks. He said that 80 children of his institute will get admission in government medical colleges.

# PAN-India Push for a Greener Tomorrow: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India marks Environment Week with Nationwide initiatives

**Vatika Times**

**KARNAL:** Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) marked Environment Week 2025 with a series of sustainability-focussed activities across its nationwide network, beginning 5th June (World Environment Day). The initiative aimed at raising environmental awareness and encouraging responsible practices, culminated in a special event at Hindon Honda, Ghaziabad, in the presence of HMSI's senior leadership including Mr. Sheshank Razdan, General Manager, Regional Business Central and Mr. Ravikumar Annasaheb Firagannavar, General Manager, Regional Business Central-Customer Service.



Environment Day theme, 'Beat Plastic Pollution' shaped the direction of the on-ground activities. As part of the week-long celebration, HMSI's dealerships and service outlets across India actively engaged with customers and local communities. Key activities included distribution of saplings to all customers visiting at dealership, awareness campaigns on the harmful impact of plastic pollution and 1,25,000 tree

plantation drives across multiple cities and towns. Free Pollution Under Control (PUC) check-up camps were also conducted to promote cleaner and more efficient vehicle usage. In its 25th year of operations in India, HMSI has reached a significant production milestone, crossing 70 million units of cumulative production since the start of local manufacturing in 2001. This milestone con-

tributes to Honda's achievement of cumulative global production of motorcycles which has reached 500 million units, since 1949. As the production scales, HMSI remains aligned with Honda's global vision of realising zero environmental impact not only with its products, but throughout the entire product lifecycle including all corporate activities, through its Triple Action to ZERO initiative focusing on carbon neutrality, clean energy and resource circulation. The company continues to strengthen operational efficiencies while promoting cleaner technologies and manufacturing processes across its facilities. The Environment Week initiative highlights the role of collective participation- from customers and dealers to

employees and leadership- in shaping a cleaner, greener tomorrow. These efforts were designed to create grass-root impact, reinforcing the message that even small, everyday actions can contribute meaningfully to environmental health. The event brought together HMSI associates and local representatives for a tree plantation drive and an employee awareness session which focussed on integrating sustainability into workplace and community practices. In parallel to these on-ground efforts, HMSI continues to integrate sustainability into its operations. The company's third factory in Narsapura, Karnataka currently meets 98% of its energy requirements through renewable sources.





## A married woman cannot sue a guy for rape based on an agreement

**Delhi:** A woman's rape case against a man was dismissed by the Supreme Court because the court determined that a married woman cannot accuse a guy of rape on promise of marriage if her own marriage is still going strong. In this instance, we have a Muslim mother of a four-year-old boy who lived with her parents in Satara, Maharashtra. She became close with her 23-year-old neighbor, who was a biology major. Assuring her again and again that he would marry her following her divorce, the guy allegedly had a physical contact with her from June 8, 2022, to July 8, 2023, according to her police complaint, which accused him of rape on the promise of marriage. It wasn't until December 29, 2022, that she was able to secure a "khumana," or divorce, from her husband, Dhananjay Mahapatra. Following the filing of FIRS, the guy sought to have the case dismissed by the HC, but was unsuccessful. He



### Jagannath temple body to apply for patents on names

**Delhi:** Amid the tussle between Odisha and West Bengal over naming of the Jagannath temple in Digha as Jagannath dham, the Jagannath temple management committee of Puri on Monday said it would apply for patent for expressions such as 'Srimandir', 'Jagannath Dham', and 'Mahaprasad'. The temple management committee

which met in Puri said. The Sri Jagannath Temple Administration would apply for patents of terms such as 'Srimandir', 'Jagannath Dham', 'Mahaprasad', 'logo of Srimandir', 'Shrikshetra', and 'Purushottam Dham'. It has been approved in a high-level meeting today," said SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee. Unauthorized physical contact between the appellant and the plaintiff was asserted by the complainant. But she did more than

took the matter to the Supreme Court, where Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish C Sharma determined that the woman's story and actions were inconsis-

tent. Unauthorized physical contact between the appellant and the plaintiff was asserted by the complainant. But she did more than

## West Bengal's OBC Reservation: A Crucial Decision

**Delhi:** The OBC reservation policy in West Bengal has been finalized by the state administration, which is a major achievement. The judgment, which is significant because it follows the High Court's Division Bench's order, has been approved by the state cabinet. According to the source, the new policy will be unveiled during the next State Assembly session, which is set to begin on the 9th of the month. The existing 7% OBC reservation quota will be significantly increased to 17% as part of this new strate-



gy. This is a major improvement with the potential to change the state's economic and social climate. The updated framework expands the OBC reservation list to include 140 more castes. As part of this growth, a

thorough statewide survey has uncovered 76 new castes. Only 64 of the original 66 castes have been kept. In anticipation of a new survey, two castes have been temporarily removed from the present roster.

### 'Secularism must be two-way street': Pawan

**Delhi :** Actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan condemned the arrest of a Symbiosis law student, who was booked for allegedly hurting 'religious sentiments' through a viral video posted during 'Operation Sindoor'. The student, arrested by West Bengal Police from Gurgaon following a court warrant, had earli-

er deleted the video and issued an apology after it drew criticism online. Taking to X, Kalyan questioned the silence over repeated instances of alleged blasphemy by TMC leaders and MPs, accusing them of mocking Sanatana Dharma by calling it "Gandha Dharm". "Blasphemy must be condemned, always! Secularism isn't a

shield for some and a sword for others. It must be a two-way street. West Bengal Police, the nation is watching. Act justly for all," he said, urging equal condemnation of all such acts and impartial police action. The student was produced before Alipore court and remanded to judicial custody till June 13.

