

## Minister Munde resigns from Fadnavis cabinet



**Divya Delhi:** Maharashtra minister Dhananjay Munde resigned from the Devendra Fadnavis cabinet on Tuesday after the chief minister called for his resignation over allegations linking his close associate, Walmik Karad, to the murder of Beed sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh. "Dhananjay Munde submitted his resignation today, which I have accepted and forwarded to the governor for further action," said Fadnavis. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray strongly criticized the state government, stating that merely resigning from a ministerial post is not a solution to the ongoing crisis. He called for the dismissal of the entire government, citing a deteriorating law and order situation in Maharashtra.

**"Resignation is not the solution.** This government should be dismissed. The law and order situation is terrible. No one is safe here," said Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray.

## In dry Gujarat, a liquor bottle seized every 4 seconds

**AHMEDABAD:** In dry Gujarat, one Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) bottle was seized every four seconds in 2024, as per police data. Of 82,00,000 bottles worth Rs 144 crore seized across the state, 4,38,047 bottles were seized in Ahmedabad city, Ahmedabad rural, and Western Railways' Ahmedabad jurisdiction. Ahmedabad city alone reported 2,139 cases involving 3.06 lakh IMFL bottles, and 7,796 cases involving 1.58 lakh litres of country-made liquor.

## 'Lutyens Jamaat, Khan Market Gang' silent over British-era dance ban: PM

**Divya Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday took a pointed dig at the 'Lutyens' Jamaat' and 'Khan Market Gang', questioning their silence on certain British-era laws, including one in which police could arrest the groom and others if 10 people danced together at a wedding. "I am surprised by the 'Lutyens' Jamaat' and 'Khan Market Gang' that they have been silent for this many years. The people who are the 'thekeedar' of PIL, those who visit Courts every now and then, why they weren't worried about the Liberty back then," PM Modi said at NXT Conclave 2025 in the national capital. The Prime Minister pointed out that the Britishers brought the law 150 years ago and it stayed for 75 years after independence. "Even a wedding dance could lead to arrests. Our government abolished it," the Prime Minister said. "Britishers brought a law--the Dramatic Performance Act--150 years back... This act was there even after 75 years of independence. It means if more than 10 people are dancing during a wedding, the police could arrest them along with the groom. Our government abolished that law. I have nothing to say to the government of that time and the leaders. The PM stated that the same people would have 'pulled out his hair' if he was the one who brought such a law. 'Had Modi brought such a law



## Bamboo is an essential part of the lives of tribal communities: PM

**"Bamboo is an essential part of the lives of tribal communities in the Northeast. Earlier, people were jailed for cutting bamboo, as it was considered a tree, and tree-related laws applied to it. We abolished such colonial-era laws. Now, even processes like filing Income Tax return (ITR) are completed within min-**



(Dramatic Performances Act), just think what would have happened. Even if trolls on social media spread any such false information - 'yeh log aag laga dete, Modi ke baal noch lete' (they would have set fire, would have pulled out my hair). But, it's our government which has abolished this law from the era of Colonialism," he asked. He further said that within a decade the Union government abolished approximately 1,500 laws that had lost their relevance, many of which were from the

British era. Further, in his address at the conclave, PM Modi said that there was even a law that jailed people for cutting bamboo, because previous governments failed to recognise that bamboo is not a tree. "...Earlier, people used to be jailed for cutting bamboo because we had this law in our country that used to consider bamboo as a tree, and our earlier governments failed to understand that bamboo is not a tree... It's our govt that changed the law."

utes, and refunds are issued within days he added. The Prime Minister said that the National Education Policy has provided opportunities to think beyond textbooks.

## VP Jagdeep Dhankhar's warning over 'orchestrated conversions'

**Divya Delhi:** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has warned over "inorganic demographic variations" in the country claiming that there was "intent to increase" the population to "secure prowess". In an apparent attack on a particular community, Dhankhar added that there was an attempt of "orchestrated, financially backed misadventures aimed at effecting conversions". Making a strong appeal for unity, the vice president cau-



tioned against engaging "in polarised, divisive activities" saying, "In this country that takes pride in its Sanatan values of inclusivity, where diversity is reflected in unity, we cannot afford to be distanced from these core values and engage in polarised, divisive

activities. Time for us to fall in the groove of Sanatan Dharma, as enlightened by Shri P Parameswaran Ji." Dhankhar, however, did not specify what those "divisive activities" were. He further flagged demographic concerns claiming a conspiracy of "inorganic variations", calling out to "preserve the pristine demographic sanctity of Bharat." "Demography does matter. Demography should not be confused with majoritarianism.

## IAF unveils glide path to expedite capability enhancement

**Divya Delhi:** A detailed roadmap for the "all-round accelerated capability enhancement" of IAF has been chalked out by a high-powered committee to plug existing operational gaps in a time-bound manner, with greater participation from the private sector to complement ongoing efforts of DRDO and defence PSUs. The "key thrust areas" identified range from progressively increasing the number of fighter squadrons, which is currently down to 30 despite a sanctioned strength of 42.5, to induction of additional "force-enablers" like airborne early-warning and control aircraft and mid-air refuellers as well as a wide array of air-to-air and surface-to-air



missiles. Defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, who chaired the committee, presented the report to defence minister Rajnath Singh on Monday, in the presence of IAF chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, vice chief Air Marshal S P Dharkar and others. The report comes at a time when China is flaunting sixth generation fighter prototypes, and is expected to deliver at least 40 J-35A stealth fifth-generation jets to Pakistan. India, in contrast, is floundering to even produce the home-

## After 75 years of Constitution, cops must understand free speech: SC

**Divya Delhi:** Supreme Court questioned Gujarat police for lodging an FIR against Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi over a social media post with a poem, 'Ae khoon ke pyase baat suno (those who are bloodthirsty listen to us)'. The piece is about promoting non-violence and is not related to any religion or antinational activity, the court said, noting that there is nothing objectionable about it. "Some sensitivity has to be shown by police. They should have read the poem before taking action", SC said while disapproving of the FIR.

## Dr. Anil Kumar Kathuria filed his nomination for the post of Honorary Secretary"

**Divya Delhi :** Dr. Anil Kumar Kathuria has officially filed his nomination for the post of Honorary Secretary of the Delhi High Court Bar Association. His candidacy received overwhelming support from advocates and association members, reflecting his credibility and dedication to the legal fraternity. On this occasion, he launched two mobile applications—RB Tuition Fees and Court Fee Calculator—designed to assist lawyers and law students. The Court Fee Calculator simplifies fee calculations, incorporating



court-mandated charges and legal provisions, while the other app provides insights into tuition fees. These digital tools aim to streamline legal processes and enhance accessibility

to crucial information. Additionally, Dr. Kathuria published a book for lawyers, detailing court procedures and offering practical guidance for young advocates. The book



has been well received by legal professionals and students alike. Committed to empowering the next generation of lawyers, he continues to introduce innovative solutions to make legal

practice more efficient and technologically advanced. Dr. Kathuria reaffirmed his dedication to working in the best interests of advocates and the judicial community.

