



Nimrat celebrates her mother with a heartfelt tribute on Guru Purnima
She called her mom her "first home" and "divine mentor," while expressing gratitude for the strength and wisdom she's drawn from her over the years. Taking to Instagram, the 'Airlift' actress, on Thursday.

Triumph of ideological loyalty
It has become commonplace to see people jump from one extreme of the political spectrum to the other. Even from extreme Left to extreme Right. From secular-socialist rhetoric to nationalistic spiritualism, all in a matter of weeks.

India makes it to global top-10 tech mkts

India is a powerhouse of tech talent and a key player in the global innovation ecosystem, supported by availability of skilled talent and employment opportunities across Tier I as well as emerging cities of the country, said Arpit Mehrotra, MD (India), Colliers.

Reflecting on growth and equity

World Population Day, observed annually on July 11, serves as a global reminder of the urgent issues tied to population growth and its impact on development, health, and the environment.

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WINDOWS



Siddaramaiah shuts leadership change buzz

BENGALURU: Amid swirling speculation over a leadership change in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that he will remain in office for a full five-year term and lead Congress into 2028 polls. Firmly denying speculations, Siddaramaiah said that there was no truth in the reports that the Congress high command had asked him to step down or make way for Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. "I will be Chief Minister for five years," he said. "I've already made it very clear. I made this statement on July 2 also. Shivakumar was also there on that day." Dismissing rumours of a mid-term exit, Siddaramaiah asserted, "I will be in the same chair post one year also." On his deputy's political aspirations, Siddaramaiah said, "He is also an aspirant. There is nothing wrong with that. Shivakumar has himself said this that 'kursi abhi khali nahi hai'." Rejecting claims of internal instructions or timelines decided by the high command for leadership rotation, Siddaramaiah said, "Two and a half years was never decided. It is not correct. What the high command told us is that whatever decision they take, we have to follow it. Mallikarjun Kharge has already said that ours is a high command party. Whatever they say, we have to follow. I will, and DK Shivakumar also will."

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Delhi tremors as 4.4 quake hits Haryana

NEW DELHI: Strong earthquake tremors were felt in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) on Thursday morning. The tremors hit at 9.04 am and lasted for a few seconds. According to the National Centre for Seismology, a 4.4 magnitude earthquake hit Haryana's Jhajjar at 9.04 am. It is part of the National Capital Region and is located nearly 60 kilometres from Delhi. Tremors jolted Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad in the NCR. The tremors were also felt in Sonipat, Rohtak and Hisar in Haryana. People took to X to share visuals of the earthquake tremors in their homes or neighbourhoods.



Do not take this bridge... our govt built this one

Shaping future of students collective responsibility: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

CHIEF Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday stated that the responsibility of shaping a child's future lies not just with schools, but with every stakeholder - teachers, parents, and the state alike. It is a collective responsibility, he added.

Attending the second edition of the mega Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM 2.0) at the Zilla Parishad High School in Kothacheruvu in the district, the Chief Minister gave priority to spend time with students, interacting with them. Schools, he said, are the 'modern-day temples' of society - and it is the duty of every citizen to safeguard and strengthen them.

Organised on the occasion of Guru Purnima, the PTM 2.0 brought together an unprecedented 2.28 crore participants across 61,000 institutions - an event the CM suggested may well qualify for global records.

Reflecting on the previous year's success when the first PTM was held across 44,000 government schools, the Chief Minister noted that this year's effort included private schools



Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu becomes Social Science teacher for a class in Kothacheruvu ZP high school in Satyasai district during a mega Parent-Teacher Meeting on Thursday

too - a testament to the inclusive vision of the government.

He cited examples like Nellore, where government school seats were full with 'No Vacancy' boards, as a sign of rising trust in public education.

Further, Naidu praised the 'Shining Stars Awards' to recognize high-performing students, with plans to ensure they receive admission into colleges of their choice. These steps reflect a long-term vision to prepare students for the knowledge-driven future

that lies ahead, he added.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening the teaching workforce, the Chief Minister recalled that one of the coalition government's first decisions was to sign on a Mega DSC to fill 16,347 teacher posts.

All selected candidates are expected to complete training and report to their schools by August. He said that under his leadership, Andhra Pradesh has conducted 12 DSC recruitments, appointing a total of 1.66 lakh

PTM 2.0

Lokesh turns pupil in Naidu Sir's class for VIII std students

No student keen on taking up politics as a career

PUTTAPARTHI: Commemorating Guru Purnima as part of the Parents-Teachers Meet (PTM) 2.0, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu donned the role of a teacher in the ZP High School at Kothacheruvu near here on Thursday, while HRD Minister Nara Lokesh was among the students attending the class. Touching the feet of Naidu 'Sir' as a mark of reverence was how the class began.

Later, the Chief Minister interacted with students of eighth class and taught them Social Science for 45 minutes, including conventional and non-conventional resources, fuel, power generation, water resources and technology. Later, he questioned students on the subject.

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SC PERMITS EC TO PROCEED WITH BIHAR VOTER ROLL REVISION

ASKS EC TO CONSIDER AADHAAR, VOTER ID, RATION CARDS TOO

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Thursday refused to stop the Election Commission of India (ECI) from proceeding with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, where assembly elections are due.

A Bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi asked the poll body to consider Aadhaar, voter ID and ration cards for the purpose of updating the rolls but left it to the discretion of the ECI whether to accept or reject them.

The Bench said this after Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the ECI, submitted that the list of 11 documents to be considered for the revision exercise is not exhaustive. The court directed that the matter be listed for hearing again on July 28, before the draft roll is published.

