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UNIQUE GIFT OF KRIYAYOGA ASHRAM AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO GIVE IMPETUS TO WORLD BUILDING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

## Paris Olympic: Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh win bronze in the 10m air pistol

**Paris** Paris Olympics 2024 Day 4 Live Updates: A calm and composed Manu Bhaker scripted history to become the first Indian athlete in post-independence era to win two Olympic medals in a single edition of the Games as she combined with an equally unruffled Sarabjot Singh to clinch the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze here on Tuesday. The Indian pair defeated the Korean duo of Lee Wonoho and Oh Yeh Jin 16-10 to earn the country its second medal at Chateauroux's shooting range. The 22-year-old Bhaker had earlier bagged the bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol event at the same venue on Sunday, wiping off the terrible memories of a horrendous Olympic debut in Tokyo 2020. Before her, British-Indian athlete Norman Pritchard had won two silver medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles at the 1900 Olympics but that



"Our shooters continue to make us proud! -Prime Minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday congratulated Indian shooters Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh on winning the bronze medal in the 10m mixed team event. "Our shooters continue to make us proud! Congratulations to Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh for winning the Bronze medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the Olympics. Both of them have shown great skills and teamwork. India is

incredibly delighted." "For Manu, this is her second consecutive Olympic medal, showcasing her consistent excellence and dedication." Bhaker was composure personified while Singh played an ideal foil as the pair won the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze defeating South Korea to script history at the Olympics on Tuesday. The Indian pair defeated the Koreans 16-10 to earn the country its second medal at the quadrennial showpiece. Independence era. While it is a massive

achievement for women's sport in the country, the medal is also redemption for Sarabjot, who had failed to make the men's 10m air pistol final, finishing ninth on Saturday with a score of 577. "I'm feeling really proud and there is lot of gratitude, thanks for all the blessings" said Bhaker after the match, which the two young Indians played with remarkable poise to make it a one-sided contest. "Actually we can't control (what the rivals will do), we can do what is in our hand, me and my partner thought let's just try our best and we will keep fighting till the end," said Bhaker, who could not even qualify for this event at the Tokyo Games alongside Saurabh Chaudhary, finishing seventh. Ambala shooter Sarabjot, who passed through a difficult phase trying to come to terms with the disappointment of the individual competition just three days back.

## Kumari Selja 'CM face' in Haryana Congress posters, rift with Hooda faction widens

**CHANDIGARH:** The rift between the Bhupinder Singh Hooda and SRB (Sirsa MP Selja, Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala, and former Union minister Birender Singh) factions of the Haryana Congress has widened after the Lok Sabha elections despite encouraging results, and the poster war for chief ministerial face has made it worse. Selja 'CM face' in Cong posters, rift with Hooda faction widens (1) (1). Seeing the senior Hooda and his son (Lok Sabha MP Deepender Hooda) hold workers' meetings and run 'Hisab Do' campaign with state Congress president Uday Bhan against the state's BJP govt, Sirsa MP Selja has intensified her Sandesh Yatra. While team Hooda refrains from commenting against her or her group's dissenting views, four of the five new MPs of the party from the state — Deepender Hooda, Jai Parkash, Satyapal Brahmchari, and Varun Choudhary — endorse



SC grants bail to TMC leader

### Anubrata in cattle smuggling case

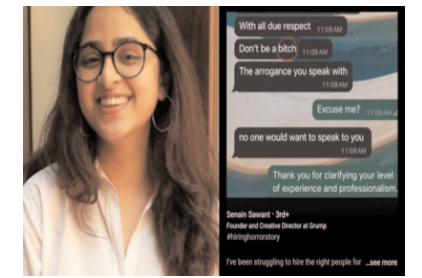
**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted bail to Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Anubrata Mondal, who was arrested by the CBI in a cattle smuggling case. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and S C Sharma granted the relief to Mondal after noting that the trial in the matter would take

time and he has been in jail for two years. The top court directed Mondal to cooperate in the investigation and surrender his passport. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing on behalf of Mondal, submitted that four charge sheets have been filed in the case and everybody except the TMC leader is out of jail. command that includes party president Malikkarjun Kharge, Lok Sabha's leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi, and former party president Sonia Gandhi. It has omitted the names of Hooda, party's political affairs in-charge for state .

### Delhi coaching centre flooding: Akhilesh writes to Speaker seeks Rs 1 crore each to next of kin of victims

**NEW DELHI:** Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday sent a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday, urging him to direct the government to provide a compensation of Rs 1 crore to the families of the students who lost their lives in the flooded basement of a coaching centre in Delhi. "You are requested to direct the government to provide compensation of Rs 1 crore each to the families of the deceased students and also fix responsibility for this incident and take strict action immediately," Yadav said in his letter. Earlier, during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, Yadav had raised the issue, calling it tragic and demanding a thorough investigation .

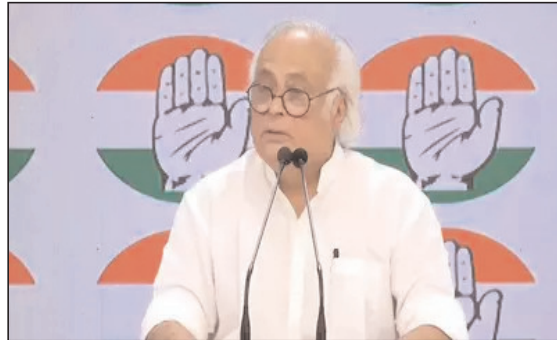
### With all due respect, don't be a bi\*\*h': Startup founder shares horrors of hiring



**NEW DELHI:** Founder of Grump start-up Senain Sawant shared the horrors of hiring she recently faced after being called a "bi\*\*h" by an applicant during an interview. Posting the screenshots of the chat, Sawant said, "The younger generation is in clear need of strong guidance, and as a young entrepreneur myself, I am appalled by the audacity of this candidate to think it is okay to call the company founder, or anyone in a hiring position for that matter, a Bi\*\*h". Sawant had scheduled a video interview with the applicant which, due to some technical reasons at the latter's fault, couldn't work out. "They joined the call with the camera off, said they don't own a computer and something about ios update not allowing video calls. I responded with, 'how do you usually work?', to which they replied 'My previous company gave us a laptop, but if one is needed, I can arrange,' she wrote in a LinkedIn post. Observing that their "tone was off from the start", Sawant said, "I asked them to join at a time when their video can be turned on, since this an interview and I need to see who I'm speaking with. They said "Fine" and cut the call. Their tone was off from the start, they weren't audible to begin.

### Post-dated cheque on crashing bank: Congress over financial packages for Andhra, Bihar

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress on Tuesday claimed that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had "pulled a fast one" on NDA allies in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh given that most announcements in the Budget will not see light of day for a few years. The move, said Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, was "a post-dated cheque on a crashing bank". In a



post on X, he also shared a media report claiming that financial packages for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are likely to cost the Centre Rs 20,000-

30,000 crore. "The non-biological PM's Kursi Bachao Budget makes critical promises to two states, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. Specific projects in Bihar have been allocated Rs 58,900 crores, and in Andhra, Phase I of Polavaram Project alone will cost the Union Government (which is committed to bearing the entire expense of the Irrigation project) Rs 14,000 crore," he said. Several other projects have been announced without clear allocations, but the total funding commitments.

### Amit Shah speaks to Kerala CM on Wayanad landslides, assures all help

**NEW DELHI:** Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday spoke to Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and took stock of the situation in Wayanad that has been hit by a series of landslides. Shah also assured Vijayan of all possible help from the central government to deal with the situation. "The home minister spoke to Kerala chief minister and took stock of the situation in Wayanad.



The home minister also assured the chief minister all possible help from the central government," an official said. Earlier, Shah voiced deep concern over the landslides and said the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is conducting search and rescue operations on a war footing. Shah also

said that a second team of the NDRF is on its way to further strengthen the operation. "Deeply concerned by the incidents of landslides in Wayanad, Kerala. The NDRF is conducting search and rescue operations on a war footing. "The second team is on its way to further strengthen the response operation. My condolences to the families of the deceased .

### Rajasthan schools to commemorate Article 370 abrogation, Congress condemns

**JAIPUR:** The Rajasthan education Department's academic calendar for new session in state government schools has sparked a political debate as it proposes to celebrate the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and birth-day of Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated on August 5, 2019. Congress state president Govind Singh Dotasra criticised the BJP-led state government's decision, terming it as



a "shameless" move to serve political interests. The secondary education department, Shivira Panchang, also proposes to observe Savarkar's birthday on May 28. "Congress opposes this politicisation of education and imposing its divisive ideology on students," Dotasra said. The calendar, which was released on Sunday, also features Surya Namaskar Diwas on February 4, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti on February 7, Mother's Day-Father's Day on February 14, and Subhas Chandra Bose Diwas, also referred to as Desh Prem Diwas, on January 23. Earlier, the primary school education department published its annual calendar on July 9, incorporating the celebration of the Ram temple consecration. After taking charge of the office on

February 26, school education minister Madan Dilwar criticised the historical portrayal of figures like Savarkar and Maharana Pratap, arguing that previous narratives unjustly glorified the Mughal emperor Akbar. He had alleged that Savarkar's role in the freedom struggle was wrongly written in history. Congress spokesperson Swarnim Chaturvedi also condemned the new calendar, saying it is an attempt to politicise education and propagate Hindutva ideology. The school education minister'.

### UP assembly amend Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act

**LUCKNOW:** The Uttar Pradesh assembly is on Tuesday scheduled to take up for consideration and passing a bill that seeks to amend the Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act to increase the maximum punishment to life imprisonment and fine of Rs 5 lakh for violators. Under the amended provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2024, if a person threatens, attacks, marries or promises to marry or conspires for it, or traffics a woman, minor or anyone with the intention of conversion, then his crime will be placed in the most serious category. The amended bill provides for 20-year imprisonment or life imprisonment in such cases.

