

## All users now pay Rs 50 more per cylinder for cooking gas LPG



**Divya Delhi:** Union Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri announced the cost of a home LPG or cooking gas cylinder has increased by Rs 50 per cylinder. Both clients in the general category and those on subsidies now pay more. Under Ujwala, the price of 14.2 kg LPG would rise from 500 to 550, while for non-Ujwala users, it will rise from 803 to 853. Commercial LPG gas cylinder costs were lowered by Rs 41 last week. Restaurants, lodging facilities, and other businesses that depend on these cylinders for everyday operations were affected by the price change. The government also increased the excise tax on gasoline and diesel earlier today, but oil marketing businesses would bear the increase rather than customers. According to an official order, the excise duty on gasoline was raised to Rs 13 per litre, and on diesel, it was raised to Rs 10 per liter. There will be no change in the retail selling price of gasoline and diesel because the excise hike will be offset by the decrease in retail pricing that was justified by the down in global oil prices, even though any tax changes are typically passed on to consumers.

## With BJD's help, NDA numbers rise, and RS passes waqf bill 128-95

**Divya Delhi:** The Rajya Sabha approved the Waqf (Amendment) Bill with 128 votes in favor and 95 against. After a protracted and contentious debate, in which members of the opposition sought to drive a wedge between the two sides, the law passed with the support of the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) "secular" friends. With seven members voting "per their conscience" after BJD's unexpected decision to remove its whip, the governing party received a few more votes than expected, increasing their total to 128. The bill needed at least 119 votes to succeed, and the BJP skillfully managed the floor to guarantee a comfortable margin. With 98 votes needed, the opposition coalition was defeated with 95. Following nearly fourteen hours of debate, the measure was approved by the Lok Sabha with the backing of 288 members and the opposition of 232. After receiving approval from both chambers, the bill to alter the Waqf Act of 1995 currently seeks assent



## Trump's tariffs: Apple, Samsung to up dispatch of India-made stuff

**Divya Delhi:** 'Make in India' is the mantra as global smartphone giants Apple and Samsung look to re-calibrate worldwide production to blunt the impact of Donald Trump's higher tariffs on China and Vietnam, when shipping to the US. Even though it is a logistical challenge with major customs and other regulatory efforts required, the issue is being addressed on an urgent basis to ensure that supplies to the US remain competitive.

Also read: Flurry of exports as firms raced to beat Trump tariffs. Apple, the world's biggest electronics seller, has started to use production at India's factories to ship iPhones to the US, with plans to drastically cut down exports from China. The decision is being taken as Trump has announced a 26% reciprocal tariff on Indian exports to the US, while it is 54% for China, including the 34% announced last week, and 46% for Vietnam.

from President Droupadi Murmu.

## Mamata Banerjee's pledge led to the dismissal of teachers from West Bengal,

**Divya Delhi:** The fired educators met with West Bengal's chief minister, Mamata Banerjee, after the Supreme Court's decision, and they demanded accountability from the state administration. They accused Banerjee of providing a "lollipop" during their meeting. One of the impacted educators, Suman Biswas, accused the commission, the chief minister, and her cabinet of involved. Responsibility ought to



rest with the state government. Corrupt practices have been exposed involving the chief minister, her cabinet, and the commission. Today, she offered a "lollipop" by promising to investigate allegations of bribery in the employ-

ment sector and to provide 25,000 people "voluntarily" work. Investigate the situation in West Bengal; I beg the nation to do the right thing. We are Khudiram's Bengal, and we know how to resist Mamata Banerjee and the administration. We are entitled to the work. After filing a review petition with the Supreme Court, the CM should make public the names of the clean personnel. We are prepared to make a significant impact.

## Rahul's 'Palayan Roko' Yatra in Bihar inspires state unity

**Divya Delhi:** After participating in the 'Palayan Roko' yatra in Begusarai and calling for a 'White T-shirt revolution', senior Congress MP Rahul Gandhi energized the party and state unit workers. Party members and supporters joined Rahul's roadshow in Begusarai on Monday for the White T-shirt movement, as hundreds lined the streets to watch. His visit to the



state ahead of Assembly elections later this year was greeted by Bihar Congress leaders who expressed confidence that this government, which has done nothing for the people.

