



Minister of State for Sports listened to Mann Ki Baat program with common people

Vatika Times Chandigarh

Haryana's Minister of State for Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship, Sports Gaurav Gautam said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India is touching new heights and India's success is being discussed all over the world. He said that Mann Ki Baat is not only a government program, but it is a program of the entire country and the public. He said that through this program, Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares inspirational things from every corner of the country and the world, which encourages and inspires everyone. Minister of State for Sports was listening to the 123rd edition of the Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat program with party workers and common people in Palwal on Sunday. He said that he definitely listens to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat program on the last Sunday of every month, which gives him inspiration and energy. He said that everyone is enthusiastic to listen to Mann Ki Baat. He said that if the people of Palwal do good work in the interest of society and become an inspiration for someone, then Prime Minister Narendra Modi will definitely discuss the people of Palwal district in his Mann Ki Baat program. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country will become developed and self-reliant by 2047.

PM Modi is guiding in building a developed India: Nadda



Vatika Times Chandigarh

BJP National President JP Nadda, Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini and BJP State President Pandit Mohan Lal Baroli on Sunday listened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular "Mann Ki Baat" program with the people at the GNH Convention Center located at Booth No. 408 of Badshahpur Assembly in Gurugram. Cabinet Minister Rao Narbir Singh was also present on this occasion. After the program, all the leaders planted saplings under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign. BJP National President JP Nadda also distributed Ayushman Card Benefit Letters to the eligible citizens benefited under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. After this program, BJP National President JP Nadda expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on his social media account and wrote that PM Modi is guiding the people by communicating through the Mann Ki Baat program to unite the people and to build a 'developed India'. In today's dialogue, Prime Minister Modi mentioned the enthusiasm of citizens towards yoga across the world on International Yoga Day, the mythological importance of various historical and religious pilgrimages conducted in the country, as well as the Constitution Assassination Day in 50 years of Emergency and remembered the fighters of democracy. He further wrote that Prime Minister Modi also shared inspirational thoughts about the innovations being done by the people in Meghalaya and Bodoland with the countrymen through the Mann Ki Baat program.

JP Nadda, along with the Chief Minister, State President and other leaders, planted a sapling at Vatika Chowk in Gurugram under PM Modi's nationwide campaign Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam. In this regard too, Shri Nadda reiterated the resolve to protect the environment and wrote that conservation of nature is an integral part of our culture. He appealed to all the people that we all should together make our Vasundhara green and plant as many trees as possible. A tree in the name of mother is a symbol of compassion, culture and service: BaroliBJP state president Pandit Mohan Lal Baroli has also written on his social media that Prime Minister Narendra Modi presents a glimpse of the bright future of India to the people through the Mann Ki Baat program.

People get inspired by PM's sharing of citizens' experiences: Saini

Vatika Times Chandigarh

Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini said that in the Mann Ki Baat program, Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares the experiences of citizens who have contributed to the country's interest through their own hard work, which inspires the common man. The Chief Minister said that our future generations and the common man get a big bene-



fit from this program. Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini called upon the people of the state to participate enthusiastically in the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign towards environmental

protection. The Chief Minister said that through the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign, every citizen should take a pledge to plant a tree in the name of his mother and protect it. This effort will not only help in making Haryana green but will also contribute in dealing with the challenges of climate change. Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini said that the resolution taken by Prime Minister Modi.

Normal life was When you leave, you want to leave the team

Vatika Times

NEW DELHI: India ended their 12-year ICC ODI title drought in style, defeating New Zealand by four wickets to claim their record-breaking third ICC Champions Trophy title on Sunday at the Dubai International Stadium. Star batter Virat Kohli, reflecting on the victory, praised the team's depth and asserted that this squad has the potential to dominate world cricket for the next eight years. "When you leave, you want to leave the team in a better place," Kohli said. "I feel we've got a squad

that's ready to take on the world for the next eight years. Shubman has been outstanding, Shreyas has played some top knocks, KL has finished games, and Hardik has been superb with the bat." India, unbeaten throughout the eight-nation tournament held in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, chased down New Zealand's 252-run target with an over to spare. Skipper Rohit Sharma led from the front, scoring a crucial 76 off 83 balls, and forming a steady 105-run opening partnership with Shubman

Court acquits 4 in post-Babri Guj riots case for lack of proof

AHMEDABAD: A sessions court in Ahmedabad recently acquitted four men accused of rioting and arson in the city's Naroda area during communal violence that followed Babri Masjid demolition in 1992-93. "No evidence, including CCTV footage or any eyewitness who could link the accused to this offence, has been produced before this court," additional sessions judge VB Rajpu.

Krishna Kumar Bedi listened to Mann Ki Baat program

Vatika Times Chandigarh

Haryana's Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Krishan Kumar Bedi said that public participation is very important for the success of implementation of government schemes in the progress of the state. While public cooperation speeds up development, it also ensures that the benefits of government schemes reach the eligible person. Public cooperation has its own role in implementing wel-



fare schemes at the ground level. Along with development, there should also be public awareness towards programs like environmental protection, water conservation, plantation, de-addiction campaign. All these are burning issues of the present time and they can be achieved only by

joining hands with the common people. The Cabinet Minister was listening to the live broadcast of the Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat program in Jind's Danoda Khurd on Sunday. This was the 123rd edition of the Mann Ki Baat program, which was also listened to by the villagers along with the Cabinet Minister. On this occasion, Krishan Kumar Bedi also announced to give Rs 25 lakh for the development work of the village.

Vatika Times

Rohtak Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini reached Rohtak and expressed deep condolences on the demise of Smt. Rajwati Hooda, sister-in-law of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. The Chief Minister reached her residence in Rohtak and expressed his condolences to the bereaved family and prayed to God for the peace of the departed soul. The Chief Minister paid tribute to late Smt. Rajwati Hooda by laying flowers on her picture and said that late Rajwati Hooda was a woman of religious nature, who actively contributed to social and religious works while keeping the family united. Her life has been inspirational for all. The Chief Minister prayed



to God to give place to the departed soul at his feet and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. Public Health Engineering Minister Ranbir Gangwa and former minister Manish Grover also paid

floral tributes to the departed soul. Later, Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini reached Sindhu Niwas, the residence of former Finance Minister Captain Abhimanyu and expressed condolences on the demise of his mother Smt.

Parmeshwari Devi. He met Captain Abhimanyu and his family and expressed his condolences. On this occasion, Minister Ranbir Gangwa and former Minister Manish Grover along with other dignitaries were also present.

High court comes to aid of ex-soldier's kin, grants disability pension

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 filed by a former Indian Army gunner from Punjab's Hoshiarpur. The petitioner, who had moved HC in 2020, died on May 14, 2021, during the pendency of the case, which was represented by his legal heirs after his death. The soldier was enrolled in the Indian Army on July 30, 1971, in a fit state of health and was invalidated out of service from March 3, 1979

The young generation will pave the way to make India a developed and self-reliant nation: Sports Minister



Vatika Times Palwal

Gaurav Gautam, Minister of State for Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship, Sports and Law in Haryana Government said that it is the responsibility of teachers and social organizations to provide a platform to talents and promote them. Talent is hidden in every child and all that is needed is to polish it. Gaurav Gautam, Minister of State for Sports and Law, was speaking as the chief guest at the felicitation ceremony organized by Mittal Classes at Palladium Banquet Hall on Sunday after felicitating the students who secured top ranks in JE and NEET papers. He congratulated the meritorious and talented students while awarding them. Gaurav Gautam, Minister of

State for Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our country India is moving towards becoming developed and self-reliant. The vision of developed and self-reliant India is the vision of the government to transform India into a self-reliant and prosperous economy. He said that when he sees energetic youth like you, the resolve of developed and self-reliant India becomes even stronger. He said that the young generation of India will pave the way to make India a developed and self-reliant nation by the year 2047. He called upon the youth not to adopt any kind of shortcut in their life but to achieve success in their life through innovation and take the country forward..

India continues to progress under the dynamic leadership of Modi: Shruti

Vatika Times Chandigarh

Haryana's Irrigation and Water Resources Minister Shruti Chaudhary along with party workers listened to the live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat programme.



On this occasion, she appreciated the remarkable progress achieved by India at the global level under the dynamic and visionary leadership of the Prime Minister. She said that the Mann Ki Baat programme is a powerful and unique platform which directly connects the Prime Minister with the common people and provides inspiration and direction to the citizens across the country. Under the able guidance of Modi, India is now strengthening its position on the global platform along with unprecedented development in every field.