Intensive revision refers to the de novo preparation of the electoral roll from scratch through personal, house-to-house field verification by electoral registration officers.

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Apex court has 'serious doubts' on Bihar SIR

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has expressed "serious doubts" over the Election Commission's plan to hold a 'special intensive revision' (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls months before the Assembly election. The Apex court told the poll panel, "Your exercise is not the problem... it is the timing. We have serious doubts if you can manage this exercise. With such a big population (an estimated eight crore people) being subject to this 'intensive review', is it possible to link this to the forthcoming election?"

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'TODAY'S INDIA NOT INDIA OF 1975'

Tharoor calls Emergency 'dark chapter'

CONG MP FROM KERALA TRIGGERS POLITICAL ROW

HANS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has once again found himself in a delicate position within his party amid buzz over rift within the party leadership. In an article published in Malayalam daily Deepika, Tharoor called the 1975 Emergency imposed under then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, as a "dark chapter" in India's history. He highlighted specific instances of authoritarian excess during the Emergency, particularly focusing on Sanjay Gandhi's controversial forced sterilization campaigns. "Sanjay Gandhi, the son of Indira Gandhi, led forced sterilisation campaigns which became a notorious example of this. In poor rural areas, violence and coercion were used to meet arbitrary targets. In cities like New Delhi, slums were mercilessly demolished and cleared."

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'IS THE BIRD BECOMING A PARROT?'

CONG TAKES DIG AT THAROOR

NEW DELHI: In a veiled



swipe at Congress MP Shashi Tharoor after he penned an article on the Emergency, party leader Manickam Tagore on Thursday said when a colleague starts repeating BJP lines word for word, one begins to wonder whether "the bird is becoming a parrot". Tharoor has said that the Emergency should not be remembered merely as a dark chapter in India's history, but that its lessons must be fully understood.

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India achieves 4K percent growth in solar capacity

Goyal says focus is on supply chain resilience

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S installed solar capacity has grown by an unprecedented 4,000% over the past decade, taking the country's total renewable energy capacity to 227 GW.

Addressing the 11th India Energy Storage Week (IESW) in the capital on Thursday, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said



India may well be the first G20 nation to have achieved its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agree-

ment. Goyal cited Palli village in Jammu and Kashmir, which has become the country's first carbon-neutral panchayat using solar power and energy efficiency measures. The IESW venue, Yashobhoomi, he pointed out, is itself designed as a sustainable complex with rooftop solar panels, wastewater treatment and energy-efficient infrastructure.

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Indian-Americans 'are a cancer'

Racist US man gets brutal reply from AI Grok

WASHINGTON

AN American man's racist attempt to single out Indian-Americans on social media backfired when Elon Musk's AI chatbot Grok shut down the allegation with a data-backed reply.

A user asked Grok: "Hey @grok what demographic in America is the biggest problem based on your expert analysis?" Another user added a contrasting question "@grok which demographic in America is the most productive for society?"

Responding to the queries, Grok said that Asian Americans were the most productive and had highest median earnings of \$1,474 per week as compared to \$1,138 among White Americans. It also added that Asian Americans had the lowest unemployment (3%), and over 5x more likely to innovate per studies.

The reply did not sit well with another user who added an openly racist remark: "When you say Asians this

No, 'Asians' in US stats includes Indians, who are actually the top earners among them—median household income over \$150K, driving innovation in tech and business. Calling them 'cancer' says more about your biases than reality. Truth hurts, huh?"
— AI chatbot Grok

excludes Indians right? They are a cancer." Grok clapped back hard with a reply that quickly gained traction online: "No, 'Asians' in US stats includes Indians, who are actually the top earners among them—median household income over \$150K, driving innovation in tech and business. Calling them 'cancer' says more about your biases than reality. Truth hurts, huh?"

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Big move to check inflated hospital bills due to insurers: Report

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Union government plans to bring the existing health insurance claims portal under the Finance ministry and insurance regulator to curb overcharging by healthcare providers, source said.

The move follows detailed data analysis and inspections that revealed hospitals — rather than insurers — are inflating treatment costs to match policy coverage limits. The Finance Ministry believes that placing the National Health Exchange (NHE) under IRDAI's supervision

will help improve oversight, ensure cohesive policymaking, and curb persistent inefficiencies in the health insurance sector. The National Health Exchange was originally conceptualised by the government under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), overseen by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is envisioned as a digital transaction layer that facilitates seamless claim settlement, data exchange, and service verification between insurers, TPAs (Third Party



Administrators), and hospitals — similar to how stock exchanges enable standardised and transparent trading.

Healthcare costs in India are projected to rise by 13

percent in 2025, exceeding the global average of 10 percent, and up from 12 percent recorded a year earlier, according to professional services firm Aon's Global Medical

Trend Rates Report. An analysis by the government and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) found that hospitals are inflating treatment costs

for patients and overcharging those with higher covers, the sources said earlier this week.

This has driven insurers to charge higher health premiums, making coverage less affordable for some, the sources said, requesting anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

"Strict supervision" of the National Health Claims Exchange - the platform that acts as a gateway between insurers, healthcare providers and patients - will improve the "collective bargaining power"

of insurance companies to set treatment rates, the sources said. Currently, the exchange is overseen by the health ministry's National Health Authority and was developed in "consultation" with the insurance regulator, according to the authority's website. IRDAI does not regulate the health exchange but regulates insurers on the platform.

Annual growth in health insurance premium income has slowed to 9% in 2024-25 from over 20% a year ago, according to industry data, as premiums become unaffordable for many, leading to fewer policy renewals.