## Govt unlikely to ease checks on investments from

**Divya Delhi:** Govt is unlikely to ease investment checks on Chinese companies amid growing calls to review FDI norms as it remains wary of flows from across the border. US President Donald Trump's tariffs have made it even more alert to the growing threat of Chinese companies and their exports.

## KRISHNA SOCIAL WELFARE TRUST



## PRIDE OF NATION 2025

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4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

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**2025**  
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**MAPPLE GOLD**  
FIVE STAR BANQUETS

**RIMI SEN**  
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## China has seized 4,000 sqkm, according to Rahul Gandhi

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



### 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

the 75th anniversary of India-China diplomatic ties. When I saw our foreign secretary, Missri, celebrating a birthday with the Chinese ambassa-

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

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

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

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



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

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

## Gzb fast rail station may provide co-working spaces

**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.

## 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.

### Rajya Sabha clears immigration bill amid Congress, TMC walkout

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

## All Maharashtra files to now go via Shinde before reaching CM

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



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

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

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

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



### 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. Today, the same was extended till June 30 by the High Court. Justice Supehia was

Nadim, and Raju are the three officials that resigned. Nayyar is the state secretary, Malik is the secretary of the JDU minority cell, and

Akhtar is the vice president of the JDU district. District officials Tabrez Siddiqui and Qasim Ansari have stepped down.

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

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

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

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

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

### 19 sacred places in MP would have a prohibition on the sale of alcohol starting

**Divya Delhi:** According to an official from the excise department, as part of the state government's new liquor policy, 19 sacred places in Madhya Pradesh would have a prohibition on the sale of alcohol starting. "The new excise policy will come into effect," stated Jagdish Deoda, the state's minister of finance and excise. Discouragement of high-intensity liquor use and the introduction of a new category of country-made liquor are two measures that have been implemented to bring about societal change.

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

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



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

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

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



Govt plans to switch to electronic registration of property deeds

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



Transport department fined 95L for 2019 tree felling

**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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

CAPSULES

Five Days Without Rain Announced by Delhi Government for the Quarter Ending in June

**Divya Delhi:** The government of Delhi has announced five days without alcohol sales during the first quarter of the fiscal year 2025–26. These days will be observed on significant religious holidays, such as Ram Navami and Good Friday. The excise department of the



national capital government recently issued an order that all liquor stores must close on the following dates: Ram Navami (April 6), Mahavir Jayanti (April 10), Good Friday (April 18), Buddha Purnima (May 12), and Eid-ul-Zuha (June 6). According to the order issued by Excise Commissioner Sunny Singh, the dry days for liquor licensees have been announced in compliance with the requirements of Rule 52 of the Delhi Excise Rules, 2010. Additionally, the licensees are hereby instructed to prominently display the order on their licensed premises.

Nearly 32,000 CCTVs not functional in Delhi: PWD

**Divya Delhi:** Almost 32,000 CCTV cameras across the Capital, or roughly 12% of the total, are not functional, the Public Works Department (PWD) informed the Delhi Legislative Assembly in response to a query posed.

Policy tweak may raise cost of owning non-EVs

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



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

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

MPs Get 24% Salary, Pension Increase; New Allowances

**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.. The monthly remuneration of the Chief Minister has quadrupled from 75,000 to 1.5 lakh.

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

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



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

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

New draught of electric vehicle policy available in Delhi

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



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

Govt allocates 12,952 crore for public transport system

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

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

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



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

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

Transport department fined 95L for 2019 tree felling

**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.

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

Many Delhi government ILBS services are now charged

**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

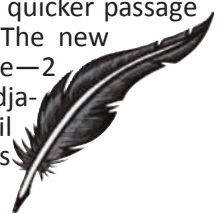
fees. USG screening costs Rs 450, up from Rs 385. Dietician consultation prices have increased from Rs 100 to Rs 250 and virtual OPD consultation fees from Rs 400 to Rs 600. Dr. Rastogi declined to discuss the topic due to his busy schedule.