Government is celebrating the birth anniversaries of great men of every society: Gangwa

Vatika Times Chandigarh

Haryana Public Works and Public Health Engineering Minister Ranbir Singh Gangwa said that Sant Kabir worked throughout his life to unite the society and eradicate superstitions. He was a visionary who gave the message of humanity by rising above caste, creed and high-low. The Public Works Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the 627th Prakashotsav ceremony of Sant Kabir Sahib organized at Sant Kabir



Hostel in Hisar on Sunday. He also announced a sum of Rs 21 lakh for Kabir Hostel. He also praised the arrangements of Sant Kabir Hostel and assured that the government will take steps to further strengthen such institutions so that the students can get a better environment. He

said that the Haryana government under the leadership of Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini is taking all sections of the society along. The birth anniversaries of all the great men are now being officially celebrated by the state government, spreading the message of unity and awareness in the society. He said that protecting the rights of the DSC society is the priority of the government. Now the youth of the society are getting selected in government jobs.

Editorial

Civil servants are running India’s regulatory bodies. It dilutes institutional independence

Ritu Walia

Looking back at India’s reform story of more than three decades, it is worthwhile to recall that economic liberalisation of the 1990s had a few implicit assumptions of how an economy should function and grow on a sustainable basis. One of those assumptions followed from the government decision to allow the private sector to operate in areas that were hitherto monopolised by state-owned enterprises. Under such liberalisation, it was assumed that while the government would continue to frame policies for areas opened up to the private sector, the regulation or enforcement of those policies would be undertaken by independent regulators through rules framed by them. A classic example of this thinking was India’s telecommunications sector that was opened up to the private sector in the early 1990s. This was followed by the setting up of the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India or Trai a few years later. Subsequently, the business of basic telephone services, run in large parts of the country by a government department, was hived off to a newly created state-owned enterprise. Something similar, in varying degrees, happened in other areas such as the insurance, airports, and power sectors. In addition, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) was set up to regulate and adjudicate upon issues of market dominance and practices that undermined competition in various sectors. The principle was clear: Let the government frame the policy (and not run a business), while independent regulatory bodies could enforce the policy by framing necessary rules. Another implicit assumption behind such a separation of responsibilities between the government and the regulators was about who should steer those regulatory bodies. To impart autonomy and independence to these institutions and insulate them from government interference, the pool of talent for hiring key personnel was widened. Experts and private-sector professionals in related fields, along with even retired members of the judiciary (though under some pressure as was seen when the legislation for setting up the CCI was framed), were among those the government believed could be hired to head these regulatory institutions. Thus, the first chairperson of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission was an economist. Trai was set up under the chairmanship of a retired judge and its next chairperson was a former banker. Even the first capital market regulator was a banker in the late 1980s, and the first chairperson of the insurance sector regulator was a former chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. The first full-fledged chairperson of the CCI was a retired Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer. So, there was a mix of regulatory heads chosen from a pool of experts from both the government and the private sector. In spite of a few civil servants heading these institutions, the idea that continued to be pursued was to insulate regulation from the stranglehold or influence of the political executive. The third significant aspect of regulation in the early days of economic reforms was the framing of rules for appointing heads of regulatory bodies in a way that effectively ruled out conflicts of interest. Thus, a regulator would usually not be considered for another job in the government system after the completion of his or her term. The idea was that the regulator should be able to act freely and fairly without any expectation of future assignments from the government or the private sector. Indeed, one of the regulators under the law was, until recently, barred from accepting any government job after having served in that regulatory post. These were guardrails to preserve the integrity and independence of regulators. However, the situation with regard to the last two assumptions behind the regulatory framework has changed.



Suman

On June 9, 2024, as the Modi 3.0 government was set to swear in, Rajeev Chandrasekhar came up with a cryptic tweet: “Today, curtains down on my 18-year stint of public service, of which three years I had the privilege of serving with PM Narendra Modi’s Team Modi 2.0. I certainly didn’t wish to end my 18 years of public service as a candidate who lost an election, but that’s how it has turned out”. The tweet was deleted after a day, and the amended version conveniently laid the blame for the confusion on an “intern”. It was an emotional response, a mark of Chandrasekhar’s utter disappointment with not finding a place in Modi 3.0. It also signified how the ‘technocrat’ was not a run-of-the-mill politician who believed in rehearsed or curated responses. Less than a year since then, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) high command has now sprung a surprise by naming Chandrasekhar as its new Kerala state president. By no means was Rajeev Chandrasekhar the frontrunner. Incumbent K. Surendran, who overstayed his term by two years, was tipped to get another year’s extension, until the assembly elections in the state in 2026. There were other contenders too, such as firebrand Sobha Surendran and veteran MT Ramesh. Even conventional wisdom suggested that social engineering compulsions would go against Chandrasekhar, a Nair hailing from Thrissur. With the two Malayalis in Modi’s third ministry being a Nair and a Syrian Christian—Suresh Gopi and



George Kurian—an Ezhava/Hindu OBC candidate would’ve been the more practical option. But the high command had enough reasons to pick Chandrasekhar. The BJP in Kerala is a divided house with multiple factions, and none of the frontrunners would have been able to function smoothly on account of internal dissension. Even K. Surendran’s five-year term was marred by friction with the PK Krishnadas-led faction, as well as his running feud with Sobha Surendran. The BJP leadership reckons that Rajeev Chandrasekhar can carry all the factions together. He is not a natural politician, but the central leadership deems that this very characteristic will become Chandrasekhar’s USP. It is very much a repetition of the ‘K. Annamalai’ experiment in Tamil Nadu. True, Chandrasekhar’s acceptability cuts across factions. But there are various other considerations at play. For all the gains it made elsewhere, the BJP has hardly had any electoral impact in Kerala, despite a steady rise in vote share. Even after faring reasonably well in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, cornering nearly 20% votes and Suresh Gopi’s win from Thrissur, it did badly in the Palakkad by-election last

November. That loss probably put paid to Surendran’s hopes to stay on until the assembly polls, as he had turned the issue into a battle of prestige. The central leadership also cannot quite understand why the BJP does so poorly in a state where the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has the second-largest network of shakhas (branches) in the country. For a long, the RSS in Kerala had been deeply involved in the functioning of the state BJP, though the party’s ideological mentor has taken a backseat in recent times. This was meant to afford more autonomy to the state party president, but it ultimately culminated in RSS organising secretary K. Subash’s resignation, with the Sangh not naming a replacement in his stead for an extended period. Now, Rajeev Chandrasekhar’s appointment is likely to be followed by the RSS naming an organising secretary to assist the new president in his functioning. The last time the high command named an out-of-the-box candidate as state president was in the run-up to the 2016 assembly polls, when veteran Sangh leader Kummanam Rajasekharan, whose hardliner image and association with the Nilakkal

protests of 1982 had proved to be a baggage for the party in the past. The central leadership also believes that Chandrasekhar can cater to sections of Kerala’s aspirational middle class that are yearning for change and are unhappy with both the ruling Left government and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). Since Chandrasekhar doesn’t fit the mould of a regular politician, he may be able to connect better with this class and some increasingly ‘apolitical’ sections of voters that support, say, a Shashi Tharoor. In many ways in fact, it was the spirited contest that he put in against Tharoor in the Lok Sabha election in Thiruvananthapuram, despite being a late entrant, that may have propelled Chandrasekhar to the coveted position today. Giving a tough fight to Tharoor, a lot of people were left wondering whether Chandrasekhar could have emerged victorious had he been pencilled in sooner. “Ini Karyam Nadakkum” (‘Now things will move’) was Chandrasekhar’s campaign slogan. This may well be called Chandrasekhar’s second coming in Kerala politics. Contrary to what many may believe, the contest in Thiruvananthapuram wasn’t his initiation in state politics, even if he was based in Bengaluru until then. Much before that, he had been a key mediator for getting the Bharat Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS), affiliated to the Ezhava community outfit Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP), to join the National Democratic Alliance

(NDA) in 2016. That is when Chandrasekhar was named the NDA’s vice-chairman for Kerala, despite being a Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka. Now, he may be expected to act as a bridge to the Christian clergy and cater to their grievances. The Christian community in Kerala has traditionally stood with the Congress, although cracks have begun to appear in recent times. Chandrasekhar may be expected to utilise issues such as the controversy surrounding the Munambam suburb of Ernakulam, where some 600 LChristian and Hindu families are protesting against the Wakf Board’s claim over the area. Notably, Chandrasekhar was a key figure in getting veteran leader PC George to merge his splinter party with the BJP. Shone George, the latter’s son, is also expected to emerge as an important leader during Chandrasekhar’s term. It would also be remiss not to mention Chandrasekhar’s ownership of Asianet News, which has consistently topped BARC (Broadcast Audience Research Council) ratings for Malayalam news channels. He is the majority shareholder of the news channel through the holding company Jupiter Capital. While some BJP leaders think that with the channel maintaining an independent editorial line Chandrasekhar’s business interests may backfire on him, that could be a thin reading of the situation. This view got amplified recently when he had to tweet an apology on account of the channel’s alleged slighting of the Maha Kumbh on a news show.