## ED probes Paytm for foreign funding and Fema violations

**Divya Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate on Monday said it has found foreign investors making investments in Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications, and that the company has been taking money out of the country without reporting it to the RBI, in alleged violation of the (FEMA). In a statement,

the probe agency said its investigation against Paytm, its MD and related entities has also revealed that One97 Communications made investments in Singapore without reporting to RBI, violating FEMA rules. "We are working towards resolving the matter in accordance with applicable laws and regulatory

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## Delimitation: 'Have babies now': CM MK Stalin to couples

**Divya Delhi:** Amid war on delimitation and National Education Policy (NEP), Tamil Nadu chief minister MK Stalin on Monday made an unusual appeal, urging state residents to have children 'immediately.' Stalin said that population-based delimitation could affect TN's parliamentary seats and requested citizens to consider his appeal seriously, setting aside personal reservations. The CM was attending wedding ceremony of Nagai district party secretary. "Earlier, we used to say, take your time and have a baby. But now the situation has changed, and we should say it now. We implemented family planning successfully, and now we are facing such a situation," Stalin said while addressing the gathering at the event. The chief minister specifically addressed newly married couples, encouraging them to start families quickly to ensure adequate political representation post-delimitation. He



acknowledged the state's successful family planning initiatives but expressed worry about their current implications. Delimitation, a constitutional process in India, involves redrawing parliamentary and assembly constituencies to ensure equal population representation across electoral districts. This process determines how many representatives each state gets in Parliament based on population size. The process is guided by specific constitutional provisions under Articles 82 and 170 of the Indian Constitution. Article 82 mandates that Parliament must enact a Delimitation Act after each national census to redefine Lok Sabha constituency

boundaries and numbers. Article 170 establishes guidelines for State Legislative Assembly delimitation, determining seat allocation based on population data. The primary purpose is to maintain fair representation by ensuring each constituency has approximately equal population numbers. States with larger populations receive more parliamentary representatives compared to those with smaller populations, maintaining India's democratic system. Stalin has called an all-party meeting for March 5 to discuss delimitation matters, inviting 40 Election Commission-registered political parties to address what he termed a "sword dangling."

## Court allows Ranveer to resume airing 'The Ranveer Show'

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday permitted Ranveer Allahbadia to resume his podcast 'The Ranveer Show', subject to an undertaking to maintain decency in his content. The YouTuber had filed an application in the SC seeking lifting of one part of the order which refrained him from airing his shows. Allahbadia said that he has 280 employees and that it was his livelihood. "Fundamental rights are not on platter, there are certain restrictions," the SC observed. "As of now petitioners were restrained from airing any shows. Subject to the petitioner furnishing



an undertaking that his podcast shows will maintain the desired standards of morality and decency so that viewers of any age group can watch, the petitioner is permitted to resume the Ranveer Show," the court ordered. Youtube show 'India's Got Latent' by Samay Raina sparked

controversy following podcaster Allahbadia's guest appearance. Allahbadia's question to a contestant—"Would you rather watch your parents... or join in once and stop it forever?"—triggered widespread outrage, leading to a formal complaint against Allahbadia, host Raina, comedian Apoorva Mukhija, among others. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for Centre, said that he saw the show out of curiosity, and it was not vulgar, but perverse. "I saw the show out of curiosity, and it is not vulgar, but it is perverse. Humour is one thing, vulgarity is one thing."

## Officials say no property tax waiver days after MCD statement

**Divya Delhi:** Days after the Aam Aadmi Party-led Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) declared a large property tax relief in the house, officials said no exemption will be provided. According to the law, all property owners and occupants must pay the

tax. MCD has received many requests from the public about property tax obligations. The city government stated that all occupiers/owners must pay property tax and that its applicability has not changed. The statement stressed that property tax is roughly

25% of its earnings and essential for civic infrastructure. The corporation also noted its financial issues, including Rs 14,000 crore in outstanding dues that have delayed municipal employee salaries, retirement benefits, and contractor payments.

## Stock market fraud: HC grants relief to ex-Sebi chief

**Divya Delhi:** The Bombay high court on Monday granted relief to former Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, directing the state Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) not to act on a special court's order to file an FIR against her and five other officials until March 4. The directive comes after Buch, along with Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Managing Director Sundararaman Ramamurthy and others, moved the court to quash the order issued on March 1. A single bench of Justice S G Dige took up the matter for urgent hearing, saying that the pleas would be considered on Tuesday. Until then, the ACB has been instructed not to act on the order. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta represented Buch and three SEBI directors,



while senior counsel Amit Desai appeared for Ramamurthy and former BSE chairman Pramod Agarwal. Also read: Mumbai special court orders FIR against former Sebi chief and officials over listing irregularities and 'regulatory oversight' The petitioners argued that the special court's order was arbitrary and illegal, as they were neither notified nor given a chance to be heard before the decision

was made. The special ACB court judge, S E Bangar, had ruled that there was prima facie evidence of regulatory lapses and collusion, warranting an investigation. The court also stated it would monitor the probe and sought a status report within 30 days. The case stems from a complaint by media reporter Sapan Shrivastava, who alleged large-scale financial fraud and regulatory violations.

### DU to expand PhD admission slots by 20-25 pc

**Divya Delhi:** Delhi University's executive council (EC) resolved to boost PhD admission seats by 20-25% from the last round of admission. The EC also allowed a university representation on St. Stephen's College's governing body to connect DU and the college. DU also updated donation rules to fund scholarships, honors, and capital assets. Under this, the government, trusts, and corporations may set up scholarships. Under this, the establishment of scholarships will be allowed by government entities, trusts, business houses, PSUs, NGOs, and other national.

## Maharashtra: Harshwardhan replaces Patole amid party restructuring

**Divya Delhi:** In a significant leadership change, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge appointed Harshwardhan Sapkal as the new chief of the party's Maharashtra unit. Sapkal takes over from Nana Patole, who had resigned following the party's poor performance in the Maharashtra Assembly elections. "The Congress president has appointed Harshwardhan Sapkal as the president of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee with immediate effect,"



stated a release from the All India Congress Committee (AICC). Kharge also approved the appointment of Vijay Namdevrao Wadettiwar as the new leader of the Congress Legislative Party in Maharashtra, signaling a clear shift in the party's leadership structure in the state. Sapkal, who previously

served as an MLA from the Buldhana Assembly Constituency from 2014 to 2019, brings fresh leadership to the state unit. The AICC statement further appreciated the contributions of Nana Patole, the outgoing president, who had submitted his resignation after Congress' disappointing showing in the Maharashtra assembly elections. The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, which Congress was a part of, failed to form the government, losing out to the ruling NDA's Mahayuti alliance.

## Satellite toll system to be factory-fitted, phased launch

**Divya Delhi:** This week, the government launched GNSS-based toll collection using vehicle-mounted OBUs. Once fully operational across roadways, the new system will enable nonstop traffic and eliminate toll plazas and gates. The system promises a better roadway experience but will take two years to implement. The new toll system's main feature is that a satellite or constellation of satellites will track cars and calculate the user fee based on their distance. That implies vehicles won't stop at barriers for electronic toll deduction. This week, the road transport and roads ministry allowed GNSS-OBU toll collection in the NH Fee Rules. The toll system will lever-



age India's satellite-based navigation system. This tracking device can be retrofitted or factory-installed.

This unit will connect with 'centralised/zonal toll charger' software deployed along highways. This 'toll charger' will receive distance and time data from car OBUs. Fintech corporations, the "issuer entity," will onboard these OBUs with the 'toll charger' Along the tolled highway net-

work, virtual gantries signal infrastructure will track vehicle entry and leave. These talk to GNSS cars.

