



Congress accuses ECI of voter suppression ahead of Bihar polls

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Deputy head of Russian Navy killed by Ukraine in Kursk area

PM Modi conferred Ghana's top honour for 'distinguished statesmanship'

Accra/New Delhi (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked the people and government of Ghana for conferring on him the nation's top honour - Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana - and said the honour is dedicated to the bright future of the youth of both countries, their aspirations, and the rich cultural diversity and historical ties between India and Ghana.

The PM was conferred the honour by President John Dramani Mahama yesterday in recognition of his distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership, at the Jubilee House in Accra.

He said the honour is also a responsibility to keep working towards stronger India-Ghana friendship.

In a post on X, he said: "I thank the people and Government of Ghana for conferring 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana' upon me.

"This honour is dedicated to the bright future of our youth, their aspirations, our rich cultural diversity and the



historical ties between India and Ghana."

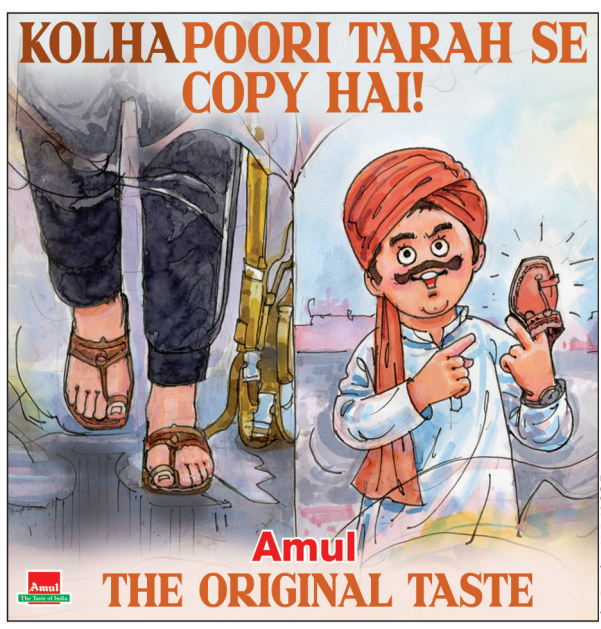
"This honour is also a responsibility; to keep working towards stronger India-

Ghana friendship. India will always stand with the people of Ghana and continue to contribute as a trusted friend and devel-

opment partner." In his remarks after being conferred the top honour, the PM said: "It is a matter of immense pride and honor for me to be conferred with Ghana's national award, the 'Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana,' by the President.

"I extend my heartfelt gratitude to President Mahama, the Government of Ghana, and the people of Ghana. I humbly accept this honor on behalf of 1.4 billion Indians.

"I dedicate this award to the aspirations of our youth, their bright future, our rich cultural diversity and traditions, and the historic ties between India and Ghana." Prime Minister affirmed he was confident that his historic State Visit to Ghana would impart a new momentum to India-Ghana ties. The PM arrived last evening on a two-day state visit to Ghana and was welcomed at the airport by President Mahama, in a rare gesture. PM Modi's visit is the first by an Indian prime minister in three decades.



Monsoon Session of Parliament to begin from July 21

New Delhi (UNI)

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced that the Monsoon session of the Parliament will begin on July 21 and continue till August 21.

Rijiju on Wednesday said that President Droupadi Murmu has approved the government's proposal to convene the Session while highlighting that no Parliament sittings will be held on August 13 and 14 due to Independence Day celebrations.

In a post on X, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju wrote, "The Hon'ble President of India has approved the proposal of the Government to convene the Monsoon Session of Parliament from 21st July to 21st August,

2025. In view of the Independence Day celebrations, there will be no sittings on the 13th and 14th of August."

Both Houses of the Parliament are scheduled to convene on July 21 at 11 am, after a break of over three months.

Earlier, Rijiju had informed that the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, had recommended the dates.

It is pertinent to mention that Opposition leaders have been demanding convening of a special session of Parliament to discuss 'Operation Sindoor' post the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

Today, 94,234 students will receive Rs 235 crore for laptops

Chief Minister will transfer amount

Programs will also be held at district level, with ministers in attendance

Bhopal: Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav will disburse financial assistance worth Rs 235.58 crore to 94,234 meritorious students for laptop purchases under the state's Pratibhashali Vidyarthi Protsahan Yojana on Friday, July 4. The state-level ceremony will take place at 11 AM at the Kushabhau Thakre Convention Center in Bhopal.

