

## PM Modi relaunches Amaravati projects



**Divya Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 58,000 crore projects in Andhra Pradesh, including the restart of building work on the greenfield capital city of Amaravati, a 'dream project' of Chief Minister N Chandrababu. Real estate analysts expect the action to improve market sentiment and reassure developers and investors. According to reports, the Prime Minister launched 94 projects, including capital city institutions, national roadways, railway enhancements, and defense sites. To restart construction in Amaravati, the PM laid the foundation stone for 74 projects worth 49,000 crore, including the Assembly, Secretariat, High Court, judicial residential quarters, and 5,200 family housing units. "Amaravati is a dream come true, not just a city. New Andhra and Amaravati are seen. Energy of a developed India is in Amaravati. PM Modi stated development will boost Andhra Pradesh's infrastructure and growth.

## India cuts off Chenab dam water flow to Pakistan

Rajesh Chauhan

**Divya Delhi:** India has cut off water flow to Pakistan from the Baglihar dam on the Chenab river and is preparing to taper down runoff from the Kishanganga project on the Jhelum, following its decision not to allow a "single drop" from the Indus rivers to Pakistan. We de-silted the reservoir and must refill it. Within hours of Pakistan firing its surface-to-surface ballistic missile India banned Pakistani ships from docking in all ports. The first big hydroelectric facility in the north western Himalayas, the Kishanganga dam in the Gurez valley, will undergo massive repair "very soon" and stop downstream flow. Both dam plans have been criticized by Pakistan.

A day after terrorists massacred dozens of tourists in Pahalgam, Kashmir, India paused the six-decade-old Indus water deal with Pakistan, already stressed by long-running conflicts. The second official stated, "since India has kept the IWT in abeyance,



## Indian security officials gather as they bar Pakistani planes from taking off

**Divya Delhi:** In the wake of the Pahalgam terror incident, tensions rose, and the Indian military rushed to devise a strategy to attack terror targets. As a result, India's airspace was closed to aircraft registered in or operated by Pakistan. The Indian government sent a message after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) discussed the current security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the surrounding area. This review came after Modi

gave the military broad powers to respond violently to the 26-person attack. A notice from an aviation authority stated that some aircraft, including those registered in Pakistan, as well as those operated, owned, or leased by Pakistani airlines or operators, including military aircraft, are not allowed to fly in Indian airspace. The limitations, which follow a comparable action by Pakistan, will be enforced from April 30th through May 23rd.

we are exploring all possible ways to use our river waters for the benefit of our citizens".

## India-France Deal for 26 Rafale-M Navy Jets Worth Rs 63,000 Crore

**Divya Delhi:** India bought 26 marine-variant Rafale M fighter planes from France for Rs 63,000 crore in a record government-to-government agreement. The procurement agreement covers 22 single-seater jets and four twin-seater trainers to be delivered by 2031. The arrangement includes fleet maintenance, logistical assistance, personnel training, and indigenous component production, a major milestone for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Many consider the Rafale M the most



advanced naval fighter jet. The French Navy alone has this jet. Explaining India's 63,000 Crore Rafale Deal. The Navy's latest armaments will be on aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya to boost maritime power and counter Indian Ocean threats. This will replace the aging MiG-29K fleet.

Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi said in December that the Navy is "ready to tackle threats from all neighbours" and is changing its policy to "negate" infringements. The Indian Air Force already operates 36 Rafale fighters, and the naval variants will improve its capabilities, including upgrading the 'buddy-buddy' aerial refuelling system, which allows one jet with a refueling pod to act as a fuel tanker for another, allowing fighters to stay airborne longer.

## Gold loans quadruple annually despite slowing credit growth

**Divya Delhi:** Indians pledge more gold than before. RBI statistics indicated that bank loans against the precious metal doubled in the year to March 2025, climbing 103% from just over Rs 1 lakh crore to nearly Rs 2.1 lakh crore. Gold loans were the fastest-growing segment in FY25, despite bank credit growth slowing to 11% from 20%. Several



factors caused this explosion.

RBI ordered banks to categorize numerous agricultural loans as gold jewelry loans in 2023, boosting statistics.

## After Carney's electoral win, Canada will 'never' bow to Trump

**Divya Delhi:** Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney declared victory in federal elections early Tuesday, saying his country would "never" succumb to the US after a campaign marked by Trump's constant provocations and high trade penalties. In a message of togetherness to a divided nation, the Liberal Party leader slammed Trump.

## Open until 7pm? RBI panel recommends money market hours extension

**Divya Delhi:** UPI and other digital rails move money 24/7, and India's markets are

becoming more interconnected with global ones. An RBI panel has proposed extending

money market hours to 7pm from 5pm. Banks would have more freedom in man-

aging short-term liquidity and accessing interbank and central bank funding.

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## 52,000 fraudulent birth certificates issued to invalid address will be revoked

**Divya Delhi:** The district panchayati raj officer (DPRO) Saumya Sheel Singh has verified that more than 52,000 fraudulent birth certificates issued to individuals in eleven villages of Raebareli Saloon will be revoked. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) raised red flags about specific certifications last year, revealing the swindle. About fifteen days ago, the district magistrate (DM) of Rae Bareilly forwarded a report regarding fraudulent birth certificates issued in Rae Bareilly villages to the office of the director general (DG), Census. The DPRO also mentioned that the Lucknow regional census office has been notified. During a six-month verification drive in eleven villages of Saloon block, as many as 52,594 false birth certificates were discovered. These certificates were issued on fraudulent addresses. We strongly advise that all fraudulent certificates be revoked. According to a high-



### BJP claimed that Stalin is spreading falsehoods regarding the three-language policy

**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

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.

ranking law enforcement officer, in the middle of July of last year, after seizing the documents from various individuals—including a handful of

Bangladeshis detained in various states—the National and Records Administration (NIA) red-flagged specific birth certificates issued.

## JD(U) and NDA win big in the caste census

**Divya Delhi:** Sanjay Jha, working president of the Janata Dal (United) in Delhi, has praised the government's decision to incorporate caste-based enumeration in the next decadal census, stating that this is a significant step that will aid in the more effective design of policies for marginalized and underprivileged groups. Chosen passages from his interview: A major victory, without a doubt. Not only for the JD(U) but also for the NDA, since the BJP had joined forces and acknowledged the necessity of caste-based enumeration. Our party's leader, Nitish Kumar, has long



brought up this matter, even during his time in the INDIA bloc. Nevertheless, his request went unanswered at that time. We in the party believe that gathering information regarding the numerical strength of castes will allow us to better design policies and intervene

for the well-being of the poor and disadvantaged. It ought to have been done long ago; this crucial exercise has not taken place since 1931. There was zero coercion. You might recall that in 2022, the state cabinet in Bihar decided to do a caste survey with the support of the BJP.

## DDA to promote events and projects online using influencers

**Divya Delhi:** The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has hired a digital marketing agency to promote its projects. It issued a request for proposal. The agency will promote all DDA projects using social media influencers and professionals. Campaign goals include

branding DDA by increasing awareness and sharing information about its work. "If we are organizing a kite festival, we will promote it through all media and invite influencers. The selected agency must invite five Instagram or X influencers with at least 100K

followers to events or campaigns annually (as needed). Selected agency will also submit a list of relevant influencers to promote DDA events or initiatives "said the authority. Social media reels will be created by the firm in addition to event photos videos.