These gantries will act as virtual toll booths, collecting car registration numbers, types, and bank account information. Any vehicle that crosses the toll plazas, makes a U-turn, or departs the GNSS stretch will incur a real-time user fee. The user receives an SMS every time a toll is deducted.

## Kerala's Rs 500 crore half-price hoax swindles 40k people

**KOCHI:** Scooters, laptops, and home appliances at half the price - the offer seemed like a golden opportunity for thousands of middle-class families across Kerala. The scheme, marketed as a CSR initiative by large companies, claimed to empower women and support



low-income households. Women could own a brand-

new scooter priced at Rs 1.2 lakh for just Rs 60,000. Laptops, water tanks, fertilisers, and sewing machines were also promised at massive discounts. This generous offer was allegedly devised and executed by Ananthu Krishnan, 28, of Kudayathoor in Idukki

district, a self-styled social activist with an eye for deception. The scheme, police sources said, was nothing more than a sophisticated Ponzi operation, rechanneling funds from new investors to fulfil promises to earlier ones - until it all came crashing

### Rishikesh to get two Oberoi properties

**NEW DELHI:** Hospitality major Oberoi Group will open two properties in Rishikesh, including a 80-key "vilas" and a 120-room Trident. The properties will come up in partnership with Ladhani Group and are a part of Oberoi's strategic expansion plans. The two resorts in Rishikesh to be managed by EIH (Oberoi Group's parent company) are in addition to the 19 properties previously announced as part of EIH Ltd's growth strategy, that includes 16 hotels.

## TN governor calls two-language policy 'rigid', DMK responds

**Divya Delhi:** The governor claimed the southern Tamil Nadu region was rich in manpower and natural resources but treated like neglected backyards. The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam lashed out at Tamil Nadu governor RN Ravi for criticizing the state's two-language policy and said it denied young people in the south employment and opportunity. While touring Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli, the governor claimed Tamil Nadu's southern regions were rich in



human and natural resources but were presently treated like neglected backyards. "Despite its industrial potential, this region feels neglected and deprived of opportunities. The state government's two-language strategy makes young people here feel disad-



vantaged compared to those from neighboring states. They deem it unfair that they cannot study other South Indian languages besides Hindi. Children must have the option to study language. He accused the governor of "repeatedly spewing hatred against Tamil,

Tamil Nadu, and Tamil Thai Vazhthu" (the state anthem) over prior disputes. Governor Ravi has been hostile to Tamil Nadu because he cannot accept its economic and educational growth. He should say where Tamil Nadu is behind. In actuality, our state has advanced more in education, medical, and the economy than others. Periodically disclosed central government data shows this. The two-language policy in Tamil Nadu made these achievements feasible..



## Delhi CM Rekha Gupta will not stay in 'Sheesh Mahal'

**Divya Delhi:** Delhi's new Chief Minister, Rekha Gupta, has made it clear that she will not reside in the controversial 'Sheesh Mahal' bungalow at 6, Flagstaff Road in Civil Lines. This decision comes after the BJP's long-standing criticism of the bungalow due to alleged irregularities and corruption in its reconstruction and inventory of costly goods. As a result, the Public Works Department (PWD) is actively exploring alternative options for her official residence.

**What is 'Sheesh Mahal'**

The 'Sheesh Mahal' bungalow became well known during the tenure of former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who lived there from 2015 until his resignation in September 2024. The BJP consistently criticized the bungalow, leading to Rekha Gupta's decision to avoid it. Instead, she took a jibe by saying she plans to convert the 'Sheesh Mahal' into a museum, as per India Tv.

**'Sheesh Mahal'**

Exploring new options As per a PTI report, with the decision to forgo 6, Flagstaff Road, the PWD has been actively seeking suitable alternatives for



## Bomb threat at Tamil Nadu Bhawan in Delhi

**NEW DELHI:** A bomb threat at Tamil Nadu Bhawan in the national capital triggered an immediate response from Delhi Police and Delhi Fire Services (DFS) on Saturday. DFS officials stated that a thorough inspection was conducted, but no suspicious items have been found so far. A search operation is currently underway.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's official residence. Several bungalows have been shortlisted, considering factors such as proximity to key government offices and security requirements.



## Government changes passport birth certificate rules

**Divya Delhi:** The Centre has modified the Passports Rules of 1980 to make birth certificates from the Registrar of Births and Deaths or any authority the only proof of birth date. The government revised the Passports Rules of 1980 to require birth certificates from the Registrar of Births and Deaths. The external affairs ministry announced that section 24 of the 1967 Passports Act changed the Passport Rules. The Passports amendment Rules of 2025, which will take effect on their publication in the Official Gazette, stipulate that only birth certificates "issued by the Registrar of Births and Deaths or the Municipal Corporation or any other authority. These include transfer or school leaving or matriculation certificates issued by recognized schools or educational boards with the applicant's date of birth; an income tax department Permanent Account Number Card; a copy of an extract of a government employee's service record or pay



pension order, duly attested or certified by the agency's administrative head; Because many passport applicants, from rural areas, did not have birth certificates, the Passport Rules' proof of birth rules had not been revised for a long time, according to sources. To improve convenience and avoid multiple documents needed to prove date and place of birth in the country.

## AAP office locked for not paying rent

**NEW DELHI:** The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) office in Bhopal, operating from a leased house, has been locked by the landlord allegedly due to three months of unpaid rent. "All this happens when we work with honesty. Things will improve. We are honest. Right now, our party does not have funds. So we couldn't do it," AAP's



Madhya Pradesh joint secretary Ramakant Patel told PTI over the phone. Patel added that the party relies on local funds, but workers are facing financial difficulties. "I won't know about the amount of office rent and the time since it has not been paid," he said.

## Seagulls and sunset steal the show as Yamuna Ghats offer last glimpse of migratory birds

**Divya Delhi:** 'Sunrise ke samay ghat sabse zyada khoobsurat dikhta hai' Read any listicle on 'What to do in Delhi at 5 am?', and you will find the suggestion to visit Yamuna Ghats in the city. These ghats are home to Siberian migratory birds until the end of March, offering a calming visual experience to kickstart the day. Whether boating, birding or basking in the golden hour, Yamuna Ghats across Delhi offer serene views.

Mornings at Yamuna Ghat "Visiting the Yamuna Ghat early in the morning was a beautiful experience, the best me and my friends have had. We got excited seeing so many birds taking flight," says Sinan, a visitor from Kerala,



who tried the Titanic pose during the boat ride. Lakhs of migratory birds arrive on the banks of the river, making Yamuna ke kinaare the perfect site for bird watching and photography. Dr Rajesh Karla, an avid birder, who often visits Yamuna Ghat for birding, says, "During winters, expect migratory gulls in big flocks, ducks,

waders along with local cormorants, herons and egrets near water. Wagtails, pipits and larks are seen on land, at the banks of the river. It is an important bird area in Delhi and safe for beginner birders too." Sharing a few tips for bird watching in the area, he says, "Be quiet, stay on the trail and don't leave a waste

trail. Be patient while observing the birds." Asita East, Chilla Khadar, Wazirabad and Sungarpur are important birding areas along the Yamuna. Akash Gulaliya, a birder, says, "One may find gulls and stragglers at Yamuna Ghat near ISBT early in the morning" Sunrise ke samay ghat sabse zyada khoobsurat dikhta hai. Nav mein sawar hokar birds ko dekhna aur sunrise dekhna achha lagta hai. Pre-wedding shoots, bird watching, boating – people come here for many reasons, until March Chintan Malhotra, a photographer who did a fashion shoot at the ghat recently, says, "The appeal of Yamuna Ghat is its contrast to the usual hustle-bustle of Delhi.