## CAPSULES

### District Magistrate among 3 top Haridwar officials suspended over 'land scam'



**Delhi:** After an investigation into a suspected land fraud in Haridwar, the government of Uttarakhand suspended two IAS officers and a PCS officer. Karmendra Singh, the Haridwar district magistrate, Varun Chaudhary, the commissioner of the municipal corporation, and Ajayveer Singh, the sub-divisional magistrate, are the suspended officials. A top official in the Secretariat looked into the supposed swindle. The officers allegedly helped convert farmland into non-farm land, which led to an increase in valuation, which the corporation then used to acquire the property for a greater price, according to the officials to whom the report was filed. An application for a change of land use was filed by the land's seller in July, and it was approved in October 2024. The agricultural land was worth Rs 15 crore, according to an official. The circle rate, however, skyrocketed during the conversion, and the acquisition price exceeded 52 crore rupees.

## Summer Camp Aimed at Developing Children's Creative Skills: Deepali Singhal

**Jasbir Singh Duggal**

**Shahabad Markanda:** A special summer camp was organized at Einstein International School during the summer vacation for children. Both students and parents participated enthusiastically in the camp. The children took part in a variety of activities including public speaking, craft workshops, skating, Zumba, dance, music, and more. School Chairman Devender Singla extended his best wishes for the organization of the summer camp and said that such initiatives contribute to the overall



development of children and play an important role in honing their talents. School Director Deepali Singhal stated that the primary objective of the summer camp was to develop children's creative skills

while also reducing their screen time. Through this camp, children got the opportunity to learn new things, develop new skills, and interact with their peers in a collaborative environment.

School Vice Principal Sandhya Verma mentioned that the summer camp was a successful and memorable experience for the children. On this occasion, school staff, students, and parents were present.

## YouTubers Arrested by Police for Hunting Wild Birds and Destroying Their Nests

**Delhi :** Three people from the YouTube channel "Jakrub" were taken into custody in Dhemaji in connection with the horrific slaughter of wild birds, which they had posted on their channel. Maheshwar Swargiary, Munindra Mushahary, and Shiviram Swargiary are the names of the accused. In the ecologically delicate Pitoni region, near the villages of Hastinapur and Kardoiguri, the three individuals allegedly went bird hunting and destroyed nests. Slingshots were employed to eliminate



birds, and hundreds of eggs were plucked from their nests. Outrage ensued following the upload of the videos—which depicted the slaughter of birds and the destruction of their habitats—to their channel, which boasts 2.5k subscribers. Rahul Suresh Javir, the district commissioner

of Dhemaji, has ordered the police and forest department to act immediately. Soon after, the three suspects were apprehended in accordance with the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 as a result of a combined effort by the forest department and the Simen Chapori police.

## Women will get 33% of the seats in the Ladakh Hill Council

**Delhi :** The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC-Leh), which is run by the BJP, has approved a draft that aims to provide 33% of its seats to women. A step towards "inclusive development and gender equity in one of the remotest and most strategic regions" of India was declared by Tashi Gyalson, chief executive councillor of LAHDC-Leh, following bill passing. The most out-of-the-way parts of our nation are prepared to set an example in Passage of the women's reservation law that represents more than simply a policy choice for Ladakh, an area renowned for its breathtaking scenery but also plagued by physical isolation and inadequate infrastructure. "It represents a change in perspective and a strong movement towards inclusive



### Waqf property portal launched by government

**Delhi:** Delhi high court has upheld the 2017 termination of an Army officer who refused to participate in regimental weekly religious parades on the grounds that he belonged to the Christian faith. Samuel had challenged his dismissal without pension and gratuity, and sought reinstatement in service. In a May 30 order, a division bench of Justice Navin Chawla and Justice said: "Our armed forces comprise personnel of all religions, castes, creeds, regions and faiths, whose sole motto is to safeguard the country .

governance," Gyalson remarked. We have two hill councils in the Ladakh region: LAHDC-Leh and LAHDC-Kargil. During the long period of central authority

over Jammu and Kashmir (formerly a state that included Ladakh) in 1995, the Leh hill council was established. A distinct hill council

## E interstate buses will soon be available in Delhi, linking religious sites

**Delhi :** A hundred electric inter-state buses will link the nation's capital with significant religious and regional sites, such as Ayodhya, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Meerut, and Baghpat, as part of a huge green mobility initiative. According to TNN, this project was greenlit at Friday's board



meeting of the Delhi Transport

Corporation (DTC). It's all part of the government's larger "Viksit Sankalp Patra" plan. Senior DTC officials have stated that routes between 250 and 300 kilometers from Delhi will be covered by the new electric bus fleet. As a result of the project, bus routes that once connected Delhi to cities like

Shimla, Jaipur, Aligarh, and Lucknow would once again be available. "These electric buses will strengthen Delhi's connectivity to neighbouring states and will run across 17 identified routes that connect to important religious and pilgrimage destinations," said Pankaj, the Delhi Transport Minister.

### Yeida approves Film City layout

**Delhi:** The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) approved the layout design for the projected Film City in Sector 21, allowing filmmaker Boney Kapoor-led Bayview Bhutani Film City Private Limited to begin building. On December 24, 2024, Bayview Bhutani submitted the layout plan for clearance because work cannot begin without it. Yeida officials approved the layout plan following a thorough planning and high-level committee assessment.

