

Government Cracks Down On Book, Uniform Sales

Divya Delhi: The Delhi government has given guidelines to private schools on book, uniform, and writing material sales to safeguard parents and maintain transparency. After receiving multiple complaints, Delhi education minister Ashish Sood announced new directives prohibiting private schools from pushing parents and pupils to acquire education material from specific businesses or vendors. The Directorate of Education regulates the selling of instructional material and uniforms in all city private unaided schools. Several private unaided schools required pupils to buy books, guides, ties, belts, notes, uniforms, and bags from private vendors. This worries me because pupils should choose their school supplies. Private schools must clearly display a list of required educational material and other goods for students. Schools cannot force parents and children to buy books, uniforms, or other materials from specified vendors or retailers. Private schools must display the relevant books, educational materials, and other items on campus. Display this information publicly on school notice boards and official websites. Private schools that hide this information or mislead students and parents may be prosecuted, and all schools must post this list in a visible place on campus.

'RSS is banyan tree of India's eternal culture,' says PM Modi

Divya Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed RSS as 'modern akshayavat (indestructible banyan tree)' of India's eternal culture and invoked the vision of its founders, Keshav Baliram Hedgewar and Madhav Sadashivrao Golwarkar, for completing his govt's mission of 'Viksit Bharat'. Addressing a gathering at the foundation-laying ceremony of Madhav Netralaya Premium Centre, an eye hospital dedicated to Golwalkar, Modi said: "In Ayodhya, I said we are laying the foundation of Bharat that will remain strong for the next 1,000 years. With the guidance of Hedgewar and Guruji (Golwalkar), we will achieve Viksit Bharat. We will not let the sacrifices made by our generations go waste." As India approaches its centenary of independence in 2047, Modi underscored Sangh's role in shaping the vision of India. "When RSS was formed in 1925, the country was in midst of a freedom struggle. Today, after 100 years, we stand at another crucial juncture



Strong bilateral ties are demonstrated by the UAE's release of 500 Indian prisoners.

Divya Delhi: In keeping with the close bilateral ties between India and the Gulf state, the UAE has pardoned 500 Indian convicts before Ramadan. Over the past ten years, thousands of Indian nationals have been released and pardoned in a number of nations thanks to the aggressive and persistent diplomatic efforts of the Narendra Modi government. The welfare of Indian nationals living overseas has been a top priority under Prime Minister Modi's administration since 2014. Through high-level inter-

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ventions and diplomatic negotiations, it has secured the safe return of about 10,000 Indians who were imprisoned overseas. Ahead of UAE National Day and Eid ul Fitr, the UAE released 944 Indian detainees last year. When Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia visited India in 2019, he issued an order for the release of 850 Indian prisoners. Eight Indian Navy veterans in Qatar had their death sentences commuted in 2023 as a result of diplomatic action by the Indian government.

stronger India."

Acting as 'first responder', India rushes aid to quake-hit Myanmar

Divya Delhi:
NEW DELHI: In a significant diplomatic gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended a hand of friendship to Myanmar's military junta govt by dispatching an 80-member team from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for search-and-rescue operations in the earthquake-affected regions of the neighbouring country. Code named 'Operation Brahma', India on Saturday dispatched the NDRF contingent to Nay Pyi Taw for rescue work in quake-hit region of Myanmar where more



than 1,600 are feared dead and over 2,000 injured or missing. The team is self-contained and expert in heavy urban search and rescue operations. New Delhi has also dispatched equipment and tools airlifted in two sorties for rescue and relief work. Highlighting India's active role as a "first responder" during

national disasters and natural calamities in other countries, the external affairs ministry spokesperson announced Delhi has dispatched two naval ships to Myanmar. Additionally, a field hospital with 118 personnel is scheduled to depart from Agra later on Saturday, the spokesperson added. India's ambassador in Myanmar is in the capital Nay Pyi Taw to coordinate the relief efforts, he said, adding that no casualty has been reported so far among the Indian community in Myanmar.

