



Inspiration: Late. Dr. L.C. Wallia



Gujaratis step into space long shaped by Punjabis in Canadian politics

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: As the clock ticks towards Canada's 45th federal election on April 28, something subtle but significant is stirring within its Indian diaspora. For decades, Punjabi-Canadian politicians have been the face of South Asian political engagement in the country - cabinet ministers, riding champions, national party politicians. But this year, a new voice is entering the fray. From Brampton to Calgary, four Gujarati-origin candidates - mostly first-generation immigrants - are contesting parliamentary seats for the first time. While Punjabi political presence remains dominant - seasoned, visible and electorally strategic - a new layer of representation is being built by Gujarati candidates who have spent decades laying the groundwork in business and social leadership. Jayesh Brahmhatt walks the Brampton Chinguacousy neighbourhoods with a certain self-assuredness. A civil engineer-turned-real estate developer, Brahmhatt arrived in Canada from Gujarat in 2001. His journey is one many immigrants will recognise: starting with convenience stores, moving into property, and eventually building a reputation in realty. Now, he is contesting on a People's Party ticket, he is running for parliament in a country he has called home for just over two decades. "We stand for freedom, responsibility, fairness and respect for all."

Waqf Act amended to neutralise changes made by Congress for 'appeasement': PM

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: PM Modi Tuesday aggressively defended the amendments to the Waqf Act, asserting these were necessary to neutralise the changes made by the Congress-led UPA as part of "politics of appeasement", which primarily served the interests of fundamentalists and land grabbers, and had also led to India's Partition. "The 2013 changes placed the interests of... land mafia above the Constitution and effectively shut out avenues for justice for their victims," the PM said as he referred to the appropriation of plots belonging to govt, churches, temples, gurdwaras and farmers by declaring them waqf property. The new law, which came into force on Tuesday, aims at rectifying these issues, he said. The PM made these remarks at the "Rising Bharat Summit" organised by News-18 Group. Pasmanda Muslims, everyone else will benefit from Waqf Act: Modi The PM's comments came on a day govt filed a caveat in the challenges filed by Islamic clerics and others, and a day after SC



announced it would soon set a date for hearings. Commending Parliament for passing the legislation to protect common Muslims, Modi said, "At the core of the controversy surrounding the Waqf Act is the politics of appeasement; its seeds were sown before independence. Other political parties empowered radical elements through waqf protests and also encouraged land mafias. Pasmanda Muslims and everyone else will benefit from this law." "Many colonies gained independence but did anyone have to pay the price of dismemberment for freedom?" he asked. The PM said, "Very few countries got their independence through partition. But it happened to India because politics was kept above national inter-

est." In a reference to the widespread allegation about the misuse of the waqf law, especially because of the provision in the 2013 law that the designation of a property as waqf asset could not be challenged in a civil court, the PM said, "The law was meant to be an instrument of justice but it became a source of fear instead and gave rise to a false sense that it was above the Constitution." Asserting the amended Act is "in the interest of society and the Muslim community", he highlighted the democratic process behind the legislation, noting that Parliament passed it after a debate lasting over 16 hours - the second-longest debate in its history.

Can't attach criminality to state cabinet decision: SC on WB teacher posts

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed the CBI probe ordered by Calcutta high court against those responsible for preparation of a note based on which the West Bengal cabinet had allowed creation of supernumerary posts for appointment of teachers in May 2022 and said attaching criminality to cabinet decisions would be devastating for the country's federal structure.

"How can one attach criminality to a cabinet decision when no appointment has been made pursuant to the decision?" asked a bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar. The CJI said, "How can a central investigating agency investigate a cabinet decision of a state? Will it not defeat the entire purpose behind federalism? There are clear provisions under Articles 74(2) and 163(3) which bar inquiry into

any cabinet decision." SC: HC not justified in asking CBI to probe cabinet note preparation The same bench on April 3 had quashed the recruitment of over 25,000 teachers and teaching staff to govt and aided schools, calling it "tainted beyond repair". It said the cabinet note clearly mentioned that certain appointments were made illegally by the WB Schools Services Commission.

'We followed the rules, Magnus Carlsen didn't': FIDE deputy

NEW DELHI: Five-time world chess champion Magnus Carlsen's unexpected withdrawal from the World Rapid and Blitz Championships has drawn sharp reactions from across the chess community. The controversy stemmed from Carlsen's refusal to comply with FIDE's dress code, which prohibits jeans at tournament venues. This defiance led to his disqualification from the ninth round despite being a defending champion and one of the favourites to lift the

respective title. FIDE deputy president and former world champion Viswanathan Anand, addressing the incident, emphasised the importance of adhering to the rules. Speaking to ChessBase India, Anand clarified that FIDE's decision wasn't personal but strictly procedural. "Obviously, it was not a step we wanted to take. But we offered several options," Anand remarked. According to Anand, Chief Arbiter Alex Holowczak had approached Carlsen.

High court comes to aid of ex-soldier's kin, grants disability
CHANDIGARH: Punjab and Haryana HC has ordered that a disability pension be granted to the legal heirs of a soldier who was discharged on medical grounds for neurosis which manifested as recurrent nightmares after his lover killed herself, reports Ajay Sura. A division bench comprising Justice Sureshwar Thakur and Justice Sudeepti Sharma passed these orders recently while allowing a plea.

Delhi, Mumbai jails being readied for 26/11 mastermind Tahawwur

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: With 26/11 mastermind Tahawwur Rana slated to land in India on Wednesday, two jails, one in Delhi and another in Mumbai, were asked to covertly make special arrangements in line with US judiciary recommendations about extradited subjects. He is initially likely to be in custody of NIA for the first few weeks. The exercise was supervised by



national security adviser A K Doval, along with officials from the home ministry. Rana, a Pakistani-Canadian and active member of LeT, had arranged passports for fellow jihadi, Pakistani-

American David Coleman Headley, aka Dawood Gilani, to travel to India to select targets for the terror attack that was being hatched by Lashkar in collaboration with ISI, Pakistan's spy agency. Rana gloated over the deaths in Mumbai on Nov 26, 2008 and said that the jihadist responsible for it should be given Pakistan's highest posthumous military honours.

SC sets timeline for state governors to decide on bills sent to them

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: Frowning upon the Tamil Nadu governor for acting in violation of constitutional provisions by sitting on bills forwarded to him after being passed by the state assembly, Supreme Court, in an extraordinary and first-of-its-kind decision, held that 10 bills reserved by the governor be deemed to have been assented by him, and fixed a timeline for Raj Bhavans to decide on giving or denying nod to bills passed by state legislatures in a time-bound manner in order to prevent what happened in Tamil Nadu. As the Constitution restricts itself to saying that the governor has to act "as soon as possible" but does not prescribe any timeline,



a governor can delay the decision on assent, a prerequisite for a legislation to become law, for months. The court said if assent was to be given, then it has to be done within a month. The court set a timeframe of three months in case a bill is sent to the assembly for reconsideration or to the President. In case a bill is re-sent after reconsideration by the assembly, the

governor must grant assent in a month. The court also said any breach of the timeline could be challenged in court. In Tamil Nadu's case, one bill has been pending for over five years. While saying that the Tamil Nadu governor had acted in violation of constitutional provisions by sitting on bills, a Supreme Court bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R

Mahadevan on Tuesday said he had shown "scant respect" to various verdicts of the apex court and did not act with bona fides while referring the bills to the President after it was re-sent by the state assembly after reconsideration. It held that governor has no option but to give assent once the bill has been sent back to him after reconsideration by the assembly. The Constitution does not allow him to exercise "absolute veto" or "pocket veto" by indefinitely delaying decision on bills, the bench said. Reading out the operative part of the verdict, Justice Pardiwala, who penned the judgment, said as per Article 200 of the Constitution, governor has only three options.

Centre's Rs 1 lakh crore urban infra fund challenges states to think like startups

The Budget proposes an Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) of Rs 1 lakh crore to encourage states to think innovatively towards attaining sustainable urbanisation and redevelopment goals in existing cities. The grant is expected to infuse around Rs 4 lakh crore for infrastructure development, achieving saturation and implementing redevelopment projects. An allocation of Rs 10,000 crore is proposed for 2025-'26," FM Nirmala Sitharaman said in her speech. UCF would help implement proposals for 'Cities as Growth Hubs', 'Creative Redevelopment of Cities' and 'Water and Sanitation' proposals, the FM said.

Uttarakhand HC okays licence renewal for 6 liquor vends in Rishikesh

Vatika Times
DEHRADUN: Uttarakhand high court, while hearing three petitions against non-renewal of licences of six liquor vends in Rishikesh on the ground that these are located near "holy places", said: "It is an irony that only a particular place is called a 'holy place' when the entire state is called Dev Bhoomi." HC reprimanded the excise commissioner and said, "Prima facie, there is negligence and abuse of power." It then directed him to deposit Rs 5 lakh in each case (total Rs 15 lakh) in court within a week. "If the court concludes that the action of the excise commissioner is wholly arbitrary, the amount would be paid to the petitioners," the HC

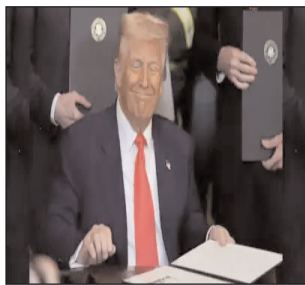
said and directed the commissioner to "forthwith" process the applications for renewal of licences. Counsel for the petitioners - Siddhant Bailwal, Tejendra Singh and Pawan Kumar - during an earlier hearing had contended that licences of bars, restaurants, resorts and other retail vendors were renewed, but only his clients' licences were not. The division bench of Chief Justice G Narendar and Justice Alok Mahra while hearing the matter on April 5 noted: "The paradox in the approach is that if six shops are permitted to vend liquor, it would affect the sanctity of the holy town, but serving liquor in bars and restaurants would not affect the sanctity of the holy town."