## DTC losses rose Rs 35k crore in 6 years: CAG

**Divya Delhi:** The Comptroller and Auditor General reported that Delhi Transport Corporation's cumulative losses rose from Rs 25,300 crore in 2015-16 to nearly 60,750 crore in 2021-22 due to a shrinking fleet, with 45% of buses overage and prone to breakdown. DTC losses rose Rs 35k crore in 6 years: CAG (PTI photo) The auditor's long-overdue report, set to be tabled in assembly by the new BJP government, alluded to several failures, including the transport utility's inability to



expand its fleet. This is the first of 14 reports the AAP government withheld from the assembly. The losses were caused by DTC tariffs remaining fixed since 2009 with the Delhi government ignoring several demands, insiders added. Free bus fares for women increased the strain. According to

people who saw the study, the auditor noted the lack of a business plan and a path to stop the bleeding and secure financial viability. The BJP and Congress campaigned on AAP president Arvind Kejriwal's 2015 vow to increase the DTC fleet by 10,000, despite commuters' daily bus breakdowns.

## New prison factories will employ 100 more prisoners

**Divya 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," he stated. "This will enable them to start their life anew upon their release." Prisoners earned Rs 1.7 crore last year performing various jobs. Top earnings were carpenters at Rs 56.8 lakh and papermakers at Rs 51.7 lakh. Mustard oil production brought in

Rs 23.5 lakh, weaving 18.8 lakh, tailoring 12.1 lakh, and maintenance 7.6 lakh. According to officials, skilled laborers get Rs 412 per day, semi-skilled Rs 339, and unskilled Rs 271. Experts from outside the department train factory workers. Skilled inmates also train. Director general (prisons) Satish Golcha stressed that officials were working to help offenders move on from their criminal past. He stated that jail officials urge inmates to take educational and vocational courses to learn new skills.

## In North India, short winter doesn't always lead to searing summer

**Divya Delhi:** Winter has ended early in north India and February in Delhi is set to be among the three warmest in the last 15 years. So, does the early conclusion of winter indicate a long and scorching summer ahead? Contrary to the general view, data from past years shows that a warm Feb doesn't necessarily lead to a searing summer in north India. Analysed monthly average maximum temperatures in north India since 1971 and picked the 10 warmest months of Feb during this peri-



od. In five of these years, the corresponding months of April were indeed warmer or significantly warmer than normal but in the other five, April temperatures were either

close to normal (four years) or below normal (one year). These two months were chosen for the analysis because Feb is the last month of winter in north India, while April marks the

beginning of full-blown summer conditions in the region. March is usually a month of transition."There is no direct one-to-one relationship between temperatures in Feb and April. Temperatures in these two months depend on multiple factors, including largescale signals such as presence of El Nino (or La Nina) and synoptic features such as the frequency, intensity and duration of western disturbances," said Mrutyunjay, director-general of India Meteorological

Department. Trends in recent years exemplify the absence of a link between temperatures in Feb and April. In 2023, north India experienced record heat in Feb but April was cooler than normal. Feb that year was the warmest since 1901, with the average maximum temperature 3.5 degrees above the mean during 1971-2024. However, April that year turned out to be the coolest in eight years, with average maximum temperatures nearly 1 degree below the mean during 1971-2024.

## From IGI to Fbd: Green corridor helps in timely hand transplant

**Divya Delhi:** As a 48-year-old man in a private hospital waited for a new lease of life — a human hand, harvested from Surat, that could restore his independence — every passing minute mattered. Around 11am on Sunday, a medical team in Surat carefully

retrieved the donor's hand after allocation by National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation. A flight was arranged to transport it to Delhi, where the next challenge awaited: ensuring the organ reached the hospital in time.

That's when Delhi Traffic Police stepped in. Around 2:58 pm, the flight landed at general aviation (GA) terminal, meant for private planes. Waiting outside was inspector Satish Yadav and his team, ready to escort the ambulance carrying the transplant team

and the precious cargo. "Every second counts in such cases, and we had to ensure a clear route," Yadav said. The green corridor was planned, spanning 43km, of which they were handling the distance from the airport to Delhi-Badarpur border.



Editorial

Shashi Tharoor has always disliked ‘statist Congress’

**Power** is in the words. Language has mystical powers. I enjoy playing with words. Those words are hot. You can be moved to tears by words. You can find humor in words. Moreover, there are few things that can convey the planet and all its inhabitants as vividly and comprehensively as words. During the 2009 austerity drive of the Congress-led UPA administration, Tharoor was embroiled in controversy for his response to a query regarding flying "cattle class" to Kerala. His statement, "Absolutely, in cattle class out of solidarity with all our holy cows!" caused a political storm following his response. Tharoor, an accomplished writer of numerous best-selling books on Indian society and politics, was forced to clarify that he did not want to offend economy class passengers after the Congress party swiftly censured him. After 16 years, Tharoor is now again in trouble for comments he made in an interview. In response to a Malayalam report that he had claimed, "We have many leaders, but many feel that there are no ordinary workers," Tharoor clarified that he had really said, "several workers feel there is an absence of a leader in Kerala's Congress." "You should not think that I have no option to spend my time. I have options," Tharoor added earlier in the interview. I have speeches, books, and invitations to speak all around the globe. Some saw his comments as a covert signal to the highest levels of Congress that he was thinking about other political paths. Amidst the upcoming Assembly elections in the state next year, Tharoor is now facing accusations of "crossing the line" from the top leaders of the Congress's faction-ridden Kerala unit, putting him in the center of a maelstrom. Because of this, Shashi Tharoor has been named this week's ThePrint Newsmaker. Actually, Tharoor's essay praising the new industrial policies of the Left-led Kerala government had already been a hot topic before the interview controversy erupted. Tharoor had stated that, during the course of 18 months last year, Kerala's startup ecosystem was valued at an astounding \$1.7 billion, which is five times higher than the worldwide average for the same time period. While the fact that this change has started happening under an LDF government run by communists is shocking, it is not totally unexpected. "The path to growth and prosperity for their people lies in capitalism, entrepreneurship, and initiative, not in red flags, strikes, and agitations," he said in the post, comparing the Communists in Kerala to their West Bengali counterparts at the turn of the century. While he disagrees that the state's industrial climate has changed generally, Tharoor defended himself by saying that "when something good emerges, even if only in one area, it is petty not to acknowledge it" in response to attacks from Kerala Congress officials over the piece. Tharoor, a former UN diplomat, has had a tumultuous political career with the Congress since his 2009 victory in the Lok Sabha elections from the Thiruvananthapuram constituency. Mostly because he had a habit of saying things that went against the party line. However, he consistently gets himself into problems by more than simply his words. In 2009, as the UPA was implementing its austerity measures, Tharoor and then-External Affairs Minister SM Krishna came under fire from the government for allegedly residing in a five-star hotel in Delhi while their official quarters were still being prepared. Tharoor lost his position in the Manmohan Singh government's council of ministers in 2010 due to the scandal surrounding the sweat equity provided to Sunanda Pushkar, his then-girlfriend and later-wife, by a consortium that owned the Kochi club of the Indian Premier League. His ordination as a junior minister was renewed in 2012. Tharoor was thrust into his gravest professional crisis in January 2014, when Pushkar was discovered dead in a luxurious Delhi hotel room—months prior to the Lok Sabha elections.