Why’s Turkey erupting for Ekrem Imamoglu? He’s the biggest threat to Erdogan yet

Abhinav

In Turkey, the vox populi is rising once again, reminiscent of the Gezi uprising that occurred 12 years ago. After a week of continuous protests in multiple cities—against the arrest of Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu—authorities have put a ban on gatherings and detained close to 2,000 individuals. The unlawful and unconstitutional arrest of Imamoglu is the culmination of over two decades of political erosion under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s increasingly autocratic governance. It has systematically undermined democratic institutions, silenced dissent, and played up the Islamist agenda internationally, particularly on the matter of Kashmir. Now, in the streets of Turkey’s major cities, thousands of people, mostly students and youth, are pushing back against Erdogan, and their defiance is growing louder by the day. At the heart of this unrest lies the struggle for Turkey’s political future—and the figure leading this charge—Ekrem. Imamoglu, a calm

and charismatic mayor, was arrested under politically motivated charges of corruption and embezzlement—accusations that many see as a pre-text for silencing a rising political star. His arrest was an absurd spectacle. Taken from his walk-in closet while calmly adjusting his tie, Imamoglu was detained merely hours before he was set to be nominated as the presidential candidate by Turkey’s Opposition in the 2028 elections. For a leader with immense support across Turkey, this act of political repression has galvanised protests not just in Istanbul but across the nation. But why has one figure—mayor of Istanbul since 2019—become the focal point of such a significant crisis. obscurity in 2019, defeating the candidate supported by Justice and Development Party (AKP) by 13,000 votes—when no one thought he could. Before Imamoglu, conservatives from the AKP had ruled Istanbul for 25 years. Erdogan himself owes the foundations of his political career to his mayorship of Istanbul.

BJP has a new Muslim strategy up its sleeve. Saugat-e-Modi isn’t just about Bihar election

Rashi Singh

This Ramadan, a quiet gesture from the Narendra Modi government has stirred conversation Eid kits for 32 lakh underprivileged Muslims, described as a goodwill initiative timed with the holy month. The offering appears festive, including familiar Eid ingredients such as dry fruits, semolina, vermicelli and sugar. The kits also include kurta-pyjamas for men and suit fabrics for women, all neatly packaged to reach Muslim households before Eid. At first glance, it appears to be a thoughtful cultural outreach by the Bharatiya Janata Party, an attempt to bring warmth and festivity into homes that might otherwise go without. But as with most things in Indian politics, the surface is rarely the whole story. The move hasn’t gone unnoticed by political observers. Why this sudden and massive outreach to Muslims—by a party that has so far built much of its narrative on distancing itself from appeasement politics? This is the same BJP whose leaders have routinely criticised political opponents for attending Iftar parties, framing such gestures as opportunistic pandering. And yet, here we are, with the ruling party preparing curated Eid hampers not just for a symbolic few but for over 30 lakh Muslim households. For many, the question is not whether the gesture is kind—but why now, and why like this? The BJP’s ‘Saugat-e-Modi’ kits have not only surprised political commentators but also drawn scathing remarks from the Opposition. For some, it’s a clear contradiction of the BJP’s usual stance on such gestures. But for political analysts watching the timing closely, the move seems less like a change of heart and more like a strategic calculation—with Bihar in mind. The upcoming Bihar assembly election has raised concerns within the BJP

that rising Opposition momentum could impact not just the party, but also its key allies—Nitish Kumar’s Janata Dal (United), Chirag Paswan’s Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), and Jitan Ram Manjhi’s Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular). In that light, the Eid outreach feels less like an act of cultural generosity and more like a political bluff—an attempt to soften the blow in a state where coalition math can shift quickly. That analysis may hold some truth—but it also seems to overlook the broader outreach pattern the BJP has been steadily building, particularly toward poor Muslims, Pasmanda communities, and Muslim women. Over the past few years, the party has made targeted efforts to create an opening within sections of the Muslim electorate long seen as distant. In the 2023 urban local body elections in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP went as far as fielding Pasmanda Muslim candidates—a move once considered politically unthinkable. Of the 395 Muslim candidates it fielded, 54 went on to win. These numbers may seem modest when seen in the larger national context, but they speak to a subtle shift in the party’s approach. One that goes beyond gift boxes and hints at reimagining of BJP’s political strategy—at least on the surface. BJP’s effort to engage with Pasmanda and poor Muslims isn’t new. In UP, Danish Ansari, a Pasmanda Muslim, was appointed as Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf, and Haj in Yogi Adityanath’s second cabinet—which was seen by many as a symbolic but politically significant move. The party and its spokespersons often claim that it was the BJP that made APJ Abdul Kalam the President of India, citing it as proof of its inclusive credentials. Added to this are a number of welfare schemes that directly or indirectly benefit.

Trump should withdraw USCIRF’s authorisation. It’s interfering in India’s domestic governance

Saariq

In a strongly worded statement, Government of India has condemned and refuted the findings of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom report as “biased and politically motivated, and continuation of persistent attempts to misrepresent isolated incidents and cast aspersions on India’s vibrant multicultural society which reflects USCIRF’s deliberate agenda rather than a genuine concern for religious freedom”. Though this is not the first time such reports

have painted India as a country highly intolerant of its religious minorities, the March 2025 report is the first time a recommendation has been made for India to be designated as “country of particular concern”. It alleges that minorities in India are facing ‘deteriorating treatment’. Fifteen other countries, including Afghanistan, Russia, China, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, have been found to be treating their respective minorities badly. Three aspects of this report should be of concern to New Delhi,

and it should be brought to the attention of those the report is supposedly submitted to. The first is the report’s mention of the assassination of separatist Sikh elements in Canada posing as members of the Sikh religious community and the alleged attempt on the life of another Khalistani separatist. “The Indian government also continued to expand its repressive tactics to target religious minorities abroad, specifically members of the Sikh community and their advocates... International reporting and intelligence

from the Canadian government corroborated allegations linking an official in India’s Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and six diplomats to the 2023 assassination attempt of an American Sikh activist in New York,” the report has said. It’s important to note that these radical elements do not represent the Sikh community. While the Government of India has categorically rejected the allegation, the Canadian government and the prosecuting authorities in the then Biden dispensation initiated legal actions against India.

KU Ensures Transparent Conduct of Admission 2025 Entrance Examinations: VC

Jasbir Singh Duggal
Kurukshetra: Kurukshetra University is conducting entrance examinations for the academic session 2025–26 with a focus on transparency, efficiency, and student-centric arrangements. As part of the ongoing entrance examinations for the academic session 2025–26, Kurukshetra University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva, conducted an inspection of multiple examination centres on Sunday to review arrangements and ensure the smooth conduct of the exams. During the surprise visit, Prof Sachdeva also inspected the control room setup, paper security measures, and interacted with the candidates to gather feedback. Sharing the



details, Controller of Examinations, KUK, Dr. Ankeshwar Prakash informed that the entrance test for the BA LLB programme had the highest number of applicants with 1,825 online registrations, and the exam was held at 8 designated centres.

In addition to the entrance examinations for six different UG/PG courses conducted today, videography was carried out at each centre to ensure transparency. A total of 2,814 candidates appeared for the exams on Sunday. BA LLB entrance exam was conducted across

8 centres, with 1,482 candidates attending. Out of 1,825 applicants, this marks an attendance rate of approximately 81%. The high turnout reflects students' growing interest in pursuing legal education right after Class 12.

Dr. Prakash further informed that during the afternoon session at 3:30 PM, 798 students appeared for the MBA (5-year integrated)/BBA Honours entrance exam. Additionally, the MSc Graphics, Animation & Multimedia exam was conducted, with 32 candidates in attendance. Dr. Prakash concluded by stating that entrance exams will continue on Monday as well. The M.P.Ed exam will be held at 10:00 AM and MA in Environmental Science at 12:30 PM. A total of 145 candidates are expected to appear for these two exams, which will be held at two centres: the Community Centre and University Senior Secondary School.



Liberty Shoes Achieves a Remarkable Feat: Revives a 700-Year-Old Historic Lake

Praveen Walia
Karnal : With financial support from Liberty Shoes Limited and Sanjeev Bansal Charitable Trust, the Rotary Club of South Central Delhi, in collaboration with INTACH, has successfully rejuvenated a 700-year-old historic lake in India's capital, Delhi, in just two years. The Satpula Lake has come back to life. Liberty Shoes is not just a business leader but also at the forefront of social responsibility and preserving ancient heritage. Two years ago, the lake was merely a polluted drain, and children used to play cricket on the dry land. Taking on the mission to revive it, Liberty Shoes and the Sanjeev Bansal Charitable Trust partnered with Rotary Club of Delhi South Central and INTACH. In just two years, they turned this vision into reality. The lake, once a part of the major catchment system that supplied water to Jahanpanah — the fourth city of the Delhi Sultanate — now sparkles with blue-green waters, breathing new life into the flora and fauna. Liberty Shoes Managing Director Shami Bansal informed that over 4.25 billion litres of life-giving water have so far replenished the earth's womb. Spread across 40 acres, Satpula Park has now been developed into a picnic spot.