'Rubbing salt on wound': Cong attacks Centre over LPG, fuel excise duty hike

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: Congress party slammed the central government over its decision to increase the petrol, diesel and LPG cylinder prices on Monday. Terming the PM Modi as the "inflation man", the opposition party further criticised the government's apathy as the move comes amidst Donald Trump's tariffs plunge stock markets to a new low after the stock market investors lost "Rs 19 lakh crore in one go". "Wow Modi ji wow!! Compared to May 2014, the international crude oil price has fallen by 41%, but instead of reducing the price of petrol and diesel, your plundering government has increased Rs 2- Rs 2 Central Excise Duty. You must not have felt relieved to see big and small investors in the stock market losing Rs 19 lakh crore in one go due to their Kumbhakarani sleep on the tariff policy,

Trump defends 'explosive' tariffs, claims \$2 billion flowing in every day

Vatika Times
NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump has once again defended his aggressive trade policies, claiming that the United States is now "pouring in" billions of dollars from newly implemented tariffs on foreign imports. Speaking from the East Room of the White House on Tuesday while signing a series of executive orders promoting the coal industry, Trump took time to address his sweeping tariffs



on trading partners, which are set to take effect on over 60 countries later tonight. Donald Trump's trade tariffs - live updates In remarks delivered to a crowd of lawmakers, cabinet members, industry execu-

tives and coal miners, Trump described the impact of the tariffs as "somewhat explosive," but insisted they were vital to his vision for revitalising American industry. "The tariffs are on," he said, standing at a podium beneath gold- en drapes. "Money is pouring in at a level we've never seen", Trump added. According to Trump, the tariffs are already generating as much as \$2 billion a day.

Editorial

From Pamban bridge to Ram Setu, India’s revolution in regional integration is underway

Ritu Walia

India is growing outwards. In another remarkable milestone, ahead of the inauguration of the Srinagar rail line later this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Pamban bridge—India’s first vertical lift sea bridge across the Palk strait—in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday. This rail bridge facilitates safer and quicker train transit connecting the Pamban island with the rest of the country as well as the movement of larger ships. This is yet another step toward seamless, safer and efficient rail connectivity between India and Sri Lanka across the Palk strait, which would connect Rameswaram in India with Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. What is required is the restoration of a 17 km rail line from Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi, and the construction of a 23 km rail bridge parallel to Ram Setu connecting to Talaimannar. Once completed, this would establish a seamless rail network that facilitates regional integration in South Asia. Nine years ago, Prime Minister Modi unveiled a plaque inaugurating the Talaimannar 1650 Pier Railway Station and flagged off a train from this northwestern town to Colombo. This newly constructed 63 km rail line connecting Talaimannar to Medawachchiya was constructed by IRCON, an Indian Railway CPSU, financed through an Indian line of credit. The unprecedented regional connectivity initiatives launched by the government of India over the last decade are visible in its proactive outreach and infrastructure assistance across South and Southeast Asia—quite a significant policy transformation from its earlier ‘Look East’ to the more assertive ‘Act East’ policy. India’s efforts in developing multimodal infrastructure—rail, road, coastal shipping, and aviation—across South Asia could well be one of the most significant developments in establishing geoeconomics over geopolitics. The vision of shared prosperity through regional integration is the underlying principle guiding India’s current bilateral and multilateral policies. In addition to road, aviation, and coastal shipping connectivity in South Asia, regional rail integration has received prominent focus. Many rail projects connecting India with Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar are being aggressively planned, financed, constructed, and operationalised. Seamless rail connectivity with Sri Lanka—an island nation—once seemed unlikely. Even in the earlier UN Trans-Asian Railway Agreement, the identified rail route was a rail-cum-sea route with ferry crossings between Rameswaram and Talaimannar. The SAARC Regional Multimodal Transport Study (SRMTS) also identified such a route. But transshipment of passengers and goods between rail and sea modes makes transport inefficient, time-consuming, and cumbersome. One example is the ferry crossing over Lake Van (Tatvan) in Turkey, which hampers seamless rail movement across South and West Asia. The India-Sri Lanka railway connectivity is perhaps an idea whose time has now come. Historically, it was proposed around 1914 when the original Pamban rail bridge was commissioned. The idea was shelved due to high costs, and the rail line was terminated at Dhanushkodi, with ferries transporting goods and passengers to Talaimannar. Stories of the Boat Mail connecting Colombo and Madras—with reserved compartments for Buddhist monks travelling to Bodhi Gaya—are well documented. It was a marvel of early 20th-century engineering to have a lifting rail bridge providing ship clearance across the Palk Strait. Now, 110 years later, that bridge is being replaced with India’s first vertical lift sea bridge, designed to allow safer and quicker passage for both trains and ships. The new Pamban vertical lift bridge—2 km long and constructed adjacent to the old Pamban rail bridge.



1995 Waqf Act balanced Islamic principles and Indian law. Amendment Bill shifts the scales

Rashi Singh

After the Lok Sabha, the Waqf Amendment Bill was also passed in the Rajya Sabha, reshaping Muslim politics in India. After maintaining a relative silence on issues such as the hijab ban, UCC, and minority scholarships, Muslim organisations have now turned their attention to the Waqf amendment bill. PM Modi called the passage of the Waqf Bill a key step toward justice, transparency, and inclusion, saying it will empower the long-marginalised. Key issues raised by the government include lack of diversity in the formation of Waqf Boards and the Central Waqf Council, misuse of power by mutawallis (custodians of waqf properties), improper maintenance of property records, poor coordination with local The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) strongly opposed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, saying it would harm rather than benefit Muslims. It alleged that Muslim organisations had raised concerns with the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), but these were ignored. According to the Board, Waqf properties hold religious importance equal to core Islamic practices such as prayer, fasting, and pilgrimage. The Board urged all MPs to consider the sentiments of the Muslim community and reject the proposed amendments, warning of protests similar to Shaheen Bagh. revenue officials, encroachment, registration and declaration of titles of waqf properties, excessive powers granted to



Waqf Boards, and minimal or no income from waqf properties. This bill has brought the Modi government, the Opposition, and the Muslim community in India face to face. The bill has even split the Muslim community. While some oppose it, many others are supporting it, saying it targets Waqf land mafias who’ve looted crores and misused the properties. And that is why it is Newsmaker of the Week. There are 3,56,051 Waqf estates and over 8,72,000 immovable and 16,713 movable properties registered under the Waqf Board, with 3.3 lakh records digitised so far. From its introduction to its passage in Parliament, the Waqf Bill witnessed intense debates, opposition, accusations of betrayal, and even a dramatic moment when AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi tore a copy of the bill. AIMPLB president Khalid Saifullah Rahmani claimed in August 2024 that NDA allies Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar had assured that their parties would oppose the Waqf Bill. However, the two leaders eventually backed the Centre on this issue. The root of the dispute lies in the Partition. After 1947, India and

Pakistan agreed to transfer Muslim properties in India to Hindus and Hindu properties in Pakistan to Muslims. In 1950, India passed the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, placing properties left behind by Muslims who migrated to Pakistan—including Waqf assets—under the Custodian Department. Many were rented out at low rates to refugees from Pakistan, giving rise to the Waqf tenancy system, which became a key revenue source for Waqf boards. The Waqf Act of 1954 established the Central Waqf Council and centralised Waqf management. The 1995 Act expanded powers and gave Waqf Tribunals authority above civil courts. Critics of the Waqf Board, including Hindu groups, claim the 1995 law gives Waqf Boards the power to claim any land. Amendments in 2013, aimed at better transparency, faced implementation issues. Apart from the Waqf Act of 1999, Waqf is also governed by the British-era Mussalman Wakf Act 1923. Meanwhile, the politics around the Waqf Act continued. The controversy grew in 2022 when then-Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta led a protest, and BJP leader

Ashwini Upadhyay petitioned the Supreme Court to annul the Waqf Act, calling it discriminatory. In December 2023, BJP MP Harnath Singh Yadav introduced a private member’s bill in Rajya Sabha to repeal the Waqf Act. In a tense vote, 53 members supported the introduction, while 32 opposed. Last year, along with the Waqf Amendment bill, the Mussalman Wakf Repeal Bill was also introduced. The former was aimed at the 1999 law, while the latter concerned the 1923 law. The country’s third-largest property owner, the Waqf Board, has been entangled in controversies for decades. Hindu organisations and other critics accuse it of forced encroachment, corruption, and financial irregularities, some even question the donations of certain properties. Communal tensions, political disputes, and stereotypical narratives have further complicated the situation. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said in Lok Sabha that the Waqf Amendment Bill aims to make the Waqf Board more secular and inclusive by adding non-Muslim experts and ensuring women’s representation at both state and central levels. The bill faced criticism from Opposition parties and sections of the Muslim community for lacking stakeholder consultation. They called it unconstitutional and claimed it aimed to weaken Waqf and reduce Muslims to ‘second-class citizens’. Muslim organisations described it as an attempt to render Waqf “ineffective” and turn it into

“a lion without teeth.” Muslim community is concerned about Section 40 of the Waqf Act. The Amendment Bill deletes it from the existing Act. The section gives the Waqf board the power to decide whether a property is classified as a waqf property. There aren’t any provisions to appeal their decision. The Amendment bill gives the District Collector the power to decide. It also allows anyone to file an appeal against the board’s decisions. According to Waqf officials, Section 40 is widely misunderstood. The board already struggles to manage existing properties and has no desire to bring more under its ambit. It relies on pre-1947 revenue records to verify if mosques, dargahs, or graveyards qualify as Waqf—basing claims strictly on official documents. From anti-Waqf and pro-Waqf barcodes to email wars, heated arguments, injuries, and suspensions—the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf Bill, led by Jagdambika Pal, has witnessed it all. On 30 January, the final report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill was submitted to Speaker Om Birla. The new draft, released on 1 March, included 25 recommendations by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The amended law, as per JPC recommendations, allows only those practising Islam for at least five years to donate property to Waqf—restoring language removed in the 2013 amendments. ‘Waqf by use’—properties like mosques.

