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WINDOWS



US debt tops \$40 trn, raises eco concerns

WASHINGTON: The national debt surpassed a record \$40 trillion on Wednesday, a staggering milestone as defense costs, social programs like Social Security and Medicare and interest on the burgeoning deficit to make up an enormous share of federal spending. The milestone figure was recorded just five months after the US hit a record \$39 trillion debt in March. It reached \$38 trillion five months before that, in October. The unprecedented \$40 trillion figure highlights competing administration priorities, from boosting the defense spending that the US relies on to carry out President Donald Trump's almost-6-month-old Iran war to lowering the cost of gas and groceries. Kush Desai, a White House spokesman, said the Trump administration "has been focused on slashing waste, fraud, and abuse in federal spending while accelerating economic growth to get America's debt-to-GDP ratio trending in the right direction."

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MODI'S DEGREE ROW

Delhi HC sets Sept 29 for hearing appeals

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has scheduled September 29 to hear appeals requesting the disclosure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bachelor's degree details. The date was set after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing Delhi University, requested an expedited hearing. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia was hearing the appeals, which challenged a single-judge ruling that overturned a Central Information Commission directive to release the degree records.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Oh, he really cares. He hardly spends any of it

CUSTOM MILLED RICE FRAUD

ED may probe CMR scam

- Money laundering by defaulting rice millers suspected
- Many rice millers failed to supply rice, clear dues since 2014

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

CENTRAL probing agency Enforcement Directorate (ED) is likely to launch an investigation into the multi-crore Custom Milled Rice (CMR) scam in Telangana.

The Telangana Civil Supplies Department has reportedly made an appeal to the central agency to probe the entire episode, following allegations of money laundering by some of the defaulting rice millers, who have indulged in the rice scam since 2014, i.e.



under the erstwhile Bharat Rashtira Samithi regime and in the present Congress dispensation. "The Civil Supplies Department is preparing to act against rice millers who

are accused of defaulting on substantial amounts of government-supplied paddy dues. The Department has already submitted to the ED a list of 20 such millers who owe huge amounts to the government," sources told The Hans India.

Officials suspect that these millers have deliberately withheld the paddy dues owed to the government. Furthermore, official sources said: "The millers engaged in illicit fund-raising and money laundering (hawala) activities linked to their paddy/rice transactions."

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J'khand HC stays Soren govt order to cancel JPSC exams

RANCHI: The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday stayed Soren government's order to cancel 11th and 13th JPSC exams and appointments following student protests.

This comes days after the government cancelled the JSSC-CGL examination and all recruitment tests conducted by TSP Data Processing Pvt Ltd (TDPL).

Chief minister Hemant Soren had announced the cancellation of the JSSC-CGL examination and all recruitment tests conducted by TDPL since 2014. The government also decided to cancel the 14th JPSC and backlog examinations and announced measures to reform the recruitment system. An exam reforms committee headed by senior IAS officer Amitabh Kaushal has also been constituted to recommend measures to strengthen and streamline the recruitment process. While the cancellations addressed a major demand of the protesting students, the demand for a CBI probe has remained a point of contention. Continued on Page 5

NEET PROTESTS

SC sets up 5-member panel to probe police 'excesses' at CJP stir

Ex SC judge R Subhash Reddy heads committee



NEW DELHI

A day after the Supreme Court announced it will be setting up a committee to examine allegations of excessive use of force by security personnel against students

during the July 20 student march over the NEET paper leak, the top court on Thursday said that a five-member panel will be headed by former SC judge Justice R Subhash Reddy.

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POLITICKLE by MANJUL



'I CAN SEE PAPA SMILING'

Rahul's emotional tribute to father Rajiv Gandhi

NEW DELHI

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday marked the 82nd birth anniversary of his father and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi with a deeply personal tribute, recalling the pain his mother Sonia Gandhi endured after his assassination and expressing pride in her decision to publicly share her life story. In an emotional social media post addressed to his mother as "Mama", Rahul Gandhi looked back on the last time



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi pays a moving tribute to his mother Sonia Gandhi on his father Rajiv Gandhi's 82nd anniversary on Thursday

he saw his parents together more than 35 years ago and spoke of the resilience with which Sonia Gandhi faced life after Rajiv Gandhi's death.

Continued on Page 5

PM pays tribute to Rajiv Gandhi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday paid tribute to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his birth anniversary, remembering the Congress leader who served as India's prime minister from 1984 to 1989. In a post on X, Modi said, "On his birth anniversary, my tributes to former PM Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji."