MK Stalin calls for Southern unity against Hindi, delimitation

Divya Delhi: Hardening his opposition to the proposed delimitation, Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin on Sunday called for greater unity among the southern states to counter the BJP-led Centre. In his Ugadi wishes to "Telugu and Kannada-speaking

Dravidian sisters and brothers," Stalin posted on X, "In the face of growing linguistic and political



threats like Hindi imposition and delimitation, the need for southern unity has never been greater. We must come together and defeat every attempt to undermine our rights and identity."

Schools Urged to Avoid Single-Use Plastic

Divya Delhi: The Directorate of Education DoE has issued a circular encouraging all government and government-aided schools to eliminate single-use plastics to reduce environmental deterioration. The movement-wide program was lauded for its sustainability.

Yoga is still possible PM Modi

Delhi: Narendra Modi praised the Fit India Carnival and International Yoga Day for inspiring Indians and the world to exercise regularly. On 'Mann Ki Baat's 120th episode, PM Modi lauded Khelo India Para Games contestants' dedication and passion. Your zeal will be discussed. Being passionate despite obstacles. The Khelo India Para Games, which ended a few days ago, showcased players' commitment and talent. Games were played more this time. Growing popularity of Para Sports. Khelo India Para Games players were lauded. He praised Haryana, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh for placing first, second, and third, and noted that differently-abled players achieved 18 national records, 12 of which were set by women. Jobs Mathew, Khelo India Para Games gold medalist arm wrestler, wrote to PM Modi. Mathew said, "A medal is great, but the fight continues



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

Divya 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

thereafter. We fight daily. Life is full of problems, yet few understand them. Still, we persevere. Pursuing our ambitions. We feel equal."

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.

PM Modi commended Mathew's tenacity "Great! Great letter, Joey Mathew. I appreciate this letter. Joby Mathew and our disabled friends.

Shiromani Akali Dal announces April organizational elections

Divya 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 until March 31," said SAD secretary and spokesman Daljit Singh Cheema. He stated enrollment slips cannot be filed after 5 pm March 31. 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 Dhani 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 in January.

Gzb fast rail station may provide co-working spaces

Divya 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.

CAPSULES

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

Divya 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.

Lok Sabha approves Gujarat cooperative university bill

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



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

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

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

Divya Delhi: Delhi Municipal Corporation's annual mosquito-to 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

Divya 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

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



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

Divya 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.

funds anytime since we're elected for five years. We're employing numerous resources to strengthen public finances, said the deputy chief minister. The Opposition

slammed Mahayuti for breaching promises. Maharashtra Congress Legislature Party chairman Vijay Wadettiwar said Mahayuti and its alliance partners would provide financial aid.

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

Divya 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 dis-

position 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

Divya 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 announced that the duration of the tournaments for each of the nominated sports complexes' activities will be determined by that facility alone.

Kisan netas freed from Punjab jails; Dallewal breaks indefinite fast

Divya Delhi: Punjab clinched fist. Meanwhile, Punjab AG Gurminder Singh informed SC that former neta Jagjit Dallewal ended his indefinite fast. Kisan netas were arrested after meeting a ministerial team to discuss their demands. "We always said he is a genuine farmer leader," the Supreme Court declared of Dallewal breaking his fast. However, other parties opposed a solution. We are cognizant of the ground condition and do not dwell in ivory



towers." After the Punjab government submits a new report, SC would consider directing the Centre to address farmers' concerns. It also requested a farmer-focused report from the SC-appointed

committee. Many released farm leaders prayed at a Patiala gurdwara and visited Dallewal in hospital. They said they will assess the issue and consider next steps. Dallewal drank water after eight days in front

of Punjab government emissaries. Following the arrests, Dallewal stopped drinking water and demanded the release of all farm leaders. He wanted reimbursement for farmers' belongings that went missing from protest locations after police intervention last week. An earlier Punjab and Haryana high court habeas corpus case for Dallewal was dismissed. The court was told he was not in illegal custody, was hospitalized voluntarily, and his family could see him.