Trump is playing the ‘commitment game’. India must be smart, not surrender

Abhinav

As predicted, Liberation Day is here. Trump is bringing chaos to the world economy—and to India—with his punitive trade tariffs on the US’ major trading partners. As the global stock selloff indicates, the tariffs will cause an immediate dip in global trade unless countries offer concessions to forestall the 9 April deadline for reciprocal tariffs. The fact that the Indian market only dipped moderately suggests that a compromise is expected. Trump is playing what economist Thomas Schelling called a ‘commitment game’—a player locks themselves into a risky strategy that would be politically costly to reverse unilaterally in an effort to push opponents to compromise. Clearly, Trump thinks that his signal of resolve, and his willingness to accept the economic costs of a trade war, will push other countries to compromise. The fact that these steps are irrational economically is beside the point. First, avoid knee-jerk reactions that hurt Indian companies, such as duty

cuts on bourbon whisky and Harley-Davidson motorcycles, or orders for Javelin missiles and Stryker Second, protect vulnerable sections such as Indian farmers, who have to cope with extreme commodity price volatility even with high tariffs. Third, ensure that growing sectors like automobiles—developed over decades—are not casually sacrificed to appease Trump or Elon Musk, or even Chinese companies smart enough to tie up with Indian firms close to Modi. ker armoured vehicles announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February during his US visit. These damaged the interests of Indian companies making similar products (goodbye Atmanirbhar Bharat) and didn’t stop Trump from criticising India’s tariffs in the PM’s presence; also previously labelled India as a “tariff abuser”. India should instead use this crisis to reverse the disturbing trend of greater protectionism in recent years, which has hurt consumers and only helped the large monopolies

Yunus just offered the Indian Ocean to China. India must respond to the neighbour’s shenanigans

Saariq

The foot-in-the-mouth statement by the Chief Advisor of the interim government in Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, will have, rather should have, serious consequences. Going by the timing, place, and context in which the statement was made, it appears that Yunus has invited trouble for himself and his country in sufficient measure. During a high-level roundtable discussion on ‘sustainable infrastructure and energy’ at Beijing’s The President Hotel Yunus urged the Chinese government to establish an economic foothold in Bangladesh by leveraging the country’s strategic position as the “only guardian of the ocean” for the “landlocked” northeastern region of India. Explaining his stand, Yunus reportedly said, “The seven states of India, the eastern part of India, are called the Seven Sisters. They are a landlocked region of India. They have no way to reach out to the ocean.” “So this opens up a huge possibility. This could be an extension of the Chinese economy. This highly offensive statement is not only insensitive and undiplomatic, it is deliberate interference in the internal matters of India. Yunus does not hold an elected post in the interim government of Dhaka, nor is he competent to advise Beijing on how to conduct its economy in the region. His mandate, if any, is limited to the revival of the economy of Bangladesh and guiding it back on the path of democracy. The affairs in the country were derailed by an illegitimate uprising in 2024 by Islamic radicals under the guise of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, aided and abated by the ISI of Pakistan. After the ouster of Sheikh Hasina, Yunus has had two meetings with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He facilitated cultur-

al exchanges like qawwali event by Rahat Fateh Ali in Dhaka and allowed Pakistan’s cargo ships at Chittagong port, a first since the 1971 brutalities by the Pakistan army and navy. This relationship reset has paved the way for a more sinister game plan of Islamabad. It’s military cooperation between the two former “estranged wings” West Pakistan and East Pakistan, now designated as “brotherly countries”. Principal Staff Officer of Bangladesh armed forces, Lieutenant General S.M. Kamrul Hassan visited General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi in January this year. He met with Pakistan’s military leadership, including Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, clearly signalling a thaw and inking direct military cooperation agreements. As part of its ongoing modernisation efforts under its “Forces Goal 2030” programme aimed at upgrading the country’s military assets, Dhaka is also considering placing orders for CAC/PAC JF-17 Thunder Fighter Jets (FC-1 Xiaolong), a China-Pakistan partnership product, from Islamabad. The multi-utility JF-17 has been successfully tested in combat by Pakistan on its Western border with Afghanistan. The J Beijing’s reaction to the uncalled-for advice by Yunus is not yet known, but it would likely play it down for the time being. While exchanging greetings on the 75th anniversary of India-China bilateral relations, Xi Jinping, in a message to President Droupadi Murmu, called for a “dragon-elephant tango” to serve the fundamental interests of both countries. China cannot arm Pakistan and Bangladesh to the teeth and expect New Delhi to keep dancing.

At the Global Technology Summit, realism meets imagination—and India makes it possible

Suman

Sambhavna, which translates to “possibility” or “opportunity,” is not a term that immediately comes to mind as the theme for a global gathering that brings the often-separated worlds of geopolitics and technology under one roof. Good friends, many from the fragmented “West” and focused on geopolitics, have described this year’s theme for the Global Technology Summit (GTS) as “strange,” “out of sync,” “unreal.” In the dynamic world of technology, “possibilities” is the name of the game.

For those of us at Carnegie India, preoccupied with an outcome-oriented GTS, our sense was that despite the turbulence in global orders and international orientations alike, there is space for Sambhavna. The theology of older orders has met with a sledgehammer. Europe’s welfare future is in potential disarray. Trade and tariff wars are the common theme in national and local politics across the world. Get real. Get practical. And embrace realism—that is the tone of the day. Still, there is a verve in India and

beyond—across other parts of Asia, within Latin America, and in large parts of Africa—to seize opportunities for change and shake off older shibboleths that have slowed economic and technological progress. One cannot move without the other. The point is to discover these opportunities and use the force of global change to initiate long-pending reforms for domestic growth. Build bridges where none exist and find pathways in less-travelled roads. After all, as those in power often remind us, disruptions open

the way for alternative opportunities. In many ways, making the best of these opportunities comes down to the tasks of diplomatic skill, assessing trade-offs with a clear-eyed view of our future, and, most importantly, operationally channelling imagination and creativity. This is the spirit with which we at Carnegie India have approached this year’s GTS. Rather than focusing only on the risks of AI, we focus on its promise. Instead of only debating how and why the “rules of the road” have changed.

Awareness meeting held in Gita Vidya Mandir regarding safety of girls



Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra/Shahabad : An awareness meeting was organized in Gita Vidya Mandir regarding safety of girl students. This meeting was organized under the guidance of SP Kurukshetra Varun Singla, in which SPO Amita Sharma and Constable Reena were the main speakers. Principal Nisha Goyal welcomed the guests. Constable Reena told the girl students that safety of girls is paramount and they should talk openly whenever they feel any kind of discomfort or fear. She

advised to share school related problems with teachers and household problems with family members. Reena told that now through Dial 112 app, women and girls can get help in any emergency. Through the app, women police assistance can be provided in just 8 to 10 minutes in case of crisis. She also told that Dial 112 app has now been implemented in place of Durga Shakti app. Apart from this, she also informed about child helpline number 1098 (for children below 18 years of age) and women helpline

number 1091, which are active 24 hours. The Principal told that the school organizes such awareness programs from time to time so that girls become self-reliant and aware. Special efforts are being made for the all-round development of girls under the 'Balika Shiksha' and 'Kanya Bharti' schemes in the school. Students from class 6 to 10 participated in this awareness meeting. Many teachers including Acharya Rajwant Kaur, Sumedha Rani, Shaili, Rummy and Khushi were present in the program.

Seed Act Bill, an important step to keep the quality of seeds and medicines at the right level : Gurnam Singh

Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: Regarding the Seed (Haryana Amendment) Bill 2025 Seed Act, 2025, National President of Bharatiya Kisan Union Gurnam Singh Charuni clarified his stand and said that we are not against anyone but the system should improve, this act will prove effective in keeping the quality of crop seeds and medicines at the right level. The Seed Act Bill is an important step to keep the quality of seeds and medicines at the right level, which helps in increasing the productivity and profitability of farmers by providing them high quality seeds. Talking to journalists at Jat Dharamshala, BKU State President Gurnam Singh Charuni said that this bill will save the farmers from financial losses of crores of rupees every year. Every year, many farmers complain about substandard seeds and medicines, which spoil



their crops. Even after fighting a long legal battle, even after being proven guilty of producing and selling substandard seeds and medicines, the accused were released by paying a fine of Rs. 500 or their license was cancelled for 15 days. Apart from this, there was no provision for any concrete punishment in the law, due to which the business of substandard seeds and medicines was flourishing on a large scale in the state, which needed to be stopped. It was necessary to avoid the financial loss of crores of rupees to the farmers every year. To save the farmers from this loss, the farmers' organiza-

tions have been demanding the provision of strict punishment to the government through many dharnas, demonstrations and memorandums to stop this business. The farmers said that only the provision of punishment has been increased in this Act, rest of the rules of the law are the same as they were before. He demanded that quality testing centres (agricultural labs) should be opened in every district so that farmers can easily get the purchased agricultural produce tested. Farmers expressed their gratitude to the Haryana government for this new act.

Kurukshetra will become the 1st TB free district of the country : Neha Singh



Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh said that due to the tireless efforts of the administration and the health department, Kurukshetra will become the first TB free district of the country. To achieve this target, 136 villages of Kurukshetra have been made TB free so far and a road map has been prepared to make the remaining 267 villages TB free. The work of screening the health of people in these villages will be started soon. The role of Gram Panchayat will be important in achieving this target. Deputy Commissioner Neha Singh was speaking at the meeting of TB Free Panchayat Samman Samaroh and TB Forum organized by National Health Mission Haryana on Tuesday in the auditorium of Mini Secretariat. Earlier, CMO Dr. Sukhbir Singh and Deputy CMO Dr. Sandeep Aggarwal presented the report with data about Kurukshetra TB Free Campaign through power presentation and presented the road map to make Kurukshetra the first TB free district of the country in the year 2025. The Deputy Commissioner said that 33 Gram Panchayats have become TB free Panchayats in the year 2023 and 136 Gram Panchayats in the year 2024. Out of these, 25 Panchayats have been included in the category of TB free for the second time. In each Panchayat, samples of 30 people were taken for a population of 1000. Panchayats with less than one patient per thousand as per the population of the village are declared TB free.

