

Kanwar Yatra: SC directs eateries to display only license & registration info



Divya Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed dhaba and restaurant owners along the Kanwar Yatra route to comply with the Uttar Pradesh government's mandate requiring the display of licence and registration information. "At this stge, all the respective hotel owners shall comply with the mandate of license and registration certificate as required statutorily. We make it clear that we're not going into the issues being argued. The application stands closed", the top court stated in its order, as quoted by ANI. Earlier this year, the Uttar Pradesh government issued an order requiring eateries to display QR codes containing information about their owners. Shortly afterward, the Uttarakhand government issued a similar directive. Last week, the apex court had issued notices to the governments of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Delhi: Now the gold medalist in Olympics will get seven crore

Divya Delhi: Delhi Minister Ashish Sood has made a big announcement for the players who won medals in Olympics and Paralympics. The incentive amount of the winning players has been increased. The Delhi government has taken a historic decision under the Chief Minister Sports Promotion Scheme. Delhi Minister Ashish Sood has informed that the cash reward for the winners of the Olympics has been increased by the government.

a press conference, Minister Ashish Sood said that the player who wins gold in the Olympic Games will be given seven crore rupees, the silver medalist will be given five crore rupees and the bronze medalist will be given three crore rupees. He further said that the gold and silver medalists in the Olympic Games will be given Group A jobs and the bronze medalist will be given Group B jobs by the Delhi government. For information, let us tell you that earlier the players who won medals in Olympics and Paralympics were given three crore, two crore and one crore rupees by the Delhi government. But now under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the incentive amount has been increased.

Shock exit: Dhankhar quits as VP on first day of Parl session

Rajesh Chauhan

Divya Delhi: Congress MP Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday raised questions citing "far deeper reasons" over Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar's sudden resignation, suggesting that a serious development between 1 PM and 4.30 PM on Monday may have triggered the decision. Jairam Ramesh's comments came a day after Dhankhar stepped down, citing health reasons, hours after delivering an address in the Rajya Sabha flagging an impeachment motion against a judge and a incident involving unclaimed cash found in the House. Ramesh in a post on X, claimed that Dhankhar had chaired the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting of the Rajya Sabha at 12.30 PM on Monday, which was attended by several members, including Leader of the House JP Nadda and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. The committee decided to reconvene at 4.30 PM the



same day. "At 4.30 PM, the BAC reassembled under the chairmanship of Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar. It waited for Shri Nadda and Shri Rijiju to arrive. They never came. Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar was not personally informed that the two senior Ministers were not attending. Rightly he took umbrage and rescheduled the BAC for today at 1 PM," Ramesh said. He added, "So something very serious happened yesterday between 1 PM and 4.30 PM to account for the deliberate absence of Shri Nadda and Shri Rijiju. "Describing Dhankhar's resignation as "unprecedented," Ramesh said that while his stated reason of health must be respected, there were "far deeper reasons" behind

the decision. He praised Dhankhar for speaking "fearlessly for the welfare of farmers," criticising what he termed "ahankar" in public life, and for demanding judicial accountability. "He was a stickler for norms, proprieties, and protocol, which he believed were being consistently disregarded in both his capacities," Ramesh said, adding, "Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation speaks highly of him. It also speaks poorly of those who had got him elected as Vice President in the first instance." Dhankhar's resignation came shortly after he addressed the Rajya Sabha, confirming receipt of a motion seeking the removal of a high court judge.

Lok Sabha-Rajya Sabha proceedings fell prey to uproar

New Delhi. On the second day of the monsoon session of Parliament, on Tuesday, the proceedings of both the houses were adjourned for the day after being adjourned twice due to the uproar of the opposition. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju requested the opposition to let the house function and

said that the government is ready to discuss according to their demands.

Still the opposition is adopting double standards. Parliamentary Affairs Minister requested the opposition to let the house function after two adjournments in the Lok Sabha.

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Shashikant Shinde succeeds Jayant as Maha NCP-SP leader

Divya Delhi: Former minister Shashikant Shinde became Sharad Pawar's NCP Maharashtra unit president. His predecessor, Jayant Patil, was dismissed after seven years. The state executive committee meeting of the party that chose the new governor made the decision. The party leadership shift comes ahead of important local body elections in a few months. Former Mathadi (headloaders) union leader Shinde must resuscitate the party after its humiliating defeat in the November state legislature elections. After taking over the party's state unit, Shinde launched a month-long tour. The party leadership move comes two years after a vertical split split it into two parts. Most prominent leaders allied with Ajit Pawar, who joined the BJP-led Mahayuti cabinet. "In one month, I will tour the state and recruit young Maharashtra-serving people into



Coalition to secure TN elections, AIADMK to establish government

Divya Delhi: The AIADMK and the BJP, the two main opposition parties in Tamil Nadu, are still at odds about how the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would be formed into a government if it were to win the state assembly elections in 2026. The AIADMK's general secretary and opposition leader, Edappadi Palaniswami (EPS), reaffirmed his opposition to the formation of a coalition government by the NDA led by the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday, contra-

dicting what Union home minister Amit Shah had previously indicated. In reaction to Shah's comments, EPS stated, "Our alliance will win but the AIADMK will form the government independently." They went on to say, "It is the AIADMK that leads this alliance."

Thus, I have made up my mind. , the BJP has made it clear that I will be the chief minister. Am I missing anything? According to EPS, Shah only said that the alliance will constitute the government.

the party. In his inaugural address as state president, Shinde stat-

Punjab, Maharashtra Enforcement Directorate raids de-addiction centers

Divya Delhi : "The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided multiple locations in Punjab apart from some in Mumbai as part of a money-laundering investigation linked to" unlawful "sale of drugs by private de-addiction centres in the northern State," sources said. Punjab Police filed FIRs against doctor Amit Bansal, a pharmaceutical business, a drugs inspector, and others, prompting the federal probe.

Sources say Amit Bansal runs 22 Punjab drug rehab centers. "The raids are being conducted in Chandigarh, Ludhiana and Barnala in Punjab and in Mumbai,



Maharashtra, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)," stated. According to sources, the Punjab government has entrusted private de-addiction centers like Bansal's to deliver BNX (Buprenorphine/Naloxone) to patients to help them quit narcotics. They observed that "excess" amounts of drug rehabilitation drugs

were being used for a "new kind of drug abuse". Bansal "misused" his de-addiction centers and sold "illegal" pharmaceuticals, sources said. Rupinder Kaur, a pharmaceuticals inspector, is being searched for helping Bansal transmit an inaccurate inspection report about medicine theft from his institutions, sources said.

Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Lucknow cleanest; Indore joins 'Super Swachh League'

Divya Delhi : The Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Awards named Ahmedabad the cleanest city in the one-million population category, followed by Bhopal, Lucknow, Raipur, and Jabalpur. Indore, Surat, Navi Mumbai, and Vijayawada, another

consistent million-population top performer, have been named Super Swachh League (SSL) cities along with Indore, which has been the cleanest city in this category for seven years. Ahmedabad won 12,079 of 12,500 points, followed by Bhopal and

Lucknow with 12,067 and 12,001. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) placed 31st with 7,920 points out of 12,500, while Mumbai placed 33rd with 7,419 points. Bengaluru and Chennai, 36th 38th, received 6,842 6,822 points.

Indian authorities cannot authorize foreign kid adoption: HC

Divya Delhi : The Bombay high court ruled that the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and adoption regulations do not allow Indian couples to adopt foreign children, even if related. While dismissing a petition by a Pune-based couple, the division bench of justices Revati Mohite Dere and Neela Gokhale stated that the JJ Act and adoption regulations do not allow relatives to adopt a foreign-citizen child unless it is a 'child in need of care and protection' or a 'child in conflict with law'. The 2011-married couple sought to adopt the woman's sister's six-year-old kid in the US. They petitioned the Pune district court to adopt their 'relative'



because Muslims have no adoption statute. While their plea was pending in district court in 2024, the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) refused to register them as prospective adoptive parents or issue a pre-approval letter because the 2022 adoption regulations did not allow American citizen adoption. A couple approached the high court.

Advocate Shirin Merchant, representing the couple, argued that the adoption was an in-country adoption because both the adoptive and biological parents were Indian citizens. The JJ Act defines "in-country" adoption as adoption "by a citizen of India, residing in India" and allows relatives to adopt, Merchant added. However, CARA's position that neither

Police in Noida will design a 4-kilometer Kanwar Yatra route

Divya Delhi: In Noida, devotees will embark on a four-kilometer journey that begins at Mayur Vihar, continues past the Shani Temple and the Okhla Bird Sanctuary, and ends at Kalindi Kunj. According to the police, in preparation for next week's Kanwar Yatra, they have devised a strategy for traffic control to ease the journey of Kanwar pilgrims via Noida on their route to Delhi and Faridabad. The four-kilometer journey that pilgrims will take in Noida begins at Mayur Vihar and ends at Kalindi Kunj, stopping at Shani Temple and the Okhla Bird Sanctuary.