## Punjabi YouTuber detained on suspicion of espionage for Pakistan; relation to Jyoti Malhotra

**Delhi :** The arrest of Jasbir Singh, a resident of Mahlan village in Rupnagar district, by the Punjab Police revealed an espionage network. Singh had connections to YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra of Haryana and Ehsanur-Rahim, also known as Danish, a Pakistani high commission official who was expelled on May 13. After the accused was brought before a court in Mohali, he was



ordered to remain in police custody for three days. The State Special Operations Cell (SSOC), Mohali, uncovered a significant espionage network after acting fast on actionable intelligence," stated Gaurav Yadav, direc-

tor general of police in Punjab. Pakistani intelligence agent Shakir, alias Jutt Randhawa, was linked to a terror-backed espionage network, and Jasbir, who runs the YouTube channel "Jaan Mahal" with 11

lakh subscribers, was also implicated. Finally, he had communication with the 33-year-old YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, better known as "Travel with JO," who was detained in Hisar last month. According to the investigations, Jasbir met with Pakistani army officials and vloggers at the Pakistan National Day celebration in Delhi, which he attended at Danish's invitation.



# The proposal to remove the 12 per cent tax slab has been supported by state govtment

**Delhi:** The officials and experts advising the Group of Ministers (GoM) over rate rationalisation have reached a “near consensus” that the current 12 per cent tax slab does not hold much relevance now and the items falling under this could be shifted to either 5 per cent or 18 per cent slab. This could be the most plausible way to undertake a revenue neutral tax rate rationalisation exercise. However, the GST Council has to take a final call,” the report quoted a person aware of the development. The proposal to remove the 12 per



cent tax slab has been supported by most Union and state government officials, experts and GoM representatives, it said. Under the 12 per cent tax slabs goods such as such as condensed milk, caviar and caviar substitutes prepared from fish eggs, drinking water packed in 20 litre bottles, walkie talkies, tanks and other armoured fighting vehicles, contact lenses, cheese, dates and dried fruits, frozen vegetables, sausages and similar meat products, pasta, jams and jellies, fruit juice-based drinks, namkeens including bhujia, curry paste, mayonnaise, tooth powder, feeding bottles, carpets, umbrellas, caps, bicycles, specific household utensils, furniture made of cane or wood, pencils and crayons, handbags and shopping bags made of jute or cotton, footwear priced lower than ₹1,000, diagnostic kits, and marble and granite blocks.

# Unilever targets 20% of the infrastructure software market

**Delhi:** The German company N e m e t s c h e k Group plans to take 20% of the \$200 million Indian market for architect-engineering software over the next three years. N e m e t s c h e k Group first arrived in the country last year to supply software solutions to the construction industry. The N e m e t s c h e k Group recognized enormous potential for real estate and infrastructure projects in India, so it joined the Indian market in July of last year. Globally, the AEC/O (architecture, engineering, construction, and operation) business relies on the software provided by this company to facilitate digital transformation. According to a s t a t e m e n t released by N e m e t s c h e k Group , the company plans to adopt a strategy centered on local innovation, university partnerships, and ecosystem collaborations to gain 15-20% of India's expanding AEC/O software industry in the next 2-3 years. With a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8%, the company predicts that India's AEC/O software industry would grow from \$192 million in 2024 to \$280 million in 2029, according to its most recent market research.

# Uttarakhand to ban Char Dham name misuse'

**Delhi:** In light of the recent controversy over the proposed construction of a Kedarnath temple replica in Delhi, CM Pushkar Singh Dhami's cabinet introduced a strict law to prevent the misuse' of Char Dham shrines and other prominent Uttarakhand temple names, reports Kautilya Singh. The law prohibits organizations and trusts from using the name of Uttarakhand's leading temple committee "as it may cause confusion among the



public." Some people or organizations are using the names of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath, and other top Uttarakhand temples. Names that are similar cause confusion, local hostility, and religious offense. "The proposed law will prevent temple managers from misusing Char Dham or other prominent temple names," said CM secretary Shailesh Bagauli. Dhami lay the foundation stone for a Delhi Kedarnath temple, sparking controversy.

# Yogi govt to facilitate export of Kalanamak Rice to England after seven decades and for first time to USA

**Lucknow** Under the leadership of the Yogi government, England and United States of America will now experience the unique taste of Kalanamak rice. After nearly seven decades, this renowned rice variety will be exported to England and, for the first time, to US. The popularity of Kalanamak rice has surged since it was declared an ODOP by the state government. This year marks a significant milestone as 5 quintals of Kalanamak rice will be exported to England. In a similar vein, another 5 quintals will be exported to America for the first time. Prior to this, Kalanamak rice had already made its way to Nepal, Singapore, Germany, Dubai, and other countries. England has a historical fondness for the taste and aroma of Kalanamak rice. This tradition dates back about seven decades, when British colonials had large farm houses across India. These farms were so prominent that they became landmarks, such as Birdghat and C a m p i e r g a n j . Siddharthnagar was also part of this trend, where the British cultivated Kalanamak rice extensively. They appreciated its unique flavor and fragrance, which commanded high prices in England. During that era, shiploads of Kalanamak rice were sent to England. However, following the abolition of the zamindari system about seven decades ago, this trade gradually declined and ultimately ceased after India gained independence. ODOP initiative boosts popularity of Kalanamak RiceThe popularity of Kalanamak rice has surged ever since the Yogi government declared it the One District One Product (ODOP).

# Provide Delhi residents telemedicine from doctors

**Delhi:** State-run hospitals will provide Delhi residents telemedicine from doctors and specialists. Sources stated Delhi health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj has authorized doctors from several government hospitals to consult with patients via eSanjeevani. The Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC), which built the Sanjeevani software, agreed to Bharadwaj's request to alter it for the Delhi government. National patients can consult doctors in central government and municipal hospitals in the capital. A six-member committee led by ILBS chancellor Dr. SK Sarin, created by Delhi High Court to improve health services in state-run and MCD hospitals and dispensaries, also advocated telemedicine. Sources said C-DAC will build.