Workshop on Srimad Bhagavad Gita to be held at KU today

Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: University Institute of Engineering & Technology UIET Kurukshetra University is going to organise one day workshop on "Srimad Bhagavad Gita: Science, Modern Education & Life Management" on 9 April. Gita Manishi Swami Shri Gyananand Ji will be the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker of this workshop. The workshop will be presided over by Vice Chancellor, KU, Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva. During a conversation, Chief Patron of the workshop, Prof Sachdeva said that such workshops are



indeed crucial to help students navigate the mindful journey to self realisation. This workshop aligns with Indian knowledge system. Prof Sachdeva added that it

is a matter of pride for the university that Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand ji will interact with students and offer insights to the young students in the context of

Srimad Bhagavad Gita. Workshop Patron, Prof Sunil Dhingra, Director, UIET, K.U.K informed that all the faculty members and students of the university will attend this workshop and this workshop aims to engage meaningful discussions. Deputy Director Public Relations Dr Jimmy Sharma informed that the workshop will begin today at 10:30 am in Shrimad Bhagwad Gita Auditorium and the live streaming of the workshop will be available on the university's you tube channel. An open house discussion session will be the highlight of this workshop.

Delhi police sub-inspector found dead in apparent suicide

NEW DELHI: A sub-inspector of Delhi Police died by allegedly shooting himself with a pistol at his flat in east Delhi, in a suspected case of suicide, officials said. The deceased has been identified as K Ganesh, a resident of Telangana who was currently posted at the Madhur Vihar police station here. According to police, the incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday when the family members of the sub-inspector called the police,



stating that he was not responding to their calls. Upon arrival, the local police discovered the sub-inspector's locked apartment and found him dead inside with a pistol on his lap. Crime and forensic teams were

summoned to the scene, and preliminary investigations suggest that the sub-inspector took his own life using the firearm. No suicide note has been found at the location, and the investigation is ongoing.

Bharat Vikas Parishad Krishna Branch organized a Havan Yagna in Sanatan Dharma Temple

DILPREET WALIA Karnal: On the occasion of Ram Navami, the new executive team of the Krishna branch of Bharat Vikas Parishad organized a havan yagna at the Sanatan Dharma Mandir. 40 members participated in it. Shri Sankalp Bhandari and Mrs. Megha Bhandari attended the program. The project head of the program was Shri Lalit Sukhija. On this occasion, Megha Bhandari said that havan has been given a lot of importance in Sanatan Dharma. This tradition has been going on since ancient times. By performing havan, the gods and goddesses are quickly pleased and maintain their blessings. Performing havan purifies the environment and positive energy flows in the



house. Megha Bhandari said that performing havan during a special occasion or puja is considered auspicious. During this, many materials are offered, which have many qualities. On this occasion Professor Jogendra Madan, Sunil Madan, JC Bathlaji, Rakesh Hans, Balbir Chawla, Urmil Chawla, Naresh Arora, Suresh Hinduja, Mrs. Aarti Hinduja, Kewal Garg, Mrs. Rashmi Garg, Mukesh Dhingra, Mrs. Neelam Dhingra, Mr. Sumant

Arora, Mrs. Neetu Arora, Ashok Arora, Mrs. Raj Arora, Mr. Anish Arora, Mrs. Suman Arora, Mrs. Mamta Chandrababu, Mrs. Meenu Chawla, Gagan Chawla, Mr. Ajit Tarika, Mrs. Suman Tarika, President Anil Madan and Mrs. Rita Madan, Secretary Sonia Mehta and Mr. Neeraj Mehta, Treasurer Sandeep Malhotra and Mrs. Anjali Malhotra, Lalit Sukhija and Mrs. Harshita Sukhija, Sanjay Saluja and Mrs. Sakshi Saluja were present.

Farmers can increase their income by increasing production of potato, garlic and onion: Dr. SK Malhotra

Jasbir Singh Duggal Kurukshetra: The two-day 'State Level Seminar' on the subject of improved onion varieties, production technology and post-harvest management was inaugurated by Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap Horticulture University, Uchani, Karnal and Dr. Balwan Singh Mandal, Director of Extension Education, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Haryana Agricultural University Hisar, Haryana under the Integrated Horticulture Development Mission of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, under the program of production of quality planting material along with cluster development of onion in the northern states. In this seminar, Dr. Alok Singh,



Assistant Director, Centre Head, National Horticultural Research and Development Institute Regional Research Centre, Salaru, Karnal, Dr. Baljeet Singh Saharan, Senior Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kurukshetra, etc. were present as guests. First of all, Dr. Alok Singh, Assistant Director, Centre Head, Regional Research Centre, Salaru, after welcoming the guests, gave information about the research and seed production program of onion and garlic being run by the institute. In

this program, agricultural scientists gave detailed technical information on the latest technology of vegetables, protection of crops from pests and diseases and post-harvest management. Chief Guest Dr. S. K. Malhotra, Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Uchani, Karnal, while appreciating the new records made by the farmers in the field of horticulture, emphasized the need for more contribution in the field of horticulture.

Register all live-in relationships



Delhi: Justice Anoop Kumar Dhand ordered the state government and Union social welfare and justice secretary to create a legislative format for registering live-in couples by.The HC requested a plan to hold male and female partners accountable for the education, health, and upbringing of their children. The male partner must also be held responsible for supporting his non-earning female partner and their children, the court ruled.The single bench asked the chief justice to form a larger bench to explore the issue of protecting married people cohabiting with remarried partners or married people from separate marriages living together without dissolving their marriages. The Rajasthan High Court ordered that live-in relationships be registered by a government entity or tribunal until the Union and state governments legislate.

China has seized 4,000 sqkm, according to Rahul Gandhi

Delhi: The opposition leader, Rahul Gandhi, has attacked the government, asserting that 4,000 sqkm of Indian territory has been seized by China. He has also demanded explanations from the central government over the matter of import charges imposed by the US, stating that they would "completely devastate" the Indian economy. Rahul demanded answers from the government regarding "what it is doing about our land and about these tariffs that our ally has imposed on us" whenever he spoke in Lok Sabha. In response to the Congress MP's comments, BJP member Anurag Thakur said that "not an inch of land" had been ceded to China while the BJP was in power, and that China had invaded Indian territory while the Congress was in power. "China is sitting on 4,000 sqkm of our territory," Rahul stated during the celebration of the 75th anniversary



BJP claims Tamil Nadu liquor fraud worth Rs 1,000 crore, DMK denies it

Delhi: The BJP has accused the Tamil Nadu government, led by Chief Minister MK Stalin, of a Rs 1,000-crore liquor fraud through the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation. The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) denies the BJP's assertions that the Enforcement Directorate raids

of India-China diplomatic ties. When I saw our foreign secretary, Missri, celebrating a birthday with the Chinese ambassador. I was taken

have revealed massive financial irregularities. The BJP further claimed that CM Stalin is spreading falsehoods regarding the three-language policy and other national problems to distract from the fraud. DMK presented the Tamil Nadu Budget 2025-26 in the state Assembly on the same day as the claims.

aback. What on earth is going on with these four thousand square kilometers of land that China has annexed.

Bhagwat argues that all Hindus should have access to temples and water

Sangh's commitment to the idea that all Hindus should have equal access to temples and water

Delhi: The goal of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, according to its leader Mohan Bhagwat, is for all Hindu communities, castes, and sects to unite. He reaffirmed the Sangh's commitment to the idea that all Hindus should have



equal access to temples and water. In an address to the RSS Rajputana Shakha volunteers at IIT-BHU, the Sangh president declared, "All the Hindus should share the same temples and water." The goal of the Sangh is for all Hindu groups to unite, regardless of their caste or sect. While interacting

with RSS volunteers leading an evening Shakha on the premises, Bhagwat stated, "The aim of the Sangh is to unite the Hindu society" on the second day of his five-day tour to Kashi. In response to a research student from IIT-BHU who wanted to know what the Sangh has in store for its centennial year.

Gzb fast rail station may provide co-working spaces

Delhi: NCR opened a co-working space at Ghaziabad's Namo Bharat station concourse. The area will serve 42 people and 11 organizations with 42 open workstations, 11 private cabins, and two meeting spaces. An NCRTC spokesman said

video conferencing, wireless screen sharing, and high-speed fiber-optic internet are available. "IoT-enabled workspaces will have smart lighting, climate control, and meeting room scheduling. QR scan-and-use hot desks, vending machines, and feed-

back gathering will be available. The official stated that integrating these technologies will give professionals a future-ready, connected, and efficient co-working experience. This cost-effective strategy will allow startups, small enterprises.

Lok Sabha approves Gujarat cooperative university bill

Delhi: The Lok Sabha passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, to turn the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) into a university in Anand, Gujarat, to train co-operative society workers. Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah said the university was named after Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel, who founded Amul dairy cooperative, during a Lok Sabha debate on the bill. Shah stated that the university will strengthen the rural economy, develop self-employment and small entrepreneurship, increase social inclusion, and set new standards in



innovation and research. It will also produce over 800,000 qualified and trained cooperative sector job seekers annually. This measure also calls the prospective university a "institution of national importance." The state government supplied the land for the institution in Gujarat, but Shah claimed

it will include all states "across the length and breadth of the country". He stated that institutions nationwide would join the university. The Union minister told Parliament that a cooperative insurance business will soon cover all cooperative societies in the country.

Rajya Sabha clears immigration bill amid Congress, TMC walkout

Delhi: Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi criticised the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha and said that the legislation sought to treat all foreigners as "potential criminals" who were liable to be viewed with serious suspicion by India. The bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha last week, seeks to regulate immigration, entry and stay of foreigners in India. "I oppose this bill and seek changes in its pernicious character. It is clearly designed for ulterior motives by a control freak bent upon sending out a message of fear through the architecture of omniscience.

All Maharashtra files to now go via Shinde before reaching CM

Delhi: The state govt has issued orders that all files are now to be routed through Dy CM Eknath Shinde before going to CM Devendra Fadnavis. Earlier, files were sent to Dy CM Ajit Pawar as finance minister and then to the CM. According to the new orders, all files will go to Pawar and then to Shinde before they reach the CM. The move comes as a big boost for Shinde and makes him a key player in the state administration. It is an attempt to bring parity between Shinde and Ajit Pawar, political observers said.