Tamil Nadu jails will be more accessible for inmates with impairments

Divya Delhi: All jails in Tamil Nadu must have handicap-friendly facilities, including accessible restrooms, ramps, and other such features, according to instructions given by the Supreme Court for inmates with impairments. A two-judge Bench of the highest court, consisting of Justices R Mahadevan and JB Pardiwala, state that "the denial of accessibility and essential care to persons with disabilities incarcerated in prisons amounts to violation of fundamental rights under Articles 14 (right

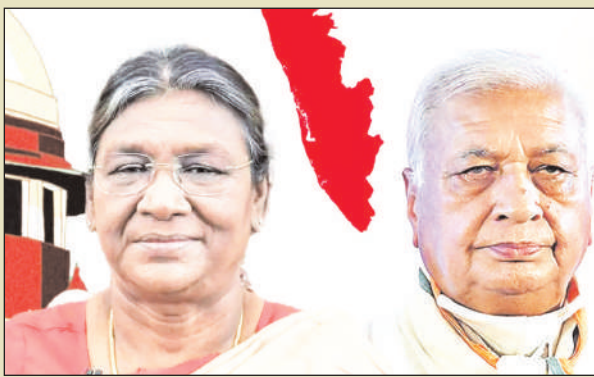


to equality) and 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution.". In a case involving allegations of custodial torture and inadequate medical care while detained in a prison in Tamil Nadu, the physically crippled advocate L Muruganantham filed an appeal, and the top court heard his case and issued the ruling. The State was

ordered by the Supreme Court to revise the State Prison Manual within six months so that it conforms to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPwD Act), among other requirements, in order to ensure that inmates with disabilities have access to healthcare and to maintain their dignity.

Kerala's Pending Prez References Should Not Be Withheld

Divya Delhi : There is an ongoing Presidential reference that has asked for clarification on the dates that the President and the Governor are expected to act on bills that are presented for their consent, so the Centre disagrees with the Kerala government's decision to withdraw its petitions to the Supreme Court that challenge the Governor's delay in approving important bills. The case was adjourned until July 25 by a panel of justices PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar following a request for extension by the Centre's attorney general, R Venkataramani. Nevertheless, the court made it clear that the state had every authority to withdraw its petitions and that this decision cannot be challenged. If the state wishes to withdraw, that is their right, but we can't



To evade e-challans, Gurugram police utilize tapes and scratches

Divya Delhi : A troubling trend is developing within the ranks of the police force in Gurugram, even as they crack down on regular commuters for faulty or missing number plates. There have been reports of multiple police officers driving around with their license plates partially covered, typically with tape, paper, or even scratches, in an effort to evade the city's extensive system of automated number plate recognition and red-light violation detection cameras. Vehicles parked at various sites, such as the Gurugram Police Commissioner's office, the Traffic Tower in Sushant Lok, and the Anti-Corruption Bureau office in Sector 47, frequently have modified number plates. Cars and motorcycles with license plates that were either folded, scratched, or covered in some other way made it impossible for the security cameras .

seem to get behind it. "What are our options?" the bench inquired. Our position is being made plain: there can be no resistance to withdrawal, at least tentatively, according to the bench.

J&K BJP Leader Named Lt Governor Ladakh, Haryana, Goa Get New Governors

Divya Delhi : Former Jammu and Kashmir deputy chief minister and civil aviation minister Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju was appointed governor of Goa . New Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder

Gupta. An official statement named West Bengal BJP leader Ashim Kumar Ghosh Haryana's new governor. It stated the appointments will take effect when they take over their offices. The senior

Andhra Pradesh Telugu Desam Party (TDP) politician Raju will succeed P S Sreedharan Pillai as Goa Governor. Goa Governor Pillai took office on July 15, 2021. Raju (74) was Narendra

Modi's civil aviation minister from May 27, 2014 to March 10, 2018. He was also an Andhra Pradesh minister. Senior Jammu and Kashmir BJP leader Gupta is the new Ladakh LG.

Nitish to give Bihar residents 125 free power units

Divya Delhi : Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar stated that up to 125 units of electricity would be free for consumers before the State assembly election. Early this morning, Mr. Kumar posted this on 'X'. Since the outset, we've offered affordable electricity to everyone. We've determined that all State domestic consumers would pay nothing for power up to 125 units starting August 1, 2025, with the July bill. Mr. Kumar wrote that 1.67 crore State families will benefit.

'Invasion' by 'one religion' will stop, says Assam CM Hemanta Biswa Sarma

Divya Delhi: After four years of unwaveringly "resisting" what Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma characterized as a "invasion," Assam has successfully reclaimed 160sq km of forest and other government-owned land from illegal Muslim settlers. This region is larger than Chandigarh and accounts for nearly 75 percent of Guwahati. According to Sharma, the BJP government's campaign to remove illegal squatters from 1.19 lakh bighas since May 2021 is about



restoring land that is vital to the existence of indigenous tribes and other people, but it is also about maintaining the state's demographic.

There is a common religion among all the invaders of our land. According to Sharma, "jati-mati-bheti" (identity, land, and home-steads) have been the

focus of their efforts. "There is still a long way to go, as more than 63 lakh bighas are still under encroachment." Goalpara, a district in lower Assam where evictions have taken place, was the site of a protest that the CPM had planned at the same time as the chief minister's statements. "Working in the interest of corporations" and "against citizens" were the accusations leveled by the CPM as they pertain to the BJP government.

Delhi has extended its electric vehicle policy until November

Divya Delhi : Delhi government has decided to extend the deadline for its Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy by four months, bringing it to November 15. This decision was made since a draft of the policy is currently being reviewed and is awaiting clearance. According to Pankaj Singh, the minister of transport, the document is currently undergoing revisions and will likely be finalized in at least four months. For the time being, we have prolonged the present policy until November 15 and may do so again if needed, he stated. In order to make sure that everyone may enjoy a cleaner, more sustainable transportation system, we are talking to professionals and looking into all possible possibilities. An increase in EV registrations and a general uptick in interest have been observed recently. The present electric vehicle policy has been extended multiple



Delhi government plans to revamp the DTC

Divya Delhi : To ensure that residents of the nation's capital have access to first-rate public transportation, the Delhi government has begun a massive renovation of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC). A press release states that this effort would soon deploy smart travel cards, restructure bus routes, modernize interstate bus terminals (ISBTs), and revamp bus queue shelters (BQSSs) to be more pleasant and high-tech. During a high-level review meeting of the Transport Department on Tuesday, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta stated that the goal of providing Delhi with first-rate public transportation will soon come to fruition under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

times since its inception in 2020 and its expiration in August 2023. At present, e-

rickshaws and e-carts can receive a 25% purchase incentive up to 5,500.

New Delhi Solar Energy Policy: Subsidy Tripling

Divya Delhi : The Delhi Solar Energy Policy, 2023 was revised by the Delhi government, which meant that families may receive a subsidy of up to ₹10,000 per kW for rooftop solar systems that did not exceed 3 kW, with a cap of ₹30,000 per consumer. A new capital subsidy for resident welfare associations and group housing societies was also introduced by the amendment. Solar systems for shared facilities, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, can now be purchased for up to 500 kW for these companies for ₹2,000 per kW. Another model that was improved by the



regulation was the RESCO model, which is a financing structure where developers own and finance solar installations. Removing the requirement for upfront investment and streamlining the billing process through distribution companies, the revised model proposes that

consumers pay the RESCO developer through their regular electricity bills. With application data obtained from either the Delhi Solar Portal or the National Rooftop Solar Portal of the PM Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana, users will have their subsidies sent

Athal canteens in Delhi will offer meals for 5 per plate by December

Divya Delhi : The government of Delhi is getting ready to open 100 Athal Canteens around the city. These canteens will provide meals for around Rs 5 each plate. The initiative's target population consists of daily wage workers and the urban poor, and it

intends to supply them with affordable and healthy food at 100 sites, primarily in areas surrounding large construction projects and clusters of slums. The government is aiming to finish a number of projects by December, the birthdate of former

prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee—in whose honour the canteens are named according to senior officials. The establishment of these canteens throughout the nation's capital was funded by chief minister and minister of finance Rekha Gupta.