## CAPSULES

### Supreme Court orders CBI probe into Supertech builder projects, citing 'builder-bank nexus'

**Divya Delhi:** The Supreme Court ordered the CBI to investigate Supertech Limited's NCR projects due to an "unholy" relationship between banks and developers. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh considered a CBI affidavit and ordered the U.P.



and Haryana DGPs to provide a list of DSPs, inspectors, and constables for a special investigative team. The top court also ordered the CEOs/administrators of Greater Noida Authority, Noida Authority, secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, and the RBI to appoint a senior-most officer to assist the SIT within a week. The highest court has said thousands of homeowners were impacted by the subvention scheme, where banks paid 60 to 70% of housing loans to builders without projects being finished on time. The Supreme Court then asked the CBI to submit a plan to untangle the "builder-banks nexus" that deceived thousands of NCR homebuyers and get to the bottom of the issue.

## Anticipated Five-Fold Growth in the Entertainment Sector by 2035

**Divya Delhi:** Building the Next Global Entertainment Revolution from India" was the topic of Ambani's talk at the first day of the inaugural WAVES summit in Mumbai, which was hosted at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre. There is a \$28 billion media and entertainment sector in India now. In the next ten years, we can easily multiply this by five and have it worth more than \$100 billion. He predicted that this would open up "huge new opportunities" for business owners and workers in many different industries. India should put money into cutting-edge content clusters all around the nation if it wants to do this. Tens of thousands of our



brightest youths should get training in animation, visual effects, and related fields; we should reward original content creation; investigate innovations powered by artificial intelligence; and explore gamification. He advocated for the development of new investment

opportunities in the sector and the establishment of a regulatory climate that promotes innovation, creativity, and inclusivity. The top young content creators, he said, should begin to see the world as a market and make material for people all around the globe.

### Supreme Court verdict will simplify government land acquisition

**Divya Delhi:** Out of frustration with land acquisition litigation that delays projects for decades, the Supreme Court declared that a government cannot be hindered by third-party rights after acquiring land for public use. A bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar ruled that only the government can rescind acquisition for the full land or a portion of it, hence even a public organization that acquired land cannot surrender it to someone privately. Litigation over purchased land, mostly due to third-party rights, has delayed numerous projects.

## 21 MLAs from Manipur ask Modi, Shah to restore democracy

**Divya Delhi:** In separate letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, 21 Manipur MLAs have called for a popular government to restore peace and normality. Since February 13, Manipur has been under President's Rule since former Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned on February 9. The majority of signatories include BJP, NPP, NPF, and two independent members, according to a legislator who requested anonymity. The suspended



Manipur Legislative Assembly has 60 members and a term till 2027. The MLAs' letter claimed that while the people first welcomed President's Rule with hope, no tangible peace restoration had occurred. "There is a strong apprehension among the public that violence may return," said. Civil society

groups are organizing rallies against President's Rule and criticizing elected officials for not establishing a government. Lack of an elected administration fuels instability and public resentment, MLAs warned. Lack of a consensus CM candidate by the BJP has delayed government formation.

## Congress on Pahalgam attack: call Parliament session to demonstrate unity

**Divya Delhi:** Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge have asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to call a special session of Parliament to address the terror incident in Pahalgam. They hope that by doing so, the country will show its unity and commitment. On Monday night, the two opposition leaders addressed separate letters to Modi. The government promptly agreed to the Congress's demand for an all-party conference on the same day as the horrific killings of tourists in Kashmir. "The opposition believes it is important to convene a special session of both Houses of Parliament at the earliest because unity and solidarity are essential at this moment," Kharge wrote to the prime minister. In the wake of the horrific terror



### Politics Heat Up Over 107 'Missing' Pakistanis As DyCM Shinde, CM Contradict

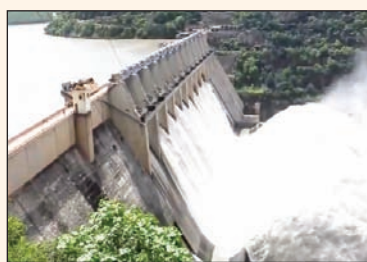
**Divya Delhi:** The ruling Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra has failed to coordinate on Pakistani nationals. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde told a Buldhana rally that 107 Pakistanis were missing in Maharashtra. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis denied the claim, saying no Pakistani citizen is missing. Shinde told the audience, "Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have instructed Pakistani nationals to leave our country.

attack on innocent civilians in Pahalgam on April 22, this will serve as a strong symbol of our will to confront the situation. With much antici-

tion, we await the proper convening of the session. Similarly, in a brief letter, Rahul stated that the terror incident in Pahalgam has "outraged".

## Haryana and Rajasthan Will Receive Additional Water from Bhakra Dams

**Divya Delhi:** To address the critical water shortage in Haryana and parts of Rajasthan, the Union Home Secretary met to deliberate the possibility of releasing an additional 4,500 cusecs of water from the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) Dams for a period of eight



days. Punjab, Rajasthan, and

Haryana, three of BBMB's partner states, were among the high-ranking government officials present at the conference.

Implementing the board's resolution to release additional water from Bhakra Dams was recommended during the meeting.

The parties also reached an agreement that the board will supply Punjab with any surplus water during the dam-filling phase. In order to determine the specifics of releasing additional water to Haryana, it will promptly call a meeting of the Board.

### High Court upholds influencers' fact-based criticism

**Divya Delhi:** The Delhi High Court allowed social media influencers to criticize consumer goods with scientific facts. The Court denied San Nutrition Private Limited's request for an interim order to stop four influencers from criticizing its whey protein products. The judge, Justice Amit Bansal, ruled that restricting speech before a trial would be unreasonable. "Reasonable criticism, comment and parody is largely protected within the right to free speech under the Constitution.

## Goa property fraud: NCR purchasers

**Divya Delhi:** A day after seizing property records worth Rs 600 crore from 'main mastermind' Rohan Harmalkar's offices and home, the ED confiscated his house. The directorate stated Harmalkar, an independent who ran for the 2022 assembly election, would find houses that had been neglected for years and that his clients were largely from Delhi-NCR and Haryana. Harmalkar found that most properties had no legal heir, the owner was deceased, or had lived overseas



for decades. After identifying these assets, Harmalkar and other suspects impersonated, created fraudulent documents, and tampered with revenue records to sell them, the central agency stated. Harmalkar helped for-

eign buyers buy land in Goa at below-market prices. Some defendants defrauded customers. "Harmalkar had multiple customers outside the state, including from Delhi-NCR and Haryana, among other places," the report

added. The ED seized documentation of immovable properties worth over Rs 600 crore when it searched his office and residences for a land scam. The operation found almost Rs 1,000 crore in incriminating property records in North Goa's top tourist destinations. The agency stated fake title deeds and fraudulent transfers of high-value land parcels spanning several lakhs of square meters in Anjuna, Arpora, and Assagao in Bardez taluka indicated land record manipulation.