In the earlier Mahayuti govt, files would go to Ajit Pawar as Dy CM and to Fadnavis as Dy CM before they went to then CM Shinde. "As per the rules dated 26.07.2023 about procedure and according to the instructions given by CM after Deputy Chief Minister and Minister (Finance) and then Deputy Chief

Minister and Minister (Home, Law and Justice) subjects were sent to the CM. This order is being modified, now all the subjects specified in the second schedule of the Maharashtra Government Regulations (will go to) DCM (Finance) will go to DCM (Urban Development), Housing) and then (be)

In Bihar, which will hold elections later this year, five netas have left JDU

Delhi: The number of Muslim party officials from Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's JDU who have resigned in the past two days has increased to five, with three more resigning due to the party's endorsement of the waqf bill in Parliament. Given that 18% of Bihar's population is Muslim and that the state is scheduled to go to the polls later this year, the resignations have come at a "test case" for the NDA's governance in the wake of the bill's approval. Support among Muslims could be at stake because JDU, an ally of the BJP, supported the measure. Neither the citizenship modification law nor the triple talaq bill seemed to have received strong opposition from JDU in the past. But Muslims appear displeased this time. Shah Nawaz Malik, Nadim, and Raju are



Asaram interim medical bail in the rape case has been extended by three months

Delhi: The Gujarat High Court awarded self-styled Godman and rape prisoner Asaram Bapu a three-month extension of the temporary medical bail that the Supreme Court had previously granted. Bapu has a life sentence out there. The rape suspect was granted medically-motivated interim bail by the Supreme Court in January of this year, with the deadline set for March 31. Today, the same was extended till June 30 by the High Court. Justice Supehia was then con-

the three officials that resigned. Nayyar is the state secretary, Malik is the secretary of the JDU minority cell, and Akhtar is the vice-pres-

ident of the JDU district. District officials Tabrez Siddiqui and Qasim Ansari have stepped down.

Mumbai's Siddhivinayak temple's annual revenue rises to record Rs 133 crore, plans FD scheme for girls

Delhi: Siddhivinayak temple trust, Prabhadevi, has reported record annual earnings of Rs 133 crore for the financial year 2024-25, a 14% increase over Rs 114 crore in 2023-24, executive officer Veena Patil said. The

managing committee led by trust chairman Sadanand Sarvankar presented its annual budget. Revenue is assessed from donations at the temple and online, puja rituals, sale of laddoo and nariyal wadi prasad,

and gold-silver offerings. The monies are routed to the trust's welfare activities. Siddhivinayak deputy executive officer Sandeep Rathod said, "We have seen that if queues move swiftly, more devotees can take dar-

shan, increasing donations." Siddhivinayak deputy executive officer Sandeep Rathod said ensuring queues move in an orderly fashion at the temple makes it a pleasant experience.

After Mamata's temple at Digha, BJP plans one at Nandigram



Delhi: Nandigram (East Midnapore): A Ram temple, modelled on Ayodhya's Ram Mandir, would be constructed in Nandigram, state leader of opposition and Nandigram MLA Suwendu Adhikari announced. The temple is expected to be built on 4 bighas (1.5 acres) of land that is in Adhikari's name. The BJP neta announced that the temple's foundation stone would be laid on Ram Navami, April 6, at.

Trinamool alleged that Adhikari "purchased this land from MPLAD funds" at a very low price when he was a TMC MP to

build a hospital for Nandigram's martyr families. TMC functionaries said Adhikari could build a temple if he wanted

to but should also build a hospital along with it. BJP said there was no controversy over the land acquisition, claiming TMC only wanted to create one. Ram temples are not new to Nandigram. The place has a temple of Ram, built in 1803 AD, believed to be among Bengal's oldest. It's called the Janakinath Temple and Ram's idol, incidentally, does not have bows and arrows. Adhikari has been a big patron of this temple.

Govt plans to switch to electronic registration of property deeds

Delhi: The government of Delhi plans to make property sale deed registration "paperless and faceless" in the next months. To further guarantee that no "prohibited" properties are fraudulently sold and that sale deeds are not registered, the new system will also make a list of all such properties available to residents and officials alike. Meeting with all stakeholders, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Ashish Chandra Verma sought solutions to streamline and eliminate corruption in the city's property sale deed registration process. According to Verma, Deloitte was brought in as a consultant by the revenue department to help draw up a process map and provide recommendations for strengthening the system. In addition to contested, hostile, evacuee, gram sabha land, and waqf properties, the web will



Transport department fined 95L for 2019 tree felling

Delhi: In 2019, the National Green Tribunal NGT order Delhi's transport department to pay ₹95.05 lakh for cutting 495 trees for bus depots in Burari without afforestation. The tribunal ruled that the forest department's license to transplant 168 trees

also have a drop-down menu that allows individuals to search for prohibited properties. These properties are booked by civic agencies for illegal construction. We want the system to function

and plant 4,950 saplings was violated, making the practice "illegal." A panel of judge and expert Dr. Afroz Ahmed computed environmental compensation using Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (UKPCB) rules and asked all states, including Delhi.

without any human intervention and to be completely anonymous. In order to do this, Verma noted that technical advancements and the installation of kiosks for document uploading .

Each of the 11 DMs must be paid 10,000 by the Borewells Revenue department

Delhi: Those who come forward with information regarding potentially hazardous open borewells will be awarded a reward of Rs 10,000 by the Indore district administration. Along with the announcement of a reward of Rs 10,000 for information regarding dangerously open borewells, the collector also issued an order. You can register the information in person in Room G-12 of the collectorate or over the phone at 9926734403. "On finding the information as true, the



informer will be rewarded with a cash prize of Rs 10,000" said Singh. The open borewell must be covered, the nearby dry borewells must be physically inspected for safety, and a work-wise report must be sent by

April 25th to the panchayat authorities. "Regardless of the warning, if an inspection revealed an unguarded open borewell, the owner would be held responsible for threatening the lives and property of the locals.

Received pen drive at home GK tells court: Tytler confesses to killing Sikhs in the 1984 riots

Delhi: In 1984, during the anti-Sikh riots in Delhi, 100 Sikhs were killed. Manjit Singh GK, the former head of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC), claimed in court that he had received a pen drive with what sounded like the confession of

Congress official Jagdish Tytler. In the case concerning the murder of three Sikhs—Sardar Thakur Singh, Badal Singh, and Gurcharan Singh—who were assassinated on November 1, 1984, in Pul Bangash Gurdwara, in which Tytler is implicated, the statement of GK was

being recorded in the court of special judge Jitendra Singh. The former president of the DSGMC (GK) testified before the court that he received a pen drive in an envelope at his apartment in 2018. The accused Jagdish Tytler confessed to the murder of 100 Sikhs.

Policy tweak may raise cost of owning non-EVs

Delhi: The Delhi government has proposed a significant tweak to its existing electric vehicle (EV) policy, which may lead to an increase in the cost of petrol and CNG vehicles, people aware of the plan said. The policy tweak, the people said, will lead to the extending of an existing "green cess" — currently applicable only for diesel vehicles — to all internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, thereby increasing their cost. This, they said, is being proposed in order to disincentive the sale of petrol and CNG vehicles in the Capital. Another option that is being explored is hiking the cost of petrol and CNG in the city, they said. Delhi's EV Policy 2020 — which charges a cess of 1%



A night food strip at Salimgarh Fort is being proposed by MCD, and applications are being invited

Delhi: Officials from the Delhi Municipal Corporation (MCD) have announced that they are accepting applications from Chandni Chowk street vendors who would like to set up shop on a new night food street that would be located close to the Salimgarh Fort . While the food strip will initially be open from 6pm to 10pm, the officials added that once the initiative is operational, the timings are likely to be extended.

MPs Get 24% Salary, Pension Increase; New Allowances

Delhi: MPs' wages would rise 24%, along with pensions and allowances for former MPs, according to the Indian government. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs notified these adjustments, matching them with the 1961 Income Tax Act Cost Inflation Index. This national revision follows the Karnataka government's large wage boost for the Chief Minister, ministers, and MLAs.. The monthly remuneration of the Chief Minister has quadrupled from 75,000 to 1.5 lakh.

Card changes could restrict free bus rides for women to residents only

Delhi: According to transport department authorities, eight NCR lines are operated by the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), which connects Delhi to other satellite cities, including Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad, and Greater Noida. Women residing in these locations may not be eligible for the smart card program if it needs verification of Delhi residency. The "lifetime smart cards" that the Delhi government is planning to introduce in place of the pink tickets that



women use for free bus rides may only be available to women who live in the Capital, according to sources acquainted with the matter. This is because, upon registration, the government may ask for proof of address. The transport department

in Delhi has started planning the logistics of the new smart card scheme, only days after chief minister Rekha Gupta announced them in her budget speech. We anticipate that the cards will be distributed following April 25.

New draught of electric vehicle policy available in Delhi

Delhi: The EV policy in Delhi was extended by 15 days after it had expired. This delay is being granted because a new policy has been drafted by the relevant authorities. Electric bicycles are eligible for a 25% purchase subsidy (up to Rs 5,500) under Delhi's EV policy, electric rickshaws and carts for Rs 30,000, two-wheelers for Rs 5,000 per kWh of battery cap (up to Rs 30,000), and light commercial vehicles for Rs 30,000. According to a senior source, the new policy would promote electric automobiles and buses while discouraging gas, diesel, and compressed natural gas vehicles. Officials also noted that the new framework's implementation necessitated the temporary extension in order to keep things running smoothly. New incentives for electric



vehicle purchasers and stricter protocols for the eventual phaseout of fossil fuels are supposedly part of the revised approach. A minimum of 20% of the parking spaces in newly constructed buildings in Delhi will be designated for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, according to sources. The initial policy was extended until 2025 after it expired in August 2023. Various sources have said that by 2027, all trucks utilized for garbage collection by the MCD, DJB.