Both BJP, AIADMK want to improve relations in TN

Divya 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

Divya 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.

meet Tamil Nadu BJP national co-in-charge P Sudhakar Reddy night. State BJP president K Annamalai went to Delhi. While the AIADMK delegation met Shah, the Union minister's offi-

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

Divya 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

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.

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

Divya 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

Divya 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

Divya 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

Divya 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.

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

Divya 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-

Transport department fined 95L for 2019 tree felling

Divya 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

Divya 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

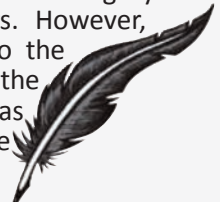
use and Rs 500 for full-day use. Admission medical record fees are Rs 300. The domiciliary virtual consultation package is Rs 1800, while private and suite ward attendant fees (8 hours/night shift) are Rs 1000. The institute also changed service

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.

Editorial

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

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 significantly in the last few decades.



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

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 coun-

try 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 govern-

ment 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 Indian officials.

Can A 'Technocrat' Fix All That's Wrong With BJP In Kerala?



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.

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

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 buffer—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.

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India wants Rs 3 lakh cr in defense manufacturing



Divya 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

Divya 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

Divya 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.



NCLAT reduces penalty on Google to 216 crore in Play Store matter

Divya Delhi: Appellate tribunal NCLAT upheld the order passed by fair trade regulator CCI against Google for abusing its dominant position with respect to Play Store policies, however, reduced the penalty on the tech giant to ₹216 crore from ₹364.44 crore. A two-member bench comprising Chairperson Justice Ashok Bhushan and Technical Member Barun Mitra said Google "has abused its dominant position and has violated Section", however in some sections, violation was "not proved, but penalty was still leviable on proof of violation".

Small savings program interest rates unchanged April-June quarter

Divya Delhi: For the fifth quarter starting April 1, 2025, the government maintained interest rates on PPF and NSC. The rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter of FY 2025-26, starting on 1 April 2025 and ending on 30 June 2025, would stay unaltered from those notified for the fourth quarter of a finance ministry notification. The notification states that Sukanya Samridhi deposits will earn 8.2% interest, while three-year term deposits will earn 7.1%. Popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) and post office savings deposit scheme interest rates remain at 7.1% and 4%, respectively. Kisan Vikas Patra investments mature in 115 months at 7.5%. National Savings Certificate (NSC) interest rates will stay at 7.7% for April–June 2025. Like the current quarter, investors will earn 7.4% from the Monthly Income Scheme.

Cabinet approves electronic component program

Divya 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 compo-

nent 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 reach \$500 billion in the next years.

Gautam Adani Is India's Biggest Wealth Gainer

Divya 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

Divya 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

Divya 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

Divya 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 financial 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

Divya 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

Divya 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 significant

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.

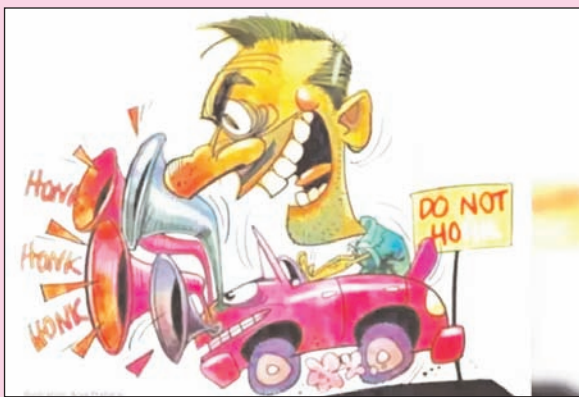
JB Chemicals' promoter KKR will sell 10% of the company for 2,6k crore rupees

Divya Delhi: In a series of block agreements, the promoter of JB Chemicals — Tatu 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.