## CM orders sewer lines for all illegal communities by 2028

**Divya Delhi:** After a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) review meeting, Ms. Gupta revealed 1,226 unauthorised colonies in Delhi had sewer lines, and 154 are under construction. The Delhi Development Authority reports 1,731 unlawful colonies. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta stated her government wants to connect all unauthorized settlements to the sewer network by 2028. After a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) review meeting, Ms. Gupta revealed 1,226 unauthorised colonies in Delhi had sewer lines, and 154 are under construction. The Delhi Development Authority reports 1,731 unlawful colonies. In advance of the Delhi Assembly election, the BJP has pledged to clean up the Yamuna, which is polluted by sewage. This is an infrastructure project, but Ms. Gupta said it also addresses sanitation, health, and the environment. The Delhi



### Property taxes are in limbo because of garbage fees

**Divya Delhi:** Residents are still confused since the controversial waste user fee is still included on the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) property tax webpage, even after Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh promised to remove it. The levy, which was imposed in conjunction with property taxes on April 1, has caused a lot of concerns, particularly among Resident Welfare Associations (RWAS), who receive a lot of inquiries from worried citizens. The leader of URJA United RWAS Joint Action, Atul Goyal, appealed. government is devoted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' (tap water in every house) campaign, she said. "The Delhi government prioritizes clean and sufficient water for all. The DJB has

been ordered to accelerate water management projects, extend the pipeline network, and prioritize water conservation. "We want to meet today's needs and prevent future water scarcity," she said.

## Caste enumeration will be a part of the next census

**Divya Delhi:** The Union administration revived a notion abandoned at Independence and it will have wide socio-economic and political repercussions; caste-based enumeration will be a feature of the upcoming decadal census, they declared. All of the major political factions in India were pleased with the decision, which was reached by the powerful cabinet committee on political issues, which is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Opposition leaders claimed they were able to keep the



administration in check on a delicate subject that would be central to the general election campaign of 2024, while the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) argued the decision was a result of the government's social justice agenda. The inclusion of caste enumeration

in the upcoming census has been approved by the cabinet committee on political matters, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. "The government's dedication to society's values and interests is demonstrated." He failed to specify a start date for the decadal census, which has been postponed by a minimum of four years. However, officials have hinted that the headcount could start in 2027 or perhaps in late 2026.

## Assembly in Delhi lifts the gallery glass shield to promote openness and media freedom

**Divya Delhi:** The glass shield encircling Delhi has been lowered, as stated by Speaker Vijender Gupta, enabling the media to cover the proceedings unimpeded. The decision was hailed by Gupta as a "significant step" towards "greater democratic

accountability" and the restoration of the assembly as an open and people-focused institution during a press conference. He declared, "This step reaffirms the Delhi legislative assembly's commitment to empowering the media and making democratic

processes more visible to the public," stressing the importance of openness in the assembly's activities. To deter people from throwing objects from the first-floor gallery into the hall, the glass panels were put in 2022 by then-Speaker.

## New digital portal for medical and legal documents launched in Delhi

**Divya Delhi:** A digital network for medico-legal records and autopsy reports was unveiled by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. This platform will connect health institutions, investigating agencies, and forensic labs in one place, and it will make the medico-legal system more accountable and transparent. An electronic platform called "MedLEaPR" (Medical Legal Examination and Postmortem Reporting) will allow for the filing of medico-legal and postmortem reports, doing away with the requirement for handwritten documentation. The reports will all be kept in one central database, and only approved users will be able to submit or access them



thanks to the user access control. An extensive audit trail will be included into the platform to ensure that all activities are logged. It was the National Informatics Centre (NIC) that created this online ecosystem. It allows medical facilities to efficiently report post-

mortem reports (PMRs) and medico-legal cases (MLCs). According to chief minister Gupta, who unveiled the platform at the Delhi Secretariat, the system's objective is to improve the medico-legal documentation process in terms of openness, efficiency, and accountability.

### Advertising on FOBS should be authorized by the government

**Divya Delhi:** In order to raise more money for their maintenance, the Delhi government has chosen to allow advertising on approximately 120 pedestrian bridges, according to In order to better maintain the foot overbridges, PWD minister Parvesh Verma said that he instructed the department's engineers to develop a thorough proposal. A lot of these bridges need to have their escalators and lifts fixed because they're in bad shape.

## Internet access is fundamental to the right to life: SC

**Divya Delhi:** Since nearly all vital services are now mediated through digital platforms, the Supreme Court determined that all digital services must be accessible to persons with disabilities. They did this by declaring digital access an "intrinsic component" of the fundamental right to life and liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. The bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan emphasized that digital accessibility is a constitutional necessity due to technological advance-



ments and issued comprehensive directions to the Centre, Reserve Bank of India, and other regulatory authorities requiring alternative methods for digital KYC. In its 62-page opinion, the court emphasized that the right to digital access is an essential part of the right to life and liberty. It emphasized that the

state should take the initiative to create and maintain inclusive digital ecosystems that benefit everyone, not just the rich. The decision was reached when acid attack survivors, spearheaded by Pragya Prasun, and a visually challenged individual, Amar Jain, presented their cases detailing the challenges they encounter when attempting to use digital services, especially those that need identification by eye movement or facial recognition. Major shifts are required in public and private organizations.

## Tihar, which is overflowing, wants to build a new facility

**Divya Delhi:** According to sources, the Tihar administration has written to the Delhi government to request the identification and allocation of 400 acres of land for a new complex in response to chief minister Rekha Gupta's budget announcement. It is anticipated that the new jail will be able to accommodate 8,000 prisoners. A few days ago, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the Delhi government's department of land and construction received an official communication in this respect. The Tihar administration reportedly emphasized in their letter the urgent need for land to build new prisons that could house 5,000-8,000 prisoners. Since existing prison facilities are already functioning much above capacity,



this action is considered necessary to relieve the extreme strain on them. The letter also emphasized how improbable it is that the initiative to build a high-security prison at Narela will address the overcrowding problem because the facility's approved capacity of 256 is far too little to accommodate the increasing needs of the inmate population. Given that Tihar is one of the biggest prisons in the nation, the new facility is viewed as a vital remedy.

### 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 transports 26 prominent hospital chiefs in massive healthcare upheaval

**Divya Delhi:** The Delhi government has shifted the medical superintendents and directors of 26 major hospitals under its control, effective immediately. The Lieutenant Governor (L-G) ordered transferred officers to report to their new position without waiting for relieving orders from their current department. Lok Nayak, LNJP, Guru Teg Bahadur, Deen Dayal Upadhyay, and Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar hospitals are affected by the reshuffle. Dr. Rati Makkar is Delhi's new Director General of



Health Services as part of the makeover. Dr. Makkar, a Senior Medical Officer of Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, replaces the outgoing head as part of a plan to improve healthcare in the capital. Several top Delhi government hospitals have changed leader-

ship. Dr. BL Chaudhary replaced Dr. Suresh Kumar as Lok Nayak Hospital's Medical Director. Kumar was transferred to Ambedkar Medical College as Principal and Director. Professor Vinod Kumar from Lok Nayak Hospital's Orthopedics

## Vehicles that do not have fuel stickers with color coding will be subject to penalties

**Divya Delhi:** The Delhi Transport Department has issued a new warning, stating that offenders will face consequences if they continue to operate vehicles without the High Security Number Plates corresponding stickers. Vehicles that do not have stickers that show the fuel type will not be issued Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates. In light of a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, the Transport Department has issued a public notice which states, "The Supreme Court has directed that PUC certificates will not be issued to vehicles unless they comply with the Motor Vehicles (High Security Registration Plates) order.