CM Rekha Gupta announces 600 cr. central money for Delhi development

Divya Delhi : Chief Minister Rekha Gupta promised ₹600 crore in Central support for Delhi government development projects by July end, following a meeting with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Infrastructure and municipal projects in the Capital, including traffic management, drainage systems, renewable energy efforts, and waste management reforms, will be expedited with SASCI funds. The Chief Minister's Office said it will shortly submit a formal allocation recommendation to the Union Ministry of Finance. SASCI, launched in 2020-21, provides 50-year,



interest-free loans to States and Union Territories for capital expenditure. The scheme's grant to Delhi is likely to boost infrastructure projects in the government's current budget. Ms. Gupta

said the government wants to make Delhi a world-class metropolis and will implement the project fully. Delhi is India's cultural, administrative, and economic center as well as its capital.

A New Blood Donor App Is Coming Soon to Delhi

Divya Delhi : Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that the city will soon release an app listing blood donors who are willing to donate their blood voluntarily. A blood donation camp in the Anand Vihar area was the site of the announcement, given by Ms. Gupta. "Details of those who intend to donate blood will soon be available on a blood donor app. "Details about their blood type, when they last donated, and whether they are eligible to donate again .

Delhi's hotels and restaurants no longer need police NOCs

Divya Delhi : Hotels, restaurants, discotheques, amusement parks, and auditoriums in the Capital will no longer need permission or NOCs from the Delhi Police. Recent order by L-G V K Saxena removed Delhi Police sanction power in such instances. The Delhi Police's Licensing Branch would now exclusively issue guns and explosives licenses, the directive added. L-G Saxena issued an order rescinding the sanction granted to the Commissioner of



Police, Delhi, for issuing regulations under Section 28 (1) of the Delhi Police Act, 1978, covering the seven activities listed in Para 1. These include hotels, pools, restaurants, discotheques, video game parlours, amusement parks, and auditoriums. L-G ordered the

Commissioner of Police to issue notification "repealing the said regulations with immediate effect". The order added, "The repeal notification shall be given wide publicity by Delhi Police and the Home Department." The decision stated that the Centre in pursuit of "minimum government and maximum governance" had reduced various licensing regimes in states and Union Territories (UTs) and urged simplified licensing procedures.

In order to alleviate waterlogging, MCD sets up 79 pumping stations

Divya Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) ramped up its monsoon readiness by launching 465 mobile pumps with different capacities and setting up 79 permanent pumping stations around the city to reduce the risk of flooding. In order to respond quickly during periods of severe rains, additional portable pumps were strategically put in sensitive regions across all 12 zones, according to MCD standing committee chairperson Satya Sharma. Her remarks followed criticism from the opposition, who said that MCD had failed to adequately prepare for the flooding that had resulted on the roads' potholes. If the Indraprastha Vikas Party's Mukesh



Goel wants to make sure that inner roads are safe from potential flooding on main highways, he needs to get the PWD on board. Sharma further said that control centers were set up in each zone so that field operations could be coordinated and public complaints could be handled instantly. "Response teams, comprising junior engineers and support staff, were stationed round the clock,"

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. In the budget for the financial year 2025-26, the government has allocated 12,952 crore to improve Delhi's public transport system. It has allocated 1,000 crore to improve the connectivity of Delhi with the NCR region.

Take a stand against stray dogs by feeding them inside: SC backs a petition

Divya Delhi : Bench members expressed alarm over the increasing incidence of stray dog attacks on people, bicycles, and early risers during a Supreme Court hearing into a petition seeking designated areas for community dogs to eat. The focus then shifted to public safety.

Reema Shah of Noida's Gautam Budh Nagar submitted the plea, which asked for guidance on how to find open, designated spaces in the city where community canines may be fed without



causing conflicts. Although the court recognized the petitioner's good intentions, it stressed the dangers of wandering dogs in public areas and emphasized that the "cruelty faced by the common man" must also be con-

sidered. Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta inquired, "Do you go cycling in the morning?"

With an air of formality. The court advised that one should "try it one day and see what happens" when riding a

Parents asked to update Aadhaar biometrics of kids aged between 5 & 7

Divya Delhi: The Unique Identification Authority of India has urged parents to update the Aadhaar biometrics of children between five and seven years. "Timely completion of mandatory biometric update is an essential requirement for maintaining the accuracy and reliability of biometric data of children. If the MBU is not completed even after seven years of age, the Aadhaar number may be deactivated, as per the existing rules," the agency said in a statement. This is required to ensure seamless access to school admissions, entrance exams and other benefits such as direct benefit transfer, it added.

bike or two-wheeler, particularly on vacant streets where aggressive dogs are common.

"These animals have space, but humans don't," the bench said.

It is possible to return to the drawing board with Master Plan 2041

Divya Delhi: Would it be necessary to start over with the Delhi 2041 Master Plan draft? Master Plan 2041 is back in the spotlight after being put on the back burner for over two years after the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) submitted the draft to the Centre for notification and



implementation. The govern-

ment of Delhi met behind closed doors to pore over the document's sections, which lay out the groundwork for the city's future infrastructure and urban planning. DDA briefed chief minister Rekha Gupta, cabinet members, and high-ranking officials in the Delhi government on the draft

in great detail. The Delhi secretariat is expected to have more discussions over the paper, but according to sources, the officers were requested to provide comments on various parts of the plan. "Depending on the nature of inputs received from various departments, we may

Editorial

Punjab govt must take Centre into confidence on new anti-sacrilege bill

The Aam Aadmi Party-led Punjab government has tabled the Punjab Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scripture(s) Bill, 2025 which was discussed in the Assembly on Tuesday amidst ruckus and then referred to a select committee. It might take about six months for the committee to send the bill back to the Assembly for clearing and then to the governor for approval. If the bill is referred to the Union government, then it would be another year before it finally becomes an Act. Earlier governments — the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) coalition government and the Congress government headed by Captain Amarinder Singh — had also brought similar bills which were found to be insufficient to meet the demands of the situation and hence junked. The new anti-sacrilege bill is said to have taken note of the shortcomings of the earlier bills and is hence more comprehensive, secular, and sufficiently stringent to be a deterrence for sacrilege offences considered very serious in the state. Meanwhile, 42-year-old Gurjeet Singh Khalsa, supposedly a non-political activist, has been staging a protest on top of a BSNL mobile tower in Punjab's Samana since October 2024 demanding an anti-sacrilege law. Though not widely reported in the mainstream media, such protests should be handled deftly by the government, lest it rakes up discontents of the past. In fact, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), under Sections 298, 299, and 300, already provides stringent punishments for religious offences. Punjab government as well as the activists who are protesting for a new law against sacrilege of religious texts are of the view that the provisions of the current Union laws are not stringent enough. Incidentally, the bill inadvertently equates the Bhagavad Gita with the holy books of other faiths, which may trigger a controversy. The bill could be amended to also include other religious texts considered holy by a vast majority of Hindus and/or be worded appropriately to capture the essence of all holy books of all faiths without naming any of them. Needless to say, the issue is a complex one. Going by the text of the present bill, albeit a short one, there are sufficient indications to suggest that adequate care has been taken to make the acts of sacrilege a serious offence inviting harsh punishments. But it is not clear why these provisions could not be added to the existing Sections of the BNS. After all, the BNS is an all-India law that applies equally to all states and all faiths. The AAP-led Punjab government appears to have not consulted the Union government or had any discussions with the Union Law Ministry on this issue. What should be of concern are the possibilities of other states following suit and enacting separate laws to suit the political environment of respective states citing the Punjab bill as a precedent. In a federal setup, the Constitution allows states to enact sufficient laws to maintain law and order and preserve religious harmony through stringent punishments for offences involving religious practices, texts, icons, and symbols. There have been instances of religious books being vandalised, places of worship desecrated, and statues of widely revered socio-political leaders popular among certain communities damaged. Another aspect of concern should be the misuse of any law, however sincere the intentions of the lawmakers might be. The anti-sacrilege bill may have good intentions, but there is hardly any guarantee that such a law will not become a tool for miscreants wanting to drive a wedge between communities and followers of different faiths in the state. In a politically volatile border state where religious fault lines have been exploited by extreme elements bent on hurting the unity and integrity of the country, the state government needs to be extra vigilant and take the Union government into confidence at every stage.