## Editorial

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

India is growing outwards. In another remarkable milestone, ahead of the inauguration of the Srinagar rail line later this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Pamban bridge—India's first vertical lift sea bridge across the Palk strait—in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday. This rail bridge facilitates safer and quicker train transit connecting the Pamban island with the rest of the country as well as the movement of larger ships. This is yet another step toward seamless, safer and efficient rail connectivity between India and Sri Lanka across the Palk strait, which would connect Rameswaram in India with Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. What is required is the restoration of a 17 km rail line from Rameswaram to Dhanushkodi, and the construction of a 23 km rail bridge parallel to Ram Setu connecting to Talaimannar. Once completed, this would establish a seamless rail network that facilitates regional integration in South Asia. Nine years ago, Prime Minister Modi unveiled a plaque inaugurating the Talaimannar 1650 Pier Railway Station and flagged off a train from this northwestern town to Colombo. This newly constructed 63 km rail line connecting Talaimannar to Medawachchiya was constructed by IIRCON, an Indian Railway CPSU, financed through an Indian line of credit. The unprecedented regional connectivity initiatives launched by the government of India over the last decade are visible in its proactive outreach and infrastructure assistance across South and Southeast Asia—quite a significant policy transformation from its earlier 'Look East' to the more assertive 'Act East' policy. India's efforts in developing multimodal infrastructure—rail, road, coastal shipping, and aviation—across South Asia could well be one of the most significant developments in establishing geoeconomics over geopolitics. The vision of shared prosperity through regional integration is the underlying principle guiding India's current bilateral and multilateral policies. In addition to road, aviation, and coastal shipping connectivity in South Asia, regional rail integration has received prominent focus. Many rail projects connecting India with Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Myanmar are being aggressively planned, financed, constructed, and operationalised. Seamless rail connectivity with Sri Lanka—an island nation—once seemed unlikely. Even in the earlier UN Trans-Asian Railway Agreement, the identified rail route was a rail-cum-sea route with ferry crossings between Rameswaram and Talaimannar. The SAARC Regional Multimodal Transport Study (SRMTS) also identified such a route. But transshipment of passengers and goods between rail and sea modes makes transport inefficient, time-consuming, and cumbersome. One example is the ferry crossing over Lake Van (Tatvan) in Turkey, which hampers seamless rail movement across South and West Asia. The India-Sri Lanka railway connectivity is perhaps an idea whose time has now come. Historically, it was proposed around 1914 when the original Pamban rail bridge was commissioned. The idea was shelved due to high costs, and the rail line was terminated at Dhanushkodi, with ferries transporting goods and passengers to Talaimannar. Stories of the Boat Mail connecting Colombo and Madras—with reserved compartments for Buddhist monks travelling to Bodhi Gaya—are well documented. It was a marvel of early 20th-century engineering to have a lifting rail bridge providing ship clearance across the Palk Strait. Now, 110 years later, that bridge is being replaced with India's first vertical lift sea bridge, designed to allow safer and quicker passage for both trains and ships. The new Pamban vertical lift bridge—2 km long and constructed adjacent to the old Pamban rail bridge—is taller and features a 72-metre-long span.



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

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



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

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

tioned the Supreme Court to annul the Waqf Act, calling it discriminatory. In December 2023, BJP MP Harnath Singh Yadav introduced a private member's bill in Rajya Sabha to repeal the Waqf Act. In a tense vote, 53 members supported the introduction, while 32 opposed. Last year, along with the Waqf Amendment bill, the Mussalman Wakf Repeal Bill was also introduced. The former was aimed at the 1999 law, while the latter concerned the 1923 law. The country's third-largest property owner, the Waqf Board, has been entangled in controversies for decades. Hindu organisations and other critics accuse it of forced encroachment, corruption, and financial irregularities, some even question the donations of certain properties. Communal tensions, political disputes, and stereotypical narratives have further complicated the situation. Union Minister Kiren Rijju said in Lok Sabha that the Waqf Amendment Bill aims to make the Waqf Board more secular and inclusive by adding non-Muslim experts and ensuring women's representation at both state and central levels. The bill faced criticism from Opposition parties and sections of the Muslim community for lacking stakeholder consultation. They called it unconstitutional and claimed it aimed to weaken Waqf and reduce Muslims to 'second-class citizens'. Muslim organisations described it as an attempt to render Waqf "ineffective" and turn it into "a lion without teeth."