Honking ban ordered by DoE for schools

Divya 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. Erickshaws 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

Divya 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

Divya 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 iden-

tical 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

Divya 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

Divya 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

Divya 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 monitor-

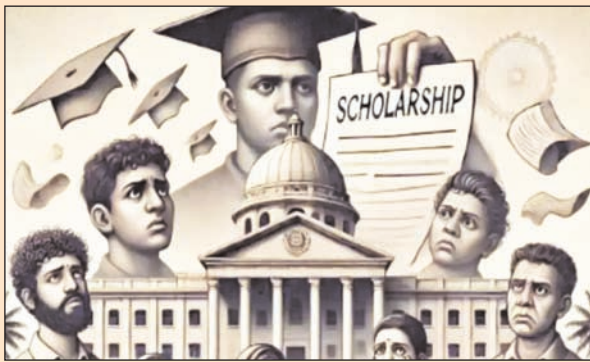


ing. The decision follows the CBI's recent arrests in the case involving Andhra Pradesh's Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF), where management reportedly bribed NAAC peer visit inspectors for good ratings. "We chose to

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

Divya 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

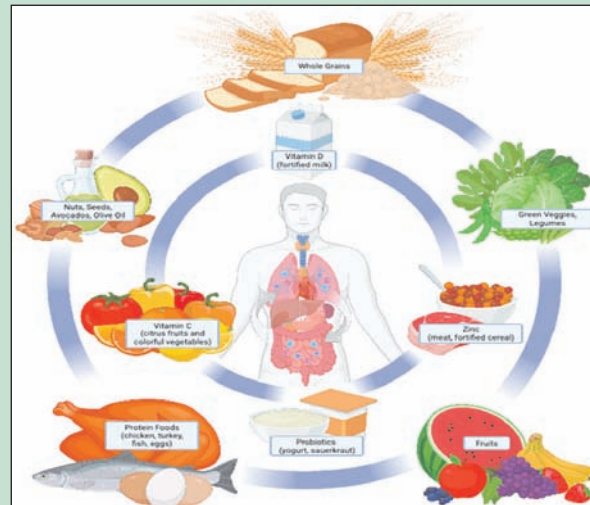


who scored 80% in upper secondary or 75% in vocational higher secondary. It ensured that bright students from underprivileged backgrounds were not forced to drop out due to financial constraints by prioritizing BPL students and providing provisions to economically weaker APL students. The crucial APJ 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 from poor families 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

Divya 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

Divya 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 Pardiwalla 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.



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.

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 Shivtarai, Janjgir Champa, Darbhanga, and Orai. Over 500 fitness enthusiasts, 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.

Divya Delhi: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) lost their second straight India Premier League game, 50 runs to Royal Challengers Bengaluru and six runs to Rajasthan Royals on Sunday evening at Guwahati. Analysts praised the RR players' fielding and noted how the CSK versus RR game showed both teams' fielding differences. Ambati Rayudu stressed the significance of fielding in a close match like the CSK vs RR game, highlighting Rajasthan Royals' outstanding fielding. Chennai Super Kings' fielding has never been good, but their first two matches this season have been awful. Dropping easy chances and laboring in the outfield must be addressed immediately. After the loss, Rayudu noted on JioStar that CSK's blunders were unpleasant. These one-percenters matter in close games. We saw many amazing catches in this match—rare! Chennai Super Kings didn't field well, except for a few infield stops.

Divya 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 second straight Senior Asian Championship silver.

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Three girls from Vidya Temple Academy got a chance to go to Russia and play



Divya Delhi: A grand event was organized by Vidya Temple Academy in Patel Nagar. The event was led by Master

Devendra. Mayor Dr. Shaili Oberoi, MCD Counselor Ankush Narang, and other dignitaries were present at the

event. The event began with the welcome of the guests. Vidya Temple Academy provides self-defense training to

women, which is very important for every girl.

It is a matter of pride that three students of Vidya

Temple Academy got the opportunity to play at the international level in Russia, which is a matter of honor for

India. On this occasion, all the winners of the National Championship 2025 were honored with gold medals.

