

## India calls arbitration court under Indus treaty 'illegal'



**Divya Delhi:** India dismissed the Court of Arbitration under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty as illegal, firmly rejecting its authority. The ministry of external affairs snubbed the "supplemental award" by the "illegal" Court of Arbitration for asserting its authority to hear the Kishenganga and Ratle hydropower cases in Jammu and Kashmir. The ministry also highlighted that the court was constituted in violation of the Indus Waters Treaty Supplemental award issued by the Court of Arbitration refers to a follow-up decision specifically on whether the tribunal has the legal authority (competence) to hear the case about India's Kishenganga and Ratle projects, not on the projects themselves, but on the court's jurisdiction. "India has never recognised the existence in law of this so-called Court of Arbitration, and India's position has all along been that the constitution of this so-called arbitral body is in itself a serious breach of the Indus Waters Treaty and consequently any proceedings before this forum."

## India-US trade discussions require political drive to finish

Rajesh Chauhan

**Divya Delhi:** Negotiators from both sides have basically hammered out the small print of a preliminary trade deal between India and the US, but the political leadership must break an impasse, according to sources. Two of the biggest sticking points remain. According to these sources, New Delhi wants Washington to abolish all punitive taxes while Washington wants freer access to India's politically sensitive agriculture sector. One person familiar with the talk that "the two-day deliberation that started in Washington on Thursday will likely stretch over to next week." Both parties are rushing to proclaim a breakthrough, which will cover some of their commerce, with a wider bilateral trade deal expected by October. India wants America to remove all existing and possible retaliatory tariffs, including the 26% reciprocal tax (a 10% baseline duty imposed on April 5 and a 16% country-specific levy on July 9),



## Those who imposed emergency murdered the Constitution: Modi

PM Modi spoke on Yoga Day in the 123rd episode of Mann Ki Baat program and mentioned the success of International Yoga Day. Along with this, he also shared his thoughts on the 50th anniversary of Emergency. PM Modi said, "All of you must be filled with the energy of yoga and memories of 'International Yoga Day' at this time."

This time too, on 21st June, crores of people from the country and the world participated in 'International Yoga Day'.

when the deal is reached.

You remember, it started 10 years ago. Now in 10 years, this trend is becoming more grand every year. This is also an indication that more and more people are adopting yoga in their daily lives. We have seen so many attractive pictures of Yoga Day this time. Three lakh people did yoga together on the beach of Visakhapatnam. Another amazing scene came from Visakhapatnam itself, more than two thousand tribal students did 108 Surya Namaskars for 108 minutes.

## Hindi not an adversary, but companion to all languages: Amit Shah



**Divya Delhi:** Hindi is not an adversary to any Indian language rather a "companion to all", Union home minister Amit Shah said adding that there should be no opposition to any foreign languages. Addressing the golden jubilee celebrations of the Central government's official language department, Shah said that all attempts to divide India on linguistic lines in the past have failed. I sincerely believe that Hindi can't

be opposed ('virodhi') to any Indian language. Hindi is a friend ('sakhi') of all Indian languages," the home minister said. Hindi and other Indian languages together can take the self-esteem of the country's culture to its final destination, Shah said. The home minister said that

everyone should get rid of "slave mentality" and until a person takes pride in his own language that person cannot be free from the mentality of slavery. There is no opposition to any language. There should not be any opposition to any foreign language.

But there should be an urge to glorify one's own language, there should be an urge to speak one's own language, there should be an urge

## Govt. will investigate the conspiracy angle in the plane crash

**Divya Delhi:** On June 12, Flight 171 collided with a medical hostel building shortly after takeoff. The black box was recovered on June 13. The Air India plane crash that happened in Ahmedabad on June 12 is being investigated from all angles, including the possibility of sabotage. This information was given by Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Muralidhar



Mohol. He said that the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is investigating the matter thoroughly. The black box is in India, it will not be sent abroad.

## Maternity leave constitutional guarantee, says SC

**Divya Delhi:** Observing that the concept of maternity leave is not just a matter of fair play and social justice but also a constitutional guarantee to women employees, Supreme Court Friday set aside a Madras HC order denying the leave to a govt teacher for birth of her third child. maternity leave is intended to achieve the objective.

## Army officer dies rescuing fellow soldier from mountain stream

**Divya Delhi:** A young Army officer from the Sikkim Scouts regiment, Lieutenant Shashank Tiwari, lost his life while rescuing a soldier from drowning in a fast-flowing mountain stream during an operational patrol in North Sikkim. The tragic incident occurred on morning as Lt. Tiwari led a route-clearing team towards a tactical forward base in the high-altitude region. Around 11 am, Agniveer Stephan Subba slipped while crossing a makeshift log bridge and was



swept away by the strong current. Without hesitation, Lt. Tiwari dove into the icy waters to save him. Naik Pukar Katel joined the rescue effort, and together they successfully pulled Subba to safety. However, Lt. Tiwari was caught by

the powerful current and carried nearly 800 meters downstream. His body was recovered within half an hour.

In a statement, the Indian Army's Eastern Command paid tribute: "Lt Gen R.C. Tiwari, #ArmyCdrEC, and all

ranks offer heartfelt condolences on the loss of Lt Tiwari, who made the ultimate sacrifice while rescuing a comrade during an operational patrol in the high-altitude area of #NorthSikkim. The #IndianArmy stands united with his family."

Commissioned on December 14, 2024, Lt. Tiwari had already shown exceptional bravery in his brief service. A native of Gadipur Majhwa village in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, he was the only child of his parents.