Muslim community is concerned about Section 40 of the Waqf Act. The Amendment Bill deletes it from the existing Act. The section gives the Waqf board the power to decide whether a property is classified as a waqf property. There aren't any provisions to appeal their decision. The Amendment bill gives the District Collector the power to decide. It also allows anyone to file an appeal against the board's decisions. According to Waqf officials, Section 40 is widely misunderstood. The board already struggles to manage existing properties and has no desire to bring more under its ambit. It relies on pre-1947 revenue records to verify if mosques, dargahs, or graveyards qualify as Waqf—basing claims strictly on official documents. From anti-Waqf and pro-Waqf barcodes to email wars, heated arguments, injuries, and suspensions—the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf Bill, led by Jagdambika Pal, has witnessed it all. On 30 January, the final report on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill was submitted to Speaker Om Birla. The new draft, released on 1 March, included 25 recommendations by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The amended law, as per JPC recommendations, allows only those practising Islam for at least five years to donate property to Waqf—restoring language removed in the 2013 amendments. 'Waqf by use'—properties like mosques, graveyards, and dargahs—faces scrutiny.

### Trump is playing the 'commitment game'. India must be smart, not surrender

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

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

### The state government's new ploy to grab farmers' land



K P Malik

Is it not a crime legally if someone's belongings are snatched and half of the belongings are given to him without paying any money? It is definitely a crime. But now the Madhya Pradesh government will openly commit this crime under the guise of law, and this law is the Nagar and Gram Nivesh Amendment Bill 2025. Although this bill has not become a law yet, by forcibly bringing this bill in the assembly, the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh, in which the Chief Minister is Mohan Yadav, wants to usurp the fertile agricultural land of the farmers. The BJP government of Madhya Pradesh led by Mohan Yadav has made a plan to snatch the land of the farmers and give it to the leaders and capitalists, and it is so adamant about this that it is not even listening to the opposition. Is it not the dictatorship of the government to forcibly snatch someone's land without giving compensation. Actually, now in Madhya Pradesh, the government has started taking steps to acquire land for development work. Preparations have been made to make a different kind of law, named Nagar and Gram Nivesh Amendment Bill 2025. As soon as this bill becomes law, instead of acquiring land and giving compensation to the farmers, the Madhya Pradesh government will adopt the method of land pooling and the farmers whose land will be

taken will not have to pay any compensation. So they will neither have the right to save the land nor will the government give them compensation. That is, the land will be excavated for free and 50 percent of that land will be given to the farmers. The government is saying that instead of giving compensation to the land owners i.e. farmers in lieu of land, 50 percent of that land will be developed and given as a plot or land. The government's development of land does not mean that it will give 50 percent of the land to the farmers by building buildings or opening businesses on it, rather it will give the farmers the land that is around the project. For example, if the government wants to build an airport by taking the land of 100 farmers, then the farmers will have to pay the price for the land. Whatever new settlement will be built at a short distance from the airport, half of the land will be given to it. This means that the farmers will be cheated completely and the government will grab the land for the airport for free. And it is obvious that the government is not going to give 50% share in the airport to the farmers, so if it has to give 100% share for the airport. If they need 10 acres of land, they will first snatch 200 acres of land from the farmers and after building the airport on 100 acres, they will return the remaining 100 acres to them, saying that this land has been given to the farmers near the airport,

which has been developed, meaning its price has increased. Anyway, the question is that by snatching the uncultivated agricultural land, the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh will show its favour by giving half of their livelihood to the farmers and saying that it has given them land more valuable than their land. Actually, the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh is doing all this according to the Gujarat model, which is of no use to the common man. But still the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh has implemented this bill. After this bill becomes a law, it will not be applicable only on the acquisition of irrigated agricultural land and Simhashta fair area Ujjain, it will be applicable everywhere else. The opposition is opposing this bill, the farmers of the state are also opposing this bill, but the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh is so intoxicated with power that it does not care about it. And the bigger thing is that by giving legal form to this bill, the Madhya Pradesh government wants to usurp the land of the farmers, as well as. The government also wants to grab about 37 lakh hectares of forest land.