### In PM Modi's 'Amritkaal' empty pockets of common citizens also being extracted: Rahul Gandhi

**In PM Modi's 'Amritkaal'** empty pockets of common citizens also being extracted: Rahul Gandhi Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday targeted the Centre over substantial penalties collected by public sector banks from customers who failed to maintain the required average monthly balance. In a post on X, Rahul asserted that this "penalty system" is a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's elaborate scheme, likening it to a "chakravayuh," an inescapable trap, designed to burden the average Indian citizen. "In the Amritkaal of Narendra Modi, the 'empty pockets' of common Indians are also being extracted. The government that waived off Rs 16 lakh crore of its industrial-

ists has collected Rs 8,500 crore from poor Indians who are unable to maintain even the minimum balance," Rahul Gandhi said. "The penalty system is the door of Modi's Chakravayuh through which an attempt is being made to break the back of the common Indian. But remember, the people of India are not Abhimanyu, they are Arjun, they know how to answer your every atrocity by breaking the Chakravayuh," he added. Rahul's criticism followed a written reply in the Lok Sabha, which revealed that public sector banks collected around Rs 8,500 crore in penalties for not maintaining the average monthly minimum balance over five years .

## Cong leader appointed Vice Chairman of GPCC

Prayagraj: On the instructions of former President of All India Congress Committee, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi and National Chairman of Minority Department, MP Imran Pratapgarhi, on the recommendation of Gujarat Incharge Advocate Insaf Azad ji, Chairman of Gujarat Congress Committee Minority Department, Advocate Wazir. Khan B. Pathan has appointed Surat businessman and Congress leader Haji Harun Ansari as the State Vice Chairman of Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) Minority Department. This information was given by the former District Congress President of Surat, Mr. Hansmukh Desai, through the appointment letter. On the nomination of Harun Ansariji, senior leaders of Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee and senior leaders of Gujarat Congress Committee expressed their gratitude to the party high command and congratulated Harun Ansari ji. Harun Ansariji is originally a resident of Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, who has been playing an active role in Congress politics for a long time. Harun Ansari has been working for the party by holding this post in the past also.

## Online applications invited for providing free O-level/CCC computer training

Prayagraj: Unemployed youths belonging to backward classes interested for free O-level and CCC computer training can apply online till August 5. For this, a provision has been made to provide free O-level and CCC computer training through the training institution. In the financial year 2024-25, online applications have been invited to provide free O-level/CCC computer training to unemployed youth belonging to other backward classes. According to the conditions/restrictions prescribed for online application, the income limit of the applicant residing in urban and rural areas under this scheme should not exceed Rs. 1,00,000/- (amount of Rs. one lakh). Income and caste certificate should be issued from tehsil level. Intermediate minimum educational qualification is required for computer training (10+2). The age of the trainee/applicant should not exceed 35 years. Interested candidates can apply online on the website of Backward Classes Welfare Department, Uttar Pradesh backwardwelfareup.gov.in or obcomputertraining.upsdc.gov.in till August 05, 2024. Applications received through any other means will not be accepted. After online application, take a print out of the copy of the application and attach all the records/details (income/caste/Aadhaar card and other educational records) and send its hard copy to the office of District Backward Class Welfare Officer, Room No. 75 Vikas Bhawan, Prayagraj. It will be submitted by 05:00 pm on August 05, 2024. For more information contact the office of District Backward Class Welfare Officer, Prayagraj. This information has been given by the District Backward Class Welfare Officer.

## Workshop organized at UPTECH by Computer Society of India

Prayagraj: On the occasion of the death anniversary of former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, a workshop was jointly organized at UPTECH by Computer Society of India, Allahabad Chapter and UPTECH, Allahabad. Bharat Ratna, Death anniversary of former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. On the occasion of Computer Society of India, Allahabad Chapter and UPTECH, Allahabad, a workshop was jointly organized at UPTECH on the topic "unlocking the Power of Chat GPT AI" in which about 100 students participated. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. K.K. Bhurani, Fellow CSI Allahabad Da Director UPET. The program was conducted by Gyanu Ji Srivastava, Chairman, Allahabad. In the workshop, Engineer Harshit Srivastava, international teacher, used ChatGPT to educate students about today's need and various experimental methods. At the conclusion of the workshop, a test was organized for the students. In the programme, CSI All India Chapter Secretary explained the purpose and activities of CSI as useful for Bano and CSI All India. Called to participate in the educational programs organized by. Rajiv Gupta, Narendra Kumar Gupta, Sajal Das, teachers of UPTEC especially contributed in making the event successful. At the end of the program, vote of thanks was given by Kamendra Mishra, chief Manger, UPTEC.

## Anganwadi service under the auspices of Lions Club Allahabad Arunima

Prayagraj: Under the Anganwadi service program run across the country by Lions Club, an international organization working in the field of social service, on 30.7.2024, under the aegis of Lions Club Allahabad Arunima, a branch of Lions Club, under the aegis of



Anganwadi Service. Snacks were distributed to 50 children in the Anganwadi located in the premises of Primary School, Katra, Prayagraj. The children were very happy. After this, Dr. S.K. of Homeopathy medicine. Shukla ji, Homeopathic Chairperson also conducted health checkup of all the children and staff members. Lion Shrivastava, Anganwadi Chairperson Lion Dr. A.D. Apart from Dubey and Santosh Tiwari, Anganwadi operator Sunita was present.

# Care and conservation of nature, safety awareness is our priority: Ankita Khera

## World Nature Conservation Day was celebrated with great pomp in St. Peter's Educational English Medium School in January

Meja: World Nature Conservation Day was celebrated with pomp and show at St. Peter's Co-Educational English Medium School, Janwar Meja Road on Monday. On this occasion, students took active part in planting various types of saplings under the guidance of qualified and trained teachers of the school. Teachers made students aware by giving them information about how to preserve our mother nature earth. School Principal Ankita Khera, while addressing the students, said that every year on 28th July, people all over the world celebrate nature conservation as one of the greatest



ways to care and protect our planet. The day reminds of the vital importance of conserving the planet's natural resources and recognizes the efforts and successes of those who save nature every day. He further said that our mother earth should be our first priority hence taking care of our nature is our basic duty. Apart from this, students were awarded certificates for their genuine efforts towards conservation of nature. In this sequence, the school manager Abhishek Khera, while expressing his gratitude to everyone, discussed in detail the care and conservation of nature and made the children aware.

## Ganga Degree College won the inaugural competition

### Shiv and Soumya played century innings

Prayagraj: Ganga Degree College won the inaugural match of Nand Kishore Singh PG College Under-16 and Under-19 Cricket Competition by defeating St. Peter's Club by four runs. Shivkumar Yadav of the winning team (108 runs, 68 balls, 13 fours, five sixes) and Soumya Tiwari of



the defeated team (109 runs, 60 balls, six fours, 10 sixes) played century innings. In the first match of the competition which started from Tuesday at Ishwar Sharan Inter College ground, Ganga Degree College won the toss and scored 280 runs for 9 wickets in 30 overs (Shivkumar Yadav 108, Vikas Kumar 64, Anurag Gupta 45, Ashwani Tiwari 3/34, Saumya Tiwari 2/31, Ishan Singh made 2/54. In reply, St. Peter's Club scored 276 runs for 9 wickets in 30 overs (Soumya Tiwari 109, Harshit Tiwari 45, Parthvardhan 29, Anshu Maurya 2/48, Vivek Singh 2/49) Earlier, the competition was inaugurated by former Railway Cricketer and senior selection committee member of Allahabad Cricket Association by introducing them to the players. Organizing Secretary Vivek Singh and Shyamu Bhartiya welcomed them.



After being humid throughout the day, there was heavy rain in Prayagraj on Tuesday, which gave relief to the people from the heat.

## Prayagraj Division received certificate from Bureau of Energy Efficiency for energy conservation

Prayagraj: Under the leadership of Divisional Railway Manager/Prayagraj, Himanshu Badoni, Prayagraj Division is contributing with full capacity to the resolution of zero carbon emissions of Indian Railways. In an effort to produce solar energy, Prayagraj Board has installed more than 600 kilo watt solar panels in the financial year 2023-24. To make Railways environment friendly, Prayagraj Division has continuously reduced its energy consumption and promoted alternative energy. Prayagraj Division is dedicated to maintaining and improving its energy efficiency standards. In the same sequence, on 20.06.2024, for the excellent and clean energy production established by Prayagraj Division, three office buildings located in the General Manager Office Complex of North Central Railway - Power House, Ganga Block and Saraswati Block have been awarded the prestigious 'Zero Plus' by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. And has been honored by giving a certificate with 'Zero' label. These buildings are the first railway office buildings of North Central Railway to receive the

honor from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency working under the Ministry of Power, Government of India. In Energy Performance Index, Power House building (-) 59.3 kilo watt hour/sq. meter/year, Ganga Block's (-) 7.3 kilo watt hour/sq. meter/year and Saraswati Block's 1.73 kilo watt hour/sq. meter/year. The year is EPI which is a big achievement. The combined solar power capacity on the roofs of these three buildings is 265 kilo watts. This clean energy production will result in savings of Rs 22,63,469/- per year and reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 288 tonnes.