# CM-VNY to be monitored at state and local levels, aiming to boost urban contribution to a \$1 Trillion economy

**Lucknow** The Yogi government is optimistic about the 'Mukhyamantri Vaishwik Nagaroday Yojana' (CM-VNY), launched to boost the income of urban local bodies and enhance infrastructure. The government aims to integrate urban bodies into its vision for a \$1 trillion economy. To ensure transparency and timely completion, all projects and proposals within these bodies will be evaluated and monitored from the local to the state level. The Urban Development Department has initiated this scheme as a 'Mission to Movement,' expanding various existing schemes and missions across all urban local bodies in Uttar Pradesh, promoting comprehensive city development and increased revenue collection. The scheme will be overseen at the highest level by the Urban Development Minister, who will not only supervise but also guide its overall implementation. The State Level Governing Body will be chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary or Principal Secretary of the Urban Development Department, with the Director of Local Bodies serving as the Member Secretary. The committee will include secretaries from the Housing, Health, Energy, Basic Education, Finance, Women and Child Development, and PWD departments as well as the Director of C&DS. The Director of NIC will also participate in relevant projects, and special invitees may be included at the Chairperson's discretion. The State Program Monitoring Unit will operate under this body. The Technical Appraisal Committee will be chaired by the Director of Local Bodies, including the Chief Engineer, AD Accounts, Director C&DS, and PMU Representatives. This committee will also incorporate the State Program Monitoring Unit. In committees formed for Municipal Corporations, the Mayor will act as Chairperson, while the Municipal Commissioner will serve as Member Secretary and Convener. The DM, VC of the Development Authority, and an SE of PWD appointed by the Divisional Commissioner will be members. Projects will be approved by committees established at the civic body level under the 15th Finance Commission. For Nagar Palika Parishad and Nagar Panchayats, the DM will chair the committee, which will include the Executive Engineer, Executive Officer, Accounts Officer of the relevant body, and a nominee of the DM. The scheme aims to standardize urban infrastructure across the state while enhancing the contribution of urban local bodies toward achieving a \$1 trillion economy. Expected outcomes include increased revenue sources for urban local bodies, improved liveability indices in urban areas, and better infrastructure integration with master plans. Additionally, the scheme.

# The Army and Assam Rifles form another ring of security

**GUWAHATI:** An escalation of violence in Manipur has prompted MHA to despatch 2,500-odd additional central paramilitary personnel to the state, most of them for deployment in Jiribam, a relatively new flash-point of the ethnic stir that has reported 13 fatalities since Nov 7. The state, which has witnessed bloodletting on both sides of the hill-valley divide over the past 19 months, will now have a combined deployment of 218 companies of central armed police forces (CAPF), constituting over 29,000 personnel. The Army and Assam Rifles form another ring of security. As per MHA directive issued Tuesday, 15 of 20 companies of reinforcements comprise CRPF units repositioned from Assam. The other five companies are of BSF transferred from Tripura. "The state govt of Manipur is instructed to formulate the detailed deployment plan, in consultation with the respective CAPFs," the order states.

# Joshimath's derailed hydropower facility obtains NDMA approval

**Delhi:** The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), under the Union ministry of home affairs, said "it has no objection to Uttarakhand govt permitting NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) to restart construction at Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project site" after subsidence in Joshimath town in January 2023. The Uttarakhand government halted all activities at NTPC's Tapovan-Vishnugad project after soil subsidence in Joshimath made hundreds of homes uninhabitable and forced 1,000 people to flee

# MP government to give women 35% of govt. positions

**Delhi :** The Madhya Pradesh government has mandated 35% female recruitment, except for the Forest department. The state has amended the Madhya Pradesh Civils Services (Special Provision for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997 to offer women 35% reservation. According to the notification, "Notwithstanding anything contained in any service rules, there shall be reserved 35 percent



of all posts in the state service (except Forest Department) in favor of women at the stage of direct recruitment and the said reservation shall be horizontal and compartment-wise."

ing. Female aldermen and other municipal officials would be prioritized. Girls will receive better education as the government pays their expenses. Parliament's women's reservation Bill became law after President Droupadi Murmu signed it. The Rajya Sabha unanimously passed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhniyam', which guarantees 33% reservation for women.

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has promised 35 percent reservation for women in police and other government positions and 50 percent in teach-



## CM advised students to use smartphones in moderation

**Lucknow** Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended a felicitation ceremony for meritorious students organized by a media group at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan on . 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. . In the ceremony, high school toppers Yash Pratap Singh (1st), Aanshi and Abhishek Kumar Yadav (2nd), and Ritu Garg, Arpit Verma, and Simran Gupta (3rd) were felicitated. In the intermediate category, Mahak Jaiswal (1st), Sakshi, Shivani Singh, Anushka Singh, Adarsh Yadav (2nd), and Mohini (3rd) were awarded medals, certificates of appreciation, and e-scooter keys. , underprivileged students who performed exceptionally .

## 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. Hounbo 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.



## A total financial assistance of Rs 561.86 crore will be disbursed under the scheme this year

**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.. Launched in 2019, the scheme provides up to Rs b5 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 ?)Ambedkar Nagar 431 20,78,25,000Kushinagar 392 19,55,00,000Kanpur Dehat 403 19,51,50,000Mainpuri 355 17,66,00,000Jaunpur 417 17,20,00,000Etawah 352 17,00,80,000Hardoi 342 15,99,00,000Lakhimpur Kheri 334 15,82,50,000Sonbadra 307 13,75,75,000Sant Kabir Nagar 280 13,35,25,000Budget allocation has grown steadily year by yearThe Yogi government has significantly increased the scheme's budget over the years to expand its reach and impact:Financial Year Budget Allocated Beneficiaries2020–21 Rs 500 crore 11,2752021–22 Rs 600 crore.