Editor

Rajesh Chauhan

rajeshchauhan4569@gmail.com

Advertisement

Shivani

Kaurjagjeekaur018@gmail.com

Layout & Design

Dheeraj Mishra

dheerajmishra011@gmail.com

Printed, Published and Owned by

Rajesh Chauhan, Paschim Vihar,

Delhi-110063,

Published at BG-6/305B, Printed at

Graphic Printer, Z-57,

Okhla Industrial Area, Phase II,

New Delhi-110020.

RNI NO.-DELENG/2013/54397

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

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

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

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

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



Tariff dispute Jewellers face poor US demand, job losses



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Pharmaceutical firms temporarily avoid an unpleasant table

**Divya Delhi:** A sector dependent on India's \$9 billion+ US export market felt some comfort when the Trump administration decided to waive tariffs on pharmaceutical imports from India. This decision highlights the vital significance of India's indigenous pharmaceutical industry in providing affordable, life-saving generic drugs. The United States imports around 30% of its prescription prescriptions from India. Worried that the United States will impose a 10% duty on Indian pharmaceutical exports, the industry was on edge. Some experts, however, warn that this reprieve would not last forever, stating that tariffs are still a possibility in the future. There is a strong and developing bilateral economic relationship between India and the US, with a common ambition to quadruple trade to \$500 billion under the Mission 500 effort," says Sudarshan Jain, secretary general of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance. Since India is so important to healthcare on a worldwide and American scale by guaranteeing a consistent supply of reasonably priced medications, pharmaceuticals continue to be an integral part of this collaboration.

Trump's China focus may open fresh opportunities for India

**Divya Delhi:** During their talks with negotiators from Asean. Indian officials are facing a China problem. Whenever they seek to offer any concessions as part of the review of the trade deal, they look at Chinese companies that have set up a base in the 10-member bloc. It's a problem that is encountered by every country across the globe with the US bearing it the most, given its massive trade deficit with China pegged at \$295 billion. in

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

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



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

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

Zomato eliminates 600 customer service positions

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

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

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



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

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

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

**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



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

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

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

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

Income Tax wants Rs 2,209 crore from Yes Bank

**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 sig-

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

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

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

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



## CBSE Orders Schools to Start Skill Education ASAP

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



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

### Telangana govt resolute in raising reservation

#### HYDERABAD:

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

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

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



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

(LKG) to class 3 admissions. Bengaluru parents oppose 10–30% fee hikes for 2025–26. Parents remarked on social networking site X that "the annual increase in school fees has become an unchecked burden," according to the report. We face job cuts, higher taxes, and mortgage debts. School expenses are rising in several cities.

## The dual degree option at DU will help students learn more

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

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.

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

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



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

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

### IT-Delhi rose 255 places to 171st globally

**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.

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and

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

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

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





Cricketer Suryakumar Yadav's 21 crore investment

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



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

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

ing in real estate. Yadav sees this shift as a homecoming and a triumph. Residential constructions are attracting attention to Deonar, once an indus-

trial region. It's becoming a popular choice for luxury living away from Mumbai's busy central regions because to its serene setting and easy access to major areas.

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

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



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

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

Rajasthan Royals and Mirchi and Gaana ink pact IPL deal

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



ment that listeners to Mirchi's radio network will be able to connect with the team through match updates, expert

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

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

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

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

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

India won 10 medals in the Amman Senior Asian Wrestling Championship

**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 sec-



ond straight Senior Asian Championship silver. He earned 57 kg silver last year. He defeated Kyrgyz wrestler Bekbolat Myrzanazar Ullu 9-6 in the quarterfinals and Chinese wrestler Wanhao Zou 2-0 in the semifinals with exceptional technique. In the final, he fought hard but lost 6-4 to Takara Suda of Japan for silver. Deepak Punia

excelled at 92 kg. He defeated Kyrgyz wrestler Bekzat Rakhimov 12-7 in the quarterfinals and Takashi Ishiguro 8-1 in the semifinals. Despite losing 10-0 against Iranian wrestler Amirhossein Biglar in the final, he won silver. Dinesh Kumar (125 kg) fought hard against Turkmenistan's Zyya m u h a m m e t Saparov. Technical advantage gave him a hard-fought 12-12 bronze medal win. Tatsuya Shirai of Japan defeated Mukul Dahiya (86 kg) 4-2 to win bronze.