This achievement is a testament to Railways' efforts towards reducing carbon emissions and promoting green energy generation. Prayagraj Division is proud to be a part of the net-zero carbon emission mission of Indian Railways. This energy certificate is valid for three years. On this achievement, Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Shri Kunwar Singh Yadav said that work is being done on solar energy production for clean and green energy in Railways. This energy efficiency award has en-

couraged Railways' commitment towards environment and energy conservation. Regular cleaning and quality maintenance of solar power generation plants helps in ensuring better production efficiency and higher energy production. Out of 4465 kilo watt capacity solar panels installed with better efforts for clean energy in Prayagraj division, 1030 kilo watt capacity solar panels were installed by Renew Energy, 2490 kilo watt capacity solar panels were installed by Azur Energy and 945 kilo watt capacity solar panels were installed by ourselves. Have been established by Railways. Solar panels are operational at Prayagraj Junction, Prayagraj Chhivki, Naini, Kanpur Central, Tundla, Manikpur, Etawah, Dadri, Fatehpur, Vindhyachal, Shikohabad, Mirzapur and Subedarganj stations of Prayagraj division. In the financial year 2023-24, 10,41,560 units of electricity were produced in Kanpur and Rs 34,98,421 were saved, in Tundla 3,25,974 units of electricity were produced and Rs 10,17,038 were saved and in Prayagraj 20,27,059 units of electricity were generated and Rs 70,58,108 were saved.

Sumerpur Hamirpur: The four-day training of State Drinking Water and Sanitation Mission Namami Gange Project going on in the block auditorium has fallen victim to chaos. For the second time this month, Anganwadi workers and assistants who had come for training were adopted by making them sit on the

## Chaos was seen in the four-day training, anger over being made to sit on the ground

Sumerpur Hamirpur: The four-day training of State Drinking Water and Sanitation Mission Namami Gange Project going on in the block auditorium has fallen victim to chaos. For the second time this month, Anganwadi workers and assistants who had come for training were adopted by making them sit on the

block auditorium from July 29 to August 1. This training is provided by BCS Counseling Pvt. Ltd. It is being given by Lucknow. Anganwadi workers, assistants, Asha Bahu teachers and Shikshamitras are to participate in the training. A total of 456 people are to be trained in the block. Train-

Jayanarayan Singh Yadav had strongly reprimanded the Child Development Project Officer on such chaos and instructed that such a thing should not be repeated in future. CDPO Preeti Bhiware was also absent in today's training. Seeing the disorganization of training, Block Development Officer Vipin Kumar



floor. Also, lunch etc. was not provided. Due to this, the Anganwadi and assistant who came to take training looked angry. The Block Development Officer has expressed strong displeasure over the irregularities. Under the State Drinking Water and Sanitation Mission Namami Gange Project, a four-day training on water conservation is to

expressed his strong displeasure and said that training is not given in this manner. Ankit Mishra, District Coordinator of the training institute, said that he had not called anyone for training. When he was asked how these women came again, he became speechless. The organization has given bags, booklets and certificates to the women who have come.



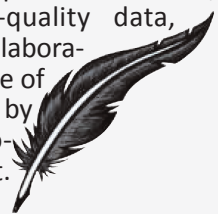
## Editorial

### AI is central to the future of climate finance, can attract investors

The report recommends a \$3 trillion annual increase in multilateral development banks' (MDBs) spending by 2030—including \$1.8 trillion toward climate action. However, MDBs offer concessional loans and add to the global debt, which hit a record \$307 trillion in 2023, a whopping 336 per cent of the GDP. Private sector engagement is crucial, yet its capacity to finance green projects is limited. Between 2016 and 2021, only \$120.8 billion was mobilised from the private sector, further highlighting the gap. In this context, artificial intelligence (AI) emerges as a transformative tool for climate finance, offering solutions for better decision-making, resource optimisation, and enhanced financial mechanisms to support sustainable initiatives. It can analyse vast datasets to assess climate risks accurately, aiding insurers and financial institutions in pricing risk and making resilient investments. Thus, AI can drive climate finance by exponentially improving risk assessment and management. AI algorithms can also help optimise investment portfolios by prioritising green investment opportunities over high-risk, carbon-intensive assets, balancing financial returns with environmental impact. Through its analysis of data trends, AI can uncover high-potential, underfunded areas for investment. Financial institutions worldwide need to be more efficient, and AI can help by streamlining operations and reducing costs. This will ultimately speed up the approval of climate finance proposals. One of the most critical areas of climate finance is risk pricing. AI can develop accurate pricing models for climate risks to reflect financial products' actual costs. Green bonds and sustainable finance require a greater push to increase funds flow. AI can raise investor confidence by automating compliance and reporting processes.

and ensuring that funds are used for their intended purposes. Considering the need to design and promote innovative financial instruments to direct retail investments into climate finance through capital markets.

AI can be most beneficial in promoting structures like infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs). Straddling the capital markets and institutional finance regulatory universe, InvITs are designed to unlock investors' investment appetite through the instrumentality of capital markets in the form of debt and equity. AI can optimise pricing for units of structures like InvIT, facilitating a smooth transition between debt and equity or public and private finance. It can also provide comprehensive real-time information on the performance (including financial) of projects held by these structures for robust forecasting and transparency. This can help tap into the vast global retail investor market. With a creative and attractive tax structure and robust risk matrix, InvIT-type structures can create circularity between public and private finance, as well as debt and equity, which is one way to bridge the green resource gap in the foreseeable future. Impact measurement and reporting are other areas in which AI can contribute significantly. It can enhance the measurement of climate finance initiatives' impact, attracting more investors through transparency and accountability. It can ensure funds are used effectively by monitoring and verifying the impact of investments. Similarly, compliance with fraud detection and climate finance regulations can also be improved with AI. Leveraging AI for climate action also poses several challenges. Reliable AI models depend on accurate, comprehensive, and high-quality data, necessitating stakeholder collaboration. It is also vital to be aware of the ethical and bias concerns by ensuring that the AI algorithms used are transparent.



### The video was taken off all streaming services, and everyone involved received legal notices

The backlash was enormous. The video was taken off all streaming services, and everyone involved received legal notices. This, of course, was counterproductive; everyone who wanted to watch the episode could easily access the pirated version. If the disproportionate reaction was magically erased from public memory, what would remain is this: the jokes were in extremely poor taste. That's not necessarily on the comedians and writers; it's what's mandated by the

form. The roast essentially replicates a schoolyard bullying scene. There's the bully, the one being bullied, and, of course, those who are complicit — the voyeuristic and the bystanders. As audience members and consumers of entertainment, we take on this role wholeheartedly and without guilt. Charlie Sheen's 2011 roast was Comedy Central's most watched, drawing in 6.5 million viewers. A 2015 roast of Justin Bieber was watched by 4.4 million people. Both were at their peak — Sheen in

terms of his infamy, and Bieber, who has always been equal parts adored and hated. The personal lives of celebrities are always public fodder and always will be. The rise of influencers testifies to the extent to which you can commercialise and commodify your life. The avalanche of hate is neutralised by the money that flows in. Roasts can be viewed from the same lens. However, comedic trends have always ranged from self-deprecating to self-hating to just hating everyone. And trends are

framed by what appeals to the public, which, in this case, is unkindness. Not to sound preachy or moralistic, but there is something concerning about the staggering popularity of roasts and the craze that surrounds them. There's no nuance, not much thought that goes into the jokes. It's a low-quality, easy-money endeavour. And perhaps that's why they continue to be made. Social contexts have changed. As a whole, society is more politically correct, more mindful of language.

## The defence services allocation includes the budget for the three services

Out of the total Rs 6.22 lakh crore, Rs 4.55 lakh crore has been allotted to the defence services, Rs 1.41 lakh crore for defence pensions (including defence civilians), and Rs 25,563 for MoD (Civil). The Defence Research and Development Organisation, and Defence Public Sector Undertakings. MoD (Civil) expenditure covers its secretariat expenses and those of organisations such as the Coast Guard, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Defence Accounts Department (DAD), and the Defence Estate Organisation. Out of the defence services budget, Rs 1.7 lakh crore (27.66 per cent) is earmarked for capital expenditure, while Rs 2.8 crore is allocated for revenue expenditure, including Rs 1.63 crore for pay and allowances and Rs 92,088 for stores (covering repair, maintenance and operational cost of the equipment in inventory). The capital expenditure of Rs 1.7 lakh crore for military modernisation did register a 5.8 per cent hike over last year's budgetary estimates and 9.4 per cent over revised estimates. The latter increase was due to Russia's inability to supply contracted weapons and equipment. The real increase is barely adequate to account for inflation and the rising dollar rate. A heartening feature of the current budget is the 30 per cent increase in the allocation for the Border Roads Organisation. The gap between projections made by the Armed Forces and allocation has been 17-23 per cent. In a nutshell, the



defence budget is disappointing and barely adequate to maintain the current capability. Unfortunately, this has been the norm since 2010 and is a cause of grave concern. Even with a modest GDP growth of about 7 per cent, India is projected to be a \$21 trillion economy by 2047. The BJP-led government has itself defined the national goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, implying a status of a great power or at least the third pole in the international arena along with the US and China. Achieving this goal requires a transformed military to safeguard national interests and maintain absolute strategic autonomy. Time is running short. China, with an economy five times larger than ours, set a goal in 2015 to transform its military by 2035 and make it the best in the world by 2049. Nine years into this transformation, its declared defence budget in 2023, as per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) was \$296 billion, three and a half times larger

than ours, which was assessed at \$83.6 billion. Pakistan's actual defence budget is approximately \$10 billion. India has to be prepared for a 2.5 front war—against China, Pakistan and Pakistan's proxy war in Jammu and Kashmir. And we are setting out to do so with a defence budget of \$ 83.6 billion! The situation is bizarre. With a niggardly defence budget, the politicians, carried away by their own rhetoric, dream of capturing the territories usurped by Pakistan and China. The military hierarchy instead of firmly advising the government about the shortcomings in preparedness says that it is prepared to fight and win the 2.5 front war. Neo-nationalism has further compounded the problem. An emotional and gullible public believes that India can defeat both China and Pakistan. If India followed the time-tested national security planning procedure of conducting an ethical strategic review, and a government-owned and monitored national defence policy to

transform the military, it would be clear that an allocation of 3 per cent of the GDP is essential. All these prerequisites lie within the political domain, and successive governments have wished the problem away. The military has compounded the issue by failing to implement in-house reforms to optimise, restructure, reorganise and modernise with the limited budget available.