Army conducts firepower exercise of units deployed in Sikkim, Siliguri Corridor

NEW DELHI: The Army has conducted a major firepower exercise of its 33 Corps, which defends the frontier with China in Sikkim and the strategically-vulnerable Siliguri Corridor in the eastern sector. "The Trishakti (33) Corps successful-

ly conducted the live fire exercise validating its battle readiness, rapid deployment, and precision strike capabilities," an Army officer said on Tuesday. The units under the 33 Corps, which has its headquarters at Sukna in West Bengal, have been

specifically preparing for battle in the high-altitude mountains of Sikkim, showcasing their adaptability and readiness for diverse operational environments. Through the coordinated firepower and precision engagement exercise, which

was held in training areas where a wide array of weapons can be fired to their full strike range, the units demonstrated their preparedness for a variety of challenges, including those posed by high-altitude warfare, the officer said.

Shahabad Submerged Once Again, Life Thrown Out of Gear

Heavy Rainfall Continues Intermittently for 11 Hours Every Street Turns into a Pond, Exposing Hollow Government Preparedness

Jasbir Singh Duggal
Shahabad Markanda: The torrential rain that began around 10 PM on Saturday night wreaked havoc across Shahabad. The downpour, which continued intermittently



for about 11 hours, completely disrupted the arrangements of the Municipal Council and Public Health Department. The truth behind the administration's pre-monsoon preparations was exposed, as most streets,



localities, and main roads in the city were submerged. Even 10 hours after the rain had stopped, there was hardly a street left without stagnant water. The poor condition of the drainage system once again proved that municipal and con-

cerned departments merely prepare on paper. However, the preventive measures taken by the National Highway Authority this time proved effective. The newly built drainage system at Ladwa Road Chowk — which



used to experience heavy waterlogging every year — provided relief. But other parts of the city were not so fortunate. The severe lack of proper drainage systems elsewhere caused major inconvenience to residents. In areas such as Subhash Nagar, Civil Hospital Road, Majri Mohalla, Bank Bazaar, Pratap Mandi, Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya Road, Old Vegetable Market,

Railway Road, Station Majri, HUDA Colony, Gopi Vihar, Qila Sikha Road, and Devi Mandir Road, the situation was such that it became hard to distinguish between roads and drains. The worst-hit areas included Saty Nagar,

Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya Road, and Vijay Colony, where rain-water entered homes, forcing residents to spend the entire day safeguarding their belongings. Many shops in the main market also got flooded, resulting in losses worth lakhs of rupees for shopkeepers. The city is paying the price for the Municipal Council's negligence in timely cleaning of drains and completing pending projects. The current situation clearly indicates that without proper drainage systems, every spell of rain will continue to turn Shahabad into a disaster zone.

Markanda River Swells Amid Continuous Rainfall in the Hills

Hema Majra Village in Ambala Rekindles Fears for Shahabad

Jasbir Singh Duggal
Shahabad Markanda: Continuous rainfall in the Kala Amb region of Himachal Pradesh has triggered alarm bells in Shahabad, Haryana, as the water level in the Markanda River is rising rapidly. By 6 PM on Sunday, the river was recorded flowing at 18,000 cusecs. Although the danger mark for Shahabad is between 35,000 to 40,000 cusecs, water has already started spilling out of the river through fields in Hema Majra village, Ambala, due to the absence of a protective embank-



ment. This has increased concern among Shahabad residents. Kashmeera, a gauge reader stationed at Kala Amb on the Markanda River, reported that the maximum discharge recorded on Sunday morning was 19,000 cusecs. Further downstream, near Mulana, the seasonal Run-Bengana River also merges with the Markanda, causing the water level to rise even more. Ravinder, a gauge reader in Shahabad, confirmed that by 6 PM, the river flow was measured at 18,000 cusecs and continues to increase.

Hema Majra a Cause for Concern, 2023 Flood Recalled
While the embankment built on the Shahabad side of the Markanda River is strong, water from Hema Majra's fields flows unchecked toward Padlu, Damli, Rawa, and Jogi Majra villages, eventually rushing into the grain market area. In 2023, when the river carried 55,000 cusecs of water, half of Shahabad — including the posh HUDA locality — was submerged. With Hema Majra's situation unchanged, fears of a repeat disaster are mounting.

Disaster from the Skies: Elderly Woman Dies as Roof Collapses in Rawa Village; Husband Critically Injured



Jasbir Singh Duggal
Shahabad Markanda: A tragic incident occurred on Sunday morning in the nearby village of Rawa when heavy rainfall caused the roof of a house to collapse, claiming the life of a 62-year-old woman and seriously injuring her husband. The victim, Soma Devi, died on the spot, while her husband, Mia Ram, sustained critical injuries. As news of the incident spread, a wave of grief

swept through the village. The accident took place around 6 AM while the elderly couple was sleeping in their old mud house. According to reports, the roof was supported by wooden beams which could not withstand the pressure of the heavy rain and gave way. Hearing the loud crash, nearby residents rushed to the spot and pulled the couple out from the debris. Soma Devi was immedi-

ately taken to Adesh Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead. Mia Ram received first aid at Shahabad Civil Hospital and was later referred to PGI Chandigarh in critical condition. **Lightning Strike Suspected:** Local residents and family members reported hearing a sound similar to a lightning strike at the time of the incident. It is



suspected that lightning may have struck the house, causing the roof to collapse. Most of the household belongings were destroyed under the debris. **Three Sons Left Motherless:** The deceased, Soma Devi, had three sons—Mukesh, Naresh, and Bunty—all of whom are married. At the time of the incident, the eldest son, Mukesh, was in an adjacent room. He

rushed to the scene upon hearing the crash and, with the help of neighbors, transported his parents to the hospital. The family is now mourning the loss of the mother. **Police Investigating, Villagers Demand Compensation:** Police arrived at the scene upon receiving the information and sent the body to LNJP Hospital, Kurukshetra, for post-mortem.

India wants Rs 3 lakh cr in defense manufacturing

Delhi: The government wants to produce Rs 3 lakh crore in defence by 2029, strengthening India's standing as a global powerhouse. Now, 65% of defense equipment is made locally, up from 65-70% import dependency. According to the Ministry of Defence, 16 DPSUs, over 430 licensed enterprises, and 16,000 MSMEs boost indigenous production capabilities. "The private sector contributes 21% to total defence production, fostering innovation and efficiency," it said. The government wants to expand defence exports to Rs 50,000 crore by 2029, strengthening India's position as a global manufacturing hub and supporting economic growth. Defence exports rose 32.5% to Rs 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24 from Rs 15,920 crore in FY 2022-23. Indian defence exports increased 21 times from Rs 4,312 crore in



2004-14 to Rs 88,319 crore in 2014-24, demonstrating its growing involvement in the global security sector. India exports defense equipment to over 100 nations, with the US, France, and Armenia buying most in 2023-24. In 2024-25, the Ministry of Defence signed a record 193 contracts worth Rs 2,09,050 crore, nearly doubling the previous record. These include 177 contracts, 92%, awarded to the domestic industry for Rs 1,68,922 crore, 81% of the overall contract value. This emphasis on indigenous manufacture supports defence production self-reliance.

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).

Kotak highlights the risk in the lending business strategy

Delhi: Veteran banker Uday Kotak has expressed worries about the banks business model, pointing out the shrinking gap between deposit and lending rates, ahead of an anticipated rate decrease by the RBI, despite the fact that liquidity is still limited. According to Kotak, leading banks are increasing one-year wholesale deposits by about 8%, which, when accounting for CRR, SLR, deposit insurance, and priority sector lending requirements (but not operational costs), results in a marginal deposit cost of more than 9%. The system as a whole has restrained



growth in low-cost retail deposits (CASA non-wholesale). However, banks are offering home loans at a variable rate of 8.5%. Take out a loan at 8.5% and borrow at 9%, Spread is negative by 0.5%. Additionally, repo rates are probably going to decline. Kotak warned that if the tight deposit situation continues, it may make it difficult for banks to maintain their

business model and asked how they would handle credit and operational expenses. The majority of banks are required to connect their retail floating rate loans to the repo rate. The remarks coincided with a sharp decline in bond yields as investors awaited the RBI's next liquidity injection before its monetary policy committee's decision.