Muslims want waqf reforms too. It’s not an issue for political acrimony

**When the** Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 was first tabled in the Lok Sabha on 8 August last year, it triggered fears within the Muslim community, as it was perceived to have been introduced without adequate consultation with stakeholders. After all, the issue of waqfs— Muslim institutions through which property is bequeathed for religious or charitable purposes—is sensitive because it involves socio-religious spaces such as qabristans, masjids, idgahs, and madrasas.æAs such, the government and Parliament were exhorted to adopt procedures that allayed rather than stoked the fears of

Muslims. In this backdrop, the decision to refer the bill to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament was welcome. The 31-member committee, drawn from across party lines, received 97,27,772 memoranda overall. There were representations from various ministries and departments—including Minority Affairs, Law and Justice, Railways, Housing and Urban Affairs, Road Transport, and Culture (Archaeological Survey of India)—as well as state waqf boards and experts, ensuring a diversity of opinions.æAs such, the government and Parliament were exhorted to adopt pro-

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correct to state that waqf reforms are being externally foisted. Rather, to a large extent, the demand for waqf reforms has emerged from within the Muslim community also. The Ministry of Minority Affairs received numerous complaints from Muslims on the maladministration of waqf properties, which manifested in voluminous litigations. The ministry's analysis of grievances received from April 2023 found that 148 complaints pertained mostly to encroachments, illegal sales of waqf land, delays in surveys and registration, and complaints against waqf boards and mutawallis.

Has Trump Abandoned Ukraine In Favour Of Russia?

**Donald** Trump has spent only a month in his second term as the US President. However, he has disrupted the international order, weakened the Western alliance and created a sense of insecurity and uncertainty among its members, surprising even some of his supporters. There has been a paradigm shift in US foreign policy under Trump. He is now closer to Moscow than Washington's traditional allies. He has embraced the Kremlin's narrative on Ukraine and has sidelined US allies. Although senior members of the Trump administration have denied that the US has abandoned Kyiv and ignored its European allies, Trump himself has not made any serious attempts to pacify Ukrainians and Europeans. His closeness to Russia has been on display since he talked for 90 minutes on the phone with Russian leader Vladimir Putin, in which they agreed to start negotiations to end the Ukraine war, which will mark its third anniversary on Monday. Trump did speak to Zelenskyy soon after that call with Putin, but a nervous Ukrainian President warned that excluding his country from the talks would be “very dangerous”. Events after that only made Ukrainians feels sidelined. Trump's Vice President, JD Vance, met European leaders in Munich two days later. But his comment that Europe will not be included in the peace talks only helped fuelled the speculation that they were being left out of the future of Ukraine, which is closer to their homes and in which they have invested a lot of money and effort since



the Russian invasion. Vance's meeting with Zelenskyy did not go well either as the Ukrainian leader refused to give access to the country's vast reserves of critical minerals unless he was given security guarantees. That angered Washington. Ending the Russia-Ukraine war was Trump's major campaign promise. But hardly anyone expected him to brazenly take Russia's side and even blame Ukraine for the conflict, which he did. Last Tuesday, a US delegation led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio met the Russian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Saudi Arabia, to discuss peace. Ukraine was not invited. Putin—who had been shunned by the US and its allies since the invasion of Ukraine—was delighted. A frustrated Zelenskyy dismissed the Riyadh talks as worthless. Trump did not like those comments and called the Ukraine President a dictator, even accusing him of starting the war. Zelenskyy said the US President was living in a Russian-made “disinformation space”. This infuriated Trump, who does not take kindly to any criticism. He described Zelenskyy as “a modestly successful comedian” who “talked the United

States of America into spending \$350 Billion, to go into a War that couldn't be won, that never had to start, but a War that he, without the U.S. and ‘TRUMP,’ will never be able to settle.” Trump's behaviour towards Zelenskyy is in stark contrast to Biden's, who had backed Ukraine against Russia with all the possible military and financial aid. President Biden travelled to Ukraine many times since the Russian invasion in February 2022 to display his administration's full support. He also promised NATO membership to Ukraine at a future date. Russia was severely punished for invading Ukraine. The US joined hands with its allies to isolate Moscow. Russia faced tough sanctions and its assets in the West were seized. The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against Putin for alleged war crimes in Ukraine. There were even plans to put Putin and his close allies on Nuremberg-style trials. Until a year ago, Ukraine's leader was talking about even liberating all its territory, including Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, with the help of Western military equipment. Ukraine even succeeded in occupying the

Russian territory of Kursk, which it had thought would be used as a bargaining chip during negotiations with Moscow. But all that now looks like a distant dream. With Trump back in the White House, Ukraine fears that Russia will be allowed to keep all the occupied territory as part of the deal to end the war. Kyiv is now likely to be denied NATO membership. That could be a promise to Russia to end the war. The US under Trump has now even opposed calling Russia an aggressor in a G-7 statement being prepared to mark the third anniversary of the war. The US team removed the phrase from the first draft, which was prepared by Canada, the current holder of the group's presidency. It is not just Ukraine, America's European allies are also now nervous about the intent of Trump. Since the Second World War, they enjoyed the US security umbrella under NATO. But now they are unsure if the US under Trump will honour Article 5 of the NATO, which is triggered when a member state comes under attack. It implies that an attack on one member is an attack on all. There is even fear in Europe that Donald Trump may sign a deal with the Russian leader Vladimir Putin that will lead to the withdrawal of US forces from Baltic states and effectively kill the NATO alliance. That could be similar to the non-aggression treaty signed by the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany on August 23, 1939, sending shockwaves to other European countries and prompting Hitler and Stalin to annex neighbouring countries. It is another matter

that Hitler invaded the Soviet Union two years later, putting an end to the treaty. European members of NATO may call themselves major powers, but they can't match Russia's military might without US support. Even after losing more than a hundred thousand men and lots of military equipment in the Ukraine conflict, Moscow remains a strong power, mainly because of its nuclear arsenal. So Why Has Trump Changed The Narrative? Trump has always been an admirer of strongmen like Putin. Even during his first term, he developed a rapport with him. He also dislikes Zelenskyy, whom he sees as more of a roadblock in ending the Ukraine conflict. As a former businessman, Trump sees things from the perspective of profitable deals. Western sanctions have hit Russia, but American companies have also suffered business losses, running into billions of dollars. He would like to reverse that. And despite Ukraine's resistance, Trump believes Zelenskyy will have to give access to critical minerals in return for any future US support. Some in the Trump administration suggest Kyiv should provide Americans with those minerals in return for the US military and financial aid already received by Ukraine. Trump has blamed European leaders for not doing enough to end the Ukraine war. He has also complained for a long time that Europe has lived off the US for too long and it must pay for its security. Europeans have increased their defence budgets but not enough to survive without US support.

The Hindutva Pitch of the BJP: Will Bihar Pay Attention This Time?