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

The BJP government, led by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, presented its maiden budget on Tuesday, March 25. Gupta presented 1 lakh crore budget for 2025-26, a 31.56% increase from last year. In the budget for the financial year 2025-26, the government has allocated 12,952 crore to improve Delhi's public transport system. It has allocated 1,000 crore to improve the connectivity of Delhi with the NCR region.

Delhi Metro introduces Sarthi-Momentum 2.0 app, a comprehensive travel solution

Delhi: The 'DMRC Sarthi-Momentum 2.0' software, developed by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), now allows users to purchase metro tickets, bike taxis, and auto-rickshaws for both the first and last miles of a ride, all at the same time. "This initiative, which was developed in collaboration with Autopay Payment Solutions Ltd, takes care of all the bookings and connects metro stations to their final destinations, making it easier for commuters," stated Anuj Dayal, principal execu-



tive director, corporate communications, DMRC. After inputting the desired location, the app recommends the closest metro stops as well as the most efficient first- and last-mile transporta-

tion choices, allowing users to easily book bike taxis or auto-rickshaws. The user arranges for a bike taxi or auto-rickshaw to pick them up from their current position and drop them off

Transport department fined 95L for 2019 tree felling

Delhi: In 2019, the National Green Tribunal NGT order Delhi's transport department to pay ₹95.05 lakh for cutting 495 trees for bus depots in Burari without afforestation. The tribunal ruled that the forest department's license to transplant 168 trees and plant 4,950 saplings was violated, making the practice "illegal." A panel of judge Sudhir Agarwal and expert Dr. Afroz Ahmed computed environmental compensation using Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (UKPCB) rules and asked all states, including Delhi, to follow them for illegal tree chopping.

at the closest metro station. "Another ride is booked for last-mile connectivity before reaching the destination station," a representative from the DMRC revealed. The official went on to say

Many Delhi government ILBS services are now charged

Delhi: Delhi's autonomous Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) now charges for formerly free services, including body packaging (mortuary services). Dr. Arun Kumar Rastogi, chief operations (medical), ordered that corpse packaging services will cost Rs 1000. A patient

warming system will cost Rs 500 per day, infusion pump services for ICU, HDU, and ward patients would cost Rs 500, 300, and 200, respectively. Additionally, nebulisation costs Rs 100 every session. It charges Rs 250 for half-day oxygen/medical gas use and Rs 500 for full-day

use. Admission medical record fees are Rs 300. The domiciliary virtual consultation package is Rs 1800, while private and suite ward attendant fees (8 hours/night shift) are Rs 1000. The institute also changed service fees. USG screening costs Rs

450, up from Rs 385. Dietician consultation prices have increased from Rs 100 to Rs 250 and virtual OPD consultation fees from Rs 400 to Rs 600. Dr. Rastogi declined to discuss the topic due to his busy schedule.

Tariff dispute Jewellers face poor US demand, job losses

Delhi: US President Donald Trump's 27% duty on Indian gems and jewelry imports has hurt the industry, which expects a dramatic drop in demand in the world's largest export market. The industry that relies on manual labor for diamond cutting, polishing, and producing magnificent jewelry may also lose jobs. Official data stated that India exported \$10 billion of its \$33 billion gems and jewelry to the US in FY24. US tariffs on Indian gems and jewelry are 6%.

Industry leaders predict this rate to climb to 34% with a 27% tariff. India's gems and jewelry exports to the US might drop 30% to 50% without a favorable bilateral export-import relationship with the US, industry participants say. The US's 27% tax exceeded industry predictions, which could hike costs of Indian



jewelry and processed diamonds and make them unaffordable for many Americans. "We expected the US to raise tariffs on Indian gems and jewelry exports in recent weeks. We planned a 10-15% trek. Colin Shah, Kama Jewelry founder & MD, claimed 27% is too high. "This will lead to a steep hike in cost for these Indian products for US buyers which in turn would affect demand." The Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) warned Indian exporters and American consumers of the expected hard battle.

Centre will borrow 8L cr, 54% of the objective

The government plans to borrow Rs 8 lakh crore, 54% of its Rs 14.8 lakh crore FY26 borrowing, in the first half. It didn't front-load the borrowing program to avoid raising rates while the RBI pumped record liquidity into the system. Since the market reported little demand for 30-year and longer bonds, the government announced it would borrow less in FY26. Thus, front-loading of the borrowing program has been avoided due to government (fiscal consolidation without compromising quality of expenditure).

No harm done to steel or aluminum; exporters of metals can relax

Delhi: The White House's decision to exempt steel and aluminum from an additional 27% levy was a relief for metal exporters. Key commodities used in everything from cars to household appliances, steel and aluminum, were subject to a 25% tax last month. It came as a shock to the business when copper was likewise excluded from the tariff reciprocity. Exports to the United States from Indian metals and mining industries are relatively small, amounting to less than \$5 billion per year. "So to that extent, the first order impact on the sec-



tor is not material," stated Prashanth Kota, lead analyst (basic materials) at Choice Broking. Furthermore, if a trade war breaks out between the United States and other big economic powers, he said, the industry might feel the repercussions of secondary impacts. The steel sector could be shielded from the secondary spillover impacts of the

tariff conflict, according to Kota, provided the 12% provisional safeguard charge on steel is approved by India's finance ministry. According to Amar Ambani, executive director of Yes Securities, US domestic prices would rise due to the 25% US tax on steel and aluminum, which has not altered.

You can update up to four nominees for PPF, NSC, and SCSS at no cost.

Delhi: Public Provident Fund (PPF) account holders can breathe a sigh of relief, as Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that no fees would be charged for changing or adding beneficiaries to their PPF accounts. There were rumors that banks were

charging a fee for these kinds of changes, prompting to make the announcement. "The Government Savings Promotion General Rules, 2018 have been amended to remove any charges on the updation of nominees for PPF accounts," Sitharaman announced

on X. The amendments were announced by dated April 2, 2025. In other words, there will be no fees associated with updating, modifying, or adding nominees to accounts held in the Public Provident Fund (PPF), Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS).

Trump tariff: Gain for leather, apparel, pain for carpets

Delhi: Leather goods, non-leather footwear, apparel and textile makers expect revenues to grow in the US, following lower tariff rates than competing China, Vietnam and Bangladesh. However, labour-intensive carpet makers fear loss of business due to lesser duty on Turkey, Azerbaijan and Nepal. Carpet exports from India to the US are pegged at around \$1.2 billion (out of total \$2 billion global shipments) and companies fear that the tariffs may make the hand-crafted products uncompetitive. "These tariffs are dangerous. Turkey is a threat and so are some of other competing countries due to



lower tariffs on them compared to 27% on India. Margins are not much to play around for us and if we lose business, there are chances that many units may shut down," Rudra Chatterjee, chairman of carpet maker Obeetee Saying that it will

take a long time to develop alternate markets across Europe, Chatterjee hoped that govt will negotiate lower tariffs for the sector during the bilateral trade agreement (BTA) talks with the US.

Zomato eliminates 600 customer service positions

Delhi: According to sources, Zomato (now Eternal) fired 500-600 workers in customer service positions for poor performance. According to some of the affected workers, the corporation fired them without providing them with any warning. Zomato chose not to respond. Last year, the company employed more than 1,500 workers through its Zomato Associate Accelerator Program, which primarily handles customer service duties. The department's staff, who are mostly from Hyderabad are responsible for handling client concerns.

Birla's pulp and paper division will be acquired by ITC in a Rs 3,500 cr deal

Delhi: ITC has announced that it would pay up to Rs 3,500 crore (\$410 million) to purchase Aditya Birla Real Estate's pulp and paper division. The acquisition will expand ITC's paperboards and specialty papers business by 480,000 metric tonnes per annum, according to the firm. The purchase is timed to coincide with challenges encountered by ITC's paperboards, paper, and packaging division, which includes cheap supplies from Indonesia and China in interna-



tional markets, poor demand at home, and an unexpected spike in wood prices. "The acquisition will strengthen the market standing of ITC's paperboards and specialty papers business and engender new opportunities in the domestic and international markets," according to B Sumant, executive director of

ITC. The transaction is anticipated to completion in around six months, according to ITC. This is contingent to regulatory approvals, such as permission from the Competition Commission of India and the transfer of land leases. ITC produces more than 1 million metric tonnes per annum.

The Reserve Bank of India will increase the price for using an ATM from Rs 21 to Rs 23

Delhi: News broke from India's central bank. There will be a cost of Rs 23 per transaction for clients using ATM banking services from May 1, 2025. The previous amount was Rs 21 for each transaction. The central bank announced that customers will still be able to use their own bank's ATMs for five free transactions per month, regardless of whether they are financial or not. There are three ATMs in major cities and five in smaller towns where they can use their card for free transactions. According to ET, a two rupee hike to the ATM interchange fee for cash withdrawals has been authorized by the Reserve Bank of India and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The revised fees were



Prestigious Adani Group Acquires Prime Lot on SOBO's Carmichael Road

Delhi: In the Malabar Hill neighborhood of South Mumbai, on the ultra-luxury Carmichael Road, the Adani Group paid over Rs 170 crore for a beautiful piece of land that extends over over 1.1 acres. The 2,760 square foot historic cottage sits on the land parcel, which is one of the few big freehold lots in the desirable neighborhood. Mah-Hill, a subsidiary of the Adani Group, has completed the transaction. According to papers obtained through CRE Matrix, the buyer has already paid more than Rs 10.46 crore for the stamp duty associated.

announced to member banks by NPCI and are scheduled to be implemented on May 1, 2025. An increase of Rs 19 for domestic finan-

cial transactions and Rs 7 for non-financial transactions has been agreed by the National Financial Switch Steering Committee.