## Dream Labs in government 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-relianceThe 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 modelDream 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 technologiesThe 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 globalThis 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.

## With two golds India led the medal tally after competition day one

**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 seventh, but Kanak earned bronze with 217.6, her first individual medal.

## Govt is planning to launch a water bill waiver scheme shortly

**Delhi :** The government is planning to launch a water bill waiver scheme shortly to address the increasing number of complaints about high water bills, according to PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh, who made the announcement . Multiple complaints have been received by the Delhi Jal Board over erroneous pricing, prompting this notice. In the near future, we intend to implement a bill waiver program that will handle all domestic bills and cut them by almost 90%. A reorganization of the billing system is in the works. At a news conference, Mr. Singh explained that the necessary software is now in development and that some technical challenges are being



resolved . Additionally, the Minister has promised that all of the city's unapproved colonies will be linked to the sewer system by the year 2027 and has unveiled a sewerage master plan. "The current problems of sewerage infrastructure and future needs of the city" will be addressed by the "DJB is planning a sewerage master plan," according to the minister. Additionally, he mentioned that a world-wide tender will be released for this matter shortly.

**'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. The visitors will take heart from the fight they displayed in the high-scoring third one-dayer, where they came close to snatching victory.Rahul Dravid's son Samit Dravid, who sat out the one-day series, continues to remain on the sidelines as he is still recovering from a knee injury. "As of now, Samit is at the NCA (National Cricket Academy).

## 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.





## Scientists, Gaganyaan astronaut bat for Ladakh as Moon & Mars analogue research site

**BENGALURU:** Scientists from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) have identified Ladakh as an ideal location for India's first Mars and Moon analogue research station. Their proposal leverages past research as well as their own field work experience. The research work, carried out by Binita Phartiyal from BSIP along with IISc's Alope Kumar and Shubhanshu Shukla — one of India's four Gaganyaan astronauts — comes as India accelerates its ambitious space programme, including plans for a space station by 2035 and a Moon landing by 2040. An analogue research station, Kumar explained: "is a place where activities meant for Moon and Mars can be planned and practised. For example, if you're planning

an astronaut habitat, you can build a habitat there as there are some similarities (geological, for example) with extra-terrestrial conditions. You can also use it to see how microbes and other organisms respond to such extreme environments." Phartiyal and Kumar, lead authors of the proposal, highlight Ladakh's unique geographical features that closely resemble both Martian and Lunar environments. The region's cold, arid desert landscape, rocky terrain, and geomorphological similarities to early Mars and the Moon make it an exceptional candidate for simulating extra-terrestrial conditions. "Ladakh offers a natural laboratory for testing equipment, training personnel, and conducting crucial scientific studies. Its environment provides geochemical, geomorphological, and astrobiological fidelity to Mars and Moon," says

Phartiyal. Phartiyal, who has been visiting Ladakh for research work nearly every year since 2000, has studied the landscape closely. "...Being there often makes me feel that you are on a different planet altogether," Phartiyal, who also participated in Nasa's Spaceward Bound India programme (2016), which cited Ladakh's high altitude mountainous ecosystem possessing Mars-analogous topological features, said. Multi-purpose The proposed research station would serve multiple purposes: Testing platform for space technologies, advancing Technology Readiness Levels (TRL), engineering integration, human studies and crew training and geological and astrobiological research. The establishment of such a facility would significantly boost India's space programme.

## 705/720 NEET girl who flunked Std XII chemistry now fails in supplementary too

**AHMEDABAD:** The girl from Gujarat, who had pulled off a remarkable 705 out of 720 in National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) but later failed her Class XII (science) board exam, has now failed supplementary exams, too, leaving her ineligible for college. Her result had caused an uproar due to the implausibility of a NEET topper failing board exams. She failed physics and chemistry papers in board exams conducted in March. She then took Gujarat board's supplementary exams in June, which give those who failed up to three papers a second shot. She has now failed Class 12, being unable to pass physics. She scored just 22 in physics in the supple-



mentary exam, compared to 21 on her first attempt. In chemistry, she got exactly the passing mark of 33 on her second attempt. She had scored just 31 marks in chemistry in the March exam. Sources said supplementary exam results cast serious doubts over the validity of her NEET score. "At a time when irregularities in NEET were pursued by the apex court this case can't be ignored. It is highly improbable for a stu-

dent who can't get passing marks in state board exams to get one of the highest scores in this highly competitive national entrance test for medicine. The case must definitely be probed," a member of state education fraternity said. When centre-wise and city-wise NEET-UG results were declared recently, her mark sheets for NEET and HSC science - bearing the same first, middle and last names - began circulating on social media.

## CAPSULES

### Woman on bike harassed, groped by mob on flooded road in Lucknow

**NEW DELHI:** A woman riding pillion on a bike was harassed by a group of men on a flooded road in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, a viral video showed. The video, shared by news agency IANS, showed a man and a woman trying to cross a waterlogged road under the Taj Hotel Bridge in Lucknow. In the horror show, a group of men, standing in knee-deep water, continuously kept splashing water on the riders. A man was also seen groping the woman as she tried to protest herself. As the biker tried to hurriedly cross the group, a few men tried to pull the two-wheeler from the back which led to the duo falling on the road. A man was later seen assisting the woman in getting up. The crowd was finally stopped by the police, according to IANS. In response to the video, the Lucknow Police on X said that the cops are trying to identify the accused on the basis of CCTV footage.