**Prime Minister** Narendra Modi attacked the opposition, calling members of the party who support "jungle raj" anti-Indian and anti-faith. Furthermore, he said that the state's citizens would hold anybody who insults Maha Kumbh in contempt forever. Political circles were captivated by his attention on Maha Kumbh, which he displayed barely two days before Maha Shivratri, as the event was coming to a close. For what reason did Modi bring up the holy event, which has been going on for almost two months, Was all he was doing was addressing the Opposition's strong criticism of what they saw as poor administration during the world's largest religious gathering, the Maha Kumbh, and the two stampedes that occurred there. Did he want Maha Kumbh to be a part of the National Democratic Alliance's Bihar election platform? It is quite probable that Modi, who had begun the NDA's Bihar election campaign with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, purposefully

brought up the controversy surrounding Maha Kumbh in order to strengthen the Hindu support among the OBC. Many also saw it as an effort to win over religiously inclined female voters. Meanwhile, political scientists claimed Modi didn't really need to mention Maha Kumbh. In contrast to Uttar Pradesh, religious and communal appeals do not have the same impact on elections in Bihar. A transformative governance agenda has traditionally had a greater impact on the state. Rather than a rising embrace of the Hindutva ideology of the BJP, observers pointed out that Bihar was shifting away from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) led by Lalu Yadav owing to fears of his previous misrule. North Bihar is still firmly under the control of the NDA, and yatras, which were once used to communalize politics, have not been very successful. The Hindu Swabhiman Yatra, which Union Minister Giriraj Singh attempted last year but was unable to launch, is a prime example.

The trinity that failed women at Maha Kumbh. Holy, unholy, and the algorithm

**Aasavage** irony is unfolding in Uttar Pradesh right now. India's holiest gathering is a hunting ground for faceless remote predators. At the “once in 144 years” Maha Kumbh Mela underway in Prayagraj, where millions congregate to wash away their sins in the Ganga, an unholy alliance of voyeurs, traders, and technology has formed. They're transforming purification into portable entertainment. What's on sale? The privacy and bodily integrity of women devotees. And the price? Anywhere between Rs 800 and Rs 2,000, depending on the quality of violation. Indian women have been failed, yet again, by a new trinity: The holy, the unholy, and the algorithm. Last week, 13 FIRs were lodged against 140 social media accounts for posting objectionable videos of women, including those of female devotees taking a dip at the Kumbh. The bathing videos came to light during a separate investigation by the Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Police into videos sourced from a Rajkot hospital's gynaecology department. The investigation revealed that the three accused—Prajwal Taili, Praj Patil, and Chandraprakash Phoolchand—ran at least 22 Telegram channels where they sold clips of women, recorded and traded without their consent. The three men, a YouTuber from Prayagraj and two NEET aspirants from Maharashtra, ran their enterprise under an innocuous name “Megha Demos Group”. The channels, with labels like “CCTV Injection Group”, “Labor Room Injection Group”, and “Ganga River Open Bathing Group”, turned these transgressions into a menu of options. “Disturbingly, some content featured covert recordings from hospital labour rooms, medical examinations, and public areas like bus stands, marriage halls, and parlours,” cyber crime officers told The

Times of India. This lucrative venture raked in Rs 8 lakh a year. To the credit of UP Police, their social media monitoring team has moved swiftly, and identified 15 more accounts across Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram participating in this ecosystem of exploitation. The state government has now banned cameras at bathing ghats, deploying CRPF and state police personnel to enforce this prohibition. In 2019 too, the Allahabad High Court had banned the publishing of photos and videos of women at the Kumbh Mela: “The court said no pictures of women bathing or taking a holy dip should be shared. It also warned that action would be taken if the order was broken. This rule applies to both print and visual media.” This violation and commodification of women's bodies at the Maha Kumbh represents a betrayal across three interconnected spheres. It's not as if Indian women are unfamiliar with such trespasses—that's our daily reality. But the Kumbh videos expose a particularly perverse intersection of faith, trade, and technology. First, there is the sacred: In a space of spiritual liberation, the crowd provides both cover and target for predators.

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Students opposed to the proposed two-stage DUSU elections

Divya Delhi: In an effort to curb the "defacement" of property and the "use of muscle and money power," Delhi University (DU) is contemplating holding student union elections in two stages. However, this proposal has encountered opposition from both students and teachers, who have deemed it as an undemocratic action. At a meeting of the university's highest decision-making body, the executive council EC, the subject was raised. During the meeting, the administration presented a document that suggests restricting voting for the four office-bearers of the Delhi University Students Union DUSU to students who have won union elections at the college or department level. At present, the leaders of DUSU are elected by students directly from more than 50 colleges. Following the court's rebuke of students for vandalizing public



property during last year's elections, DU sent a report to the Delhi High Court, which contained the recommendation. In order to investigate the matter of defacement, the court temporarily halted the counting of votes for approximately two months. The document states that in response, the DU established a reform committee and submitted alternate solutions to the court. Among these options was the two-tier election system, which university officials justified as something to think about in the future rather than a definitive choice. Although no final decision was reached.

Gold's relevance as asset class to rise: CEA

NEW DELHI: Gold will remain relevant for investors as a portfolio diversification mechanism with a likely ascending importance as an asset class in the coming years, CEA V Anantha Nageswaran. He said that gold will remain relevant not only as a store of value, as an ornament for cultural and religious purposes, but also as an important portfolio diversification mechanism "until such a time the world is able to arrive at an international monetary system from the current international monetary non-system".

FM reports 1100 out of 1200 state and national schemes under DBT

Divya Delhi: Direct bank account transfers have been assured for 1,100 out of 1,200 national and state government projects, according to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. One hundred hundred out of one thousand two hundred federal and state programs get their funding sent straight to their bank accounts by DBT. She emphasized that the Public Financial Management System is crucial to the improvement of DBT. She said that PFMS has allowed the government to give benefits directly by cutting out middlemen at the 49th Civil Accounts



Day festivities. It was said "Everything is direct payment, so no middlemen, no unborn children getting allowances." All recipients have their funds deposited into accounts that have been biometrically verified. Out of the 1200 national and state schemes, DBT is in charge of 1100. By going

digital, PFMS has made all financial transactions more transparent and efficient, doing away with discrepancies and delays in fund distribution. The Minister of Finance made a point of mentioning that around 250 external systems, such as the Government e-Marketplace, GSTN, PM Kisan, and TIN 2.0, connect with PFMS. Efficient financial transactions and cooperative federalism are both facilitated by full integration. Through the integration of financial systems, the government may enhance the tracking of fund flows and ensure accountability.

EU, India will sign FTA by year-end

Divya Delhi: The sides promised "concrete steps" to finish the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. The FTA states that the parties would "work as trusted partners to enhance market access and remove trade barriers". Modi and Leyen stressed IMEC. Modi said, "Concrete steps will be taken to take it

forward. The IMEC will promote global trade, sustainable growth, and prosperity. The IMEC was announced at the September 2023 G20 in New Delhi. India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and various European nations are involved. The corridor will link India, West Asia, and Europe via train, road, and sea. Lal was asked if

Europe would require lower wine, cheese, and automobile taxes. Leyen traveled to India with 22 EU Commissioners. It emphasizes our value. India and the EU are and space cooperation. The two sides agreed to have "focused discussions" on the military sector and marine domain awareness to strengthen shared assessment.