High-technology wars of the 21st century cannot be fought with a military of the 20th Century. Two decades back, the eminent economist and former Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, said, "The government can allocate about three per cent of the GDP for defence needs provided the economy grows at an annual eight percent." Today our economy is growing at approximately 7 per cent. Surely, the government can provide 2.5 per cent of the GDP if not 3 per cent. With all other requirements remaining constant, an increase of 0.5 per cent of GDP will double the capital defence budget.

India is forecasted to achieve a \$4 trillion economy by the end of this year, and \$8 trillion by 2035. And this is the decade in which our military must transform itself to reduce the capability differential vis a vis the People's Liberation Army. It is time for the government to think like a great power and begin the transformation of its Armed Forces. And for this, an allocation of 2.5-3 per cent of GDP is inescapable.

China, our principal adversary, has been at the gates since April 2020, and its colossus partner, Pakistan, has stepped up terrorism through the back door. However, in the defence budget 2024-2025, "butter has got the better of the guns". With a budgetary allocation of Rs 6,21,940 crore, there is an increase of Rs 28,402 crore over the allocation of Rs 5,93,538 in 2023-2024, but a marginal decrease of Rs 1,949 crore compared to the revised budget estimates of Rs 6,23,889 crore. This year's allocation, which is 1.9 per cent of India's GDP and 12.9 per cent of annual national expenditure, is the lowest since 1960 as percentage of GDP. It is pertinent to mention that, despite economic constraints, past governments allocated the universal norm of 3 per cent or more of the GDP for defence from 1963 to 2010. However, in the last decade, our defence budget has been hovering around 2 per cent of the GDP. Since 2014, the defence budget has been barely adequate to sustain the military capability with incremental modernisation to maintain the dissuasive deterrent against China and offensive deterrent against Pakistan. However, it is grossly inadequate for transforming the Armed Forces to pose a challenge to China and to give a clear edge in the offensive deterrent against.

Pakistan. Consequently, we have been unable to compel China to restore the status

### Who will the Jats of the West support in the assembly elections?

The Jats of Muzaffarnagar riots believe that the farmers' movement has benefited SP before the 2022 elections. SP's seats also increased due to the farmers' movement, but still SP did not give any significant share to the Jats. This time, by giving tickets to Jats in the Lok Sabha, SP considered its responsibility towards the Jats fulfilled.

The Muzaffarnagar candidate won, but behind this too, the Jats' love for SP candidate Harendra Malik was less and their resentment with Sanjeev Baliyan was more.

In the name of Jat leader in SP, there is an elderly Ghaziabad resident and another Jat leader from Haryana who do not have any special existence or influence among the Jats of West UP.

The Jats have not yet forgotten the SP government's conspiracy to break the Jat-Muslim unity through this. The Jat community also blames the SP for getting the

Jat reservation cancelled in the Supreme Court. The SP has been the biggest hurdle in the dream of making West UP a separate state.

All political parties in UP have their eyes set on the 2027 elections. Its semi-final is being considered to be the by-elections of 10 assembly seats. BJP is worried about losing 29 seats in the Lok Sabha elections in UP, while the All India Alliance wants to maintain its lead in the by-elections as well. The 2027 election is also a do or die election for Akhilesh. If at least 80 seats are not won from West UP, the path to Lucknow will not be easy. West UP is called Jat land and there are not many Yadav voters here. In such a situation, it will be a big challenge for SP to woo the Jats.

Right now the Jats are voting for RLD, BJP and SP, BSP after seeing the Jat candidate. But no special strategy of SP is visible to attract the Jats.

### Budget shows Modi govt's priority areas have changed after election

Rs 2000 crore for a new internship programme to be implemented by the department of consumer affairs. The government has also allocated Rs 1,000 crore for a new ITI upgradation scheme. The other areas of priority mentioned in the budget speech are productivity and resilience in agriculture, inclusive human resource development and social justice, manufacturing and services, urban development, energy security, infrastructure, innovation, research and development, and next-generation reforms. These have either not translated into any change in allocation (perhaps because the allocation in the interim budget was deemed adequate) or have led to relatively small changes. Under the priority area of energy security, the government has allocated Rs 6,250 crore for PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which was launched earlier this year. For urban development, there is an additional allocation of Rs 4,000 crore for housing under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). While the first area that Sitharaman had emphasised in her budget speech was agriculture, the only major change in allocation towards this sector is Rs 4,700 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Yojana, under which remunerative prices are supposed to be provided to farmers. Further, while the government has continued the emphasis on infrastructure expenditure, the only major change in allocation from the interim budget is an additional allocation of Rs 6,000 crore for road works. Overall, most of the allocations in the Union budget are same as those in the interim budget. The only major deviations are in additional allocations for special assistance to states, which will likely be used for states ruled by BJP allies at the Centre, an acknowledgement of the need to do

more for employment creation, and in an allocation for price stabilisation. Since the Union budget envisages additional expenditure of Rs 54,744 crore over the expenditure budgeted in the interim budget, most of the additional allocations to the purposes and schemes discussed above did not require a reduction in allocations in other areas. Since the 2024 Lok Sabha election results were contrary to the government's expectations, there was a chance that the government may opt for major changes in allocation. However, the overall thrust of the expenditure strategy remains the same. Even the allocation for capital expenditure is the same. Beyond the allocation, the approach to using instruments of fiscal policy for addressing development problems also remains largely the same. On employment, for instance, the focus is on subsidies and direct benefit transfers, which have been the government's preferred instruments for most policy problems. The design of these schemes needs to be tested though. For instance, the direct benefit transfer to the first-time workers comes with the condition that if the worker is fired in the first year, the employer will have to reimburse the subsidy to the government. Since the benefit goes to the employee while the consequence of firing is on the employer, on the margins, this places an additional burden on the employer rather than reducing the cost of hiring. On the receipts side, the only major change is in the non-tax revenue. On account of a much larger dividend from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) than was budgeted in the interim budget, the budgeted receipt on non-tax revenues is about Rs 1.46 lakh crore higher than in the interim budget. While there are some major changes in the direct tax regime — the most important being the changes in the rate.

## Govt pushes to register 10,000 farmers' producer organizations by year-end

"Two insiders told that the government may meet its goal by December, two months early"



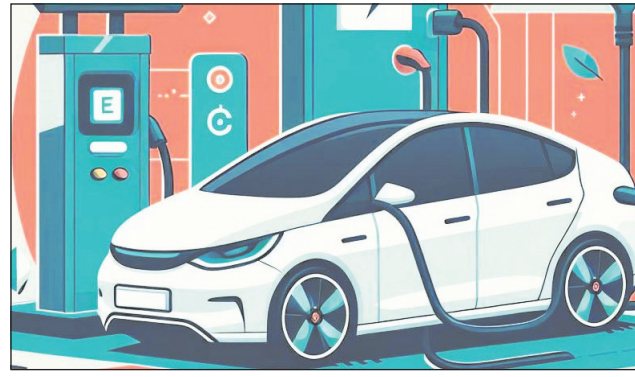
Delhi: The Union government is rushing to register 10,000 farmers' producer organizations to boost their income with better market access, technology, and collective bargaining power. Two insiders told that the government may meet its goal by December, two months early. One said the government had registered approximately 9,000 FPOs. Farmers' producer organizations aggregate and process primary produce to bridge wholesale-retail food pricing gaps. The government

announced the plan on February 29, 2020, to register 10,000 FPOs by February 28, 2025. The Union budget published this week proposes a 30% increase in FPO allocation, from 450 crore in 2023-24 to ₹581.67 crore in 2024-25. The official said, "The FPOs will bring together small, marginal, and landless farmers, giving them the collective strength to tackle their challenges more effectively." Given the current rate of FPO registrations, the government may top 10,000 by year's end, the second official added. Both officials

requested anonymity. As of July 25, 8,939 FPOs had been registered, according to an agriculture ministry official. A credit guarantee facility of up to ₹2 crore is available for project loans from lending institutions, ensuring FPOs access to institutional financing. Plain FPOs with 300 farmer members are eligible for aid, whereas northeastern and hilly FPOs with 100 are. A substantial proportion of farmers in the country are tiny or marginal, with average land holdings of less than one hectare, said Binod.

## 2-month extension granted to EV scheme

Delhi: The Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024) will be extended by two months, till September, with an additional expenditure of Rs 278 crore, according to an announcement by the heavy industries ministry. The government announced that the scheme's new aims include supporting more than 5 lakh electric two-wheelers and around 51,000 e-three wheelers. Oh no! Jointly developed by MediaTek and JioThings, the 'Made in India' Smart Digital Cluster and Smart Module are now available for motorcycles. This innovation sought to improve the electric vehicle industry by integrating the Internet of Things (IoT), voice recog-



ognition, and real-time data analytics. Working together, they aimed to revolutionize the rider experience and provide cutting-edge smart clusters to meet the demands of the expanding electric vehicle market. During her presentation of the Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled plans to create 2 lakh crore jobs. Direct wage

benefits, incentives for manufacturing, and employer support are important parts of the plans. In line with the government's goals for India's future, a new skilling project would modernize 1,000 ITIs and teach 20 lakh youth over the course of five years. With an emphasis on facilitating access to loans and enhancing technological capabilities.

## Gold sector wants 'One Nation, One Rate' from East India

Delhi: An official stated the gold jewelry business supports a 'One Nation, One Rate' approach, commencing with Eastern India in August. Samar Kr De, Swarna Shilpa Bachao Committee President, said all stakeholders want a national gold rate. De said bullion sellers will

help us implement a single rate for Bengal and eastern India in August. The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) Chairman, Saiyam Mehra, said, "The idea is to create a level playing field for all stakeholders and prevent undercutting." De added they are in talks with sig-

nificant national jewellery retail chains to extend the 'One Gold Rate' policy countrywide within six months. He added that the business was surprised by the 9% duty drop. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman cut gold and silver import taxes from 15% to 6%.