Bank loan growth drops for eighth straight month in February, RBI data reveals

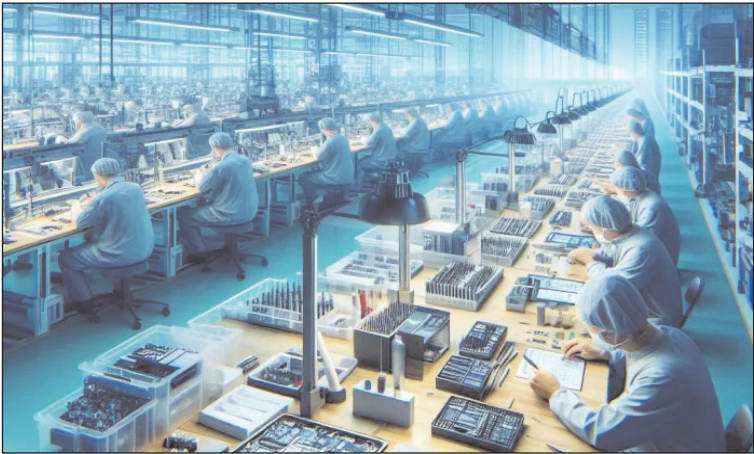
Delhi: Central bank statistics revealed that personal and credit card loans fell for the eighth straight month in February due to Reserve Bank of India tougher policies. Last month, banks' credit rose 12% year-over-year, slower than 16.6% a year earlier,

excluding HDFC Bank's merger. Housing Development Finance Corp, Loans rose 11% in February, compared to 20.5% a year earlier, including the merger. In January, loan growth fell to 12.5% excluding the merger and 11.4% including it. Retail

demand for unsecured loans drove strong loan growth for several years in the banking sector. However, in late 2023, the RBI tightened capital requirements for personal, credit card, and non-banking finance company loans. in its Mumbai headquarters.

Incentive program for electronic component

Delhi: The Union Cabinet approved a six-year Rs 22,919 crore incentive program for electronic component manufacture. The initiative seeks to increase India's domestic value addition and global value chain participation. The Indian Express originally revealed that the government was developing the system, its costs, and its details. The government wants at least 91,600 direct jobs from the scheme and has tied participating firms' annual payments to job creation. Rs 4.56 lakh crore in production and Rs 59,350 crore in investment are envisaged from the scheme. The government wants to target display modules, sub



assembly camera modules, printed circuit board assemblies, lithium cell enclosures, resistors, capacitors, and ferrites. These are utilized in cell-phones, laptops, microwave ovens, refrigerators, and toasters. "This

scheme will reduce component imports. We must abandon import substitution and promote exports. After mass production, viability follows. Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said electronics production is \$120 billion and hopes to

Gautam Adani Is India's Biggest Wealth Gainer

Delhi: According to the 'Hurun Global Rich List 2025', Gautam Adani, Adani Group Chairman, is India's greatest wealth gainer, increasing his net worth by approximately Rs 1 lakh crore. The ranking showed Adani's fortune rising 13%. Second-richest Indian on the global list, his total is Rs 8.4 lakh crore. Meanwhile, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani fell off of the top 10 richest list. However, he leads Asia. The Hurun list ranks India third in billionaires. Tesla-SpaceX CEO Elon Musk tops Hurun Global Rich List 2025. India has 284 billionaires, 13 more than previous year.

Airtel prepaid 5,985 crore spectrum dues but stock remains unchanged



Delhi: Bharti Airtel Ltd. shares closed flat after the company and its subsidiary Bharti Hexacom Ltd. prepaid Rs 5,985 crore to the Department of Telecom, fully prepaying the 8.65% high-cost interest liabilities for the 2024 auctions. Airtel subsidiary Network i2i Ltd. voluntarily called and redeemed \$1 billion in Perpetual Notes. BSE Bharti Airtel shares down 0.04% to Rs 1,733. Large cap stock has gained 8.58 percent this year and 42.51% in a year. The market cap of Bharti

Airtel decreased to Rs 9.88 lakh billion. On BSE, 1.11 lakh shares traded for Rs 19.33 crore. Bharti Airtel stock has a one-year beta of 1, indicating average volatility. Technically, Bharti Airtel's RSI is 64.3, indicating it's neither overbought or oversold. The recent payment means Airtel has prepaid Rs 25,981 crore of

high-cost spectrum commitments for the 2025 fiscal year and Rs 66,665 crores overall. The average cumulative liability prepaid interest rate was 9.74%. Airtel had entirely prepaid liabilities with 10%, 9.75%, and 9.3% interest rates. Prepayments were made 7 years before average residual maturities. Airtel prepaid Rs 116,405 crores of scheduled instalments that would have been due on their various dates over the obligations' original lifespan. Airtel's cost of debt on spectrum liabilities.

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



Greater Noida Authority board authorizes Rs 5,600 crore land acquisition, important projects

Delhi: The Greater Noida Authority's 138th Board meeting approved a Rs 5,600 crore budget for 2025-26. Manoj Kumar Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary and Authority Chairman, chaired the meeting. Budget priorities include land acquisition, development, and construction. The approved budget allocates Rs 1,400 crore for land acquisition and Rs 1,973 crore for development.

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



Delhi: One in five ultra-rich Indians with a net worth over Rs 25 crore plans to settle abroad for investment opportunities, tax advantages, and greater global connectivity, according to a Kotak Mahindra Bank private banking survey. The first two quarters of 2024-25 survey interviewed 150 ultra-high networth people (UHNIs) and private bankers in 12 cities. EY ordered and validated the findings with industry. For this report, those worth over Rs 25 crore were canvassed.

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.

JB Chemicals' promoter KKR will sell 10% of the company for 2,6k crore rupees

Delhi: In a series of block agreements, the promoter of JB Chemicals—Tau Investment Holdings, a subsidiary of global private equity giant KKR—is selling around 1.6 crore shares, or 10.2% of the firm, for approximately Rs 2,575 crore (\$300 million). According to the deal's term sheet, the minimum price at which the shares can be sold is Rs 1,625—a 5%

reduction to JB Chem's closing price of Rs 1,709 on Wednesday on the NSE. Shareholding reports on the BSE indicate that as of December 31, 2024, KKR owned 53.7% of the pharmaceutical company situated in the city. Midway through 2020, at a share price of Rs 745, the PE giant had taken over the pharmaceutical manufacturer.

Kapil Launches ISSO Swimming At Adani International School

Delhi: Kapil Dev inaugurated the International Schools Sports Organization (ISSO) Swimming Regional Championships at Adani International School. Adani International School hosted the first ISSO regional event in Gujarat, hosting 115 U9 and U11 swimmers from seven international schools. "I loved inaugurating the ISSO Swimming Regional Championships at Adani International School. It's encouraging to see Adani International School promote a strong sports culture in the city through programs like this, given its excellent sports facilities. Such efforts will shape India's future sports stars. "I congratulate the Adani family and wish them well for their invaluable contribution to Indian sports," said the 1983 World Cup-winning captain. Students can compete in sports at ISSO, encouraging



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.

teamwork. ISSO helps grassroots sports in India grow through nationwide events. Adani International School brought the first ISSO regional event to Gujarat on Saturday and won the overall

title with 106 medals (19 gold, 36 relay, 22 silver, 8 relay, and 21 bronze) and 284 points. Sergio Pawel, Adani International School Head of School, thanked Kapil Dev, "We were honored to host him. It was amazing to

Mandaviya, Kerala CM Lead Nationwide Fit India Cycle Event

Delhi: Junagadh, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Regional Centre in Gandhinagar hosted around 500 bikers from the Girnar Gate to the Bhavnath Mahadev temple. The SAI Lakshmbai National College of Physical Education organized the demonstration in Trivandrum, which ran 7km from the Cliff House to the Central Stadium. This week's Cycle highlighted school-children nationwide who cycled with their parents and teachers. "You can make a lifelong friendship with cycling, so make this exercise your best friend," Mandaviya told Junagadh festival



attendees. The enormous number of school-children participating in Sundays on Cycle shows that Fit India is becoming a nationwide festival. Health is vital to national progress. Khelo India Centres (KICs) held active cycling drives in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh areas including Shivrari, Janjgir Champa, Darbhanga, and Orai. Over 500 fitness enthusi-

asts, cycling groups, and organizations from Kerala, including Indian Army CRPF, BSF, NCC, Kerala Police (SAP), Kerala Police (Traffic), Crime Branch, Collectorate, FCI, RBI, Department of Sports, Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs, KRCC, KSSC, , Golf Club, Kerala Olympic , and Kerala Cycling Association, participated in The Fit India Sundays on Cycle event.

5D museum of thermal power plant operations, the complex will contain shops, food

Delhi: Gaming zones, nighttime entertainment, water leisure, and retail will replace turbines, coal conveyor belts, and soot-lined chimneys. Delhi Development Authority will turn the Rajghat thermal power station, which closed years ago,

into a unique recreational destination. The agency is employing an expert to turn the power plant's ruins into an entertainment hotspot in a public-private collaboration. Besides a 5D museum of thermal power plant operations, the new complex will

contain shops, food and beverage, gaming, nightlife, children's activities, and water-based amusement. The proposed museum will offer a 5D experience of a coal power station, which is rare for the public. The proposal document states .