Cops can't probe offences under PCPNDT Act: SC

NEW DELHI: Police cannot commence an independent investigation of the offences under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, the Supreme Court said on Thursday. A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh held that authorities designated under the law must take action in such cases. The PCPNDT Act was enacted with the intent to prohibit the use of prenatal diagnostic techniques for determination of the sex of the foetus.

SOUTH ZONAL COUNCIL MEET

TG pitches expeditious settlement of state issues

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana government made a strong pitch to the Union government for expeditious settlement of all pending issues under the AP Reorganization Act as well as resolution of the Krishna river water disputes, besides seeking central support for the Kaleshwaram and Palamuru Rangareddy lift projects at the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Chennai on Thursday.

Participating in the meeting, State Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka apprised the Union Home Minister of the pending division of Schedule IX Government companies and corporations due to differences over headquarters and related issues between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state, which has already submitted its views concerning 23 institutions to the Centre. He pointed out that 12 years after the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 took effect several issues between the two Telugu states remain unresolved and appealed to Amit Shah to find a solution amicably. Continued on Page 5

TELANGANA TO HOST NEXT SZC MEETING P5



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Telangana Dy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Karnataka CM DK Shivkumar, TN CM Joseph Vijay and AP CM Chandrababu Naidu during the Southern Zonal Council meeting in Mahabalipuram on Thursday

Shah favours early resolution of water-related issues thru talks

Hails development of South at CMs' meet

CHENNAI: UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday hailed the developmental journey of the southern states, saying "high literacy rate, trained manpower and technical expertise in the utilisation of deep seas" have been the three pillars behind the progress of these states.

Chairing the 31st meeting of the Southern Zonal Council at Mahabalipuram, Shah stressed the need for early resolution of pending water-related issues concerning southern states through mutual dialogues and joint meetings involving the Union Ministries of Jal Shakti, Home Affairs, the Inter-State Council, and the respective states. Continued on Page 5

SOUTH CMs RAISE DELIMITATION, WATER DISPUTES AT SZC MEET

CHENNAI: Delimitation issue was raised by the participating state governments at the 31st meeting of the South Zonal Council, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Mahabalipuram on Thursday. Delimitation, an issue on which most southern states are on the same page, prominently figured in the meeting, with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu stressing that status quo of 543 Lok Sabha seats be maintained for another 25 years. Continued on Page 5

Not responsible for daughter's remarks: Surekha

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HANUMAKONDA: Endowments and Environment Minister Konda Surekha on Thursday gave an explanation for the notice issued by TPCC Disciplinary Committee Chairman Mallu Ravi.

She clarified that the comments made by his daughter Konda Sushmita Patel were completely her personal

'HOLDING ME RESPONSIBLE FOR SUSHMITA'S COMMENTS IS AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF NATURAL JUSTICE'



opinions and it was not right to hold her politically responsible for them. Stating that it was not appropriate to ask her for an explanation on Sushmita's comments, he asked the TPCC Disciplinary Committee to withdraw the notice issued to her.

In his explanation to TPCC disciplinary committee chairman Mallu Ravi, Minister Konda Surekha mentioned several issues. Continued on Page 5

VIT
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

41st Annual Convocation

Inauguration of
Centre for Advanced Research in Bacteriophage and Infectious Diseases (CARBID)
(Sponsored by ICMR, Govt. of India, New Delhi & VIT)

22nd AUGUST 2026 - SATURDAY | Time : 9.30 A.M.

CHIEF GUEST

Smt. Rekha Gupta
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi

GUEST OF HONOUR
Mr. Babu Unnikrishnan
Vice President & CTO - BFSI, Tata Consultancy Services

PRESIDED BY
Dr. G. Viswanathan
Founder & Chancellor

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Centre limits SIM cards to 9 per person

NEW DELHI

THE Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed telecom operators to decline new connections to subscribers who already have nine mobile SIMs in their name.

According to a circular, telecom operators have been asked to put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures from August 24 onwards to identify each subscriber seeking to obtain a connection beyond the prescribed limit and deny them a new SIM card.

"From August 24, 2026, onward,

TELECOM DEPARTMENT TIGHTENS ISSUANCE RULES
USERS EXCEEDING LIMIT MUST SURRENDER EXTRA SIMS



TSPs (telecom service providers) shall take appropriate technical and organisational measures to identify each subscriber who seeks to obtain mobile connections beyond the prescribed limit and commu-

nicate to him that he already has a maximum number of mobile connections permitted to an individual and accordingly, a new mobile connection cannot be provided to him," the circular said.

The DoT has asked telecom service providers to use the secure and centralised system Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP), established by the department. "Subscribers who have already obtained mobile connections beyond the prescribed limit and the details of such subscribers are available on the DIP," the circular said.

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