## Twelve new industrial cities for India

Two in Andhra Pradesh and one in Bihar are coming. Eight such towns are in various stages of execution



Delhi: A top government official claimed 12 new industrial cities in the lines of Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, and Dholera, Gujarat, will encourage domestic manufacturing. Two in Andhra Pradesh and one in Bihar are coming. Eight such towns are in various stages of execution, according to DPIIT Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. Dholera (Gujarat), Auric

(Maharashtra), Vikram Udyogpuri (Madhya Pradesh), and Krishnapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) have trunk infrastructure and industry land parcels are being allotted. In the other four, the government's special purpose vehicle is building road, water, and electricity infrastructure. The Budget announced 12 additional cities, bringing

the total to 20, Singh told PTI. Industrial smart cities. Twelve new cities bring the total to 20. After building the trunk infrastructure, we gave plots. We obtain environmental clearance for the entire city, so the corporation may 'plug and play' "The department will request new ones from the Union cabinet. Plans are

ready and state governments own the land. "We just have to approve the equity to the SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle)," he said. The move will boost manufacturing's GDP contribution and create jobs. Ashoo Gupta, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co., stated this innovative reform, in conjunction with governments and the business sector, can improve industrial growth and city planning. "These initiatives will become vibrant economic hubs that spur innovation and development, leaving a legacy. The government usually builds vital infrastructure and gives industries land, enticing investors with high-quality, reliable, eco-friendly, and durable infrastructure," Gupta added.

## After paints, Aditya Birla enters Rs 6.7 trn jewelry retail



Delhi: With an investment of Rs 5,000 crore over the next four years, it hopes to place Indriya among the top three national players in five years, increasing at 50% annually. Opus paints and Indriya jewelry are two key new consumer brands we launched this year to capitalize on the Indian customer's dynamism. Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman, Aditya Birla Group, said the Indian consumer is fast maturing and may be the most promising globally. Some 20% of the group's revenue comes from consumer busi-

nesses. I expect this to rise to 25% in five years, reaching \$25 billion in consumer business revenue. Birla stated this would be bigger than most Indian solo consumer enterprises. He added the successful launch of our two consumer businesses—paints and jewelry retail—will be a key driver. "Entering the jewellery business

is compelling due to the ongoing value migration from informal to formal sectors, the rising consumer preference for strong, trusted brands, and the ever-booming wedding market, all of which present substantial growth opportunities," he said. Four Indriya stores will launch in Delhi, Indore, and Jaipur.

## News influencers may be broadcasters



Delhi: The government's new broadcasting bill draft shared with stakeholders classifies digital news broadcasters as anyone who post videos to social media, record podcasts, or write about current events online. It sought to centralize broadcaster regulation under one statute when it was initially proposed in November 2023. Since its inception, it has been plagued by questions over whether online news content creators, who are not affiliated with legacy media or registered digital media, can be subject to streaming platform responsibilities. The 2024 version introduces digital news broadcasters to bring them under the law. The first draft was ambiguous, therefore it defines "professional" as a person in an occupation or vocation and "systematic activi-

ty" as "any structured or organised activity that involves an element of planning, method, continuity or persistence". The expanded definition of "news and current affairs programmes" includes "texts" in addition to "audio, visual or audio-visual content, sign, signals, writing, images" "transmitted directly or using a broadcasting network". The definitions of 'programme' and 'broadcasting' now encompass "texts" and "textual programmes". This law covers all online news and related content, including social media videos and commentary, websites,

newsletters, and podcasts. The measure is still in public comment, and any amendments must go through the Union Cabinet before being submitted in Parliament. These proposals are part of a larger approach that also imposes new obligations on intermediaries and social media intermediaries for streaming services and digital news broadcasters and targets online advertising, a major change from the 2023 version. The new definition of a 'intermediary' in any program covers social media, advertising, internet service providers, search engines.

## 'Banks must follow MSME home loan growth story'

"Banks will be asked to use small businesses' 'digital footprint'—salary payments, electricity bills, municipal taxes, to determine loan approvals"

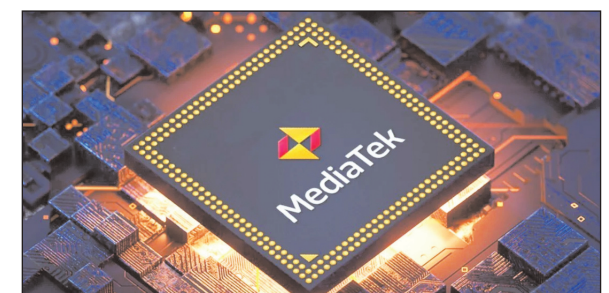
Delhi: Financial services secretary Vivek Joshi said that banks will be asked to use small businesses' "digital footprint"—salary payments, electricity bills, municipal taxes, GST, and provident fund details—to determine loan approvals. The gov-



ernment wants to replicate the home loan model to boost lending to this segment, which has been in the loan shadow zone. The bank manager may know a small businessman is doing well, but the rules prevent him from lending. The new system will be funded. "Bank accounts alone can reveal a borrower's information," he remarked after the Budget. Banks require balance sheets, income tax reports, and other papers before lending. Data allows FM to evaluate businesses even in their early phases. In her Budget, Nirmala

Sitharaman introduced a credit rating system. Joshi said banks will build the framework themselves, but the Indian Banks' Association may discuss broad criteria. RBI's "frictionless credit" offers loans in 10-15 minutes using digitized property records, MSME registration on the government web, or milk sales to cooperatives like Amul. To improve customer service, the high-ranking bureaucrat stated state-run entities must investigate friction areas. Why do young people use private banks? They presumably offer better services.

## Jio Platforms partners Taiwanese chipmaker MediaTek for electric 2-wheeler IoT platform

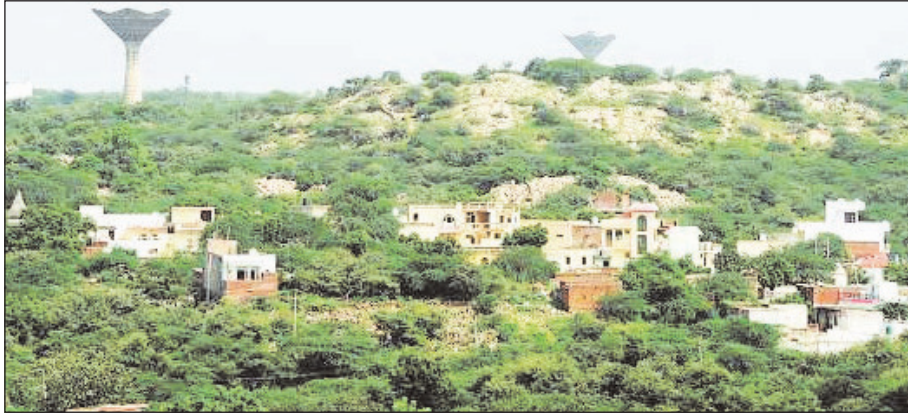


Delhi: Jio Platforms has teamed with Taiwanese fabless semiconductor giant MediaTek to enter the two-wheeler technology platform sector in India. MediaTek and Jio Platforms' subsidiary JioThings introduced an indigenous Internet of Things (IoT) platform for electric two-wheelers, providing Smart Digital Cluster and Smart Module. "Jio Things is pleased to collaborate with MediaTek for the mobility industry with our 4G smart android digital cluster, app suite, and smart module solutions," Kiran Thomas, Jio Platforms CEO, stated. MediaTek was also optimistic about the

new endeavor. "This cluster aligns with our vision for 2-wheeler smart dashboards," stated Jerry Yu, Senior VP and GM of Intelligent Devices Business Group. Companies said the smart digital cluster and operating system will provide real-time data analytics, configurable interfaces, voice recognition for control, IoT-enabled charging infrastructure, smart battery management, and more. The platform will provide 2-W EV customers the 'Jio Automotive App Suite', which includes Jio Voice Assistant, JioSaavn, JioPages, JioXploR, and others.

## Illegal Farmhouses Threaten Aravalli Hills Ecosystem: Sohna, Gurgaon

Delhi: Illegal farmhouses are destroying trees in the Aravalli Hills, particularly near Sohna's Gair Mumkin Pahar. Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) makes the Aravalli Hills uncuttable and needs government authorization to chop trees. A rise in illegal farmhouses threatens the national treasure of Aravalli trees and the delicate ecological balance of the surrounding area. Illegal farmhouses have long colonized the Aravalli Hills, but the situation has grown. Stakeholders and environmentalists are concerned about landowners blatantly felling trees.



Unchecked deforestation is destroying Raisina Hills' beauty, a worrying trend. Villagers say that illegal farmhouse owners take down trees, add stones, and install iron gates. These activities involve clearing forested areas to build approach roads to their farmhouses. Gates restrict

locals' access and the government's action. Recent forest department operations have destroyed several illegal farmhouses, but a worrying analysis found that more than 500 new farmhouses were built in 2022. Even the Forest Department doesn't grasp the latest farm-

house development boom. The causes of this unlawful activity surge are unclear, making regulatory work difficult. The lack of a unified plan to combat this problem makes illegal farmhouses thrive. A concerted effort by local communities, government institutions, and environmental groups

is essential. Waking up is important to solve this problem and address its causes. There is an urgent need to address the proliferation of illegal farmhouses in the Aravalli Hills, particularly in Gair Mumkin Pahar. These constructions' unrestrained development and environmental violations will threaten the Aravalli ecosystem. Local communities' rights and well-being will be violated. Governments, environmentalists, and local stakeholders must work together to solve this problem. They should enforce laws and adopt sustainable methods to protect the Aravalli Hills' natural heritage.