Department will be Superintendent, while Guru Teg Bahadur Professor Abid Gilani (GTB) Hospital's will be its Medical Director.

## Delhi golfers seek DGC practice rights, threaten Jantar Mantar protest

**Divya Delhi:** Two-time Asian Tour winner Rashid Khan and numerous Delhi caddie-professional golfers will sit-in at Jantar Mantar on May 5 to win the right to practice at the Delhi Golf Club (DGC). Delhi caddie-pros and the DGC have been at odds for years. Long-running conflict has prompted



many pros to go to other courses or quit the sport, damaging their livelihoods. The affected golfers are seeking DGC practice authorization in the Delhi High Court. The case has been listed 30 times since February 4, 2020, without a hearing. Eight years before the contract expired,

the government renewed the DGC lease until 2050 in September 2012. DGC stopped allowing caddie-pros to practice in 2012. The protesting golfers argue that the club is on government land and serves to promote and advance golf, thus they should be allowed to practice there.



## Editorial

### How Caste Census Question Tested Both Congress And BJP?

It's unclear yet whether this is a masterstroke or something done under political compulsion. But one thing is true: the time for a caste census has come. Definitely, credit should be given to Rahul Gandhi for consistently and vociferously raising the issue and bringing it to the centre of India's discourse despite being mocked, ridiculed, humiliated and abused by the forces inimical to the politics of social justice. Of course, in the recent past, the idea was first floated by Nitish Kumar. But the demand for a caste census is as old as the formation of the Kaka Kalelkar commission, and it was subsequently supported by the Mandal commission, too. Now, the big question is, how will the announcement change the politics of the country? And, will it prove to be an antidote to the religion-centric politics of the day? In this writer's opinion - shared by his friend Dr Laxman Yadav - the announcement for conducting a caste census is arguably the third-most momentous event in the direction of making India an equitable society. The first was the adoption of the Constitution, which, with one stroke of the pen, planted the seeds of equality in a society hitherto based on civilisational hierarchy. Within the four walls of the Constitution, every citizen became equal in the eyes of the law irrespective of caste; whether Brahmin or Shudra, everyone was ordained the same rights and duties. However, outside the pages of the Constitution, India was still a deeply caste-ridden and prejudiced society. The Constitution gave us Indians legal equality and liberty, but fraternity was a far cry for those who were born in OBC (Other Backward Classes) groups or as Dalits. They were routinely discriminated against despite the Constitution. Reservations for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) groups were deeply resented by those who, for thousands of years, enjoyed the fruits of privileges by the accident of their birth. The Constitution did succeed in breaking the shackles of caste prejudice to some extent. What it also did was spawn a revolution from below, creating a new consciousness among the discriminated class and making them realise that since they are more in number, they should also have a greater share in the country's power structure, and more respect in society. It was this consciousness that pushed for change aggressively and ultimately led former Prime Minister V.P. Singh to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, providing 27% reservation to OBCs, too, in 1990. This, then, was the second-most momentous event in India's social justice movement. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) tried to counter this with their Hindutva project. The Ram Mandir movement was an exercise to create a bigger religious consciousness and make every member of Hindu society realise that they are Hindu first, and a Brahmin-Kshatriya-Vaishya-Shudra later. The BJP did succeed at achieving this, but only partly, primarily because this movement was driven by the upper caste as a revolt against subaltern or Mandal politics. In a state like Uttar Pradesh, more than 80% of upper caste voters have backed the BJP since 2014. But the wheels of social justice were moving fast. Mandal politics ignited a fiery discourse amongst the downtrodden, on questions like why power should be concentrated only among a few. This gave birth to many caste-based parties. Leaders like Mulayam Singh Yadav, Lalu Yadav, Sharad Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Kanshiram, Mayawati and Ram Vilas Paswan, among others, emerged as the champions of this new political landscape overnight, while Uttar Pradesh and Bihar became battlegrounds for power politics. And, since Congress had no strategy to counter this change, it eventually was reduced to just a fringe player in these states. The BJP, on the other hand, tried its best to navigate Mandal politics via social engineering.



## Will Canada Finally Make Nice With India?

The Canadian election may have been somewhat eclipsed by US President Donald Trump's trade war, but within the country, Canada turned a political corner. In many ways, the Canadian election results have depicted how the grounds have shifted considerably since the last election in 2021. First, the Liberal party has made a rather expected comeback with just a few seats shy of the majority needed to form the government. In its fourth successive mandate, the Liberal Party has shown a remarkable resilience in sustaining popularity. However, this time, the external factor in Donald Trump was more consequential in galvanising sentiments inside Canada than the Liberal party's own steps towards political revival. Second, the change of face of the Liberal party from Justin Trudeau to Mark Carney was a prominent factor in shaping the party's consolidation in just a few months. Third, except the two leading parties - Liberal and Conservative - the vote share of all other parties, most profoundly, the Jagmeet Singh-led New Democratic Party (NDP), shrank compared to the last election in 2021. These changes have translated to a face change of Canadian politics as both Jagmeet Singh and Pierre Poilievre have been unable to retain their respective seats. With the Canadian election now behind us, the task ahead for incoming Prime Minister Mark Carney is



formidable. The Liberal Party secured 168 seats - just short of a majority in the House of Commons - necessitating outside support. The most likely partner is the New Democratic Party (NDP), though its diminished strength in this election makes it a junior ally. The NDP, which saw a significant drop in its vote share - down by 11.6% - suffered its most symbolic blow with the loss of its leader Jagmeet Singh, who failed to retain his own seat. For India, this is notable as the NDP supported elements of the Khalistan movement, straining India-Canada ties. With Singh's departure and the party's weakened mandate, this aspect of Canadian politics may now fade. Carney's Liberals, meanwhile, require support from only four to five additional MPs, meaning the NDP's

influence on policy - especially foreign affairs - will be tempered. This gives Carney room to chart his own path, particularly on economic and international matters. Carney's credentials as a central banker with global standing - having previously led both the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England - lend him credibility at a time when economic issues dominate. Canada's economy has struggled in recent years, and with the United States being both its largest trading partner and closest geographical neighbour, much of Ottawa's foreign policy will continue to be driven by economic realities. For the Conservative Party, this election was a major setback. Leader Pierre Poilievre lost his seat in rural Ottawa, which he had held since 2004. His

Trump-style rhetoric - mirroring conservative populism in the United States - ultimately failed to resonate. In fact, Donald Trump's repeated attacks on Canada, including calling it the "51st state" and ridiculing Justin Trudeau as a mere "ask governor", triggered a nationalist backlash among Canadians. Instead of weakening the Liberals, Trump's comments created a unifying moment for the country, with Carney benefiting from a wave of patriotic sentiment. What followed was a widespread symbolic protest: Canadians cancelled trips to the US, pulled American wines from store shelves, and even sold properties in American cities. Carney largely stood above the fray during the campaign, letting the public mood shift in his favour. But

now, he faces the difficult task of governing amid a still-tense relationship with Washington. Though there have been signs of Trump moderating his tone-especially after pre-election and post-election calls with Carney, the real test will come on issues like trade, tariffs, and resource sharing. Should Trump resume his hard-line stance, Carney's political capital could begin to erode. For Canada, which remains heavily reliant on US markets, diversification may be a necessity now. Yet, relations with the two largest economies in Asia - China and India - are currently at a low point. The diplomatic standoff with India over the past year, exacerbated by Trudeau's handling of the Hardeep Singh Nijjar case and repeated references to alleged Indian interference, has left bilateral ties strained and stagnant. However, Carney's emergence offers a possible reset. As a fresh face without the political baggage of Trudeau, and as someone who is widely seen as pragmatic rather than ideological, he has an opportunity to recalibrate Canada's foreign policy. For New Delhi, this could be a window to re-engage, cautiously but constructively. While a dramatic upgrade in bilateral relations may be premature, the fundamental underpinnings - strong economic ties, growing Indian diaspora in Canada, and resilient people-to-people connections - remain intact.