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

**Divya Delhi:** After dominating the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG), Jhandu Kumar has set a new goal: qualifying for the 2028 Paralympics, KIPG said. Jhandu, son of a vegetable vendor from Nitish Kumar's former assembly constituency Harnaut, won gold at the KIPG. The announcement said that the powerlifter broke his national record on March 23 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium weightlifting hall with a 206 kg lift to win the men's 72kg category. Jhandu beat Sudhir Kumar's 192 kg national record with a 205 kg lift in the Para National Championship in Noida on March 17-18. The 28-year-old has had polio-affected legs since birth. His parasports career



began in 2017. First, he competed in shot-put and discus. He didn't know about para-powerlifting. Jhandu won multiple shot put and discus throw contests in the F-55 category, but fate took him elsewhere. He reached the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Gandhinagar after an intriguing but difficult voyage. Famous para-coach Rajinder Singh

Rahelu helped him showcase his talent. He won silver in powerlifting at the first KIPG in December 2023. "I competed in district and state shot put and discus. "I always won gold," Jhandu told SAI Media. I build muscle by being interested in gym workouts from the start. During a state championship at Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna, someone suggested powerlifting.

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

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

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

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

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

Fatima Sana in ICC Women's World Cup quali-

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

Gulveer Singh Beats National 10,000m Record In California

**Divya Delhi:** Gulveer Singh set a new 10,000m national record in The Ten 2025 athletics competition with 27:00.22s. The 26-year-old beat his national record of 27:14.88 at the Hachioji Long Distance 2024 in Japan by 14.66 seconds. Gulveer Singh breaks his national 10,000m record with 27:00.22. The Indian Athletics Federation tweeted on X that he placed 6th at The Ten in the US on Saturday. Gulveer set a new 10000m national record at The Ten last year with a 27:41.81 performance. This perform-



ance broke Surendra Singh's 2008 record of 28:02.89. Gulveer increased his record at Japan's Hachioji Long Distance. At The Ten, a World Athletics Continental Tour silver-level meet, the Hangzhou Asian Games bronze medalist came within 0.22 seconds of

the automatic qualification requirement for the World Athletics Championships 2025, 27:00.00. However, he exceeded the Athletics Federation of India's 29.33.26s Asian Athletics Championships 2025 entry criteria. He ranks third in Asian 10000m

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



# Hanumanth Katha Commences with Sacred Bhoomi Pujan



The sacred echoes of devotion filled the air as the Hanumanth Katha journey commenced with a soulful Bhoomi Pujan on the aus-

picious day of Ram Navami at DDA Ground, Bhaira Enclave, Paschim Vihar. The divine atmosphere was graced by notable dig-

nitaries, including former Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta, MLA Karnail Singh, ex-MLA Vijay Jolly, Agrasen

Hospital's Meena Gupta, and Dr. Ram Gopal Goyal, the visionary behind 'Drishti – Ek Parivartan', the organizing body. Amidst Vedic

chants and heartfelt prayers, devotees gathered in large numbers, expressing their faith and anticipation for the spiritual saga

ahead. The event has sparked a wave of devotion and celebration, igniting a divine spirit throughout the community.