## Publicize child begging helpline

Delhi: In a PIL against child begging, a bench led by acting chief justice Manmohan was informed by the Delhi government that anyone can report an event on the hotline, and a mechanism has been built to counsel and transmit the situation. After hearing the authorities, the court closed the PIL and ordered Delhi to provide an affidavit of compliance after eight weeks. The writ petition was dismissed, including Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, ordered respondents to promote the child hotline number 1098. Standing coun-



sel Santosh Kumar Tripathi represented the Delhi government, which assured the court that a framework is in place to respond to child beggars.

He also said out-of-school youngsters are being identified and admitted to schools. Residents can now record sightings

and help relocate animals for safer routes. Road accidents must be prevented, says the chief minister.

Discover how scoliosis affects child development. Discover the value of early diagnosis and treatment. How to help scoliosis-affected kids live better.

## Government will sell wheat

Delhi: In order to sell FCI's wheat stock, the food ministry has set a minimum sale price of Rs 2,325/quintal for private bulk buyers like millers, below the market price of Rs 2,400/quintal. The minimum rice price for bulk buyers is Rs 2,800/quintal. Prices do not include FCI depot transportation. The ministry stated in an official notification that FCI will discuss



with the ministry to determine the quantity of grain inventories to be offloaded after considering PDS stock,

buffer norms, and 20 lakh tons. FCI has 289 lakh tonnes of wheat. Government may lift rice export prohibition and resume wheat sales. Minimum sale prices for FCI wheat and rice holdings.

A group of ministers will decide on export ban removal. Pre-registering farmers for urad procurement by government cooperatives.

## Used truck prices rise as logistics companies slash costs

USED TRUCK PRICES ON THE UPSWING			
GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT (TONNE)	Jun-24	Jun-23	YOY Change
1.5 to 2	₹3,29,727	₹2,39,490	38%
2 to 3.5	₹5,82,400	₹4,76,462	22%
3.5 to 7.5	₹6,39,000	₹5,29,000	21%
7.5 to 16	₹8,10,000	₹7,55,833	7%
16 to 19	₹9,63,000	₹8,83,500	9%
25 to 28.5	₹13,60,000	₹12,88,000	6%
31 to 36	₹15,77,000	₹11,00,000	43%
37 to 43.5	₹16,00,000	₹13,50,750	18%

All vehicles are five years old. Source: Shriram Mobility Bulletin July 2024

Delhi: Used truck prices rose double-digits year-over-year for light commercial vehicles. A 38% increase in used vehicle costs for 1.5- to 2-tonne vehicles. The 2 to 3.5 tonne category rose 22% and the 3.5 to 7.5 section 21%. The only other segment with bigger price hikes was 31 to 36 tonnes, but truck marketers said this was a distortion because few higher GVW trucks are repossessed. The smaller tonnage unorganized fleet for inter and intra city logistics has been switching from new to old rucks in the recent year. Price hikes and logistics market stress due to inconsistent freight rate increases are to blame. Ashutosh Pandey, CEO, Mahindra First Choice Wheels, said smaller unorganized

fleet owners must cut costs and utilize 40% cheaper trucks. Marketers say the move toward used trucks has been obvious for about two years. Shriram Finance spokesman: "Over the past two years, prices for all types of used commercial vehicles, BS IV or BS VI, have increased 25-30%." "The subdued sales during 2019-22 have resulted in a shortage of supply in the used truck market." The used truck industry is booming, and prices are projected to stay high as new vehicle prices rise. The current batch of new trucks (one or two years old) will be available pre-owned after a few years. "This could potentially drive sustained growth in the used vehicle segment," he said.

## India rice stocks three times target, alleviating supply concerns

Delhi: Two government sources in India, the world's second-largest rice producer, reported that rice stocks were nearly three times their target at the start of August. The surplus will boost market hopes of fresh Delhi lifting a recent export prohibition, along with the fresh season crop expected in October. Last month, the world's top rice exporter abruptly halted non-Basmati white rice exports, sending prices to multi-year highs. On August 1, state warehouses had 37.6 million metric tons of Indian rice, including unmilled husk varieties, sources told Reuters. Rice suits us "unidentified source said. Our supplies are sufficient as we near the end of the 2022-23 rice marketing year. Next crop is around the corner. "Sources reported



24.6 million metric tons of rice and 13 million metric tons of unmilled rice on Aug. 1.

Local government regulations require state-run warehouses to have 13.5 million metric tons of rice, including Strategic Reserves of 2 million for the quarter starting July 1. Rice is planted in June and July in India, and harvesting begins in October. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), India's primary grain importer, would increase state granary rice inventories with new season purchas-

es. FCI purchased 84.6 million metric tons of rice paddy from domestic farmers in 2022-23, yielding 57 million tons. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Indian farmers harvested a record 135.5 million metric tons of rice in 2022-23. According to the weather service, eastern Indian rice-growing states may receive excess rainfall in August. A good crop will require FCI to acquire lots of rice from farmers, strengthening government granary inventories.

## Cruel to crush the snouts of dogs such as pugs

Delhi: PETA India announced that it would be conducting an appeal in advance of World Plastic Surgery Day to remind people that, although humans may have a choice in the form of their nose, pet dog breeds like pugs and other flat-faced dogs do not. According to PETA, those who are kind hearted should never purchase them since they are purposefully and cruelly bred to have a nose so compressed it makes it impossible for them to even breathe. According to PETA, a number of cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, will host the awareness campaign at the same time. Marine Lines in Mumbai will have a massive billboard up. Pugs and other breathing-impaired breeds (BIB)—such as shih tzus, boxers, Boston terriers, French and English bulldogs, Pekingese, and Cavalier King Charles spaniels—suffer from brachycephalic syndrome.



## Government bans pro-Khalistan SFJ for 5 years, citing anti-India actions

Delhi: The Centre has declared pro-Khalistan outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) a 'unlawful association' for another five years, citing its continued anti-India and subversive activities and support for violent extremism in Punjab and elsewhere to create a sovereign Khalistan. On July 10, 2019, UAPA banned SFJ as a 'unlawful association' for its aggressive 'Referendum 2020' campaign for a Khalistan state on social media and in countries with large Sikh diasporas. In notification, MHA warned that SFJ, without immediate curbs on its unlawful activities, may escalate its attempts to carve out a Khalistan nation from Indian territory by destabilizing the lawful government; continue advocating secession of Punjab from the Union of India and formation of Khalistan; propagate anti-national and separatist sentiments prejudicial to territorial integrity and security; and escalate secessionist movements.



## Delhi raised pollution certificate prices

Delhi: The Delhi administration has immediately changed two-, three-, and four-wheeler pollution-checking rates. Rates for petrol, CNG, and LPG two-wheelers and three-wheelers have been revised to ₹80. New pricing for fuel, CNG, and LPG four-wheelers are now 110. Diesel owners will pay 140 extra. The national capital's PUC rates were updated after 13 years. In response to increased pollution checking costs, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot told PTI that PUC charges were revised. Gahlot stated, "We revised the charges to meet the Delhi Petrol Dealers Association's long-standing demands and escalating pollution inspection costs. We are committed to safeguarding Delhi's air quality and ensuring all vehicles fulfill pollution limits." Two- and three-wheeler pollution-checking fees for petrol, CNG, or LPG have increased from 60 to 80. However, the price of four-wheelers has risen by 30 from 80 to 110. The maximum PUC certificate increment for diesel automobiles is 100 to 140. Vehicle requirements limit PUC certificate validity. Car and two-wheeler owners must renew their PUC certificate every six months after a year for a new vehicle.



## Central armed police chiefs promise a 10% quota for ex-Agnives

Delhi: Heads of various central armed police forces (CAPFs) reiterated their commitment to implement a 10% quota for ex-Engineers in all constable-level posts, saying the forces will benefit from trained and disciplined manpower.

After the Union cabinet approved the Agnipath scheme in June 2022, the home ministry announced a 10% CAPF job quota for ex-Agniveers with four years of service. X tweeted recordings of the director-generals of CRPF, BSF, CISF, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and Railway

Protection Force (RPF) stating that ex-Agniveers will receive 10% CAPF quotas. The DGs in these videos mention the recruitment rules amendments for each CAPF that relaxed ex-Agniveers. These include exemption from the physical efficiency exam and age relaxation of five years for the first cohort of ex-Agniveers and three years for succeeding batches.

"All CRPF ex-Agniveer recruitment arrangements are complete. Due to their Army discipline, Agnives will be valuable.

Delhi: Congress sources claimed a two-member fact-finding committee sent by the party's central leadership to investigate its capital loss met with all candidates and top officials in recent days. Every candidate and Delhi official said AAP's elected officials and staffers didn't molest them. Anonymity claims AAP's support for Congress did not convert on any of the three seats. Top party official, requesting "The fact-finding committee will soon hand over the report to the central leadership for its consideration," he said. Congress and

## Congress candidates blame Delhi Lok Sabha loss on AAP



AAP, the two parties of opposition's INDIA alliance, shared seats in the capital and contested the Lok Sabha election to avoid splitting anti-BJP support. AAP won four seats and Congress three after winning two straight assembly polls by a big mandate and the recent MCD polls. BJP won 54.3%, AAP 24.1%, and Congress 19.1%. AAP

national convener and Delhi CM They worried that if their supporters voted for Congress today, they wouldn't vote for AAP in Delhi assembly elections in Jan-Feb next year "said a senior party official. Several days before the nomination process, we announced our candidacy. In places where its candidates ran, AAP has sent

activists from all constituencies. Senior AAP leaders refused to send personnel to our districts, another Congress man claimed. Senior Congress officials told the committee that many party workers were unhappy with the AAP collaboration. "Some party members also disliked the nomination of two outsiders. Meanwhile, AAP and Congress have stated that their cooperation is restricted to Lo Sabha elections and that they will compete in the Delhi assembly elections separately.