### Indus Waters Treaty was always unfair to India. Its suspension will choke Pakistan

In the aftermath of the dastardly Pahalgam attack on vulnerable tourists who were enjoying a holiday in the serene and spectacularly beautiful environs of the Baisaran Valley, there is loud and strident clamour for revenge. The massacre of Hindu tourists vacationing in the 'mini Switzerland' after being singled out on their inability to recite an Islamic invocation is nothing short of a cowardly act, and it must be condemned in no uncertain terms. The visual of a Hindu man lying dead, his trousers pooled at his feet, and his newly-wed wife sitting on the ground next to his dead body will haunt Indians forever. It is nothing less than a Hindu genocide and must be unequivocally and unambiguously designated as such. Some people are drawing parallels between this attack in the valley and the 7 October 2023 Hamas-led attack on Israel. There are also eerie echoes of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, the Sikh massacre of Chhattisinghpura during former US President Bill Clinton's visit, the Kaliachak carnage, and the Delhi riots during

Donald Trump's visit. Now, with the latest attack during US Vice President JD Vance's visit, the pattern is hard to miss. The attack in Kashmir is part of a broader plan to battle the economic development and prosperity that has brought the valley to life post the abrogation of Article 370. The integration of Greater Kashmir into mainland India—via road, air and soon-to-be-launched train services—has brought out the stark contrast and juxtaposed the economic backwardness of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. A ploy to create a diversion during Vance's visit, this attack has generated much ill will and animosity toward Kashmiri Muslims. However, baying for the blood of our brethren will only be counterproductive. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's exercise in restraint during his "Mann ki Baat", requesting the people of India to have faith in his core team, led by Home Minister Amit Shah, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, and the Armed Forces of India—was a reminder that India is ready to counter any further belligerence from Pakistan.

### Farmers getting stuck in religious pomp and hypocrisy



KP Malik

Till date, farmers and especially the Jat community used to be engaged in agriculture, the main natural source of their economic and food supply. Today, most of the people of the Jat community are leaving farming and getting involved in religious hypocrisy and ostentation. Not only this, nowadays some people of the Jat community have drowned neck deep in religious hypocrisy, leaving behind even the pompous Pandits and Pujaris. Actually, the main reason for drowning neck deep in hypocrisy is that after getting into business and job, most of the Jats followed the mantra given by the Pandits that commit sins and get free from religious hypocrisy. Other upper castes have imbibed its direct and successful philosophy. It has become attractive for them to protect themselves from the wrath of the powers by doing economic and religious pomp in the

courts of the so-called self-proclaimed babas, sadhus, saints, storytellers, Shankaracharyas, heads of religious institutions and the courts of power and to see their status increasing socially and politically. So most of the Jats doing business and jobs have started accumulating immense wealth by adopting this religious trick. They have started doing more and more religious and social pomp to become MPs, MLAs, councillors and ministers etc. Social activist and thinker Jitendra Singh Sahrawat says that seeing the pomp and hypocritical philosophy of successful and powerful Jats, common Jats have started doing courtiers of these successful and powerful Jats and other wealthy dignitaries by indulging in religious hypocrisy and pomp to fulfill their dream of following their path. That is, our educated, successful and strong Jats have achieved all this by killing the basic power of daily discretion, self-respect, self-esteem and

moral strength. They have not achieved it by the hypocrisy and ostentation done in the name of religious powers. They did not tell this truth to their society. If they had told, their courtiers would not have become ordinary Jats. Rather, in order to decorate and increase their status and court, they have misled the society by giving the credit of increasing our shine, shine and status to the hypocrisy and ostentation of religious powers and by pushing the society into this darkness, they have only strengthened the business of Brahmins and traders by making them buy religious material and are still doing it. Anyway, the focus is on the progress of the Jat society and their political, economic and social empowerment.

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## Goa didn't choose to become a casino city—now it's a state-sponsored moral gamble

Never has a site of battle glittered as much as Panjim's Mandovi riverfront. The promenade is busiest past midnight, when drunk, depleted patrons filter out of the "offshore" casino vessels anchored in the middle of the river, like beached whales wrapped in fairy lights. Will they end up in a spontaneous karaoke competition, a full-blown argument, or simply continue their "car-o-bar" from their docked taxis? Who knows — the night is still young, and Goa a permissive mistress for the holidaying, honeymooning lot. What unfolds nightly in

Goa's capital is a microcosm of the state's uneasy relationship with its casino industry. And the only people who feel unwelcome at this unwarranted party are the residents of this tiny city, trapped in a geography transformed against their will, victims of a state-sanctioned gamble. The latest flashpoint in this ongoing struggle? A public parking facility near the Ferry Wharf — built with Rs 20-22 crore of taxpayer funds — allegedly transferred to a casino operator without transparency or due process. A few days ago, a PIL was filed in the

High Court of Bombay at Goa, contending that the Captain of Ports and the North Goa District Magistrate collaborated to hand over this 627-square-metre public space to M/s Golden Peace Infrastructure Pvt Ltd for the exclusive benefit of their casino patrons. The area, originally upgraded to enhance state revenue and improve traffic management in the capital, was formally designated as a pay parking zone for public use in 2017. But the vital community space was quietly repurposed for private commercial gain through de-notifi-

cation orders issued in December 2023 and March 2024, neither of which were publicised nor published in the Official Gazette. The petition seeks the nullification of these orders, restoration of public access, removal of structures erected by the casino, and accountability for officials involved in what the PIL characterises as an illegal transfer of public land. This alleged misuse of public land represents one more win for the other side in a city sighing under the weight of unabated tourism.



Zomato's Q4 net profit falls 77% to Rs 39 crore

**Divya Delhi :** Eternal Ltd. (previously Zomato) announced a 77% drop in overall net profit to Rs 39 crore in Q4 FY25 from Rs 175 crore the year before. Zomato, which owns Blinkit, lost 33% of its quarterly net profit to Rs 59 crore in October-December. Overall expenditures rose 67% to Rs 6,104 crore from Rs 3,636 crore. QoQ, costs rose over 10%. Food delivery company consolidated income from operations rose 64% to Rs 5,833 crore from Rs 3,562 crore in the January-March quarter of the previous financial year. Zomato earned Rs 6,201 crore in the quarter, up from Rs 3,797 the year before. Its expenses rose from Rs 3,636 crore to Rs 6,104 crore. Zomato shares finished at Rs 232.5 on the BSE, up 0.58 percent. According to its stock exchange filing, Blinkit opened 294 net new stores in Q4 and is on track to reach 2,000 by



December 25. Deepinder Goyal, Founder and CEO, Eternal, said, "We don't see any long-term structural reason for this slowdown, as the fundamentals – low penetration of restaurant food and increasing urbanisation and per capita income in India – remain unchanged." The company has several promising initiatives in the pipeline and hopes some will work and lead to higher growth without compromising profitability. The company began reporting NOV and GOV for its B2C activities (food delivery, rapid commerce, and going-out) in Q4 FY25.

