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:: THE HEADLINES ::

India's GDP grows to a five-quarter high of 7.8% in First Quarter of financial year 2025-26.

Kezoma Village organises first edition of Millet Festival; Vikheho Swu highlights importance of balancing modern and traditional farming.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi concludes two-day productive visit to Japan.

and, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla calls for setting up SC & ST Welfare Committees in all States.

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India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to grow by 7.8 per cent in April to June quarter of financial year 2025-26, at a five-quarter high. In the fourth quarter of the last financial year, the GDP had grown by 7.4 per cent, whereas the same stood at 6.5 per cent in the first quarter of previous fiscal year. According to the Quarterly Estimates of GDP for first Quarter of current fiscal released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Nominal GDP has witnessed a growth rate of 8.8 per cent in during the same period. Welcoming the growth figures, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said India is not just the world's fastest-growing large economy but these figures are remarkable in themselves.

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal said India is a global growth engine fueled by reforms and resilience

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The first-edition of Kezoma Village Millet Festival organized by Kezoma Village Council in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and supported by the Department of Tourism took place today at Zakie Ground of the village in Kohima district. Speaking at the festival, President of the NDPP Agri & Allied Organisation, Y. Vikheho Swu highlighted the importance of balancing modern farming with traditional jhum cultivation. He emphasized that while modern farming practices are essential, jhum cultivation remains a vital part of the Naga identity and should not be forgotten.

Mr. Swu further highlighted the growing recognition of millet as a "rich man's food," a significant shift from its past perception as "poor man's food." He pointed out millet's increasing popularity due to its health benefits and high nutritional value. Swu praised the villagers of Kezoma for organizing the festival, calling it an important achievement for the community. He urged the Kezoma farmers to continue cultivating millet, emphasizing that it is a step toward sustainability and growth, and has the potential to elevate the village to new heights. During the festival, millet and other organic vegetables produced by the Village were sold along with other activities. The millet available during the sale at the festival was harvested in the month of July, this year.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his productive two-day visit to Japan today. After attending the 15th India-Japan Annual Summit on the first day, PM Modi met with the Governors of 16 prefectures in Tokyo during the day. Prime Minister highlighted the potential of the States-Prefectures collaboration and urged action under the State-Prefecture Partnership Initiative launched during 15th Annual Summit for shared progress. Mr Modi urged the Governors and Indian State governments to leverage the new initiative and forge partnerships in the fields of manufacturing, technology, innovation, mobility, next-generation infrastructure, start-ups and SMEs. He also invited the Governors to participate in India's growth story.

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Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has called for setting up committees of state legislatures on the welfare of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in all the states and union territories. Speaking at the valedictory session of the two-day National Conference of Chairpersons of the Committees of Parliament and State Legislatures on the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at Bhubaneswar today, Mr Birla said the Parliament Committee must recommend for such committees in the states. He said, during the two-day meeting, the Parliament Committee has decided to ensure benefits of different schemes of the Centre and states are made available at the grassroot level and proper expenditure of budgetary provisions for these classes of the society. Mr Birla also said a roadmap is being prepared to bring a 'society of equality' so that the dreams of Baba Saheb BR Ambedkar can be realised by the year 2047.

More than 120 delegates from across the country, including Chairman and Members of such committees from different states attended the Conference.

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Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has stressed that self-reliance in defence is not merely an option, but a condition for survival and progress. Addressing a Defence Conclave in New Delhi today, he said the government believes that self-reliant India can safeguard its strategic autonomy. Highlighting the success of Operation Sindoor, Mr. Singh said, this Operation is a shining example of the country's growing indigenous defence capabilities.

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Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the country's first tempered glass manufacturing plant in UP's Noida today. This plant is a significant step towards promoting electronics manufacturing in India and strengthening the Make-in-India initiative. Mr

Vaishnaw said that India has made remarkable progress in electronics manufacturing over the years. He said that an electronics manufacturing ecosystem is taking shape in the country.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today reached Tianjin in China to participate in the 25th Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The Summit will begin tomorrow. China is hosting the SCO Summit for the fifth time, with President Xi Jinping chairing the proceedings. More than 20 heads of state and 10 leaders of international organizations are expected to attend.

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