Income Tax wants Rs 2,209 crore from Yes Bank

Delhi: Union Minister of State for Power Yesso Naik urged state power companies to become more profitable. AI and digital technologies and cost-reflective pricing are crucial for electricity sector financial stability, the Minister said. These steps will help utilities



become financially stable, he said. He also suggested India's Ujwal DISCOM Assurance

Yojana (UDAY) for DISCOM financial turnaround and rehabilitation. The Energy Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra, top officials from the Central and State governments, State Power Utilities, PFC Ltd., and

REC Ltd. attended the conference. Special invitee TATA Power Distribution, Odisha, shared their best practices and journey to prosperous DISCOMS. Member States actively engaged and presented State DISCOM overviews. They give DISCOMS good

1 in 5 Indians with over Rs 5 crore worth plans to relocate overseas



However, Kotak's private banking division targets individuals worth over Rs 300 crore. Many UHNIs buy abroad property for migration and permanent residency. "Ultra-HNIs are diversifying their portfolios and embracing domestic and global assets, setting the stage for a sig-

nificant increase. Alternative assets and equities are becoming more popular in domestic and international markets. Nearly a third of India's Ultra-HNIs own worldwide assets. With two in three ultra-HNIs planning structured wealth transition, succession planning is crucial.

March saw a record-breaking 24.77 lakh crore rupees in UPI transactions

Delhi: March saw a record-breaking 24.77 lakh crore in transactions through the widely used Unified Payments Interface (UPI), an increase of 12.7% from the previous month, according to figures supplied by the Corporation of India (NPCI). The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) reported that March's transaction value was Rs 24.77 lakh crore, up from Rs

19.78 lakh crore in March of the previous year. In a statement, Spice Money founder and CEO Dilip Modi remarked that the unprecedented UPI transactions of Rs 24.8 lakh crore in March 2025—representing a 25% surge in value and an astounding 36% growth in volume compared to last year—illustrate the inexorable momentum of India's digital payments.

CBSE Orders Schools to Start Skill Education ASAP

Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education CBSE has ordered all associated schools to implement skill education initiatives immediately to comply with the NEP 2020 and NCF-School Education. These programmes combine occupational skills into the curriculum to connect academic and practical knowledge. CBSE emphasizes speedy action to equip students for a rapidly changing workforce and create a skilled, self-reliant generation for India's future progress. CBSE offered skill modules for classes 6–12 pupils to learn in classes, hobby clubs, or online. CBSE has a registration and certification platform for project-based modules. Students can choose from 22 skill subjects for 9-10 and 43 for 11-12. These disciplines can be taught in schools without permission or fees. CBSE offers access to submit details regarding skill subjects and modules to help schools introduce them. Skills subjects



are connected to NSQF levels, giving students a clear path to career opportunities with fixed study hours. By 2026, schools must have Composite Skill Labs with skill-education equipment. The lab setup will be detailed soon. DSCs are being appointed throughout districts by CBSE to ensure grassroots implementation of these programs. Principals and instructors attend regular programs, including industrial collaborations. All skill education programs are free and CPD-recognized. To give students hands-on experience, CBSE hosts hackathons, ideathons, and skill expos. The

Telangana govt resolute in raising reservation

HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao announced on Monday that the Congress government is determined to increase reservation for backward classes in education, employment, and political representation from 23% to 42%. In a post on the social media platform 'X,' he highlighted that the population of backward classes in the state stands at 56.36%, based on the recent caste survey conducted in Telangana.

Indian parents claim their kids' schools have raised tuition 50-80% in 3 years

Delhi: In a new study of 31,000 parents in 309 districts of India, 44% stated their children's schools have raised tuition by 50-80% in the past three years, while 8% indicated it topped 80 percent. LocalCircles released its citizen engagement survey. The analysis shows frightening private education affordability trends. "With school education becoming increasingly expensive and AI promising self-paced learning platforms, some parents are questioning schools' relevance. The report found that private schools, especially those with internation-



al curricula, charge high fees. While the wealthy can afford them, middle-class and lower-income families must sacrifice essential expenses or borrow to fund their children's education. The poll found that parents in Hyderabad protested earlier this year against private schools seeking to triple the costs for lower kindergarten (LKG) to class 3 admis-

sions. Bengaluru parents oppose 10–30% fee hikes for 2025–26. Parents remarked on social networking site X that "the annual increase in school fees has become an unchecked burden," according to the report. We face job cuts, higher taxes, and mortgage debts. School expenses are rising in several cities.

The dual degree option at DU will help students learn more

Delhi: The University of Delhi (DU) now allows students to pursue two degrees simultaneously. DU students can enroll in one degree through the normal mode at any DU-affiliated college or department and a second through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) through the School of

Open Learning. This policy gives existing students the option to expand their academic horizons without choosing between conventional and distant education. It has restrictions, though. Even with normal and ODL enrollment, students cannot enroll in two identical degrees (such as

BCom Hons and BCom Pass). DU dual degree qualifying requirements are simple but require careful planning. Students must meet both degrees' academic requirements. Attending classes, completing assignments, and passing tests for each program.

Students can reduce cognitive strain by using calculators in CBSE class XII accountancy exams

Delhi: The CBSE curriculum committee is considering allowing basic non-programmable calculators in class XII Accountancy board exams. CBSE may adopt it in 2025-26, although no official announcement has been published. Calculators lessen cognitive strain and improve efficiency and accuracy for Commerce stream students. Students were confused during the Accountancy Board 2024-25 exam last week due to its unclear execution. Several students brought calculators to the exam. CBSE official: "The committee panel is yet to set guidelines for uniform calculator use, aligning them with the NEP 2020." "The board will allow calcula-



tors only for accountancy, not math or science, to preserve students' basic calculation skills. Accounting includes handling enormous numerical data; computations are difficult, and students lose marks for last-minute calculation errors without a calculator. Since 1998, the CISCE board

has authorized calculators in Accountancy, Math, Physics, Chemistry, and Statistics. A prominent educationist, speaking on condition of anonymity, adds, "The CBSE has always stressed developing students' basic mathematical skills, so it has not allowed calculators.

IT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally

Delhi: Among Indian universities for sustainability, IIT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally, according to 2025 QS Rankings released. The QS Sustainability Rankings include 78 Indian universities, with nine of the top 10 improving and 21 new institutions entering. Two IITs—Delhi and Kanpur—are in the world's top 100 for impact. With 177 and 67 rank improvements, each became fourth and fifth in India. Bangalore's IISc is among the world's top 50 environmental education schools.

NAAC adopts e-inspections for new accreditation

Delhi: To eradicate corruption and speed up accreditation, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has stopped physical college inspections. Accreditation teams will now perform evaluations exclusively online, replacing on-cams visits with virtual examinations. But for colleges, the changeover will be hybrid; most inspections will be remote, but some reviewers will still visit campuses to retain some monitoring. The decision fol-



lows the CBI's recent arrests in the case involving Andhra Pradesh's Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF), where management reportedly bribed NAAC peer visit inspectors for good ratings. "We chose to do whatever it takes

to eliminate corruption. "Stopping in-person visits will greatly reduce the issue," stated NAAC executive committee head Prof Anil Sahasrabudhe. "With so many weekly inspection visits, it was hard to track what happened. Now, all this is recorded." NAAC head Ganesan Kannabiran hailed the switch to online inspection a "surgical strike" against corruption. The latest CBI lawsuit challenged NAAC's peer review system.

For undergraduate admissions at Delhi University, CUET will remain, and passing scores on the board exams will be necessary

Delhi: After passing the CUET UG 2025 exam, candidates who are interested in DU's undergraduate programs must complete the CUET DU CSAS 2025 application form. In the final week of May 2025, the CUET DU CSAS 2025 registration will be launched at ugadmissions.uod. by the admissions unit at DU. In order to be admitted to DU's undergraduate program, students must take the CUET UG 2025. Starting in the second week of August 2025 and continuing forward, the CUET UG DU cutoff 2025 will be released by DU based on CUET subjects, course criteria, and percentile earned. Candidates should make sure to



keep themselves informed about the essential dates for the CUET DU cut off 2025. Filling out the CUET UG application form 2025 requires candidates to meet the course standards set by CUET DU and to map their subjects correctly. Class XII board results, with the exception of passing scores, will not affect their admissions, even though CUET is

required for admissions. The Common University Entrance Test (CUET) in the same topics covered in class XII is required, according to a previous webinar on the undergraduate admissions procedure by Delhi University (DU). At the session, representatives from the DU admissions office answered questions from parents and students.

Punjab invests Rs 2,000 crore to modernize education and empower students

Delhi: Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains announced that the state government will host 'Sikhya Kranti' a 54-day education celebration to inaugurate Rs 2,000 crore in infrastructural developments in 12,000 government institutions. Bains stressed the government's commitment to empowering students in an equal and modern learning environment. "The massive infrastructure development program includes school construction and renovation and modern learning facilities. "This initiative shows the state government's commitment to quality education for all children," the minister said. Clean water, high-speed WiFi, separate restrooms for girls and boys, desks, chairs, and boundary walls are given in government



schools. Punjab was the first state to hire campus managers, security guards, and started student buses, according to Bains. More than 10,000 pupils use this facility. Over Rs 200 crore is spent annually on government school maintenance, the minister said. Bains said Cabinet Ministers and other dignitaries would inaugurate infrastructure development projects in over 350 government schools on the first day of "Sikhya Kranti". Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and

party state in-charge Manish Sisodia will inaugurate a 'School of Eminence' at SBS Nagar. Bains said 6,812 schools have new or renovated boundary walls covering nearly 1,000 miles, making learning safer. Life's Good. The addition of 5,399 new classrooms, 2,976 toilets in 2,934 schools, and 7,166 toilet repairs in 4,889 schools were made, he said. To enhance students' learning, 1,16,901 dual desks, tables, and chairs have been given so every student may study.

To promote inclusive education, the AICTE will publish engineering textbooks in 12 Indian languages

Delhi: The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) will provide textbooks for all engineering diploma and degree programs in 12 Indian languages by December 2026. Work is underway across subjects and academic levels. AICTE Chairman Prof T G Sitharam informed ANI that 600 first- and second-year engineering diploma and degree texts have been published in 12 regional languages. Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu. He stated that third- and fourth-year textbooks are being written. "We finished first- and second-year diploma and degree books. Work continues in years 3-4. We finished 40–50 volumes for year three. The AICTE oversees university-affiliated and independent technical colleges. These texts include civil, mechanical, electrical, electronics, and computer science engineering under AICTE's model curriculum." These cutting-edge books help students understand concepts in their native language. These books structure and goal-orient material using unit objectives, outcome-based learning, and problem-solving assignments in each chapter. AICTE accelerates translation with AI. "Our deep learning algorithm translates books in 10 minutes with 80% accuracy.