## Adani Group investment in energy transition to exceed \$100 billion over decade

**Delhi:** "In the future, green electron availability will drive economic growth. Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, gave the keynote talk at CRISIL Ratings Annual Infrastructure Summit 2024. He believes the green electron industry has no limit. The Adani Group will invest more than \$100 billion in the energy transition arena over the next decade and grow its integrated renewable energy value chain, which already manufactures every significant component for green energy generation. Adani Group's green hydrogen integrated manufacturing ecosystem goal is on track.

The integrated manufacturing branch of ANIL has commissioned India's first 2 GW monocrystalline ingot and wafer plant for 182 mm and 210 mm wafer thickness-



es. The Group's 4 GW solar module manufacturing capacity will handle the production. In the beginning, polysilica-to-module capacity will reach 10 GW. Adani Group wants to grow wind turbine generator capacity to 5 GW by 2027 from 1.5 GW. In its low-cost integrated green hydrogen project, ANIL is establishing hydrogen electrolyzer production facilities. End-to-end supply chain control will reduce the Group's import dependence and improve module pro-

duction and price control. At the Crisil Summit, Adani said, "We are confident that we will produce the world's least expensive green electron that will become the feedstock for several sectors that must meet the sustainability mandate." "To achieve this, we are building the world's largest single-site renewable energy park in Khavda, Kutch, Gujarat. He stated that this location will generate 30 GW of power, bringing our renewable energy capability to 50 GW by 2030.

## Patanjali demanded a deposit of Rs. 50 lakh for violating an HC decision

**Delhi:** After Mangalam Organics Ltd. filed a complaint alleging trademark infringement, the High Court issued an interim order in August 2023 prohibiting Patanjali Ayurved Ltd. from selling its products that include camphor. On July 8, a single bench of Justice R I Chagla observed that Patanjali acknowledged violating the previous ruling awarding an injunction against the sale of the contested camphor products in an affidavit filed in June. In August 2023, the High Court issued an interim order restraining Patanjali Ayurved Ltd from selling its camphor prod-



ucts in response to charges made by Mangalam Organics Ltd. On July 8, a single bench of Justice R I Chagla observed that Patanjali acknowledged violating the previous ruling awarding an injunction against the sale of the contested camphor products in an affidavit filed in June. Suing Patanjali Ayurved, Mangalam

Organics claimed that their camphor products were being copied. Suing Patanjali Ayurved, Mangalam Organics claimed that their camphor products were being copied. Later, it filed an application, alleging that Patanjali's ongoing sale of the camphor products constituted a violation of the interim injunction.

## TCS employed 5,452 in Q1, reversing headcount decline

**Delhi:** Tata Consultancy Services (NS:TCS) employed 5,452 people in the first quarter of FY25, reversing three-quarters of the workforce reduction. The company's headcount fell for the first time in 19 years in FY24. The company has 6,06,998 workers. In Q1 FY25,

attrition dropped to 12.1%, the business claimed. After reporting a 9% year-on-year growth in net profit to Rs 12,040 crore in Q1 FY25, Chief Human Resources Officer Milind Lakkad said he was "delighted to announce the successful completion of our annual increment

process." "Our sustained focus on staff engagement and development led to industry-leading retention and good business performance, with the net headcount addition being very satisfying," Lakkad said. In Q1, TCS earned Rs 62,613 crore, up 5.4% from the previous year.

## The newly elected office bearers of BPMS took oath in a dignified program

**New Delhi:** The oath taking ceremony of Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh was organized at the Constitution Club in New Delhi. The program was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp in the presence of Rajya Sabha member ND Gupta. During the dignified program, the newly elected office bearers of Bhiwani Parivar Maitri Sangh for the year 2024-27 were also administered the oath of office and secrecy. The oath taking ceremony was held under the supervision of Chief Election Commissioner JS Gupta, Election Commissioner KL Garg and Abhay Jain. JS Gupta administered the oath of office and secrecy to all the office bearers. Rajesh Chetan took

oath as the President of the organization, Dinesh Gupta-General Secretary, Pawan Modra-Treasurer, Hansraj Ralhan-Vice President, Vinay Singhal-Vice President, Manish Goyal-Organization Minister, Meenakshi Garg-Secretary, Sanjay Gupta-Joint Secretary, Deepak Gupta-Joint Secretary, Pramod Kumar Sharma-Publicity Minister, Sanjay Jain (Karol Bagh) and Sanjay Jain (Prashant Vihar) took oath as executive members. It is noteworthy that all these office bearers have been elected unanimously. Along with this, the conveners of various service committees were nominated as executive members. These included

Sanjay Aggarwal, Govind Ram Bansal, Sachin Mehta, Sunil Sharma, Sanjay Goyal, Mahendra Chawla, Amardeep Singhal, Sunil Bansal, Umesh Mittal, Mahadev Jindal, Pooja Bansal and Kanta Bajaj. On this occasion, Rajya Sabha MP ND Gupta praised the work of BPMS wholeheartedly and announced to provide all possible help from his MP fund. Internationally renowned doctor Dr. Ramesh Gupta from America was a special attraction of the program. After practicing in America for 40 years, he will now make India his workplace. He announced a contribution of Rs. 5 lakh to BPMS to fulfill its mission and gladly agreed to join the Board

of Trustees of the organization. The re-elected president of the organization and internationally renowned poet Rajesh Chetan said that the aim of the organization is to provide a friendly environment to the families who have come from the district and settled in metro cities, to promote the art and culture of the country and the state, and to inspire the youth for the unity and integrity of the country. He said that BPMS has left no stone unturned in fulfilling all its social responsibilities. He said that in the last one year, free cataract surgery was done for more than a thousand eye from this, under 'Mission Pink', every level of help was provided.

## Tata Motors, M&M discount as demand drops

**Delhi:** Is the auto market slump pushing pricing cuts? Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra have dropped the price of several of its important SUVs to boost demand, while Maruti, Hyundai, and Honda all offer discounts. Two premium flagship SUVs from Tata Motors have been discounted by Rs 1.4 lakh. The Harrier costs Rs 14.9 lakh and the Safari Rs 15.5 lakh. Even the Nexon EV is discounted Rs 1.3 lakh. Tata Passenger Electric Mobility chief business officer Vivek Srivatsa called them "never



seen before benefits" to improve vehicle accessibility. He noted that the Punch electric deal includes a Rs 30,000 benefit. Mahindra & Mahindra released a discounted XUV700 special edition. The XUV700's fully-loaded AX7 range starts at Rs 19.5 lakh, down over Rs 2 lakh. "The price cut will enable more peo-

ple to experience the range," the business claimed. Save almost Rs 2 lakhs on this feature-packed SUV with petrol and diesel engines. Four-month limited offer! Find exclusive offers and discounts on Tata Motors' Harrier, Safari, Nexon.ev, and Punch.ev models until July 31, 2024.

## New rule in India will ensure digital titans pay news publishers fairly

**Delhi:** India may pass a regulation to ensure equitable deals between tech corporations and news publishers. According to Mint, Australia and other nations have required Google and Meta to compensate for exploiting news content on their platforms, which inspired this approach. Sources told the report that this legislation will be in addition to the Digital Competition Bill, which has held public discussions. In 2022, Jayant Sinha's parliamentary standing committee on finance proposed regulations to help news publishers negotiate fair and transparent deals with powerful digital companies. It was left out of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs'

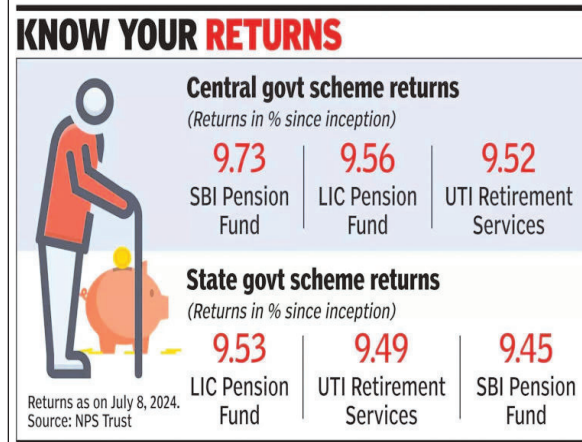


Digital Competition Bill. The newspaper cited sources saying this Bill will set criteria for large technology companies to foster fair competition in digital markets. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a proposal to level the playing field between news aggregators and publishers, a source said. A separate statute is being considered. "The article said the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is

reviewing Australia's news media bargaining code and impending rules in other countries. This has boosted digital news publisher revenue dramatically. "India, among other nations, is proposing a regulatory framework to secure fair contracts between news organizations and internet giants. Digital advertising generated Rs 40,865 crore and grew 36.6% in 2023, according to the research.

## Budget 2024: Government may guarantee NPS to calm anxieties

**Delhi:** This is despite the 2004 recruit program offering substantial profits for 25-30-year investors. The Centre has ruled out a return to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), but it kept the door open to provide consolation when Congress reversed a Manmohan Singh government decision. OPS is a defined benefit program that pays half the final wage as a lifetime pension, subject to pay commission recommendations. However, NPS is a defined contribution program where government employees contribute 10% of their basic income and the Centre contributes 14%. The Somanathan committee has examined global experience and the Andhra Pradesh government's modification, as well as extensive calculations



to assess the impact of an assured return. The Centre can guarantee 40-45%, but politically, it doesn't solve the concerns of 25-30-year employees. Thus, a 50% guarantee is gaining government support. In case of a deficiency, the government will compensate. Since the Centre has no retirement fund, several committee members believe an annual estimation will be needed, unlike the

government pension scheme, which is unfunded. As with corporations that offer retirement benefits, the Centre may create a fund this time. Officials say individuals who stay working for 25-30 years are seeing adequate earnings to match OPS pension payments, and complaints of low payouts are only from people who have left the system after 20 years or fewer.