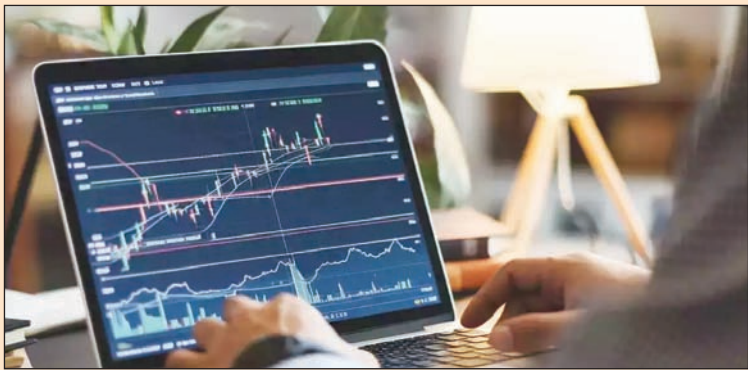
US Polo targets Rs 3,000 cr in India, boosts marketing

Divya Delhi: Arvind Fashions aims to increase marketing investments for its flagship brand, US Polo, to reach ₹3,000 crore in revenue, up from the current ₹2,000 crore. Over 3% of our corporate budget goes to advertising. This has reached 4% for US Polo and is rising. He noted that US Polo's company was predicted to increase 12-15% due to its strong omnichannel presence, taking advantage of the emerging rapid commerce channel and the square-foot expansion of stores, which can become supply hubs in smaller towns. Like-for-like growth is solid, including virtually double-digit full-price growth. Other categories including kids, women, and footwear are developing faster than the mother brand. Nearly 20% of the brand's revenues are in adjacent categories. "US Polo dominates the domestic market. We will invest in the brand and grow quicker than the market, he stated. Deloitte India and the Retailers Association of India reported in February 2025 that urban and rural families will spend more on discretionary items due to a doubling of per capita income by 2030. The report noted that "the Indian apparel and footwear market was valued at \$78 billion in 2023 and is expected to reach \$106 billion by 2028 at a compounded annual growth rate of 7.5-8%, driven by increasing disposable incomes, rising urbanisation, growing organised retail penetration.



When oil prices drop every month, US stocks go up

Divya Delhi: Wall Street indexes rose in choppy rises as in-line European markets ended flat, continuing their 10-week winning streak. The Federal Reserve is expected to decrease interest rates twice this year, according to U.S. inflation figures. crude prices fell 1%, the first monthly decline since November, as markets braced for fresh levies from Washington and crude exports from Iraq's Kurdistan region. According to a White House source, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine will depart the Oval Office early Friday after a contentious meeting with Trump. Following reports of falling yearly inflation and sluggish consumer spending



in the latest statistics tracked by the Federal Reserve, U.S. Treasury rates hit multi-month lows. A drop of 2.93 points, or 0.34%, was recorded by MSCI's global stock index. Crypto values dropped after the Trump boom waned. The U.S. personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index fell from 2.6% in December to 2.5%

last month, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, which is part of the Commerce Department. Core personal consumption expenditure, the favored inflation indicator of the Federal Reserve, fell to 2.6% from 2.9% following an upward revision. Inflation of 2% is the target of the central bank.

Manufacturing activity slows to a 14-month low in February

NEW DELHI: Activity in the country's manufacturing sector grew at its slowest pace in 14 months as production and new orders moderated but it still remained robust, a survey showed. The HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) registered a reading of 56.3 in Feb, down from 57.7 in Jan, but still indicative of further improvement in the health of the sector. The 50-point mark separates from contraction in the survey, which is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to 400 manufacturing firms.

Keep existing FY interest rate at 8.25%: EPFO board

Divya Delhi: The central board of trustees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation proposed keeping the interest rate at 8.25% for the current financial year. The finance minister must approve this before money is credited to seven crore subscribers. The Employees Provident Fund EPF has high and predictable returns compared to other fixed-income instruments, ensuring savings growth. The finance ministry taxed interest income obtained by people



who pay over Rs 2.5 lakh yearly a few years ago, claiming it would affect only 1% of subscribers. EPFO's 8.25% returns are far greater than PPF's 7.1%. Compounding is available with PPF's Rs 1 lakh annual investment cap. SBI is offering 7.5% on two- to three-year fixed deposits, however the interest income is

taxed and compounding is not available. A 30% taxpayer will receive 5.25% post-tax FD returns. The EPFO board also amended the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance EDLI program to provide a minimum payment of Rs 50,000 to EPF members who die without one year of continuous service.

Graduates of state universities are unable to secure employment due to a lack of English ability

Delhi Divya: Using the success stories of Punjab and Karnataka, the NITI Aayog suggests that state public universities work with international language organizations to provide programs for English and foreign language proficiency. The employability of the students who graduate from these institutions is greatly impacted by their "inadequate" skill in the English language. State public universities are essential to reaching the NEP 2020 objectives; they educate more than 80% of all college-aged students and were the focus of a new report from the National Institution of Transforming India Aayog, "Expanding Quality Higher Education Through States and State Public Universities," which



NGT requests DPCC report after plea says unlawful dyeing units continue.

Divya Delhi: The applicant, an environmental activist, told the National Green Tribunal that more illegal dyeing facilities were operating in Khyala and Meethapur village in Delhi after the authorities alerted them of their actions. The tribunal ordered the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to act and report in four weeks. In another matter related to such units, a joint committee recommended a campaign to sensitize the public about illegal industrial activity.

was published. Local businesses in a lot of states rely heavily on outside expertise and materials. One factor

contributing to this trend, according to the poll, is the low English proficiency among local kids.

Apple will invest \$500bn and employ 20k in the US

Divya Delhi: Apple will invest over \$500bn in the US over the next four years, starting with a Texas advanced manufacturing complex. Over that period, the tech giant intended to add 20,000 positions, with the "vast majority" in R&D, software, and AI. How much the spending accelerates the com-



pany's current activity is unclear. The amount includes

supplier and Apple TV production costs, according to Apple. Days after Apple CEO Tim Cook met with President Donald Trump, who has prioritized US business investment, the news was made. It stated that the 250,000-square-foot. Houston factory will construct servers "previously manufactured out-

side the US" to power Apple Intelligence, its AI system. The iPhone maker said it would open in 2026 and employ "thousands". Apple is also boosting its data center capacity in , Arizona, and Nevada and doubling its \$5bn funding for Trump's first-term manufacturing fund to \$10bn.

Byju's loses \$533 million loan fraud case in US court

Divya Delhi: U.S. bankruptcy court rules Riju Ravindran, Byju's parent business Think & Learn, and hedge fund Camshaft Capital guilty of \$533 million fraud and "breach of fiduciary duty." The beleaguered edtech business Byju's Alpha has been found to have engaged in several fraudulent financial transfers and conversions, according to a ruling issued by the Delaware Bankruptcy Court. Byju brother Riju Ravindran was found to have breached his fiduciary duty as director of Byju's Alpha, according to the court. The



court's clear recognition that Riju Ravindran, Camshaft, and Byju's engaged in a worldwide fraud including the theft of \$533 million is something we are grateful for. In a statement, the lenders hailed this as a major victory in their fight to reclaim the stolen assets that properly belong to them. Byju successfully obtained a \$1.2 billion

five-year term loan from Glas Trust through the establishment of his Alpha special purpose financial organization. Having defaulted on its loans, Byju's Alpha was placed under trusteeship in March 2023. A group of 37 banks and other lending organizations gave Byju \$1.2 billion. Byju's Alpha's limited partnership interest in Camshaft Capital was transferred to William Morton's hedge fund, Camshaft Capital Fund. , with the proceeds of about \$533 million in term loans, according to the lenders.