India's TRP ecosystem needs a reset. Time to end BARC monopoly



Television advertising revenues have been in freefall, declining from Rs 334 billion to Rs 294 billion in just two years. Twelve per cent of the brands that used TV to reach the masses in 2023 adopted a different distribution medium in 2024. Despite this, the TV industry continues to expand its offerings. DD Free Dish, a state-run distribution platform that requires only a one-time installation fee and no subscription charges, added both consumers and channels last year. The number of Free-to-Air channels on TV that recover costs from advertising is also increasing. Clearly, there is a disconnect between broadcasters' and advertisers' assessment of the true value of India's 160 million-household-strong TV market. At the heart of this mismatch is a measurement gap that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) is now trying to resolve through reforms to TV ratings guidelines. The MIB is in the process of amending the 2014 television ratings guidelines that led to the accreditation of the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to measure the relative popularity of TV channels. This much-needed proposal aims to end BARC's monopoly and allow additional entities to conduct TV ratings,

which can revitalise TV advertising. Before BARC, TAM (Television Audience Measurement)—a joint media research venture by Kantar and Nielsen—tracked what India watched. But India is a large country, and TAM could only place meters to measure audience preferences in a limited number of households, that too mostly in urban areas. As a solution, broadcasters, advertisers, and media agencies came together in 2010 to form BARC, which was empanelled by the MIB and started operations in 2015. BARC roped in TAM for back-end technological expertise and rejigged sampling methods. When BARC was rolled out, it measured 12,000 out of the 145 million TV households in India.

This was still only 0.008 per cent. Panel sizes have grown over the years to 55,000, but BARC continues to use the same data-collection methods. Watch time is measured in clock minutes through audio-watermarking tech-

nology that detects the channel being viewed. Before watching, each family member in a metered household must press a button to indicate whether they are an adult or a child, and to record their gender. They must press the same button again when they stop viewing. This approach rests on the optimistic assumption that viewers comply every time they switch channels. Meanwhile, the global media landscape has been moving ahead with qualitative, platform-agnostic measurement tools enabled by big data, advanced meter technologies, and more demographically inclusive panels. Advertisers rely on BARC's single measurement currency, Television Rating Point (TRP), which estimates the duration and frequency of viewership. These ratings help them determine which channels attract the most viewers and where to spend their ad budgets. There are no alternative estimates to go by. In con-

trast, financial institutions can access data from seven credit rating agencies to determine the creditworthiness of a borrower. There are a dozen or more agencies that news channels can commission for exit poll surveys of elections. A one-agency, one-currency system also leaves TV audience measurement vulnerable to manipulation. The first complaints of TRP manipulation emerged in 2018, when Hansa Research — the entity that installs meters for audience measurement — filed a police complaint alleging that households were being paid to watch a particular channel. Later, in 2020, the TRP scam implicated broadcasters and former officials at BARC, with allegations of manipulation dating back to 2016, according to an audit report that Mumbai Police received from BARC. The council suspended ratings for three months, but the damage had already been done: advertisers had lost trust in the TRP system, and some broadcasters exited BARC. Other mature media markets have gone through challenges involved in relying on a single entity to track consumer attention across platforms, devices, and demographics, and have therefore transitioned to 'multi-currency models' that allow multi-

ple measurement providers to coexist. Ad-industry bodies in the US, such as the Video Advertising Bureau and the Television Bureau of Advertising, encourage alternative measurement providers. Even in Singapore, where the TV market is smaller than those in India and the US, multiple agencies operate. A ratings monopoly in India has led to a lack of technological variation, resulting in sluggish systems detached from market dynamics. The rationale for MIB's latest move is therefore strong, and if advertisers can choose between multiple measurement providers, they will gain access to sharper audience data and become more confident in their fiscal planning. This policy rejig also makes room for multi-stakeholder collaborations between distributors with last-mile reach and specialist measurement companies. The resulting competition will drive improvements in advertisers' access to quality data.

The ministry should allow the players to freely collaborate, and the best measurement models to emerge in the market. Even as advertising revenue dwindles, TV in India is far from its swan song. This year, 169 million people tuned in to the Indian Premier League final on TV.

India's solar ambition needs financial vision – ISA must move from commitments to execution

As the world confronts the realities of climate change and energy insecurity, solar energy presents itself not merely as a technological solution but as a transformative geopolitical and developmental strategy. The International Solar Alliance is uniquely positioned to catalyse this transformation. But to succeed, it must go beyond declarations. It must now design and implement financial architectures capable of supporting its ambitions. The potential of solar energy is undeniable. It is modular, scalable, and increasingly cost-effective. Yet, for the nations most abundant in sunlight, finance remains a key constraint. The International Energy Agency estimates that clean energy investments in emerging economies must rise from \$770 billion in 2022 to over \$2.2 trillion annually by 2030. A significant portion of this must be allocated to solar energy. However, the fiscal realities of many countries—either still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, burdened by debt, or struggling to cope with press-

ing social needs—limit the ability of governments to invest at scale. India's experience illustrates this well. Despite policy successes in solar deployment, the government's ability to directly invest in grid infrastructure or generation assets is capped by fiscal deficit targets and debt ceilings. Even green bonds, while helpful, are bound by ring-fenced rules and are limited in scale. Public financing, therefore, can only act as a catalytic lever—it cannot be the backbone. Turning to the private sector, we find both potential and limitations. Many solar developers operate on highly leveraged balance sheets, and with rising global interest rates, the space for fresh capital is narrowing. Moreover, risks such as currency volatility, regulatory uncertainty, and weak transmission infrastructure dampen investor appetite, especially in frontier markets. Private capital is crucial but requires structured entry points, credible exit mechanisms, and active risk mitigation to be effective.

Trump's sanctions have failed to deter Russia. Now the West faces a dilemma

Last week, Russia once again pulled the nuclear weapon threat out of its sleeves, two days after US President Donald Trump — following his meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte — threatened to impose 100 per cent secondary tariffs on Moscow if it doesn't reach a deal with Kyiv in 50 days. Trump also confirmed that "top-of-the-line" weapons, including the Patriot missile defence system and batteries, would be sent to Ukraine in an operation coordinated by NATO members. Russia's newly updated nuclear doctrine apparently allows Moscow to use nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear weapon state that is supported by a nuclear one, unsettling deterrence dynamics in Europe. Though Trump's about-turn on the Russia-Ukraine war might bring some sigh of relief in Kyiv, Moscow's counter-threats echo a Biden-era tit-for-tat escalation when Washington's no-holds-barred support for Ukraine's war efforts was met with Moscow's nuclear threats. The question is: will Trump's threats be enough to affect any change in Russia's behaviour? Or will such threats be counter-productive, embolden Putin's hand, and give him more ammunition to project a Russia reclaiming its lost status of parity with the US and standing up to the combined might of the Western alliance? Sanctions are meant to bite, and not just bark. They are coercive economic tools that the US and its Western allies have often used as a default policy to punish adversaries. However, do they really affect consequential changes in a country's behaviour as expected? In the case of Russia, sanctions have won tactical gains, but have failed to achieve the desired strategic goals. US-led Western sanctions have hit Russia since 2014, when the latter annexed Crimea from Ukraine after the Maidan Square event. Though Russia has seen rising infla-

tion, labour shortage, and devaluation of its currency, the sanctions have had too little impact to make Moscow kowtow. On the contrary, the Central Bank of the Russian Federation has kept the key rate at 21.5 per cent per annum, indicating that inflation and economic growth are relatively stable under the current circumstances. The Russian stock exchange market has also continued to grow despite Trump's warnings. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecasted Russia's growth rate in 2025 at 1.5 per cent while the Russian Economic Development Ministry has kept it at 2.5 per cent. This month, the US Senate tabled additional sanctions on Russia, calling them a 'sledgehammer'.

Sanctions on Russia will also impact countries that trade with Russia in oil, gas, uranium, and other products. Such secondary sanctions on third countries are reportedly proposed to touch 500 per cent. Some US lawmakers are even hinting at the US, together with its European allies, accessing frozen Russian assets, including the \$5 billion located in the US, to dent Russia's warfighting resources and utilise the money in Ukraine's reconstruction.

Editor
Rajesh Chauhan
rajeshchauhan4569@gmail.com
Advertisement
Shivani
Kaurjagjeekaur018@gmail.com
Layout & Design
Dheeraj Mishra
dheerajmishra011@gmail.com
Printed, Published and Owned by
Rajesh Chauhan, Paschim Vihar,
Delhi-110063,
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New Delhi-110020.
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Critical minerals are the new oil. India can't afford to depend on China

Critical minerals have now become instruments of geopolitical bargaining and means to assert domestic autonomy and security. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Argentina and meeting with Chilean President, Gabriel Boric, the two legs of the lithium triangle, on the sidelines of the recently held BRICS summit in Brazil, were strategically aimed at exploring cooperation and engagement on critical minerals. At the Summit, Modi warned against the weaponization of critical minerals and stressed the need to

work together to make supply chains secure and reliable. Other global leaders have also echoed similar concerns at the G20, Quad, and BRICS summits, and have discussed collaborating to secure and diversify critical mineral supply chains. Currently, India is heavily dependent on imports for critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements (REE). Much of this supply comes through re-export channels, which creates a third-level dependency while exposing us to potential supply shocks and strategic coercion.