Wagah closure hurts Afghan dry fruit imports

**Divya Delhi:** The closing of the Attari-Wagah border has hampered the movement of dry fruits from Afghanistan to India, which may raise domestic prices by 10 to 25%. Afghanistan is India's greatest dried fruit supplier despite war and civil upheaval. Anil Mehra, National President of the Federation of Grocery and Dry Fruit Commercial Association,, when the Attari-Wagah border closed, no trucks transporting dry fruits from to Attari had come. "50 trucks are at the Pakistani Wagah border.

Private sector capex may fall 25% to Rs 4.88 lakh cr in FY26: Govt survey

**Divya Delhi:** A government survey research estimates private business capital spending will drop 25% to Rs 4.88 lakh crore in 2025-26 from Rs 6.56 lakh crore in FY25. The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation's Forward-Looking Survey on Private Sector CAPEX Investment Intentions between November 2024 and January 2025 found that private corporate capex was Rs 3.94 lakh crore in 2021-22, Rs 5.72 lakh crore in 2022-23, and Rs 4.22 lakh crore in 2023-24. To establish a fixed panel, 2,172 firms provided complete infor-



mation for all five years of the reference period. The government said the aggregated (unweighted) capex data from this panel of firms is credible for five-year capital expenditure trends. Over four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25, aggregate capex (unweighted) increased 66.3%. Of the

3,064 responding companies, 2,172 planned 2025-26 capex. The data suggests respondents are cautious when revealing capital spending plans. The research advised caution when interpreting 2025-26 Capex data due to the conservative stance and fear of responding firms.

Possible goal of India-US trade deal: equal access to technology

**Divya Delhi:** According to insiders, as part of the intended bilateral trade agreement (BTA), India is expected to request that the United States relax export controls and provide it with access to vital technologies on par with important

American allies such as Japan, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, they mentioned that India might be interested in pursuing these kind of concessions in the following industries: semiconductors, biotechnology, artificial intelli-

gence (AI), pharmaceuticals, quantum computing, and telecom equipment. Textiles, gems and jewelry, leather goods, clothing, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes, and bananas are among the labor-intensive sectors.

CAPSULES

Meta releases standalone AI app to challenge ChatGPT

**Divya Delhi:** competing with ChatGPT creator OpenAI with a standalone AI app. Meta said that its new AI assistant will use Llama AI. The Discover stream shows how others are using the tool and provides prompts. The AI arms race pits Meta's new software against ChatGPT and other AI platforms. Claude, Grok, and Gemini from Anthropic, xAI, and Google are also leading contenders. In September 2023, Meta debuted an AI chatbot as a generative AI-powered digital assistant that can respond to user questions and produce graphics in its apps. Meta AI became prominent in April when it replaced Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger's search feature with a chatbot. Zuckerberg claimed in January that 2025 "is going to be the year when a highly intelligent and personalized AI assistant reaches more than 1 billion people, and I expect Meta AI to be that leading AI assistant." Meta finance head Susan Li said Meta AI has 700 million monthly active users in January. It rose from 600 million in December. Meta launched a standalone AI app after Google and Elon Musk's xAI. Both firms released Gemini and Grok applications recently.



ATM withdrawals cost more: All about the new fees

**Divya Delhi :** ATM users in India will incur revised transaction rates starting May 1, 2025, under the RBI's amended fee regime. The revisions aim to simplify ATM usage charges and promote digital banking for both financial and non-financial activities. Under the new guidelines, metro consumers will get three free ATM transactions each month and non-metro customers five. Free transactions include cash withdrawals and balance checks. After this limit, banks can charge Rs 23 per transaction, excluding taxes. This applies to ATM and CRM transactions, although CRM



cash deposits are free. Many big banks have revised their client policies: HDFC said, "With effect from 1st May 2025, the ATM transaction charge rate beyond free limits will be revised from Rs 21 + taxes to Rs 23 + taxes."

Bank emphasized that only cash withdrawals at HDFC Bank ATMs exceeding the free limit will be charged, while non-financial transactions are free. Other banks' ATMs count both sorts of transactions toward the free limit.

Amazon Launches Project Kuiper Satellite Internet Service

**Divya Delhi:** A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket launched the payload into Low Earth Orbit from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. Amazon claimed it had contacted all 27 satellites by morning and was activating them "nominally." Amazon launched two test satellites in 2023, but this is its first full-scale deployment. The corporation expects to launch over 3,200 satellites using ULA's Atlas V and Vulcan rockets, Blue Origin, and others. Amazon thinks it needs 580 operating satellites to supply internet connectivity.

Promoters of Prudential, HCL to form health insurer

**Divya Delhi:** Prudential and HCL Group promoters announced a separate health insurance joint venture. Prudential Group Holdings, Prudential's UK affiliate, would own 70% of the joint venture, while HCL Group promoter Vama Sundari Investments will own 30%. HCL founder Shiv Nadar gave his daughter Roshni Nadar Malhotra large shares in Vama Sundari Investments, giving her power. Prudential had its first branch in Kolkata in



1923, making India a critical market, according to CEO Anil Wadhvani. "Today, we have a significant presence with life insurance and asset management businesses providing a comprehensive offering of insurance and wealth products," Wadhvani. ICICI Bank has partnered with Prudential, a FTSE 100

company, for over two decades in life insurance and asset management. The Prudential cooperation intends to provide quality health insurance in India, according to Vama executive director Shikhar Malhotra. "Through this collaboration, we aim to advance our common mission to enhance access to quality health insurance and drive greater penetration across the country," stated. If approved by regulators, Amar Joshi will lead the joint venture.

The government raises sugarcane FRP by 4.41% to Rs 355 per quintal for 2025-26

**Divya Delhi:** The government raised the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane by 4.41 percent to Rs 355 per quintal for the 2025-26 season in October. An official statement said the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi made this decision in the interest of sugarcane farmers. Sugarcane FRP is Rs 340 per quintal for 2024-25. Sugar mills must pay sugarcane growers FRP, the minimum price set by the Indian government. I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told the media after the meeting that the FRP of Rs 355 per



quintal for a 10.25% basic recovery rate was approved. "The FRP for sugar season 2025-26 is 4.41 per cent higher than current sugar season 2024-25," says the report. Farmers will receive Rs 3.46 per quintal for each 0.1% sugar recovery increment above 10.25%. FRP decreases by Rs 3.46 per quintal for every 0.1% recovery rate decline. The govern-

ment also agreed not to deduct sugar mills with recovery below 9.5%. These farmers will receive Rs 329.05 per cent for sugarcane in 2025-26. The statement states that sugarcane production costs Rs 173 per quintal in 2025-26. The 2025-26 FRP of Rs 355 per quintal at 10.25% recovery is 105.25% higher than manufacturing cost.