In addition to the main event in the capital, parallel programs will be organized at district headquarters across the state, where state ministers, district panchayat presidents, and local representatives will participate.

Under the scheme, students who scored 75% or above in the Class 12



board examinations conducted by the Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE) will re-

ceive Rs 25,000 each directly into their bank accounts to aid in the purchase of laptops.

More than 500 students and teachers are expected to attend the main event in Bhopal.

Last year (2023-24), a total of Rs 224.27 crore was transferred to the bank accounts of 89,710 meritorious students under the same initiative. Since its inception in the 2009-10 academic year, the scheme has benefited 4,32,016 students, with over Rs 1,080 crore disbursed to date.

The initiative continues to be a cornerstone of the Madhya Pradesh government's efforts to promote digital learning and reward academic excellence among the state's youth.

WHO launches '3 by 35' initiative to tackle chronic diseases



New Delhi (UNI)

The World Health Organization (WHO) today unveiled its ambitious "3 by 35" initiative, urging nations to raise taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks by at least 50% by 2035.

The initiative comes as a direct response to the rising global burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, which now account for over 75% of all deaths worldwide.

"Health taxes are one of the most efficient tools we have," said Dr Jeremy Farrar, Assistant Director-General, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Control, WHO in a statement here. "They cut the consumption of harmful products and create revenue governments can reinvest in health care, education, and social protection. It's time to act."

Blatant spike in NCDs have placed an immense strain on global health systems, already grappling with reduced development aid and growing public debt.

Major train accident averted in Jharkhand's Sahibganj

Sahibganj: A major train accident was narrowly averted this morning in Jharkhand's Sahibganj district, after 14 wagons of a freight train derailed at high speed and crashed into a stationary goods train at the Binduvasini rake loading site in Barharwa block.

The accident caused extensive damage to railway property, though no human casualties were reported.

According to railway officials, the incident occurred when a fully loaded goods rake—parked at the siding—started rolling down uncontrollably without a driver or brake control.

It rammed into another stationary goods train, causing a loud crash and a domino derailment of wagons carrying stone

Democracy thrives through dialogue, patience, and depth of discussion: Lok Sabha Speaker

Gurugram (Haryana): Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said that frequent disruptions, once a recurring feature, have now significantly reduced in the Parliament of India, resulting in enhanced productivity and meaningful debate.

Inaugurating the first-ever National Conference of Chairpersons of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of States

and Union Territories in Manesar, Gurugram, he mentioned that the Lok Sabha has increasingly witnessed late-night sessions and long-duration debates, reflecting a mature and responsible democratic culture.

He called upon urban local bodies to incorporate structured procedures, including regular sittings, robust committee systems, and citizen

engagement, to further strengthen grassroots democracy.

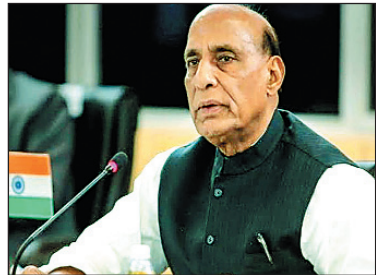
In his address, Birla emphasized the importance of incorporating proven democratic practices such as Question Hour and Zero Hour in ULBs, noting that such provisions in Parliament have played a vital role in holding the executive accountable and raising public concerns systematically.

DAC clears 10 capital acquisition proposals of Rs 1.05 lakh crore

New Delhi (UNI): The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, today accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 10 capital acquisition proposals amounting to around Rs 1.05 lakh crore through indigenous sourcing.

The AoNs were accorded for procurement of armoured recovery vehicles, electronic warfare system, integrated common inventory management system for the Tri-Services and Surface-to-Air missiles.

These procurements will provide



higher mobility, effective air defence better supply chain management and augment the operational

preparedness of the Armed Forces.

AoNs were also accorded for procurement of moored mines, mine counter measure vessels, super rapid gun mount and submersible autonomous vessels.

These procurements will enable mitigation of potential risks posed to the naval and merchant vessels.

To provide further impetus to indigenous design and development, AoNs were accorded under the buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured) category.

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