Exporter in Chennai with multiple units was forced to deregis-

Delhi: An exporter in Chennai with multiple units was forced to deregister one of its entities on Udyam, the portal for micro, small, and medium enterprises, because some large buyers did not want to be caught in a government mandate requiring actual payment of all dues to MSMEs within 45 days to claim tax deduction for expenditure. Several small businesses across the country are protesting that the government's well-intentioned attempt to ensure prompt payments is being used against them since they have little leverage in negotiating with large enterprises that set pricing and payment terms. Others argued the standards were against business practices in particular sectors or in spe-



cific parts of the country where 60-90-day payments are common.

The issue also polarized businesses during finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's pre-Budget meeting with sector groups. Official sources said the Centre is taking small busi-

ness views into account and will adjust Budget guidelines after the Finance Bill is passed. "Govt is looking at ways to provide flexibility but a decision on the modalities is yet to be taken," said an official amid calls to delay implementation.

The pattern indicates that digital consumption is becoming more

Delhi: According to a Visa white paper on payments, spending on online gaming increased 16 times in smaller areas between 2019 and 2024. The pattern indicates that digital consumption is becoming more and more prevalent in India's non-metropolitan regions. Spending on digital services, such as gaming, online education, and entertainment, has increased ninefold and sixteen fold since 2019, respectively, among consumers in smaller towns. In smaller towns, the number of consumers spending more than Rs 2 lakh a year with a single card has increased b.

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 Zyya m u h a m m e t 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.

excelled 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 Zyya m u h a m m e t 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 S t a d i u m 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 N a t i o n a l Championship in Noida on March 17-18. The 28-year-old has had polio-affected legs since birth. His para-sports 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. "I competed in district and state shot put and discus. "I always won gold," Jhandu told SAI Media. I build muscle by being interested in gym workouts from the start. During a state championship at Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna, someone suggested powerlifting.

Kapil advises balancing family travel during long cricket tours

Delhi: Kapil Dev, former India captain, said that while family presence is crucial, it should not overwhelm the team's focus on extended cricket trips. The BCCI limited family stays on tours over 45 days after India's 1-3 Test series loss to Australia and sparked debate over family

travel. The new rule allows family members to join players for up to 14 days for series or tournaments over 45 days, but only seven days for shorter tours. In our day, we told ourselves, not the cricket board, that in the first half, we played cricket and the family should enjoy the second half.

PGTI press conference side-line reporter Kapil said it should be a blend. At the RCB Innovation Lab Summit in Bengaluru, star batter Vorat stressed the importance of having family on extended tours to help players cope with the tough days on the field.

The importance of family is hard to define, yet it is a grounding factor . when facing strong external events. Instead of isolating himself after tough matches, he spends time with family to detach and reset. "I don't want to withdraw to my room and pout.

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 in India later this year. Shawaal Zulfiqar returns to the national team following a shoulder injury .

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 perform-

ance 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. Only Qatar's Ahmad Hassan Abdullah and Nicholas Kemboi are ahead. A sports tournament in Boston gave Gulveer Singh the men's 3000m indoor national record and the Asian 5000m short track record earlier this year. Gulveer finished fourth at the Terrier DMR Challenge indoor competition in Boston last month, improving the Asian Indoor 5,000m record and qualifying for the 2025 World Athletics Championships.

Honking ban ordered by DoE for schools

Delhi: The Delhi DoE has instructed all schools to prohibit illegal parking and honking. In response to increased noise and congestion outside schools, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee DPCC wrote to civic bodies, including DoE, with directives. New guidelines require private unaided recognized schools to create a silence zone awareness plan and issue letters to SHOs to reduce illegal parking and honking. All deputy directors of education (DDEs) at the district and zonal levels have been asked to inform school heads and ensure compliance with these measures. Dr. CS Verma, DoE deputy director at science. Order emphasized school zone traffic restriction. Officials said the initiative improves learning conditions. "Traffic congestion outside schools has been a long-standing issue, with frequent complaints from parents and residents about vehicles blocking gates



and causing excessive honking," a DoE spokeswoman said. Mount Abu School principal Jyoti Arora in Rohini said illegal parking and honking around Delhi schools are longstanding difficulties. "We are fighting a court case regarding an illegal auto stand near one of our schools," she said, adding that morning traffic is terrible. E-rickshaws and street vendors choke roads, she said. Delhi Parents' Association president Aprajita Gautam said most schools are in traffic zones and may struggle to comply. Parents should limit horn use to reduce this. School transportation limitations and no-honking signs .

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.

The US canceled 2,000 Indian visa appointments

Delhi: The US embassy in India reported the cancellation of over 2,000 visa applications. Indians are one of the largest groups of immigrants to the US for labor, tourism, and study. Fraud prompted the US Embassy in India crackdown. Due to "bad actors" or bots' severe appointment system infractions, the embassy deactivated their accounts. "Consular Team India cancels 2,000 bot-made visa appointments. We don't tolerate agents and fixers who break scheduling rules. "Effective immediately, we are cancelling these appointments and sus-



pending the associated accounts' scheduling privileges," said the message. US visa applications in India are already backlogged, notably for B1 and B2 applicants. This visa is for business and tourism. Application wait times in 2022-23 ranged from 800 to 1,000 days. New Delhi has regularly expressed reservations about the wait time with

Washington. In 2022, foreign affairs minister S Jaishankar complained to then-US secretary of state Antony Blinken about visa delays. The Biden administration blamed COVID-19 for the backlog. During his January visit to Washington for Donald Trump's inauguration, Jaishankar raised the issue again with Marco Rubio, Blinken's successor.

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.

Most states, even non-BJP, give Hindi or Sanskrit as 3rd language

Delhi: As the Centre and Tamil Nadu argue over the controversial "three-language formula" in schools under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, most Hindi-speaking states, including those ruled by non-BJP parties, offer Sanskrit as a third language of study. Non-Hindi-speaking states usually offer Hindi. Private schools are offering foreign languages as third languages due to student demand. The method allows states to choose Indian languages for government and private schools. Most states have implemented the "three-language formula" up to Class 8, with some extending it to Class 10. Tamil Nadu, however, has a two-language policy.



Hindi, Sanskrit, and other languages are taught as third languages in most states, along with the region's mother tongue and English, depending on the medium of teaching. French, German, and Spanish are also in demand in Hindi and non-Hindi-speaking countries. The Tamil Nadu govern-

ment has refused to sign an MoU with the Centre to implement the PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme, which aims to upgrade 14,500 schools and make them model schools that embody NEP 2020, citing concerns about the "three-language formula" and Hindi language imposition.

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.

Kerala cuts minority scholarships due to financial difficulties

Delhi : Kerala's government has cut minority community scholarships by 50%, putting thousands of students' education at risk, citing the financial crisis. Nine of the 11 minority welfare scholarship programs originally allotted Rs 13.6 crore are affected by the decision. The Government says the plan size reduction is a priority, but the disproportionate cut to minority student educational support raises questions about governmental priorities and social justice. Twitter shares The Prof Joseph Mundassery Scholarship, which received Rs 5.2 crore this year, suffered most. It has saved Muslim, Sikh, Jain, and Parsi high-achieving children by paying Rs 10,000 to those who scored A-Plus in all SSLC subjects and Rs 15,000 to those

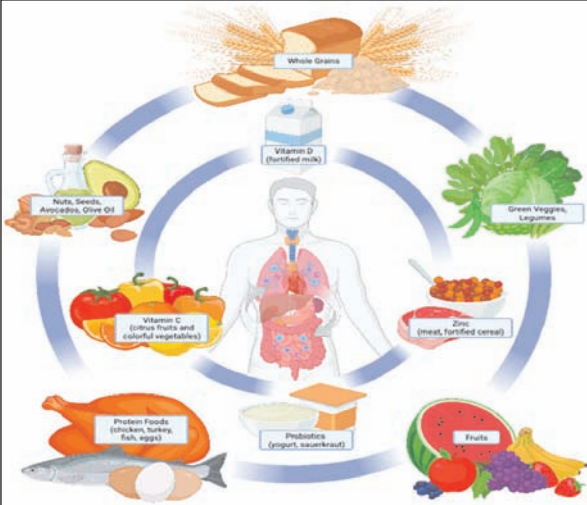


who scored 80% in upper secondary or 75% in vocational higher secondary. It ensured that bright students from underprivileged backgrounds were not forced to drop out due to financial constraints by prioritizing BPL students and providing provisions to economically weaker APL students. The crucial APJ Abdul Kalam Scholarship for minority students has also been cut in half. Those admitted to government-approved colleges on merit, with priority for BPL families,

receive the Rs 6,000 grant. Since it reserves 30% of funds for female students, the reduction could hurt young women who already struggle to enter higher education. Another affected program is the Mother Teresa Scholarship, which helps Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Parsi students in government nursing and paramedical diploma programs. Many aspiring nurses and paramedics, whose families cannot afford professional training, may have to quit.