Mittal's \$976 million Airtel stake sale

Divya Delhi: Sunil Bharti Mittal's business sold \$976 million in India's No.2 wireless carrier to raise funding for new ventures. According to an exchange statement, Bharti Airtel Ltd. founder Indian Continental Investment Ltd. sold 0.84 percent interest or 51 million shares for Rs 8,485 crore (\$976 million), nearly a fourth of which was bought by Bharti Telecom Ltd. Other investors were not named in the trade at Rs 1660.46 per share, a

tiny discount to Monday's finish of Rs 1,675.6. The document said the shares were "allocated only to key marquee long only names, both global and domestic." Mittal is investing in Africa and OneWeb, which merged with Eutelsat in 2023, at the time of the sale. Last year, closely held Bharti Enterprises Ltd. bought 24.5% of BT Group Plc. Bharti Telecom now owns 40.47 percent of Airtel, reinforcing its "previously stated intent of strengthening its position .



# Forum for India's Intellectual Growth 2025: (23rd Edition). Honoring Visionaries for Exceptional Contributions to Society"



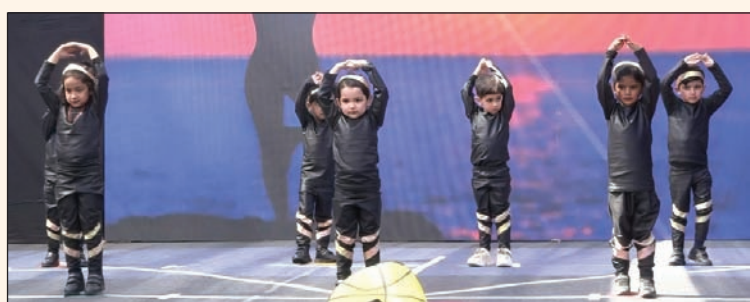
**Divya Delhi:** At the Hyatt Centric Hotel in Janakpuri, Delhi, Krishna Social Welfare Trust and the Wadhwan India Awards Council hosted the Forum for India's Intellectual Growth 2025 (23rd Edition). Those who have made significant contributions to society in a variety of areas will be honored at this event. The event was graced by the presence of numerous distinguished individuals, such as Dr. Nitin Shakya, SDM Patel Nagar, Dr. Shiv Kumar Upadhyay, Jail Superintendent Ajay Bhatia, Chairman Akali Dal, Paramjit Singh Pamma, Dr. Tarun Bajaj, Director BEDF, Nupur Sinha, Chief Probation Officer, Dy. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, and countless more. Director Manish

Gupta and Founder/Managing Director Kamal Wadhwan presided over the gathering. Everyone in attendance was recognized for their efforts and contributions during the occasion. The conferral of Doctoral Degrees to deserving individuals for their exceptional work in numerous areas of social service was a high point of the ceremony.

They were feted for their contributions and the social work they had done at this event. Not only did this program make a big splash in terms of intellectual growth, but it also recognized and honored the people who had made great contributions to society through their own efforts and struggles.



## Shri Ram Wonder Years School held "Dreamers 2025"



**Divya Delhi :** Shri Ram Wonder Years School celebrated Dreamers 2025 - The Annual Sports Meet at DDA Sports Complex, Sector 11, Dwarka, Delhi. The event promoted athletics and physical exercise in youth. All the guests were moved by the tiny children holding torches as they started the ceremony. The entire crowd sang the national song, which was moving and motivating. Gauri Mishra, Pradhan

Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar winner, DCP Subodh Goswami, Anil Agarwal, Pramod Mittal, Sanjay Kumar Jain, Ramesh Jain, Colonel Chaturvedi, Secretary, Social Worker Arvind Singh Chatwal, Surendra Pal, Joginder Soreng, University of Youth Affairs, and Jasmine (HM) were among the dignitaries who attended this grand event. These guests praised the event and urged kids to play sports. At the ceremony, Principal Rashi



Dhiman welcomed and thanked guests. She also congratulated the children's parents and boosted their morale, encouraging them to study harder and thrive in all fields. The kids' dance and sports displays captivated everyone. Running, Taekwondo, yoga, javelin throw, shot put, and more were done by the kids. These games showed children's athletic ability, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The children

who worked hard and played with enthusiasm made their parents proud when they won. The youngsters received prizes for their outstanding performance, recognizing their hard work and accomplishment. The event showcased the kids' sports passion and inspired their bright future. The performance ended with a promise to make this day unforgettable for the kids and inspire them to play sports and win.

## Tesa Premier League: Four teams compete in cricket's exciting action

**Divya Delhi :** The Action Tesa Premier League in Pritampura, Delhi, was a success. This event had four teams. Tesa Pro Warriors, Night Riders, Champion Challenger, and Panthers. These teams competed fiercely, using their entire potential, strategy, and expertise. Everyone tried to do well in the tournament. The players' cricket abilities, hard work, and teamwork made the tournament entertaining. Every match was full of energy and cheering. Action Tesa Managing Director Ajay Agarwal praised the winning team and commended all the teams for their hard work at the tournament's end. He added that all Action Tesa members work together and support each



other. Success requires teamwork and cooperation, he says. The tournament champions, Tesa Panthers, played superbly to win the championship. Everyone enjoyed the event, and each player showed talent and sportsmanship. This competition promoted local cricket and fostered a strong sense of community, which makes such activities even more important.

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## Grand event of 'Jashn-e-Karvaan Season 2' in Noida CA Sports Competition winners were honored

Divya Delhi: A grand event, 'Jashn-e-Karvaan Season 2,' was organized in Sector 135, Noida to celebrate the success of AICA Premier League. The program, led by Profes Foundation, began with the lighting of lamps. During the event, CA Ravi Sethi, Co Founder of Profes Capital and Investment Manager of Profes Multi Opportunity Fund, honored the participants and presented awards. The occasion was graced by , Rajesh Chauhan from Divya Delhi , CA Sandeep Singh, Hemant Madan, CA Deendayal Agarwal, CA Abhinav Agarwal, CA Ashish Sharma, Lalit Bhardwaj, Paras Suri, Ashish Kumar, CA Hemant Bhageria, CS Ujjwal Sharma, CA Rahul Sharma, and many others. The guests praised the event and expressed their support for organizing more such motivational programs in the future.







## At the SOP Arena in Noida, Professor arranged the All India Chartered Accountant (CA) Premier League 2025

Divya Delhi: The All India Chartered Accountant Premier League 2025 was held at SOP Arena in Noida, organized by Profes. Ten teams participated, including Delhi Riders, Noida Strikers, Cricket Army, SSKN XI, Royal CA Blasters (RCB), Profess XI, Hissar Panthers, Audit Avengers, Faridabad CA Cricket Stars, and Mahi Spartans. The semi-finals had four teams: Faridabad CA Cricket Stars, Mahi 11, Cricket Army, and Profess XI. In the final match, Faridabad CA Cricket Stars defeated Profess XI by 7 runs. CA Ashish Sharma and CA Hemant Bhageria from SOP Arena contributed to the overall arrangements of the league. Additionally, Ravi Sethi, co-founder of Profes Capital, presented the trophy to the winning team. The tournament was organized to encourage chartered accountants to play cricket. All teams appreciated the organizers for a well-managed event and celebrated with excitement.