### 'Trinamool trying to break Congress, listen to party workers ... ': Adhir strong message to Delhi leadership

**NEW DELHI:** Is Adir Ranjan Chowdhury on his way out of the Congress? Well, we do not know for now, but the West Bengal Congress leader has surely dropped clear hints of rebellion amid imminent change of leadership in the state unit. The West Bengal Congress leader, who represented Behrampur Lok Sabha constituency for five terms, lost the Lok Sabha elections to cricketer-turned-politician Yusuf Pathan of the Trinamool Congress.

## Further delay in deliveries of Tejas Mark-1A fighters to IAF

**NEW DELHI:** Grappling with just 30 fighter squadrons when it is authorised 42 to face the threat from China and Pakistan, the IAF will wait further for the deliveries of the indigenous Tejas Mark-1A jets to begin. The first of the 83 "improved" Tejas jets was to be delivered to IAF by March 31 this year, but will only be ready by September now, sources said on Wednesday. "Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) at best will be able to deliver only half of the 16 jets it was supposed to deliver in the 2024-25 as per the contract," a source said. TOI had earlier reported that there had been a major delay in



the delivery timeframe of the 83 Tejas Mark-1A jets contracted from HAL under the Rs 46,898 crore contract in Feb 2021. Under it, all the 83 fighters are to be delivered by Feb 2028. While there has been a delay in delivery of F-404 engines by US firm General

Electric to power the Tejas, sources said there were certain developmental issues by the HAL as well. This comes at a time when another Rs 67,000 crore contract for 97 more Tejas Mark-1A fighters is also being finalized. The Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisitions

Council in Nov last year had given the preliminary nod or acceptance of necessity (AoN) for the acquisition of these 97 jets. Under the first-ever Rs 8,802 crore contract for 40 Tejas Mark-1 jets, HAL was supposed to finish the delivery by Dec 2016. But it has delivered only 35 of the 40 jets so far, with five trainers yet to be delivered. HAL will need to majorly crank up its annual production rate to deliver all the 180 Tejas Mark-1A jets, which are powered by GE-F404 engines, in time. The cabinet committee on in August 2022 had also cleared the over Rs 9,000 crore development of the Tejas Mark-2 fighters.

## Insurance premium GST is like tax on life's uncertainties: Nitin Gadkari

**NEW DELHI:** Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari has urged finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to consider suggestions for removing GST on life and health insurance, a demand that is unlikely to be met, although it has generated tremendous interest. While forwarding a representation from the Nagpur Divisional Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, the minister, a three-term Lok Sabha MP from the constituency, said: "Levying

GST on life insurance premium amounts to levying tax on uncertainties of life...Similarly, the 18% GST on medical insurance premium is proving to be a deterrent for the growth of this segment of business, which is socially necessary."Citing other demands in the memorandum, he went on to say: "The union feels that a person who covers the risk of life's uncertainties to give protection to the family should not be levied tax on the premium to pur-

chase cover against the risk... you are requested to consider the suggestion of withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premium on priority as it becomes cumbersome for senior citizens as per rules with due verification..." Insurance was one of the biggest contributors to service tax kitty, which was subsumed into GST from July 2017. While Centre levied 15% service tax, GST Council, the all-powerful ministerial panel chaired by finance minister.

## Kind strangers offer final resting sites for departed

**WAYANAD:** What nature's fury denied Mundakkai and Chooralmala's dead, the kindness of strangers provided on Wednesday as mourning families desperately searched for resting places for their loved ones beyond the landslide-ravaged zone. Meppadi, around 15km away, was among the places where residents hurriedly made funeral arrangements for many of the victims. The burial grounds of Chooralmala Town Juma Masjid and Mundakkai Masjid were destroyed in the landslide that bore down on these two pockets of Wayanad early Tuesday. Cremation grounds at both places weren't spared either. Meppadi saw 30 burials in two days. Around 200 gravediggers from various districts dug up 50 graves in anticipation of more landslide victims being taken



there. A Ashraf, vice president of Meppadi Juma Masjid Committee, said he and his colleagues held a meeting on hearing about the devastation in Mundakkai and Chooralmala and decided to help out their neighbours in every way possible, including burying the dead."We used to have just a couple of burials every month. But this is a monumental tragedy and we have had people volunteering to help across the state to help dig graves. We are also receiving food items for distribu-

tion among the victims' families," he said. Sulaiman T was among those volunteering to help conduct mass funerals. Noushad K arrived in Meppadi from nearby Tharuvana to assist members of the mosque committee in digging graves. At least 23 cremations in accordance with Hindu rites were done at the grounds attached to the Meppadi Mariyappan temple since Tuesday. A few Christian funerals were also conducted by CSI Holy Emanuel Church at Meppadi.

## Supreme Court pulls up Kerala government for withholding files from green panel

**NEW DELHI:** Taking exception to Kerala government's reluctance in sharing information with the Central Empowered Committee, which is statutory body on environmental issues, Supreme Court has directed the state's land revenue commissioner to appear before it along with the additional secretary of the department to respond to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them for "withholding" files sought by the panel. "The CEC, originally constituted under the order of this court, has now received statutory recognition vide notification dated September 5, 2023. The said statutory status was also granted in pursuance to the directions



issued by this court. The CEC is, therefore, discharging its duties in order to assist the court in hearing matters assigned to the bench hearing TN G o d a v a r m a n Thirumulpad matter. Every authority is, therefore, bound to assist the CEC when the CEC conducts an enquiry. An attempt to withhold an important file, in our view, undermines the authority of this court. It prevents the CEC in discharging its duties of assisting the

court," a bench headed by Justice B R Gavai said. "We, therefore, issue notice to A Kowsigan, IAS, commissioner land revenue, and T R Jayapal, additional secretary, government of Kerala, and direct them to remain present in this court on August 21, 2024, and show cause as to why an action for committing contempt of the court may not be initiated against them by this court," the bench said.