Mineral security is no longer just an economic concern but a national security imperative, underpinning the country's ambitions in clean energy, defence self-reliance, and advanced manufacturing. Globally, China holds roughly 62 per cent of lithium refining capacity, 33 per cent for nickel, 77 per cent for cobalt, 87 per cent for graphite, and 76 per cent for REEs, according to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2025. This underscores China's overwhelming dominance in supply

chains, even though it does not host most raw material reserves. Compared to 2023, India's lithium imports from China surged by roughly 921 per cent in 2024, while graphite imports rose 85 per cent between 2022 and 2024 and Nickel imports jumped 137 per cent in 2024. Such dominance gives Beijing an asymmetric leverage over supply chains vital to clean-tech sectors and key defence applications, including advanced electronics, missile systems, and communication technologies. As a result, securing reliab

SBI plans to raise a Rs 45,000 crore in a mix of stock

Divya Delhi : Capital markets are expected to generate Rs 45,000 crore for the biggest lender in the nation, SBI. This week, the largest equity issue of its sort in the Indian market will occur, with Rs 25,000 crore coming through a qualified institutional placement (QIP). The issue would dilute equity by 3.3% at the present market valuation of around Rs 7.4 lakh crore. Following shareholder approval on June 13 and board approval on May 3, the bank started the share sale. In accordance with the SBI Act and its General Regulations, the shares will be issued having a face value of Re 1.



Up until now, the biggest equity fundraising under QIP has been Coal India's 2015 Rs 22,560 crore offering. When fully subscribed, SBI's placement will surpass this. The offer's floor price, determined using Sebi's pricing formula, is Rs 811.05 per share. This amount can be reduced by as much as 5% by the bank. The book-running lead managers will be consulted to decide the ultimate pricing.

The PM SHRI Institute
Divya Delhi: The Government of India is a major backer of SHRI School. Every student should feel welcomed and cared for in more than 14,500 PM SHRI Schools managed by the Central Government, State Government, UT Government, and local bodies like KVS and NVS. These schools should also provide a safe and stimulating learning environment, a variety of learning opportunities, and adequate physical infrastructure and resources that help students learn.

Stricter bad loan policy cuts Axis Bank profit 4%.

Divya Delhi : A steep surge in provisions lowered Axis Bank's net profit to Rs 5,806 crore in the quarter ended June 2025, down 4%. The bank described a one-time accounting adjustment as a "technical impact" or internal recalibration of their poor credit categorization, which increased provisions. This modification affected cash credit, overdraft, and one-time cleared accounts, causing Rs 2,709 crore in slippages. That alone prompted Rs 821 crore in provisions. Without



this, quarter provisions would have been Rs 3,127 crore instead of Rs 3,948 crore. The bank called this hit a "prudential application" of regulatory standards, not a decrease in asset quality. Gross non-performing assets rose 29

basis points quarter-on-quarter to 1.57% after the policy change. Net NPAs rose 12 basis points to 0.45%. A technical recalibration hurt headline profit, while revenue, loan book, and fee income grew more evenly.

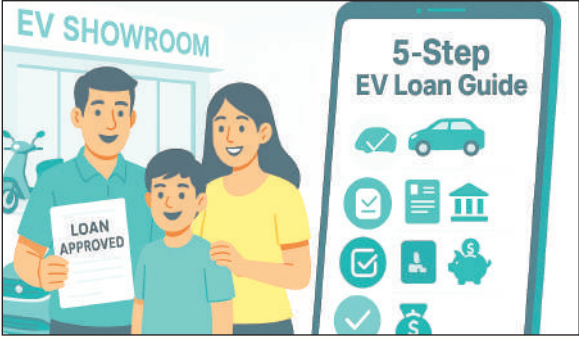
RIL makes record profit amid oil decline, sets clean energy outlook

Divya Delhi : India's most valuable company, Reliance Industries Ltd., surpassed predictions to register a strong increase in revenue and profit for the April-June quarter, driven by better telecoms and retail profitability despite crude-based difficulties. Profits from its Asian

Paints disposal also boosted the bottom line. According to an investor presentation, Reliance's new energy business's production plants—which will drive its growth over the next decade—are being commissioned quickly. The new energy business would create solar mod-

ules, generate clean electricity from them, use electrons to run data centres, and make hydrogen, ammonia, and aviation fuel. Reliance did not provide timescales. Reliance Industries' oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business's operating profit fell in the first quarter.

Modern electric vehicle lenders ramp up battery loans



Divya Delhi: When early indicators of scale appear in an industry that was previously considered too specialized or hazardous for institutional investors, a slew of new companies and financiers are changing the way electric commercial vehicles (EVs) are financed in India. Financing arrangements are being adjusted by lenders to accommodate the economics of electric vehicles and the credit realities of small business operators. This includes models such as first-loss guarantee partnerships, flexible EMIS, and battery subscription models. Modern methods are now able to meet the unique requirements of EVs. Battery subscriptions are offered by some lenders. Instead of paying for the entire cost of the battery up front, purchasers pay for it as they use it, similar to fuel. For driver-owners whose wages are unpredictable, there are options that offer adjustable EMIs that change depending on how much the car is used. Another way that startups are collaborating with NBFCs is through first-loss guarantee (FLDG) structures. This allows startups to de-risk lending to consumers without formal credit records by covering a percentage of the defaults. When it comes to financing electric vehicle chassis and batteries, VidyutTech is in the vanguard. Oil is a running cost for internal combustion engine vehicles. The battery, however, is essentially prepaid gasoline in an electric vehicle, accounting for 30–40% of the total cost.

A parliamentary committee on the income tax bill supports the expedited settlement of tax disputes

Divya Delhi : In its 285 recommendations on the proposed legislation to streamline and update tax regulations, a parliamentary committee that reviewed the Income Tax Bill, 2025, Divya Delhi, argued that litigation should have a deadline. On the opening day of Parliament's monsoon session (July 21), the IT Bill was reviewed by a select committee of the Lok Sabha presided over by BJP leader Baijayant Panda. The committee then adopted a report outlining the proposed law. Our team has put out 285 suggestions. Nearly two hundred fifty have been approved by the government. Huge improvements have transpired, as can



be seen in the case of refunds, but we have stated that tax litigations should not drag and that there should be time-bound settlement," a panel member added. The majority of the legislative panel's suggestions on the Income Tax Bill, 2025 were of a "corrective" character,

according to one of its members. The document's size has been reduced from 850 pages to 600 pages as a result of the simplification efforts. Simplifying the wording and structure of the IT Act 1961 was the goal of the IT Bill, 2025, which was submitted in Parliament.

To simplify TDS refund provisions under Income Tax Bill 2025

Divya Delhi : Even if their income is not taxable, taxpayers must file income tax returns to receive a refund for tax deducted at source. This criterion is apparently being simplified by the government. According to The Hindustan Times, taxpayers may be able to receive TDS refunds without completing ITRs by filling out a simple form. The Select Committee on the Income Tax Bill 2025 advised the administration, according to bill-related officials.

MTNL has failed to repay bank debts totaling 8,585 crore rupees

Divya Delhi: In a regulatory filing, the state-run telecom giant MTNL announced that it has defaulted on loans totaling Rs 8,585 crore from seven public sector banks. The public sector telecom firm's overall debt liabilities reached Rs 34,484 crore as of June 30, 2025, according to the filing.

This included a bank loan of Rs 8,585 crore, a sovereign guarantee bond of Rs 24,071 crore,



and a loan of Rs 1,828 crore from the DoT to cover the interest on the Sovereign Guarantee Bond. A sum of 3,733 crore INR, 2,434 crore INR, 1,121 crore INR, 474.7 crore Punjab National Bank, 363.4

crore State Bank of India, 273.6 crore UCO Bank, and 184.8 crore Punjab & Sind Bank debts, plus principal and interest, make up the total amount of loans that have gone into default.