Jagriti Parivar celebrated the Hindu New Year with a Hawan and pamphlet distribution event



Divya Delhi: Similar to previous years on the joyous occasion of the Hindu New Year, Jagriti Parivar once again planned a Hawan and booklet distribution function at Meera Bagh in Delhi. Hemlata Varun was in charge of this program. Speakers at the event include Vijay Shankar Tiwari, national spokesperson and

head of publicity for Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Rajiv Sapra, director of the district sangh for RSS, Omkar Prasad, senior social worker for VHP, Neeraj Kumar IES, joint director of finance, and Delhi's BJP state general secretary. Dear Mahila, Jagriti Parivar's Founder, Ms. Vaishali Pauddar The Suta Foundation was

founded by Harimohan Pandey. Sunny Khara, who had previously ran for office, was there, as were Hemlata Varun, Harpreet Singh Tony, Amit Puri, Ajay Joshi, Shobhit Khatri, and Awadhesh Gupta. When everyone had finished reading, the pamphlet was released. Singing "Jai Ganesh Jai Ganesh" was a little girl

on the show. Also mentioned was the Samarth Bharat Training Center, which offers free classes to help young people become independent adults. The session concluded with an honorarium for all attendees, after which the guests delivered motivational speeches in which they lauded the event.

It was a successful general assembly gathering of the Dwarka Lok Kalyan Manch

Divya Delhi: Dwarka Lok Kalyan Manch founder and president D. P. Vajpayee presided over a general assembly meeting. At this gathering, the RWA presidents of Dwarka's many societies deliberated on a range of issues facing the city. The meeting's stated goal was to address the issues that Dwarka locals have been complaining about. There was a meeting to address critical matters pertaining to the Dwarka area's infrastructure, including traffic, parking, water, sanitation, and safety. D. P. Vajpayee, speaking at the gathering, emphasized the need of working together to get the authorities to hear the concerns of the people of Dwarka. He strongly encouraged



all RWA presidents to use the forum as a means of communicating the issues facing their areas to the administration. Everyone who had a say in the matter voiced their opinions and pledged to work together to find solutions. In addition, the forum has resolved to meet with administrative officials soon to discuss and hopefully fix these issues. Dwarka Lok Kalyan Manch members and RWA presidents alike thanked D.P. Vajpayee

for arranging the fruitful gathering. Dwarka will remain their first priority, and the forum has promised that they would keep working to make it that.

Three hundred representatives from over 70 residential welfare committees from different sectors of Dwarka attended the function, along with the principal guest, Shri Prem Singh Rawat ji, and special guest, Shri Ramesh Shaikhanda, the district BJP presi-

dent. The eleven-person working committee was headed by Shri D P Vajpayee, widely known as the IAS Guru, who was unanimously elected as president. The vice presidents were Advocate Harichand, Advocate M K Singh, Shri Shobhnath Gautam, Shri Mukesh Rao, and Shri R K Malhotra.

The general secretaries were Advocate Surendra Mishra, Shri Gopal Bisht, Shri Rakesh Sharma, and Shri Prem Kapoor. The joint secretaries were Advocate Sanjeev Chopra, Mrs. Alka Makol, Shri Jitendra Sharma, and Shri Avinash Yadav. The treasurer was Shri Arun Sapori. The committee consisted of eleven members.

In observance of Chaitra Navratri and the Indian New Year, Mahadev Sena planned a massive religious event

Divya Delhi: The Mahadev Sena of Delhi, India, celebrated the joyous festivals of Chaitra Navratri and the Indian New Year with a spectacular event at Mangolpuri. After the lamp-lighting ceremony, the esteemed guests and members of the Mahadev Sena were summoned to the stage for an act of honor. Each of the invited guests took the stage in turn to greet the audience a happy new year and to issue a call to embrace and practice Sanatan Dharma. The Mahadev Sena members rallied together to hand out dundas and encouraged the audience to



stand up for what's right and courageously confront evildoers during the presentation. Guests were engrossed in devotion



as the Hanuman Chalisa was recited at the close of this devo-

tional program, creating an atmosphere of deep devotion.

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