For 2025-26, I-T Department notifies ITR forms 1, 4

**Divya Delhi:** Individuals and companies with income up to Rs 50 lakh must file ITR forms 1 and 4 for assessment year (AY) 2025-26 with the income tax department. Anyone with long-term capital gains up to Rs 1.25 lakh in a fiscal year can submit ITR-1. Previously, they had to



file ITR-2. With the notification, individuals, HUFs, corporations with income up to Rs 50 lakh,

and those with business and professional incomes in 2024-25 (April-March) can file I-T returns. ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are easier forms for many small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj can be filed by a resident with an annual income of up to Rs 50 lakh from

salary, one residential property, other sources (interest), and agricultural income up to Rs 5,000. Individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), and firms (other than LLPs) with yearly income up to Rs 50 lakh and business and profession revenue can file sugam.

Q4 Adani Enterprises net profit jumps 7.5x to Rs 3,845 crore, incubating enterprises thrive

**Divya Delhi :** Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL), the flagship firm of the Adani Group, reported strong financial results, with net profit rising 7.5 times to Rs 3,845 crore in Q4 FY25 from Rs 449 crore in FY24. Adani Wilmar Ltd.'s 13.5% stake sale in Q4 gave AEL an outstanding gain of Rs 3,946 crore. Revenue rose 2% to Rs 1,00,365 crore and consolidated PBT rose 16% to Rs 6,533 crore in FY25. Incubating firms' solid operational performance drove EBITDA up



26% to Rs 16,722 crore last fiscal, the company said. Gautam Adani, Chairman of Adani Group, said Adani Enterprises is establishing firms that will shape India's infrastructure and energy sector. Our scale, speed, and sustainability drove our strong FY25 success. The billionaire industri-

alist said disciplined execution, future-focused investments, operational excellence, innovation, and sustainability drove impressive development across our incubation businesses. Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL) began expanding solar cell and module operations

WB: Oil prices might drop 17% and commodity prices 12%

**Divya Delhi:** Commodity prices, according to the World Bank, could drop 12% this year, with the oil index possibly falling 17%, as a result of slowing economic development. "If realised, these declines will end a period of ele-

vated inflation-adjusted commodity prices in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine," recent commodities Markets Outlook. Reports indicate that supplies might be higher this year.

for 6 GW in Q4 FY25 with financial close.Improved realization and operational efficiency drove solar module sales up 59% to 4,263 MW and greater

EBITDA margins. The company reported that ANIL wind business expanded capacity to 2.25 GW in Q4 FY25 with 5.2 MW, 3.3 MW, and 3.0 MW WTG.



## Apply now for Bachelor of Science degrees online at IIT Madras; JEE score not necessary

**Divya Delhi:** Online Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree Programs in Electronic Systems and Data Science and Applications are now accepting applications from interested students at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras). These undergraduate programs offer an alternative to the standard Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), while others are required to complete a four-week online preparatory program and pass an in-person qualifier exam. According to the news release, there are currently more than 38,000 students enrolled in these programs. These students come from a variety of academic backgrounds and include working professionals, career changers, and others. This cohort deviates significantly from the norm for engineering students in that 25% of its members are female and 20% are older than 30.



### No Kashmir, Palestine in DU psychology syllabus

**Divya Delhi:** The Standing Committee on Academic Matters reportedly eliminated the Israel-Palestine conflict, Kashmir crisis, and dating app suicides from DU's psychology syllabus proposal. The study discussed Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, and Israel-Palestine and Kashmir wars. He claimed "Kashmir is resolved" and "we don't need to teach Israel-Palestine". The committee head rejected another proposal to integrate dating app psychology.

## NCH eases homoeopathy college teachers' rules

**Divya Delhi:** The National Commission for Homeopathy (NCH) recently amended MD Homeopathy rules. NCH tightened post-graduate faculty rules in March 2024. However, these requirements were altered again. Colleges might have one assistant professor, an associate professor, and a professor for each PG specialization. Divya Delhi: provided by the institute after last week's reforms. Since March last year, specialized departments need two associate professors and a professor, according to Careers360. The regulator has also relaxed the



guide or examiner qualification, allowing assistant professors to do so again. Only associate professors or professors might guide in 2024. Entry-level teachers have a student-guide ratio of 11, while associate professors and professors have 2.1 and 3:1, respectively, follow-

ing 1989 guidelines. A National Medical Commission (NMC) proposal to ease medical college instructor qualifications precedes the reforms. Diploma holders and non-teaching consultants and specialists can become institute faculty under the new draft regulations.

## More than 2 million hopefuls show up for the NEET-UG 2025 exam



**Divya Delhi:** For the purpose of enrolling in undergraduate medical programs, about two million students took the NEET-UG 2025. The test was administered at 5,453 testing centers in 548 cities in India and 14 other countries by the National Testing Agency (NTA). The paper exam, which ran from 2 to 5 pm, had 20.8 million people take it and answer 180 mandatory questions covering biology, chemistry, and physics. After the University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) was canceled last year due to integrity concerns, NTA instituted rigorous surveillance and verification at the test centers. Additionally, two additional examinations, the CSIR-UGC NET and the NEET-PG, were canceled ahead of time.

District administrations, state authorities, and various central ministries collaborated to conduct the exam, according to NTA officials. The NTA integrated real-time monitoring through a Centralized Control Room built under the ministry of education, according to their statement, using a "whole-of-government" approach. The NTA official stated that the integrated system enabled agencies to work together smoothly and quickly resolve any problems that arose on the ground.

## Students have the opportunity to check their answer sheets prior to requesting a re-evaluation

**Divya Delhi:** The CBSE has updated its procedure for communicating with students following the release of exam results in Grades 10 and 12 in an effort to be more open and honest. Before students can request a verification or re-evaluation of their marks, they will be able to acquire photocopies of their graded answer sheets under the new method. This is a change from the previous procedure, which stated that students needed to submit an application for mark verification, then seek photocopies of their answer sheets, and then



submit an application for re-evaluation. "After getting a copy of their graded answers in the first step, candidates have the option to either re-evaluate a question or questions or verify their marks, which involves posting or totaling their marks or any

questions that were not graded. The board stated in a written notice that after acquiring a photocopy of the answer book, a candidate can ask for either a re-evaluation or a verification of marks, or both, according to the proper procedure.

### Irish education minister invites Indians for education, research

**NEW DELHI:** James Lawless, Ireland's Education Minister, on Monday said his country is "very welcoming" for students and has a supportive post-study employment visa arrangement. "Ireland is a very welcoming country. We have a very cosmopolitan culture. We have many nationalities now in Ireland, and many people have made their home, including many, many Indians," the Irish minister said, when asked whether his government is considering any changes in post-study work or immigration policies to retain skilled talents.

## A draft measure to monitor budgets, ensure accountability,

**Divya Delhi:** A draft bill to establish rules governing school fees for all public and private schools in the city has been approved by the Delhi government. In order to prevent capricious increases and guarantee equity for parents, the bill, which was adopted by the Delhi cabinet, aims to create a clear and transparent process for school fee structures. According to the draft, schools that raise fees without authorization risk fines of up to Rs 10 lakh and the possibility of having their sta-



tus revoked once the bill becomes law. According to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, each school will establish a fee regulation committee that will provide parents direct decision-making authority. Committees will be established at the school, district,

and state levels as part of a three-tiered committee structure for appeals pertaining to fee disputes. During talks with Gupta, a number of parents brought up the subject of capricious fee increases by schools, which led to the decision.