Tesla sets foot in India with Rs 61 lakh Model Y

Divya Delhi: Tesla is finally here. The electric car giant run by Elon Musk opened its first India showroom in Mumbai's BKC. Musk had set his eyes on India since at least 2015, but high tariffs, limited flexibility, and charging infrastructure challenges, kept Tesla away from the country, which the company had described as a hard market. While bookings opened, deliveries of Model Y SUVs, prices for which start at Rs 61-lakh on-road (500km range), will begin in Oct. A 'long-range' (622km) Model Y variant will be available from Jan 2026 with an on-road price tag of just over Rs 69 lakh. For context, BMW iX1 LWB electric SUV is priced at about Rs 51 lakh on-road, and Mercedes-Benz EQA electric SUV costs just over Rs 70 lakh. Users will have a simple 'plug and charge



SC recognizes firms as criminal victims

Divya Delhi: The Supreme Court ruled that firms can be regarded "victims" under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and can appeal acquittals even if the state does not. This might profoundly change corporate rights in criminal litigation. Asian Paints Ltd. appealed a Rajasthan High Court ruling denying its right to dispute the acquittal of an individual convicted of selling counterfeit paint under its brand name. Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prashant Kumar Mishra approved the appeal. Whether the appellant is a 'victim' under Section 2(wa) and the provision to Section 372 of the CrPC is a significant legal question. This bench believes the High Court erred in ruling otherwise.

experience' with up to 267km range in superchargers adding 15 minutes.

Sources suggest Japan's SMBC wants RBI clearance for 4.9% more Yes Bank ownership

Divya Delhi : Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) [RIC:RIC:SUM-FGI.UL] has sought approval from the Reserve Bank of India to acquire an additional 4.9% stake in India's Yes Bank (YESB.NS), bringing its total ownership to just under 25%, two sources told Reuters. Yes Bank disclosed in a stock exchange filing that SMBC bought a 20% share in the private lender for \$1.6 billion in May. Receive the latest Indian news and its global impact with the Reuters India File newsletter. Join here. The first source stated the RBI, India's central bank and banking regulator, is reviewing the transaction. Both sources declined to be identified due to transaction confidentiality. The additional pur-



Samsung may make India a US hub amid rising tariffs

Divya Delhi: Samsung may move some smartphone production from Vietnam if US tariffs drop in India. The world's largest smartphone maker would follow Apple in making India a top US smartphone manufacturing base. Samsung manufactures in various countries. Due to heightened US uncertainty, we are ready for several possibilities.

chase's timeline was unknown to Reuters. Answers to Reuters' emails from Yes Bank and the RBI were delayed. On specific

deals, SMBC declined to comment. SMBC is considering a \$1.1 billion investment in Yes Bank for a 5% stake held by the U.S.

An amnesty program for overdue VAT taxes of 85,000 crore

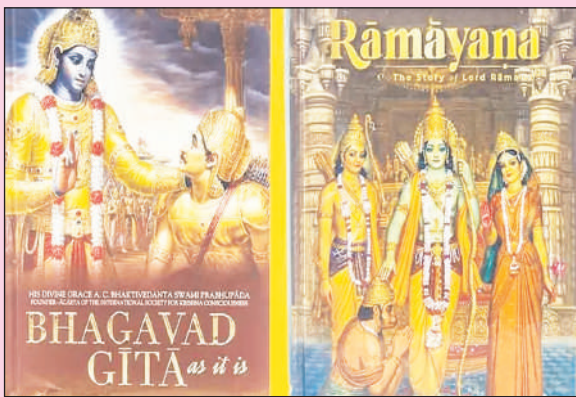
Divya Delhi : Resolving roughly ?85,000 crore in unpaid dues - mostly under the pre-GST Value Added Tax (VAT) regime - from before 2017, the long-awaited tax amnesty scheme is expected to be approved soon by the Delhi Cabinet. Over 300,000 traders from various sectors operating in Delhi will be encouraged to clear their long-pending tax bills through a scheme that is now being discussed at a high level. The scheme would offer large concessions on penalties and interest. The Trade and Taxes Department has presented a comprehensive plan detailing a framework for complete or partial waivers on penalties, interest, or both, according to a top source in the Delhi government's finance department. More than 85,000 crore is owed by over 300,000 merchants collectively. The government hopes to recoup half of this sum through the amnesty program. According to the official, it will increase tax revenue while also reducing the administration's legal load.

500 executive positions to be eliminated at Tata-owned Jaguar Land Rover

Divya Delhi : Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), which is owned by Tata, will be laying off 500 managers in the UK as a result of falling profits and US tariffs. The automaker announced a 15.1% drop in retail sales and a 10.7% drop in wholesale sales for the three months ending June 30, 2025, on July 7. This is mainly due to JLR's stated intentions to halt shipments to the US in April 2025, after the implementation of US import taxes, and the planned retirement of older Jaguar models.

Modern science is connected to early Indian discoveries in NCERT books

Divya Delhi : Indian scientific knowledge and discoveries are featured in sections of the new National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) science textbook for Class 8, from the ideas of ancient philosopher Acharya Kanad's "Parmanu" (atoms) to the methods of water bowl astronomy developed by mathematician Bhaskara II. Ayurvedic medication compositions include natural solvents like water and oils, the old practice of variolation was used to battle smallpox before modern vaccines, and alloys like "Kamsya" (a copper and tin alloy) are mentioned as well. Parts of the book headed "Ever heard of?" and "Our scientific heritage" draw connections between contemporary scientific ideas and findings made by ancient Indians. The seeks to pique students' curiosity by providing interesting information and insights from ancient Indian writings, while the latter provides



305K students compete for 71K DU spots

Divya Delhi: Delhi University (DU) began its preference change window for the 2025-26 academic session under the Common Seat Allocation System, intensifying the competition for 71,642 undergraduate seats with over 305,000 applicants. After simulated ranks are released, the window will stay open. According to university data, 38,795 applicants chose Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) as their first college choice this year. Hindu College, Hansraj College, St. Stephen's College, and Miranda House follow. Based on CUET scores and preferences, the simulated ranks allow students to adjust their course and college selections before the initial allocation list, which will be announced July 19. 239,890 of 305,357 CSAS portal users selected colleges and programs. Three are transgender, 127,284 (53.06%) are female, and 112,603 (46.93%) are male. The orphan quota has 221 female and 291 male applications, while 7,243 students have expressed interest in the single girl child quota.

details on organiza- tions and individuals.

A Third of the Total Fees Will Go Towards Reevaluating Legal Papers

Divya Delhi

Students in the Faculty of Law at Delhi University are protesting the introduction of a new re-evaluation facility, and not because of the facility itself but because of how much it would cost. DU's re-evaluation price for LLB students is Rs 2,000 per answer sheet, which is equivalent to one-third of the faculty's yearly tuition fee and twice the fee for other disciplines. Previously, the only alternative accessible to law students was to have their marks re-totaled; re-evaluation of answer sheets was not an option. Professional courses, like



law, do not currently have access to re-evaluation facilities, but DU announced plans to expand them in November of last year. Many were disappointed by the recently approved pricing, despite the fact that the move was well-received initially. The application fee is too high for the majority of law students, according to a fifth-semester stu-

dent who asked to remain anonymous, adding that this is the first time that LLB students have the option to apply for re-evaluation. "With a total annual fee of just about Rs 6,000, how can students be asked to pay Rs 2,000 for each paper?" Many will be discouraged from accessing a fundamental academic entitlement because of this.

RIL makes record profit amid oil decline, sets clean energy outlook

Divya Delhi : India's most valuable company, Reliance Industries Ltd., surpassed predictions to register a strong increase in revenue and profit for the April-June quarter, driven by better telecoms and retail profitability despite crude-based difficulties. Profits from its Asian

Paints disposal also boosted the bottom line. According to an investor presentation, Reliance's new energy business's production plants—which will drive its growth over the next decade—are being commissioned quickly. The new energy business would create solar mod-

ules, generate clean electricity from them, use electrons to run data centres, and make hydrogen, ammonia, and aviation fuel. Reliance did not provide timescales. Reliance Industries' oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business's operating profit fell in the first quarter.

Premji pledges 2,250 crore for college education of girls



Divya Delhi: Azim Premji Foundation has committed to giving 2,250 crore over three years to help more girls complete their college education, making it the country's largest direct benefit transfer scheme by a not-for-profit private entity. Under the initiative, a girl who has completed her standard X and XII from a government school can apply for the Azim Premji scholarship. Billionaire and philanthropist Azim Premji's eponymous foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, would give 30,000 a year to up to 250,000 girl students. This translates to ₹750 crore a year, which, over a three-year degree program, would total 2,250 crore.

"The basic purpose of this is to allow girl children to complete their higher education," said. Anurag Behar, chief executive officer of Azim Premji Foundation. "If a girl has completed 10th and 12th from a government school and is admitted to a bona fide college, the child is eligible to get 30,000 every year for the duration of her course." Beginning in September, a girl who starts college and has received the Azim Premji scholarship will receive ₹90,000 over a three-year degree program.