Hospital visits decreased, learning metrics improved. Meal program passes

Delhi: The State Planning Commission SPC found that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's breakfast policy had improved health and education in government schools. which shows that hospital visits among government primary school pupils reduced by 68.4% in rural areas and 29.4% in urban areas throughout this period, illustrating the program's impact on nutritionally challenged regions. In addition to health metrics, the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission reported to Stalin on 13 March that the plan has increased student involvement in class. Nearly 5,300 urban and rural children showed improvements in attention and comprehension. Students' attention without urging grew



from 85.8 percent to 93.7 percent, and their ability to follow teachers' instructions increased from 91.3 percent to 95.5 percent. Students are also completing more written work, rising from 89.6% to 95.4%. The ability to learn new content increased from 88.1 percent to 92.5 percent, while lesson recall increased from 71.4 percent to 77 percent. Nearly 5,300

urban and rural children showed improvements in attention and comprehension. Students' attention without urging grew from 85.8 percent to 93.7 percent, and their ability to follow teachers' instructions increased from 91.3 percent to 95.5 percent. Students are also completing more written work, rising from 89.6% to 95.4%.

SC calls Punjab's NRI quota a 'fraud' on medical education

Delhi: The Supreme Court called Punjab's medical colleges' extension of the non-resident Indian (NRI) quota a "fraud" that excludes meritorious candidates. A bench chaired by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud dismissed petitions challenging a Punjab and Haryana high court ruling that invalidated the Punjab government's proposal to widen the NRI quota criteria to include distant relatives. We must end NRI quotas today! The bench, which included Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said the NRI quota was being used to circumvent merit-based admissions. The bench called such a broad interpretation of NRI eligibility, which permitted distant relatives to qualify, a "money-spinning tactic" that undermined the school system. "All three petitions fail. Keep this under control. This scam must end. This NRI business is a scam. Senior counsel Shadan Farasat stated that Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh previously employed the larger NRI quota interpretation during the hearing. The Court rejected these arguments, stressing that the larger definition weakened merit and permitted less deserving individuals to be admitted based on money and connections rather than academic performance. The panel agreed with Bhandari that NRI quotas should be kept for real NRIs and merit should not be ignored.



Both BJP, AIADMK want to improve relations in TN

Delhi: Julie Mariappan says that 18 months after breaking relations with BJP and abandoning NDA, AIADMK leadership is warming up to the saffron party for a possible 2026 Tamil Nadu assembly election partnership. An AIADMK delegation led by general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami met with Union home minister Amit Shah. Both desire to advance the relationship. Next steps are forthcoming. Shah vowed to prevent the 'corrupt DMK govt' from returning in 2026 "AIADMK leader states. Shah accepted several AIADMK requests. Palaniswami told Delhi media that the conference discussed Tamil Nadu concerns such delimitation, the two-language policy, MGN-REGS and SSA dues, and the Tasmac scam. As the 2026 election approaches, the alliance will be decided. Shah and party president J P Nadda 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

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. cial X handle had a 2026 Tamil Nadu electoral message. "As soon as the NDA govt is formed in Tamil Nadu in the year 2026, the 'flood of liquor' and 'storm of corruption' will stop."

Freedom of speech can't be suppressed on spurious reasons

Delhi: The Supreme Court ruled that freedom of speech and expression was essential to a healthy and civilized society and could not be violated on "flimsy and fanciful grounds". Gujarat Police's social status charges against Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi were dismissed by the court. media post with poetry 'Ae khoon ke pyase baat suno'. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan suggested not filing FIRs blindly to prevent government or police harassment of spoken or written words, signs, or visible representations



and to protect artistic freedom. Under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Sections 196 and 197(1), the police should undertake a preliminary inquiry to determine if a prima facie case exists. The bench set standards for assessing spoken and written words' impact "When an offence punishable under Section 196 of BNS is alleged,

the effect of the spoken or written words must be considered based on reasonable, strong-minded, firm, and courageous people, not weak and oscillating minds. The impact of spoken or written words cannot be measured by individuals who are always insecure or see criticism as a challenge to their power.

New prison factories will employ 100 more prisoners

Delhi: The Delhi prison department will modernize and add factories to employ 100 more prisoners. New paper, carpentry, and oil production units are planned by the department. The units will make eco-friendly products like custom-printed paper carry bags, file covers, and stationery, as well as beautifully packaged coconut,

sesame, almond, and mustard oils. "The new jail factory units aim to deploy over 100 inmates and emphasize 'earn while studying' A prison official stated new high-tech equipment will be purchased. Officials say Tihar jail number 2 has six units: carpentry, oil, paper, weaving, tailoring, and baking. Mandoli and other jails have weaving,

jute bags, perfume, pickles, confecti carpentry, and underwear facilities. Different facilities employ over 2,500 convicts. Last year, 215 inmates joined jail number 2's industries, mostly for carpentry, followed by bakery and paper. "We plan to increase the number of units so that more inmates can receive vocational training.



Delhi's health minister promotes mobile dentistry vans to expand oral care

Delhi: Health minister Pankaj Singh launched six National Health Mission mobile dental vans at Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences. The kickoff ceremony on World Oral Health Day aimed to expand dental services



across the state. Minister Pankaj Singh remarked, "We will deliver the promised services to Delhi. This pilot project provides important dental treatment to children in government hospitals, senior individuals, and residents of slums and poor communities where such services are scarce." Singh said the mobile dental vans will deliver fillings, scaling, and general care. Our six-month plan includes adding vehicles after the state budget to broaden our reach. Our website will include all necessary information, and each van has GPS tracking so the public may track their locations across Vidhan Sabha constituencies. The vans will be available 24/7 to help the needy "said. Mobile dental vans will work with Delhi government dispensaries to improve primary care. They will also work with education, Delhi government schools, social welfare, and social justice ministries. On April 10, the Delhi government will sign an MoU with the Centre to execute the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the national capital and enroll one lakh people.

Delhi's BJP government will pass a bill to safeguard stray cows. GST Section 150

Delhi : Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood announced the move during a Delhi Assembly debate on stray cows and other animals. GST Registration Cancellations Misuse. "After careful consideration, we will pass a cow conservation and protection law to avoid departmental confusion. Sood said relevant Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) parts will be considered for legislation incorporation. He stressed that the bill will protect cows and keep the streets clean by avoiding stray livestock. "The suggestions represent House opinions and appeal to Sanatan-valued Delhiites. He stated



that everyone has thoughtfully addressed this topic. A stringent enforcement mechanism will prevent cow exploitation, illegal cattle trade, and owner neglect under the proposed law. The government is budgeting for new cow shelters and their maintenance. BJP MLA Ashok Goel

introduced a private member motion requesting the government to build and maintain more shelters. Our culture and religion call the cow our mother, but many people abandon her when she stops delivering milk. Goel claimed this causes traffic, accidents, and sanitary difficulties.

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.

Delhi govt to enact law for cow conservation and protection

Delhi: Varanasi MC orders closure of meat shops in city limits during Navratri. The Varanasi Municipal Corporation (MC) has issued an order to shut all meat and fish shops within the civic body limits during the Navratri festival. The decision was unanimously approved in the corporation's executive meeting. "This is the first time a decision has been taken to keep all meat and fish shops closed during Navratri, starting March 30. Officials have been directed to enforce the order and shop owners



were informed about the decision taken in the executive meeting," said Varanasi Mayor Ashok Tiwari. Tiwari said in Thursday's meeting of the Municipal Corporation's executive council, a member proposed a complete closure of meat and fish shops during Navratri. There are around 400-500 meat and fish shops operating within

the city limits. The shopkeepers violating the order will face legal action, he added. Navratri will conclude on April 7. In January this year, the Varanasi civic body had issued notices to meat shop owners operating within a two-kilometer radius of the Vishwanath Temple, directing them to shut down for "violating rules." The directive was based on a resolution passed by the corporation last year, which prohibited meat shops from operating within this radius.

State Hospitals Get Aushadhi Kendras

Delhi: The Delhi government will open Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras in all state-run hospitals to provide patients with affordable medicines. All Delhi government hospitals save Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathic ones must have at least one such kendra on campus, according to officials. Patients can buy cheaper generic drugs instead of running to other hospitals' pharmacies to obtain branded ones. GB Pant Hospital, Lok Nayak Hospital, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, Guru Nanak Eye Centre, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital, and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya are state-run hospitals that have opened



medicine stores. The hospital administration can buy medicine from the Jan Aushadhi Kendra in times of crisis, instead of buying it locally, unless it is required. This month, the BJP government decided to open the pharmacies, according to senior health department officials. Delhi health minister Pankaj Kumar Singh has ordered all medical superintendents and health officials to expedite medicine procurement through the PMBJP under the central government's

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 Happiness Curriculum, Business Blasters, and Mission Buniyaad, the hallmark education programs implemented by the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, will no longer be offered by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Delhi government, according to Delhi education minister Ashish Sood. He went on to say that new projects called Rashtraneeti, New Era of Entrepreneur Ecosystem and Vision (NEEEV), and Science of Living will take the place of current programs. In an interview, Sood



claimed that the AAP's educational initiatives were created more for publicity and political gain than for the benefit of the kids. "Instead of assisting the students in becoming self-sufficient

and prepared for the outside world, the AAP government's educational initiatives (Business Blasters, Happiness Curriculum, and Mission Buniyaad) were centered on adver-

Will introduce new programs and end all of AAP's educational initiatives?