## Centre withholding funding for states not implementing PM SHRI is unjustified

**Divya Delhi:** A parliamentary panel report tabled called withholding funds over non-adoption of the flagship PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) scheme "unjustifiable" and recommended that Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal receive pending funds immediately.



Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal have declined to sign an MoU with the Centre to implement the PM-SHRI project, which intends to modernize 14,500 schools and make them NEP 2020 model institutions. The Centre withheld funds from these states under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan scheme (SSA), a flagship Indian government initiative to ensure universal elementary education (UEE) for children aged 6 to 14,

making free and compulsory education a fundamental right. In its 2025-26 demand for grants report for the Department of School Education & Literacy, chaired by Congress Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports expressed serious concern over the non-release of SSA funds to states that have not signed MoUs for PM SHRI implementation. The audit states that West Bengal, Kerala,

and Tamil Nadu owe over Rs 1,000 crore, Rs 859.63 crore, and Rs 2,152 crore, respectively. The committee noted that Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal have high Gross Enrollment Ratios (GERs) and strong educational outcomes, but underfunding and delays in SSA fund transfers have limited school infrastructure, teacher training, and student support. These states have had to utilize their own cash to pay teachers and resource staff due to central distribution delays.

## A group of educators is against UGC's plan to hold admissions twice a year

**Divya Delhi:** A group representing educators has spoken out against the University Grants Commission's plan to hold undergraduate and graduate admissions twice a year. The idea was criticized as "impractical and destabilising" in a lengthy letter sent to the UGC chairperson by the Indian National Teachers' Congress (INTEC). "No serious consultation was held with universities or colleges," the letter adds. "What looks like flexibility on paper will, in practice, deeply disrupt the academic framework of higher education institutions," according to it. A single admission cycle is already a significant challenge for many institutions.



"What looks like flexibility on paper will, in practice, deeply disrupt the academic framework of higher education institutions," according to it. A single admission cycle is already a significant challenge for many institutions. Classes did not begin in July as usual due to the Common University Entrance Test's implementation, which notably pushed back the start of the academic year to September or October. Professor Pankaj Garg, chair of the INTEC, stated that adding a second cycle will further

complicate existing delays and disrupt the entire academic year. The teachers' union voiced concerns that having admissions twice a year would disrupt class schedules, make evaluations more difficult, and put too much administrative work on teachers and staff all year long.

The Delhi government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has charged top Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain with irregularities in the construction of over 12,000 government school classrooms. The scandal allegedly cost the exchequer Rs 2,000 crore. In the Prevention of Corruption Act case, BJP leaders Harish Khurana, Kapil Mishra, and Neelkanth Bakshi filed complaints. The trio claimed that 12,748 classrooms were built at 24.86 lakh each room, when they should have been built for Rs 5 lakh. A preliminary investigation by ACB chief Madhur Verma found that the project, which had a set cost and a deadline of June 2016, had major cost overruns and delays. "Not a single work was completed within the prescribed period, and significant deviations and cost escalations were observed," Verma. He added that 34 contractors, most of whom were supposedly AAP-affiliated, won project tenders. Initially awarded for Rs 860.63 crore, contract values climbed 17% to 90% due to enhanced material standards. Verma said the increase was 326.25 crore, of which 205.45 crore was due to costlier specifications, or 24% of the award value.

## The Anti-Corruption Branch charges AAP's Sisodia and Jain with Rs 2,000 cr corruption

**Divya Delhi:** The Delhi government's Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has charged top Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain with irregularities in the construction of over 12,000 government school classrooms. The scandal allegedly cost the exchequer Rs 2,000 crore. In the Prevention of



Corruption Act case, BJP leaders Harish Khurana, Kapil Mishra, and Neelkanth Bakshi filed complaints. The trio claimed that 12,748 classrooms were built at 24.86 lakh each room, when they should have been built for Rs 5 lakh. A preliminary investigation by ACB chief Madhur Verma found that the project, which had a set cost and a deadline of June 2016, had major cost overruns and delays. "Not a single work was completed within the prescribed period, and significant deviations and cost escalations were observed," Verma. He added that 34 contractors, most of whom were supposedly AAP-affiliated, won project tenders. Initially awarded for Rs 860.63 crore, contract values climbed 17% to 90% due to enhanced material standards. Verma said the increase was 326.25 crore, of which 205.45 crore was due to costlier specifications, or 24% of the award value.





Delhi Divya: **T**he Forum for India's Intellectual Growth 2025 event, organised by the Wadhwa India Award Council, was held at the Maple Gold Radiation Blue Hotel in Paschim Vihar. At the event, people who have done excellent work in various fields, including business awards, Doctoral awards, were honoured. The event was graced by Bollywood actress Rimi Sen as the Chief Guest, Dr. Tarun Bajaj, Minister of Commerce and Industries, former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Tirath Singh Rawat, Director of Bharatiya Vidyapeeth, Professor Dr. M.N. Hoda, Senior Advocate of Supreme Court, Sethi Uday Kumar Sagar, Advocate Neha Chaudhary, Dr. Swarnalata Panchal, Dr. Mitali Jaiswal, Jagadacharya Brahma Rishi, Dr. Gauri Shankar Ji Maharaj, Dr. Sunny Ahonsi, Engineer Narendra Rao and many other dignitaries.







## Pride of Nation Award 2025 organised by Krishna Social Welfare Trust and Inspiring India



Divya Delhi: The Pride of Nation 2025 event was organised by Krishna Social Welfare Trust at Bhartiya Vidyapeeth Institute of Computer Application and Management Paschim Vihar. People who have made significant contributions to the society in various fields were honoured on the occasion. School bags, notebooks and stationery items were also distributed to the students. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Mr. Paramjit Singh Pamma, President, Krishna Social Welfare Trust, Mr. Tarun Bajaj, President, Pioneer Public School, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Superintendent, Tihar Jail, Mr. HBS Bakshi, Advocate Karmveer, Mr. Saurabh Gulati, Prof. Subhash G. Chatterjee, Mr. V. K. Sharma, Mr. Pankhuri Srivastava, Brand Ambassador, Fit India, Mr. Subhash Dawar, Director, Alliance India, Mr. Pradeep Singh, Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Mange Ram Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner, Housing, Mr. K. D. Singh, R.T.O, Ghaziabad, Mr. Ved Singh Chauhan, City Magistrate, Agra (Revenue), Mr. Anind Pathak, Former Joint Secretary, Vidhan Sabha, Mr. Maharaj Singh Advocate, Mr. Rashtriya Gujar Vikas Manch, Dr. Uttam Ojha, Divyang Prakash Joint Secretary, Ms. Anuradha Rai, Habib Franchisee Owner, Entrepreneur (Varanasi), Mr. Ranjana Gandhi, other dignitaries were present. The book Inspiring Indian Coffee Table Book Volume 5 authored by Neelima Thakur was released at the event. In which people who have made their significant contribution in the field of society have been written.