## Apple alerts 98 countries, including India, about spyware



**Delhi:** The IT giant Apple has alerted consumers to a potential new mercenary malware attack similar to "Pegasus" in at least 98 countries, including India. "You are being targeted by a mercenary spyware attack that is trying to remotely compromise the iPhone associated with your Apple ID," according to the Apple alert. The iPhone manufacturer went on to say in the warning that this attack is "likely targeting you specifically because of who you are or what you do".

"Apple has great confidence in this warning, even though it's never feasible to identify such attacks with 100% certainty. Kindly consider it carefully," the business said. Similar alerts were sent to Indian users by the US-based technology corporation in October of last year. The internet giant may have used "mercenary spyware" like Pegasus from the NSO Group to target specific consumers in 92 countries, including those in India, by sending threat notifications in April of this year.

## IT hiring is improving, but firms are wary



**Delhi:** LinkedIn and other leading job sites said that top IT services companies' active hiring rose to 82,000 in March from 50,000 in January, the first growth in 20 months. However, due to declining attrition, the top IT services businesses' collective gross hiring declined 4-6% QoQ in the quarter ending March, according to Xpheno's study for ET based on talent movement patterns in January-March. Wipro, Infosys, TCS, HCL, LTI Mindtree, L&T Technology Services, Tech Mahindra, and Cognizant were exam-

ined. "While gross hiring (attrition refills and fresh hiring) has been low and declining for eight quarters, the current rise in active demand denotes a return of hiring for capacity in the ITS cohort," Anil Ethanur, co-founder of X hiring volume for the quarter ending March 2024 may be the lowest in over two years due to the 4-6% reduction.

Despite the drop in gross hiring, fewer exits will result in a lower headcount degrowth than last quarter "and IT sector consultants said FY25

discussions are still focused on bench dilution, automation, efficiency, and targeted hiring in niche areas like AI and GenAI due to macroeconomic uncertainty and few signs of demand recovery.

"IT services bellwethers will be cautious in FY25 talent acquisition as they focus on profits. Even if some regions are showing signs of improvement, overall demand signals are poor and do not indicate a spending comeback in the next two quarters.

## Will invest if EV GST stays 5% for 10 years: Mercedes-Benz

**Delhi:** Mercedes-Benz, one of the first major carmakers to show interest in the government's new EV policy, said it would invest \$500 million "provided it gets an assurance that the current 5% GST regime for electrics will continue for a decade." "We must determine its logic. The tax advantage of 5% GST on EVs must last ten years for investments to be made "Mercedes India MD & CEO Santosh Iyer. "We'll start with a business case.

No commercial case exists today." Mercedes was one of the first multinational automakers to invest in electric



mobility in India and is developing six green automobiles. The company's electric lineup comprises the EQS limousine, EQB MPV, and EQE SUV. Cars are made in its plant outside Pune. The company is introducing its smallest electric SUV, the EQA, and planning the EQS Maybach and electric G Class green SUVs. Iyer said the company

hopes the government would use tax incentives to promote green mobility in India. "On our part, we will do everything possible to accelerate the transition to EVs through our six models." Iyer said firms and service providers must work together to build a dense EV charging network. In addition, like the telecom industry and cell tower sharing, electric charger infrastructure may be common and pooled.

Iyer said the government should encourage EVs as India goes toward carbon neutrality.

## Small business payment rules to change by centre

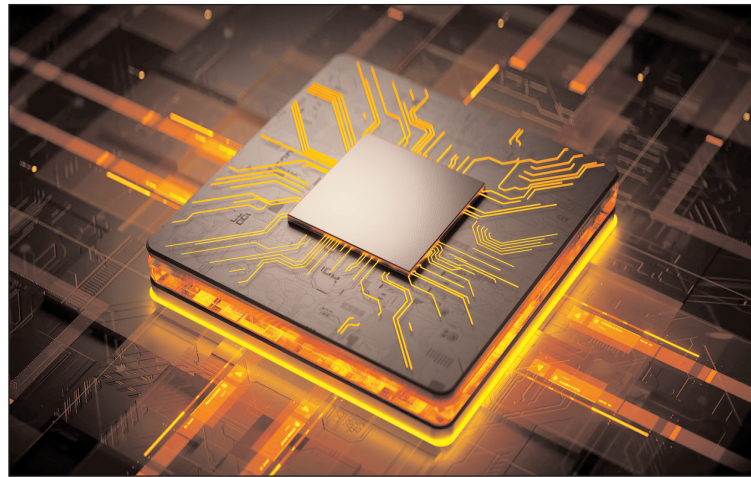
**Delhi:** An exporter in Chennai with multiple units was forced to deregister one of its entities on Udyam, the portal for micro, small, and medium enterprises, because some large buyers did not want to be caught in a government mandate requiring actual payment of

all dues to MSMEs within 45 days to claim tax deduction for expenditure. Several small businesses across the country are protesting that the government's well-intentioned attempt to ensure prompt payments is being used against them since they have little leverage in

negotiating with large enterprises that set pricing and payment terms. Others argued the standards were against business practices in particular sectors or in specific parts of the country where 60-90-day payments are common.

## Government contemplating 25K GPUs

**Delhi:** According to media reports, the Indian government is considering a public-private partnership (PPP) to set up a cluster of 25,000 GPUs (graphic processing units) for Indian companies working on AI and other emerging technologies that require high computing capacity. The Ministry of Electronics and IT is debating the INR 8,000-10,000 crore plan at the highest levels. Indian AI startups, corporations, and CEOs have urged the government to invest in scarce and expensive processing resources. Experts say the proposal will keep Indian data sovereign. They added many in the business have been using foreign clouds because GPUs are scarce in



India. One of Meity's seven AI working groups recommended a 25,000 GPU cluster, reports said. Data and people capital are abundant in India due to many digital changes, according to experts. India needs at least 25,000 GPUs for supercom-

puting to compete in the global AI race. The 75th fastest supercomputer in the world, India's 'Airawat' at C-DAC in Pune, has 640 GPUs. Worldwide, the fastest supercomputers have over 30,000 GPUs. The official said the government

will invite private companies to set up GPUs here through the usual tendering process after finalizing the project.

If they had a 1,000 GPU cluster instantly, AI businesses in the country may attract more funding, experts claimed. While the government considers this suggestion, recent agreements between Nvidia, Reliance Jio, and Tata Sons may provide entrepreneurs with computing infrastructure. Experts also said India needs fast supercomputers, and companies are looking at government programs to develop gigantic supercomputers and enterprises to train large language models (LLMs) in numerous Indian languages.

## Optiemus plans to invest Rs 140 crore to expand drone manufacturing

**Delhi:** To grow and provide drone manufacturing services to the agriculture, mapping, and allied industries, Optiemus Unmanned Systems, a subsidiary of Optiemus Infra, a contract maker of electronics, would invest Rs 140 crore. According to chairman Ashok Gupta, the company is localizing parts and components in order to reach 75% indigenization by the end of the fiscal year.

If interest rates



were high right now, would you invest your money in a long-term fixed deposit?

"We are set to leverage our expertise in drone technology to offer a cost-effective and efficient solution for agricultural and defence needs," Gupta stated.

## NCLT tells Byju's: Show lack of funds or face audit

**Delhi:** The National Company Law Tribunal advised Byju's to have its finances reviewed to determine if it can pay its employees. The court ruled that Byju's is still operating and must generate revenue to pay



salaries while hearing a group of employees' request for unpaid wages. The court ordered the firm to establish its incapacity to pay or face an audit. The remarks were part of the arguments, and no decision has been made. Byju's didn't comment. Several Byju employees haven't been paid for February and March. In an earli-

er letter to staff, founder and CEO Byju Raveendran stated a few investors' decision to prevent the company from using rights issue funds had delayed salary payments. Byju's laid off 500 workers and closed most of its offices in April.

In an interim order in late February, the NCLT ordered the company to keep all \$200 million rights issue funds.

## Air cargo from India increases amid Red Sea crisis, aiming for 10 mn tonnes by 2030



**Delhi:** Air freight from India has more than doubled since the Red Sea crisis, allowing the country to reach its 2030-31 goal of transporting 10 million tonnes (MT) of air cargo. India's air freight peaked at above 3.5 MT in 2017-18 and has recovered from COVID-19. President of the Air Cargo Forum of India (ACFI) Yashpal Sharma stressed the significance of minimizing trans-shipment carriage times and allow-

ing foreign freighter aircraft to reach numerous Indian destinations. Air transport accounts for less than 2% of worldwide freight. A half-percent adjustment will improve aviation cargo volumes after the Red Sea crisis. India has a huge chance but must address the hurdles, especially speeding up trans-shipment, which takes 2-2.5 days "Sharma stated Thursday at the ACFI Annual Conclave 2024 in New Delhi. India's

air freight sector is unique, with foreign imports, exports, and domestic cargo each accounting for one-third of volume. Less than 15% of aviation cargo is carried by freighters; most is in passenger planes' bellies. Freighter aircraft numbers fluctuated, according to aviation ministry senior economic advisor Piyush Srivastava. Before COVID, India had six freighters. This number grew to 28 during the pandemic.

## Google to face South Korean regulator over YouTube bundling allegations



**Delhi:** South Korea's antitrust regulator is poised to punish Google (NASDAQ:GOOGL) for improperly bundling YouTube's music service with its premium membership program, authorities. Since February last year, the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) has conducted an on-site investigation into whether the tech giant violated fair transaction rules by offering YouTube Music to Ad-free YouTube premium members without further charges. After a

months-long inquiry, the FTC presented a review report calling for Google's punishment before a plenary meeting, Yonhap News Agency reports. Officials said the examination focused on whether Google abused its market dominance by deploying such a technique and limited fair competition in the industry. Some argue that bundling has increased YouTube subscribers but limited consumers' choices and unfairly hurt other music streamers.