## Rahul Gandhi lying, says Ashok Chavan reacting to 'weeping' claim

**MUMBAI:** A day after Congress politician Rahul Gandhi's critical remarks, former chief minister Ashok Chavan, now a Rajya Sabha member from BJP, described the comments as baseless and illogical. "Rahul Gandhi did not mention my name. If he is referring to me, then I will describe his remarks as baseless and illogical. Let me make it clear, before joining BJP I did not meet Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi. In fact, till the last moment, I was working in the Congress office, working on the seat-sharing formula. What Rahul Gandhi said is a lie. Rahul Gandhi's remarks are factually incorrect. It is just a political stunt in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha election and to embarrass me," Chavan said. Chavan said that before joining BJP, he resigned from the assembly and, a few hours later, quit the primary membership of the party.Addressing a public meeting at Shivaji Park, Rahul Gandhi said a senior leader from Maharashtra, whom he did not want to name, left Congress and wept in front of his mother, Sonia Gandhi.

## Fire safety steps missing, JLN Stadium told not to host events

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi fire department has written to the administrator of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (JLN) to stop using the premises for sporting events and functions due to a lack of fire safety measures. The fire safety certificate of Samrat Hotel in Chanakyapuri has also been cancelled over non-compliance with fire safety regulations. The hotel management, however, said it hasn't received any notice.



## CM Rekha visit at Sessions House amid mansion search

**Delhi:** Chief minister Rekha Gupta's recent visit to Sessions House, a lovely home in north Delhi's Civil Lines neighborhood, has alarmed judicial personnel. Gupta is looking for government housing. She visited the British-era cottage at 2 North End Road. Tis Hazari Court, the chief district and sessions judge, is renovating the enormous building. "The judiciary reveres Sessions House bungalow. Treating district courts this way is wrong. "Respect and preserve this house's legacy," stated a district court senior judge. Sessions House sits on nearly two acres and features a seminar and judicial hall, six-room residence complex, servant quarters, and grounds. According to a top Delhi government official, CM Gupta has considered numerous government bungalows over the past few weeks but has not decided on her



### ONLY 45% OF CAPITAL BWG COMPOST WET WASTE

**Delhi:** The MCD has identified Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), which include large establishments like hospitals, hotels, and commercial buildings, as crucial in managing wet waste. A significant portion of Delhi's solid waste is wet waste, which, if properly managed through composting, can reduce the volume of landfill waste. The MCD has a responsibility to ensure the proper disposal of solid waste, including wet waste. The city generates a substantial amount of solid waste daily (around 11,000 tonnes), but only a portion of it is processed. The Supreme Court has criticized the MCD for its failure to implement the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and for not adequately

but AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal received a huge property at 6, Flagstaff Road in Civil Lines. image.png

## Court issued notices to the Enforcement Directorate

**Delhi :** Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has moved a Delhi court seeking a no-objection certificate (NOC) to renew his expired passport. Kejriwal, who is currently an accused in the Delhi excise policy case, has requested a 10-year renewal. His passport expired in 2018. Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh of the Rouse Avenue Court issued notices to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), asking them to file their replies when the matter is scheduled for next hearing. At the same hearing, the CBI informed the court that it



was prepared to begin arguments on framing charges in the corruption case related to the now-defunct Delhi Excise Policy for 2021–22. The CBI is handling the corruption investigation, while the ED is probing the linked money laundering allegations under the same FIR. In a separate but related development, the Delhi High

Court granted permission to businessman Amit Arora — another accused in the same case, to travel to Dubai between June 6 and June 16. Arora, director of Gurugram-based Buddy Retail Pvt Ltd, had requested the court to allow him to travel, citing the need for medical treatment for himself and his minor son.

### About 18% of Indians can report e-crimes

**Delhi:** Indian internet usage is reaching saturation, but only 18% of Indians know how to report cybercrimes, a government survey released found. Smartphone and mobile data use is higher among younger people. Despite frequent use (most respondents used the internet everyday), the poll found that even

young people struggle to create documents and presentations for school and work. However, the gender difference in mobile and internet use, excluding online transactions, is shrinking. The National Statistics Office's Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom (CMS: Telecom) of 34,950 homes in January–March 2025

produced these trends. NSO released the survey results on May 29. NSO last collected data on mobile phone and internet use in the Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) in July 2022–June 2023, which surveyed 3,02,086 households and posed questions about education and financial inclusion.



### DMRC advises against train and station social media reels

**Delhi :** For a safe and seamless ride, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) warned passengers not to make social media videos on its trains. Metro is for travel, not trends. No reels or encouragement next time—a smooth, safe travel is more important than a few seconds of fame. "DMRC post on X. DMRC also posted a poster showing a man singing with a guitar at a metro stop. The poster reads 'No reels on the wheels' and 'Your performance deserves a better stage'.



DMRC posted two more theme-related posters. A girl dances with the message: "Dance like nobody's watching - just not on the metro." The other shows DMRC has posted these posters at many metro stations, advising passengers not to make reels or cause others discomfort. According to Section 59(1) of the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, violators who cause disturbance to fellow passengers or are found inebriated can be fined up to 500.

In addition, violators may lose their money or ticket and be removed from the train or station by metro personnel. Dude with headphones listening to music: "Metro, ek safar hai suhana... jab na ho loud gaana bajana.