## Indian Institute of Creative Skills (IICS) successfully organized Delhi Creative Artists Summit

**Divya Delhi:** The Indian Institute of Creative Skills (IICS) successfully organized the Delhi Creative Artists Summit, where renowned dancer Terence Lewis, who has served as a judge on popular shows like Dance India Dance, Nach Baliye, and India's Greatest Dancer, and choreographed the critically acclaimed film Lagaan, shared his insights. Lewis stated that live stage performances are far more thrilling than film choreography. On stage, performers have the freedom to fully showcase their talent, whereas in films, choreography is often designed to accommodate the abilities of the actor or actress, which limits the opportunity for innovation. Lewis made these remarks during an interaction with the media at the Indian Institute of Creative Skills (IICS) in New Delhi. IICS hosted the Delhi Creative Artists Summit, a two-day event held on March 28 and 29, featuring prominent personalities such as Dr. Terence Lewis and musician, lyricist, and singer Hanif Sheikh. The Indian Institute of Creative Skills (IICS), also known as Bhartiya Rachanatmak Koushal Sansthan in Hindi,



is an institution affiliated with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and operated by the Media and Entertainment Skills Council (MESC), which is funded by NSDC and operates under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). Recently, IICS organized the Delhi Creators Summit and has now launched the Delhi Creative Artists Summit as part of its mission to bring together industry leaders from the media sector and aspiring artists for collaboration and innovation. The summit provided a platform for key figures from the film, television, music, and media industries to engage with one another. On the first day of the event, March 28, internationally renowned choreographer and dance teacher Dr. Terence Lewis led an interactive session.

He answered participants' questions in a straightforward manner, inspiring them to pursue their dreams and turn them into reality. Lewis is also a member of the Governing Council of the Media and Entertainment Skills Council. Renowned music director, composer, and lyricist Hanif Sheikh engaged with participants in an insightful interactive session, where he delved into the nuances of music. Additionally, Dimpy Mishra, Head of the Department of the School of Performing Arts and Media Management at IICS, conducted an acting workshop, which was met with great enthusiasm from the participants. This summit was open to all interested individuals, offering a unique opportunity to engage in workshops, panel discussions, and interactive sessions. These sessions were care-

fully crafted to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge to excel in creative fields. During the event, Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Managing Director of NSDC International, emphasized that the goal of IICS is to contribute to the 'Skill India' initiative by unlocking the hidden creative talents of youth across the nation. He also announced plans for IICS to expand with branches in various regions of the country, providing young people from areas far from the capital an opportunity to showcase their talents on both national and international platforms. Dr. Mohit Soni, CEO of the Media & Entertainment Skills Council (MESC), spoke at the event, saying, "At the Indian Institute of Creative Skills (IICS), we are committed to nurturing creativity and providing our students with direct access to industry leaders. The Delhi Creative Artists Summit reflects our mission to bridge the gap between aspiring artists and established professionals.

## Anuradha Garg Leaves for China to Represent India at Mrs. Globe, Fans Give a Grand Send-Off

**Divya Delhi:**

Anuradha Garg, an esteemed personality and a symbol of strength and grace, set off for China on March 31, 2025, to compete in the prestigious Mrs. Globe international beauty pageant. As she stood tall, proudly holding the Indian flag, a wave of excitement filled the air at the airport where family, fans, and supporters were seen gathering at the airport to cheer for



her. Banners and posters bearing her name and image flooded the departure area, as admirers waved and chanted, wishing her success on the

global stage. With her signature charm and infectious smile, Mrs. Garg not only captivated her well-wishers but also sent the media into a frenzy. Her presence exuded confidence, determination, and the spirit of Indian womanhood. Joining her at the airport was Ms. Mohini Sharma, the National Director of Mrs. India Inc., a key figure in mentoring and guiding India's top beauty queens.

## Event to raise dengue awareness at Pioneer Kamal Convent School

Students were educated about dengue prevention on the grounds of Pioneer Kamal Convent School, a school that has consistently been at the forefront of education. During their visit to the school, representatives from the Municipal Corporation explained to the pupils the causes of dengue fever. We were instructed to keep our surroundings tidy. We must ensure that no unclean water collects



around our houses. This filthy water is home to dengue mosquitoes. While

expressing gratitude to the Municipal Corporation team, the school manager, Dr. Seema Bajaj, reminded the kids that dengue mosquitoes strike during the day and that, to protect themselves, they should wear slacks and shirts with long sleeves. Present at the event was Mrs. Mallika Bajaj, principal of the school, who extended gratitude to the group from the Municipal Corporation.

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