Cricketer Suryakumar Yadav's 21 crore investment

Delhi: Cricketer Yadav and his wife Devisha bought two luxurious residences in Mumbai, a major move. Square Yards found that their latest acquisition is worth over 21 crore and is a major personal and financial achievement. The property is famous for its price and location in one of Mumbai's quickly expanding upmarket neighborhoods, the newly created Godrej Sky Terraces in Deonar. For Mumbai's real estate watchers, this transaction is more than a property deal. It shows how the city's housing habits are shifting, with once-distant places becoming affluent neighborhoods. Suryakumar Yadav is well-connected to Deonar. Anushakti Nagar, a scientific suburb in Mumbai, was his childhood home, according to . With this acquisition, he's returning to a familiar section of the city with his wife and family, not just investing in real estate. Yadav



Ponting says Vyshak was an impact sub against GT because 'Shreyas said, just bring him out here'

Delhi: After Punjab Kings beat Gujarat Titans by 11 runs in a high-scoring match, head coach Ricky Ponting said captain Shreyas Iyer asked him to bring on Vyshak to bowl a couple of yorkers and close the game. After Iyer led from the front, scoring an unbeaten 97 in 42 balls at 230.95 to help his side reach 243/5 in 20 overs, Vijaykumar Vyshak's important middle-over spells reduced GT to 232/5 to seal a tight win. While sitting in the dugout, I stated they need 13 or 14 runs per over and asked Shreyas what he wanted to do. He urged Vyshak out. He will nail a few yorkers, and we will close the game. Vyshak transformed the game, Ponting stated. Vyshak, who turned the game

sees this shift as a homecoming and a triumph. Residential constructions are attracting attention to Deonar, once an industrial region. It's becoming a popular choice for luxury living away from Mumbai's busy central regions because to its serene setting and easy access to major areas.

A world chess champion at the tender age of seven, Pragnika Vaka!

Delhi: At the 2025 FIDE World School Championship, which took place in Vrnjaka Banja, Serbia, from March 20-28, Pragnika Vaka of Gujarat was named world champion in the under-7 girls' category. As the sole Indian to claim the top prize in every age group, the Surat girl won with a flawless score of nine out of a possible nine. Twenty-two Indian pupils competed in the event, which had six divisions: U-7, U-9, U-11, U-13, U-15, and U-17. With the exception of the open U-7 and U-11 girls' divisions. The U-11 girls' division was won by Bijesh Divi



Pragnika, India took home two silver medals, while the U-7 open category was won by Om Esh Gottumukala. Pragnika watched her older sister Varenya play chess, and it sparked her interest in the game. Ramanadh, Varenya's father, that his daughter is well-

known in Gujarat as a chess player. She took an interest in chess while she was in COVID-19 after seeing her sister play. Her rapid rise to international prominence in just over two years as a chess player is a testament to her talent.

Rajasthan Royals and Mirchi and Gaana ink pact IPL deal

Delhi: As the Official Entertainment Partners for IPL 2025, Mirchi a radio and digital entertainment station and Gaana an audio streaming platform have signed an exclusive collaboration with Rajasthan Royals (RR). Rajasthan Royals announced in a statement that listeners



to Mirchi's radio network will be able to connect with the team through match updates, expert analysis, and

interviews with RR players. The CEO of the Rajasthan Royals, Jake Lush McCrum, stated that the team's partnership with Mirchi and Gaana presents a chance to increase fan involvement and a sense of connection to the game all season long, not only on game days.

Rayudu believes CSK's blunders were tough to witness in IPL

Delhi: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) lost their second straight India Premier League game, 50 runs to Royal Challengers Bengaluru and six runs to Rajasthan Royals on Sunday evening at Guwahati. Analysts praised the RR players' fielding and noted how the CSK versus RR game showed both teams' fielding differences. Ambati Rayudu stressed the significance of fielding in a close match like the CSK vs RR game, highlighting Rajasthan Royals' outstanding fielding. Chennai Super Kings' fielding has never been good, but their first two matches this season have been awful. Dropping easy chances and laboring in the outfield must be addressed immediately.



After the loss, Rayudu noted on JioStar that CSK's blunders were unpleasant. These one-percenters matter in close games. We saw many amazing catches in this match—rare! Chennai Super Kings didn't field well, except for a few

infield stops. Rajasthan Royals were ready, proving that fielding is about anticipation and knowledge, not just youth. 'Riyan Parag's catch, during Shivam Dube's excellent performance, was a game-changer.

Pakistan will be led by Fatima Sana in ICC World Cup qualifiers

Delhi: Host Pakistan named a 15-member lineup for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup qualifiers, with pace all-rounder Fatima Sana leading the team in the 50-over event. Pakistan will host the six-team competition from April 9-19 at the Gaddafi Stadium and LCCA stadium in Lahore. The six teams are competing for two slots at the 13th 50-over World Cup in India later this year. returns to the national team following a shoulder injury in December 2023's tour. The squad lacks bowling all-rounder Nida Dar, who was one of 19 players called to the qualifying.

India won 10 medals in the Amman Senior Asian Wrestling Championship

Delhi: The 2025 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship ended with an outstanding Indian Free Style performance. On the penultimate day of the event, Indian wrestlers competed in the remaining five Freestyle weight divisions, showing their strength and resilience. Two of the five divisions proceeded to the finals, while two wrestled for bronze. Udit (61 kg) and Deepak Punia (92 kg) made the finals, while Mukul Dahiya (86 kg) and Dinesh (125 kg) chased bronze. In the 61 kg event, Udit won his sec-



ond straight Senior Asian Championship silver. He earned 57 kg silver last year. He defeated Kyrgyz wrestler Bekzat Rakhimov 12-7 in the quarterfinals and Takashi Ishiguro 8-1 in the semifinals. Despite losing 10-0 against Iranian wrestler Amirhossein Biglar in the final, he won silver. Dinesh Kumar (125 kg) fought hard against Turkmenistan's Zyyammet Saparov. Technical advantage gave him a hard-fought 12-12 bronze medal win. Tatsuya Shirai of Japan defeated Mukul Dahiya (86 kg) 4-2 to win bronze.

exceeded at 92 kg. He defeated Kyrgyz wrestler Bekzat Rakhimov 12-7 in the quarterfinals and Takashi Ishiguro 8-1 in the semifinals. Despite losing 10-0 against Iranian wrestler Amirhossein Biglar in the final, he won silver. Dinesh Kumar (125 kg) fought hard against Turkmenistan's Zyyammet Saparov. Technical advantage gave him a hard-fought 12-12 bronze medal win. Tatsuya Shirai of Japan defeated Mukul Dahiya (86 kg) 4-2 to win bronze.

Jhandu Kumar, Bihar's vegetable vendor son, eyes 2028 Paralympics

Delhi: After dominating the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG), Jhandu Kumar has set a new goal: qualifying for the 2028 Paralympics, KIPG said. Jhandu, son of a vegetable vendor from Nitish Kumar's former assembly constituency Harnaut, won gold at the KIPG. The announcement said that the powerlifter broke his national record on March 23 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium weightlifting hall with a 206 kg lift to win the men's 72kg category. Jhandu beat Sudhir Kumar's 192 kg national record with a 205 kg lift in the Para National Championship in Noida on March 17-



18. The 28-year-old has had polio-affected legs since birth. His parasports career began in 2017. First, he competed in shot-put and discus. He didn't know about para-powerlifting. Jhandu won multiple shot put and discus throw contests in the F-55 category, but fate took him elsewhere.

He reached the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Gandhinagar after an intriguing but difficult voyage. Famous para-coach Rajinder Singh Rahelu helped him showcase his talent. He won silver in powerlifting at the first KIPG in December 2023.

After MI's fourth loss in the 2025 IPL, Pandya became emotion-

Delhi: Mumbai Indians (MI) lost their fourth game in five IPL 2025 matches at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai to RCB, who had not won there in ten years. It was a case of "so near, yet so far" for MI. MI captain

Hardik Pandya was visibly upset after his team's narrow 12 run loss, which saw them down to eighth place in the points standings. After the loss, Hardik's brother and RCB all-rounder Krunal Pandya embraced him tightly before the post-

match ceremony, seemingly trying to console him. The brothers were thereafter observed engaging in ground-level activities. The only one we had any doubt about was Pandya's chances of winning. Our feelings of love

and devotion for one another, however, are entirely organic. On the field, he performed admirably. We were going for the victory. Krunal expressed his sympathies to him during their post-match conversation.

Fatima Sana in ICC Women's World Cup quali-

Delhi: Host Pakistan named a 15-member lineup for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup qualifiers, with pace all-rounder Fatima Sana leading the team in the 50-over event. Pakistan will host the six-team competition from April 9-19 at the Gaddafi Stadium and LCCA stadium in Lahore. The six teams are competing for two slots at the 13th 50-over World Cup .

Gulveer Singh Beats National 10,000m Record In California

Delhi: Gulveer Singh set a new 10,000m national record in The Ten 2025 athletics competition with 27:00.22s. The 26-year-old beat his national record of 27:14.88 at the Hachioji Long Distance 2024 in Japan by 14.66 seconds. Gulveer Singh breaks his national 10,000m record with 27:00.22. The Indian Athletics Federation tweeted on X that he placed 6th at The Ten in the US on



Saturday. Gulveer set a new 10000m national record at The Ten last year with a 27:41.81 performance. This performance broke Surendra Singh's 2008 record of

28:02.89. Gulveer increased his record at Japan's Hachioji Long Distance. At The Ten, a World Athletics Continental Tour silver-level meet, the

Hangzhou Asian Games bronze medalist came within 0.22 seconds of the automatic qualification requirement for the World Athletics Championships 2025, 27:00.00. However, he exceeded the Athletics Federation of India's 29:33.26s Asian Athletics Championships 2025 entry criteria. He ranks third in Asian 10000m best times with Gulveer's new personal best.