## Supreme Court approves south Delhi ridge group housing project

**Delhi :** The Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has approved a group housing project in Vasant Kunj Sector B, Pocket 1 in south Delhi for final approval. CEC stated none of the 23 trees on the proposed project site are being cut, even though 85% of it—4,553 sqm out of 5,353 sqm—is in the morphological ridge, a zone with the same legal safeguards as Delhi's designated ridge areas. CEC further reported to the highest court on May 14 that the area, while part of the morphological ridge, is flat and surrounded by DDA residential development. A private developer is overseeing



ing the project and must not cut or move any trees. CEC inspected 23 trees and found 19 healthy, three dried out, and one rehabilitated after falling. The assessment stated that the project proponent must

plant 500 indigenous trees, 250 along internal routes and 250 along the project's boundary, to compensate for tree destruction. It said a 385-metre-long green barrier must be installed around the site's boundaries.

### Delhi Medical Council informs HC on public awareness campaign

**Delhi:** In response to rising fears of quack medicine and unlicensed practitioners in the nation's capital, the Delhi Medical Council (DMC) has notified the Delhi high court of various methods by which residents can confirm the legitimacy of their physicians. These include scanning QR codes on displayed certificates and making use of the online verification tools that the DMC provides on its website. In December 2023, counsel Sachin Jain petitioned the court, bringing up the issue.

## Over 14 lakh car drivers received traffic challans in 4.5 months

**Delhi :** Car drivers are the top traffic violators in Delhi this year, according to Delhi Police. Between January 1 and May 15, 14,11,801 drivers were cited for traffic violations, topping the list. In contrast, two-wheeler drivers earned 12,72,898 challans, 11% fewer than vehicle drivers. Despite the huge number of two-wheelers on Delhi's roadways, private automobile drivers broke 211.4% more traffic laws than business vans or cars. The report reached Delhi Police headquarters. A senior traffic



police officer noticed that vehicle drivers committed 54.48% more traffic offenses than two-wheelers in . However, the first four-and-a-half months of 2025 show a diminishing margin. While 7,626 HGVs and 7,207 rural vehicles were penalized within the same period, they were the most disciplined road users.

Compared to 29,010 MGVS challans last year, 32,25,769 car drivers were fined in . Other vehicle categories had many violations this year. Commercial vehicles and cars earned 4,53,363 challans, while auto-rickshaws got 3,10,712. LGVs received 2,17,565 challans and HTVs 21,600. Buses got 28,654 chal-

## Apna Ghar Awaas Yojana ' housing program, offering 7,500 apart.

**Delhi :** The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) opened bookings for its 'Apna Ghar Awaas Yojana 2025' housing program, offering 7,500 apartments in Narela, Loknayakpuram, and Siraspur. The first day, May 27, saw 452 units rented in Narela, including 209 EWS, 136 LIG, 3 MIG, and 6 HIG. As well, 37 LIG and 48 MIG units were booked in Loknayakpuram and 13 in Siraspur. The program offers 564 LIG flats in Siraspur, 150 LIG and 96 MIG in Loknayakpuram, and 694 EWS, 5,384 LIG, 386 MIG, and 226 HIG in Narela. The residential flats have



15%–25% discounts across all categories. LIG flats in Loknayakpuram, Narela, and Siraspur would be 25% off, and EWS, MIG, and HIG flats in Narela and Loknayakpuram will be 15% off "officials added. All Indian citizens 18 and older can participate in the first-come, first-served policy. Registrations.

### Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

**The BJP** government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, presented its maiden budget on Tuesday, March 25. Gupta presented 1 lakh crore budget for 2025–26, a 31.56% increase from last year. for the financial year 2025–26, the government has allocated 12,952 crore to improve.

**Delhi:** At Kilokari on Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood launched South Asia's "largest" 20-MW battery energy storage system (BESS). According to BRPL, the system is India's "first commercially approved" utility-scale energy storage system and will improve electricity supply in South Delhi, which has over one lakh inhabitants. The 20-MW (40 MWh) BESS at the BRPL substation in Kilokari is South Asia's "largest" utility-scale system, it stated. It stated the energy storage system can



provide up to four hours of reliable daily power — two hours each day and night — to over one lakh inhabitants in South Delhi's densely populated Kilokari neighborhood. According to the statement, the system improves power supply, grid stability, power purchase costs, peak shaving,

network overloading, and renewable power integration. This project improves grid dependability, especially during peak demand, setting a new norm for urban energy management. The one-year project uses innovative Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) technology for

## This project improves grid dependability, especially during peak demand

### Capital's 3 ISBTS acquire prepaid auto booths

**Delhi:** Officials from the transport department indicated that the three interstate bus terminals (ISBTS) in the Capital may soon acquire prepaid auto stands and that room is being provided for a predetermined number of cars. The government is seeking bids for prepaid stand construction and operation at Sarai Kale Khan, Anand Vihar, and Kashmere Gate ISBTS. "We've noticed that cars are often parked haphazardly outside, and monitoring or assigning spots hasn't helped. The transport department official hopes the prepaid booths will assist get cars in line and reduce traffic outside the ISBTS.

safety, thermal stability, and longevity. The department said the system's temperature-controlled containers work well in Delhi's varied climates, making it perfect for crowded urban.

### The trial run of the Dwarka Expressway-airport tunnel has begun

**Delhi:** There will be a brief trial run of the tunnel connecting the Dwarka Expressway to Indira Gandhi International Airport. Every day from noon to

three o'clock, the tunnel will be accessible to traffic as part of the trial. With eight lanes, the 3.6-kilometer-long tunnel is the largest and longest road tunnel

in India. The Dwarka Expressway project includes it in Package 4. Only 18.9 km of the 29 km expressway is located in Haryana, while the remaining

10.1 km is in Delhi. The Dwarka Expressway tunnel provides a speedier and more direct route to the airport, according to the Gurugram Police.