Japanese 'no-match' artificial blood could put an end to shortages

Divya Delhi: There is no need to worry about infection, blood group compatibility, or expiration for months. Artificial blood, created by Japanese researchers, could revolutionize emergency response worldwide, particularly in situations involving large casualties or procedures in remote areas, and put an end to the worldwide blood shortage.

The idea originated with Nara Medical University's Professor Hiromi Sakai and his colleagues, who are currently testing robust, virus-free synthetic red blood cells in human clinical trials. This innovation might be ready for practical application by 2030 if all goes as planned. Lack of education,



inadequate facilities, and an ongoing scarcity of donors have contributed to India's severe blood shortage. Therefore, in this kind of situation, the concept of a blood substitute might be absolutely game-changing. The absence of white blood cells and platelets makes it an incomplete substitute for human

blood. On the other hand, it may transport oxygen, which is absolutely necessary in an emergency. Made from donated blood that would have otherwise gone to waste, these artificial cells are stable at ambient temperature, look just like genuine blood, and imitate the body's natural red blood cells.

Irish education minister invites Indians for education, research

NEW DELHI: James Lawless, Ireland's Education Minister, on Monday said his country is "very welcoming" for students and has a supportive post-study employment visa arrangement. "Ireland is a very welcoming country. We have a very cosmopolitan culture. We have many nationalities now in Ireland, and many people have made their home, including many, many Indians," the Irish minister said, when asked whether his government is considering any changes in post-study work or immigration policies to retain skilled talents.

IT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally, according to 2025 QS

Divya Delhi: Among Indian universities for sustainability, IIT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally, according to 2025 QS Sustainability Rankings released. The QS Sustainability Rankings include 78 Indian universities, with nine of the top 10 improving and 21 new institutions entering. Two IITs—Delhi and Kanpur—are in the world's top 100 for environmental impact. With 177 and 67 rank improvements, each became fourth and fifth in India. Bangalore's IISc is among the world's top 50 environmental edu-



cation schools. The University of Delhi is the only Indian university to drop from 220 to 299, yet it still ranks a sixth.

DU leads India in Knowledge Exchange at 121 internationally. At seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth places are IISc, Vellore Institute of Technology, Manipal Academy of Higher

Education, and Anna University. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University ranks 951-960. It is a leader in sustainable education and research, ranking 35th in India and 288th in Asia. "The rankings show that Indian universities are forging ahead with their sustainability initiatives."

SRCC, Hindu and BCom (Hons) top preferences at DU

Divya Delhi: The University of Delhi has got an overwhelming response to its undergraduate admissions this year, with Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) emerging as the most sought-after college and BCom (Hons) as the most preferred course among applicants.

CULTU According to the data released by the university on Tuesday, DU has received over 3.05 lakh registrations through the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS), of which 2.39 lakh candidates have successfully submitted their college and programme preferences for admission to 71,642 undergraduate seats in 69 colleges and various departments. SRCC alone received 38,795 first-preference applications, followed by Hindu College with 31,901, Hansraj



IITTA urged the board of governors to expunge show-cause notices

Divya Delhi: The IIT Kharagpur Teachers' Association (IITTA) urged the institute's board of governors to expunge show-cause notices issued to 86 faculty members, restore their administrative positions, and protect the association's office bearers from arbitrary or retaliatory actions amid the faculty-administration dispute. In September, the IIT Kharagpur teachers' association accused director Virendra Kumar Tewari of "nepotism" and "arbitrary faculty recruitment" in a letter to the Union Ministry of Education, sparking a confrontation. They wanted an academically qualified, inclusive governance-experienced successor. When the administration sent show-cause notices to IITTA office bearers and disciplined them for not answering within seven days.

College (15,902), St and Miranda House Stephen's (12,413), (11,403).

An individual contested the exclusion of a tennis match from the Hindu College sports quota admissions

Divya Delhi: A junior national-level tennis player has taken Hindu College of Delhi University to court, claiming that the university should have included tennis in its list of sports accessible for admission under the sports mandate. Aditi Rawat challenged the college's decision to exclude lawn tennis from the sports available for admission under the sports quota for the upcoming academic year, and on Monday, Justice Vikas Mahajan sought the college's and DU's stance on the matter. The petition describes Rawat as "a distinguished Lawn Tennis athlete and gold medalist at the CBSE Nationals" who is contesting what is described as "the arbitrary denial of admission" to Hindu College



Samsung may make India a US hub amid rising tariffs

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under the Sports Quota (Lawn Tennis) category. It states that DU's administration disregarded the 5% supernumerary sports quota that is mandated by the

Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) Policy 2025-26. The appeal, submitted by counsel Jeetender Gupta, states that "Hindu College failed.

The AICTE has formed an expert group

Divya Delhi: The formation of an expert committee by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is a major development in the field of technical education in India. The committee's mandate is to help various academic programs, not limited to computer science degrees, incorporate AI and applied AI. Leading AI professionals from IITs and NITs are part of the committee, which is chaired by Anand Deshpande, managing director of Persistent Systems. The goal of the move is to encourage the lateral expansion of AI in several streams, including BBA, BCA, electrical engineering, and others. "We are forming a committee to introduce AI laterally across all programs, especially Applied AI," stated AICTE Chairman Prof. TG Sitharam. "The goal is to integrate AI and related courses into all academic programs so that students from all walks of life can learn the basics of AI and data analytics."

A professor from IIT Delhi to head up IIM Lucknow

Divya Delhi: The directorship of the Indian Institute of Management in Lucknow is anticipated to be assumed by a professor from the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi (IIT-D). (Department of IIM-L). The esteemed management school will likely be led by an IIT professor for the first time. Though the official announcement has not been made yet, it has been learned that the nomination of Prof. MP Gupta has been approved by the board of governors of IIM-L. "The chairman, board of governors, IIM, Lucknow, Shri N Chandrasekaran, vide his letter dated , , has informed that the BoG.

Team ‘Tanvi The Great’ cherishes heartfelt conversations with audi-

Divya Delhi: Leading actor Shubhangi Dutt and co-writer Ankur Chalisa engaged with the crowd during a special screening, which was uplifting. Kher posted a video on Instagram of the “Tanvi The Great” team talking to moviegoers. Kher wrote on Instagram, “HOPE AND GOOD CRYING: Crying doesn’t always mean grief or tragedy. Feeling nice on screen is another possibility! I, our lead playing #Tanvi @shubhangidutt, and our co-writer @ankur_chalisa met audiences following #TanviTheGreat’s showing. The house was packed.” He stated that two gorgeous autistic children were in the audience. The footage showed a man crying. Kher said, “He was sad because it was his wife only who took care of their daughter who stammered or #Aneesa mother of an autistic child #Arjun who saw #HOPE for her child in our film.” Besides entertaining, #TanviTheGreat heals! Thank you #TataPower and #DrPraveerSinha for



Karan Veer Mehra NOT playing main villain in Don 3

Don 3 is making headlines for various reasons- be it casting or shooting timelines. While Ranveer Singh is set to play the new Don in the upcoming reboot version, Pinkvilla had earlier reported that Kriti Sanon will fill the shoes of the female lead after Kiara Advani’s exit. However, there have been several reports of Bigg Boss fame Karan Veer Mehra joining the star cast of Don 3 and playing the main villain. And now, Pinkvilla has learnt that all the reports around Karan Veer Mehra’s inclusion in Farhan Akhtar’s next are nothing but rumors. In our fact check, we found that Karan Veer Mehra is not even being considered for the role of an antagonist in Don 3. Earlier, Vikrant Massey was in advanced talks for the counterpart to Ranveer Singh; however, things never materialized.



this unique screening! Go to your local theaters!” he said. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta attended a special premiere of “Tanvi The Great”. CM told reporters, “I congratulate Anupam Kher for bringing this movie with a special theme for special children.

Hectic parleys begins as new AMMA office bearers to be elected on Aug 15

Divya Delhi: Kochi, July 19 Ever since the explosive Hema Committee report surfaced last year, the affairs in the Malayalam film actors body -- Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) has been fluid. Things went for a toss after the incumbent Secretary of AMMA -- popular actor Siddique resigned after a former actress pointed fingers at him for misbehaviour. Soon thereafter names of other actors also surfaced accusing them of similar behaviour. Seeing all this the AMMA President Mohanlal made it clear that he was not keen to continue, forcing the entire 17-



member executive to resign. Following this, the committee under Mohanlal was asked to continue in the capacity of ad hoc committee until fresh elections are held. At the recently held annual general body, the decision was made that on August 15 a new executive should be appointed through a democratic process. Now with the last date of nomination coming up on July 24 and on July 31 it will be known if there is going to be voting. With around 500 members in AMMA, it’s going to be a race against time as hectic parleys have started on the names of candidates who will be going to contest.

Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi’s Jolly LLB 3 Teaser to be launched in August with War 2

2025 is turning out to be a good year for Akshay Kumar, as the actor has won over the audience with his versatile act ranging from Sky Force to Kesari 2 and Housefull 5. He also tasted mid-level success with Kesari 2 and Housefull 5, and is now

all set for his last release of 2025 -- the Subhash Kapoor directed-Jolly LLB 3. Interestingly, the film is a courtroom comedy marking the face-off between two Jolly’s -- Arshad Warsi and Akshay Kumar. The film is confirmed to hit the big screen on

September 19, 2025, and learnt that the makers are gearing up to kick-start their marketing campaign from the month of August. According to reliable sources, the first teaser of Jolly LLB 3 will be launched in the second week of August.

CAPSULES

Son of Sardaar 2 postponed by a week; Ajay stands by Ahaan and Aneet Padda

Every Friday has a new story to say, and the July 18 saw the birth of two new stars in the Indian Film Industry -- Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda. With the Mohit Suri-directed Saiyaara opening at Rs 20.25 crore on July 18, the film established the two as the talents to look out for in the Indian Film Industry. It’s after a long time that the industry is smiling and rooting for the success of someone else’s feature film. Standing by the success and giving the right time to the two new talents to flourish at the box-office, Ajay Devgn and the team of Jio Studios have decided to postpone the release of Son of Sardaar 2 by a week from its already announced date of July 25, 2025. A source shares, “Ajay Devgn knows that the times are tough for non-starcast films and if a film like Saiyaara is establishing the careers of two new stars, he is more than happy to take a backseat and give them the required screen space in their second week too. Son of Sardaar 2 will now arrive a week later on August 1, 2025. He has passed on the good wishes to both the actors, as also Aditya Chopra, and is rooting for the success of Saiyaara.” , Ajay as a senior member of the industry has taken a stance to stand for the larger good. “Son of Sardaar 2 is a family entertainer and will now release on August 1.



'Mahavtar Narsimha' gets U/A from Censor Board

Divya Delhi: Ashwin Kumar directed and Kleem Productions' Shilpaa Dhawan, Kushal Desai, and Chaitanya Desai produced the film. The July 25 film will be distributed in 3D and five Indian languages. This ambitious cartoon franchise, which will follow Lord Vishnu’s ten holy avatars over a decade, has been announced by Hombale Films and Kleem Productions. First up is this year’s 'Mahavatar Narsimha'. 'Mahavatar Parshuram' will release in 2027, 'Mahavatar Raghunandan' in 2029, 'Mahavatar Dhawkadhesh' in 2031, 'Mahavatar Gokulananda' in 2033, 'Mahavatar Kalki Part 1' in 2035, and 'Part 2' in 2037.



The creators' teaser for Mahavtar Narsimha promises a visual feast that will reveal a key Indian history story. Prahlada, a devotee of Lord Vishnu, struggles against his atheist father, Hiranyakashipu, who is immortalized by Lord Brahma. Mahavatar Narsimha, a Vishnu avatar

who protects Prahlada, is born in the trailer, demonstrating trust. The trailer is stunning with enormous images and a thrilling tune. After the teaser was published, Shilpaa Dhawan remarked, "After five fantastic years, we're ready to unleash Sri Narsimha and Sri Varaha's epic narrative!

Rachel Gupta quits Miss Grand International 2024.

Divya Delhi: Miss Grand International 2024 Rachel Gupta resigns. Rachel posted on Instagram that being crowned was one of her greatest ambitions and that she was proud to represent India. "However, the months following my crowning have been marked by broken promises, mistreatment, and a toxic environment I can no longer endure in silence," stated. Rachel stated her resignation was not easy and vowed to broadcast a full video in the coming days outlining the incidents. She closed her speech with a touching request for support.

Jitendra Kumar contemplates his Jeetu Bhaiya/Sachiv Ji identities

Divya Delhi: In an age of overconsumption, when audiences struggle to relate to characters, Jitendra Kumar played Sachiv ji from “Panchayat” and Jeetu Bhaiya from “Kota Factory”. He was questioned, “You played Sachiv ji from Panchayat and Jeetu Bhiya from Kota Factory, two parts that resonated with audiences. Which character are you more typically called when you leave?” Jitendra replied, “I think Jeetu Bhaiya is a bit more popular, but people often end up mixing the two worlds.”



He said, “If someone wants to tell me something, they call me Jeetu Bhaiya, but in the same breath, they say,” will he be able to move on from Rinki or not?” They combine both worlds. I guess they have a hangover from both programs, but ‘Jeetu Bhaiya’ comes easier than Sachiv ji. Jitendra

replied, “It is very difficult to choose as both these characters are very different from one another, but given that Panchayat season 4 has just released, it is my favourite at the moment.” In rural India, “Panchayat” follows Gram Panchayat Secretary Abhishek (Jitendra Kumar) in Phulera village.

Prakash Raj, Vijay Among 4 ED Summoned for Betting Apps Case

Divya Delhi: Rana Daggubati, Prakash Raj, Vijay Deverakonda, and Manchu Lakshmi have been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate to testify over promoting illegal betting apps. While investigating a recent case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sent celebrity notices. The central agency has requested Rana Daggubati's July 23 appearance. Prakash Raj is needed on July 30. The ED has ordered Vijaya Deverakonda and Manchu Lakshmi to appear on August 6 and 13, respectively. Four actresses were among 29 celebrities arrested by the ED on July 10 for advocating illegal betting applications. The central agency filed an ECIR against 29 actors, influencers, and YouTubers for promoting unlawful betting services under



Salman Khan reveals why he celebrates Eid behind bulletproof glass

Salman Khan reveals why he celebrates Eid behind bulletproof glass: ‘Would find some fan sleeping in the balcony’ Salman Khan fans were left in shock after the actor received a series of death threats. The

situation worsened after a firing incident right outside Galaxy Apartments. This led to heightened security around the Sikandar star. But what caught everyone's eye was this year's Eid celebration.

the Public Gambling Act, 1867. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act probe is based on five Telangana and Andhra Pradesh FIRs. The ED

has booked Vijay Deverakonda, Rana Daggubati, Prakash Raj, Nidhi Agarwal, Pranitha Subhash, Manchu Lakshmi, and Ananya Nagella.

Initial divorce with Anurag was unpleasant, seeing him with someone else hurtful

Divya Delhi: Kalki Koechlin and Anurag Kashyap divorced in 2015 after four years together. Kalki suggested in a recent interview that her divorce may have been caused by her parents' 'nasty' divorce, which made her more likely to risk her own relationships. “My parents divorce



when I was 13, and it was really bad,” she told about

how her parents' rough marriage affected her view of relationships and love. They grew up chilly and cruel to each other. That was hard. Maybe that's why I divorced.” Kalki said her bad upbringing taught her to ruin relationships. She remarked, “There is a part of you that jeopardizes

relationships once they start going bad, but you say ‘oh this happens’ because you saw it as a child. I watched my parents divorce and hate one other as a child. Part of you loses faith to endure the worst.” Kalki said “and therapy” helped her transcend this conditioning and accept

Rohman Shawl admits he can't afford the diamond she likes: 'Abhi meri aukaat nahi...'

Sushmita Sen and Rohman Shawl dated for a few years, but their romantic chapter came to an end in 2021. However, despite their relationship taking a backseat, the two never shied away from sharing a cordial and friendly bond. Even after their breakup, they remain good friends and express warmth for each other. Recently, Rohman admitted that he couldn't afford the diamond that Sushmita likes. Yes, you read that right!

Producer of ‘Kantara A Legend: Chapter 1’ calls film ‘most ambitious undertaking to date’

Divya Delhi: Producer Vijay Kiragandur called the prequel “Kantara A Legend: Chapter 1” his “most ambitious project to date.” “The studio was born out of both creative necessity and practical limitations,” Kiragandur told variety.com. We searched Karnataka for a location large enough to host an ornate palace with intricate interiors, but none fit our scale or infrastructure needs. What started as one studio floor became a



comprehensive facility.” Beyond logistics, the investment was strategic. Building our own studio provided us complete creative control, shortened production timeta-

bles, decreased travel costs, and most importantly, gave our director, Rishab Shetty, the confidence to execute his vision. It boosted the film's authenticity.” The

film's themes are authentic. “The spiritual resonance of the first film guided ‘Chapter 1’s development. The audience's response to ‘Kantara’ made us realize we had to honor that tradition with concentrated storytelling, said the producer. Instead of working on many projects, we focused on this one. We're working on other pan-India projects, but 'Kantara: Chapter 1' came first, Kiragandur said.

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