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.

tisements and making political capital out of them." In the 2019 budget, the BJP govern-

ment has set aside money for new programs that will take the place of the old ones.

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.

The PhD program at IIT-D is launched in Abu Dhabi



Delhi : At its new international campus in Abu Dhabi, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has begun offering a PhD program in energy and sustainability. Interviews will take place following the deadline of December 31, 2024, for online applications. It is anticipated that chosen applicants would begin work by the final week of January 2025."The energy and sustainability program will concentrate on tackling innovative issues associated with achieving net-zero goals. According to an official, this includes studies on renewable

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 Enforcement Directorate raids

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.

energy, decarbonization, process intensification, sustainable process engineering, microgrids and power distribution in the

changing energy landscape, and the application of artificial intelligence and data science to support the energy transition.

Shiromani Akali Dal announces organizational elections

Delhi: Shiromani Akali Dal announced organizational elections. Its parliamentary board, chaired by working president Balwinder Singh Bhunder, chose this. The move follows a party membership drive debate. The SAD constituted a recruitment commission. The Akal Takht committee started a SAD membership drive. "It was decided in today's meeting that those who haven't submitted enrollment slips in party head office have," said SAD secretary and spokesman Daljit Singh Cheema. He stated enrollment slips cannot be filed after 5 pm. Cheema said party observers will receive



guidelines and circle-level delegate lists at the central office on April 11. The SAD leader said these lists will be used for assembly segment elections for district and state delegates from April 2 to 6, and observers will submit lists to the party chief on April 7. The parliamentary board met with Janmeja Singh Sekhon, Hira Singh Gabria, and Gulzar Singh Ranike. President Harjinder Singh

Dhami and former chief Kirpal Singh Badungar resigned. Akal Takht appointed SAD MLAs Manpreet Singh Ayali, Iqbal Singh Jhunda, Santa Singh Umaidpur, Gurpartap Singh Wadala, and Satwant Kaur to the committee. Dissident Akali officials accused the party of breaking the Takht's December 2 directive to reform the SAD by creating its own working committee.

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.

Border smuggling can be controlled with the help of 5,000 house guards and anti-drone technology

Delhi: The Bhagwant Mann administration, which is run by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), announced important measures and allocated 260 crore to combat the drug issue in their signature goal, "Yudh Nasheyen Virudh," which was prominently included in the budget. Harpal Singh Cheema, the state's finance minister, acknowledged that drugs posed the greatest danger to Punjab's development and prosperity and pointed out that most of the narcotics were imported.



Since the 50 km stretch of the international border is under the authority of the Border Security Force, the Union government has the principal responsibility for ending the smuggling of narcotics and weapons across borders. Still, the (drug) problem is very much alive and well. Cheema announced in his budget address that two new projects would be launched to "complement the efforts of the BSF" in their fight against drug smuggling across international borders. In addition to the BSF, Cheema said that the state government will send 5,000 home guards to the border to serve as a second line of defense. To keep an eye on Punjab's future, its most resolute youth will be chosen to serve as house guards.

The inaugural day was dedicated to the tribal student Parliament

New Delhi: The three-day student Parliament organised by Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) started at the NDMC Convention Centre on Sunday. The inaugural day was dedicated to the tribal student Parliament, which saw over 300 tribal students representing various regions across the country. The session was attended by Durgadas Uikey, the minister of state for tribal affairs, who was the chief guest. The event is likely to be attended by chief minister Rekha Gupta and home minister Amit Shah in the coming days. The tribal student Parliament focused on critical issues concerning the preservation and empowerment of tribal communities in areas such as education,



health, employment, language, culture and traditions. Minister Uikey emphasised that a tribal society is not merely a demographic group but a vital custodian of Indian culture and tradition. He said, "Our ancient gurusshishya tradition exemplifies social harmony, where knowledge transcends mere information, guiding us from the micro to the macro. We

must take pride in our languages, cuisines, customs and traditions as our culture is deeply rooted in nature, and tribal communities continue to uphold this enduring legacy." Virendra Singh Solanki, the national general secretary of ABVP, reiterated the organisation's commitment to empowering all segments of society. The session saw rep-

Offices, schools, and shops should check mosquito breeding, says MCD

Delhi: Delhi Municipal Corporation's annual mosquito prevention campaign began with various departments. The municipal authorities said Delhi government institutions, schools, places of worship, and markets must eliminate standing water. MCD ordered severe mosquito breeding site eradication across the city. The warning encourages hygiene in slums and densely crowded areas. Vector-borne diseases were notifiable after Delhi High Court decisions created a stakeholder task force.

Sena MLA Disha's father's claims would force Aaditya out

Delhi: After celebrity manager Disha Salian's father accused him of murder, the ruling parties tried to corner Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray by urging him to quit. Allegations forced Dhananjay Munde to quit. Aaditya Thackeray resignation? Does the government investigate these charges? "Gaikwad asked. The legislature adjourned when ruling party MLAs caused a commotion. Shambhuraje Desai, state excise minister, replied, "His party decides whether to



quit on moral grounds. However, the government will punish the guilty." "We'll request the Mumbai police commissioner's report on Salian's claims for a SIT investigation. In the Disha Salian case, Shiv Sena MLC Bhawna Gawli asked why Aaditya Thackeray was not narcotested. She protested to the leg-

islative council about the sluggish investigation." She sought government action to clarify the issue. Disha Salian, Sushant Singh Rajput's former manager, died on June 8, 2020, after falling off the 14th storey of a Malad residential building six days before Rajput's Bandra apartment death.

Maha has a two-year farm loan forgiveness ban

Delhi: In light of Maharashtra's financial problems, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar claimed his administration cannot waive farmers' loans. Farmers should repay without the waiver, he said. The Maharashtra government rejected to increase Ladli Bahena cash support for poor women from Rs 1500 to Rs 2,000. Agriculture debt waivers should not be delayed, according to Finance Minister Pawar. We can't waive farmer loans since money is needed to do anything. Farm loans should be repaid immediately." "I never pledged to waive the farmer loan after taking office. Our party election manifesto didn't include it. The finance minister said farm loan waiver is impossible. The Ladli Bahena project will



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.

enhance financial aid for poor women, but not quickly, according to Ajit Pawar. We can raise

funds anytime since we're elected for five years. We're employing numerous resources.

Govt. tells court that rules governing online gaming are not enforced for the elderly

Delhi: In a series of cases challenging the Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority's (TNOGA) prohibition on playing real money games (RMG) without Aadhaar verification through and between 12 midnight and

5 a.m. Indian Standard Time, the Madras High Court declined to issue any sort of interim order. Instead of issuing interim orders, a Division Bench consisting of Justices S.M. Subramaniam and K.

Rajasekar stated that they would prefer to take up the writ petitions brought by an association of online gamers and a group of online gaming corporations for ultimate disposition as soon as possible.

They asked Advocate General P.S. Raman to make sure that, within two weeks, a counter-affidavit was submitted on behalf of both the State and the TNOGA.

Shooting, football competitions to be organized by DDA

Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority is planning to add shooting, archery, and football competitions to its calendar of sporting events, replicating the Lieutenant Governor's Cup for golf as a template. All across the city, DDA's sporting facilities will play home to the various events. The authorities recently that the duration of the tournaments for each of the nominated.

India still struggles with infrastructure development despite government efforts

Delhi: The 2024-25 Economic Survey delivered to Parliament found that India still struggles with infrastructure development despite government efforts. The union government's capital investment on major infrastructure sectors grew 38.8% from FY20 to FY24, although private sector participation in core areas remained low, according to the survey. "India needs a

continued step-up of infrastructure investment over the next two decades to sustain a high rate of growth," the research says. The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) program has met its FY22-24 objective. of 4.30 lakh crore with transactions totaling 3.86 lakh crore. In Q1 FY25, average monthly capital spending dropped to 0.60 lakh crore from 0.66 lakh

crore in July-November 2024. Railway network expansion remained constant at 2,000 kilometers, with 17 Vande Bharat train pairs and 228 carriages added. Safety upgrades included electronic interlocking at 3,576 stations, 227 added in FY25, and automatic block signalling across 720 route km. The Mumbai Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project completed 47.17% with ₹67,486

crore spent, and 96.4% of 2,843 km of Dedicated Freight Corridors commissioned by November 2024. By 2036, housing demand will reach 93 million. Indian real estate transparency ranks 31st, while residential sales are at an 11-year high across different metropolitan tiers. PMAY-U 2.0 approved 600,000 dwellings in FY25, and 118 million since 2015.