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## Ahead of Bihar polls, EC plans house-to-house survey for electoral roll

**Divya Delhi:** The Election Commission of India is planning to conduct an "intensive house-to-house verification" of the voters' list in Bihar ahead of the assembly polls due in the state later this year, officials said. Concerns have been raised by various civil society organisations, political parties and others persistently over the inclusion or deletion of names in the electoral rolls, the officials said. To ensure the system is completely robust and error-free, the ECI is considering an intensive house-to-house verification during the upcoming electoral roll revision before the Bihar Assembly polls," an EC official familiar with the matter said, requesting anonymity. Such an intensive and rigorous revision of the electoral rolls has been done in the past as well with the last such exercise undertaken in 2004, the official said. The regular exercise of revision of electoral rolls is undertaken annually



### Muslim women can divorce alone

**Divya Delhi:** The Telangana high court ruled that a Muslim wife has an absolute and unconditional right to dissolve her marriage through khula, without the husband's consent. This ruling highlights Muslim women's autonomy in personal law. In Islamic kula, a woman gives up her right to maintenance (mehr) to end her marriage. A bench of

justices Moushumi Bhattacharya and BR Madhusudhan Rao ruled that khula is a no-fault, non-confrontational divorce initiated exclusively by the woman and takes immediate effect in the private sphere. "Since the wife's right to demand khula is absolute and does not require a cause or the husband's acceptance, a court's only

disqualification are clearly laid down in Article 326 of the Constitution and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

## 417-cr electronics hub approved for GB Nagar

**Divya Delhi:** The central government has approved the setting up of a 417-crore Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC 2.0) in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Budh Nagar district, at Sector 10 of the Yamuna Expressway, to boost local electronics production and innovation. The project is expected to attract investments to the tune of 2,500 crore and lead to the creation of around 15,000 jobs. "It is fully in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of promoting manufacturing in India. It reflects the government's sharp



focus on job creation and building a Viksit (developed) Bharat," said IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The EMC 2.0 will be developed by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (Yeida) on 206.4 acres.

The 417-crore project cost excludes the cost of land, but includes 144 crore in

central financial assistance from the IT ministry, with the remaining amount to be funded by Yeida.

The project is expected to be completed by January 2028 and will feature facilities such as a skill development centre, a convention centre, and a three-storey hostel block, among others.

## Parag Jain, IPS officer who led Op Sindoor, is new R&AW chief.

**Divya Delhi:** Modi appointed senior IPS officer Parag Jain as the next RAW chief. On July 1, 1989-batch Punjab IPS officer Jain replaced Ravi Sinha, who will leave on June 30. A 'super detective' in intelligence circles, Jain brings to the top post a reputation for

mixing HUMINT and TECHINT, which officials say has been critical to several high-stakes operations. Contributions were during Operation Sindoor, when his intelligence inputs enabled precision missile strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Insiders underlined that years of groundwork and allowed precision missile hits in minutes. As India navigates an increasingly turbulent global security climate, Jain's significant experience in Jammu and Kashmir.

## CAPSULES

### Akali leader Bikram Majithia detained in DA case during Amritsar home search



**Divya Delhi :** In a disproportionate assets investigation against senior Akali leader and former minister Bikram Singh Majithia, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau raided his Amritsar home and arrested him, sources said. The bureau took 29 phones, four laptops, two iPads, eight diaries, and some documents from Majithia's home, they added. Majithia, SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal's brother-in-law, is under investigation for a 2021 drugs case. After the raid, Majithia and his wife and Akali MLA Ganieve Kaur Majithia protested against the Mohali vigilance team for barging into the residence in Green Avenue morning. Sukhbir Badal, his wife and former Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal, and several top Akali officials called the AAP administration in Punjab's raid on Majithia's home a "political vendetta". Sources stated the couple's Chandigarh home was also raided. "We will continue to fight," Ganieve Kaur told Amritsar media. People will support Majithia." After being reinstated last month, Swarandeep Singh, AIG, Flying Squad, Vigilance Bureau, Mohali, led the raid.

## TMC holds on to Kaliganj, as AAP rakes in the votes in Gujarat's Visavadar

**Divya Delhi:** Bypolls in Ludhiana West, Punjab, and Visavadar, Gujarat, gave the AAP a huge boost as it feared for its political future after the crushing defeat in Delhi. In Nilambur, Kerala, the United Democratic Front (UDF), which is led by Congress, won handily. Although they fielded candidates in all five bypolls, the BJP was only able to secure Kadi in Gujarat. Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, and Atishi—the AAP's senior brass—campaigns tirelessly for Arora in the Ludhiana West bypoll. With the Punjab elections coming up in less than two years, Kejriwal even personally oversaw the campaign. Being a portion of Priyanka Gandhi's Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, the



Nilambur bypoll was perceived as a prestige contest. In states like West Bengal and Kerala, where general elections are planned for the following year, the INDIA alliance and the BJP were put to the test in the bypolls. The AAP, which has been relatively quiet since its defeat in the Delhi Assembly

elections, will also benefit from the positive turnout. With a margin of victory of more than 11,000 votes, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF)—whose 2016 candidate was Aryadan Shoukath—bested the ruling Left's M Swaraj in the Nilambur constituency of Kerala.

### 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.

## 830 flats sold in just a month under Apna Ghar scheme

**Divya Delhi:** Within a month of launching Apna Ghar Awaas Yojana 2025, Delhi Development Authority has managed to sell 830 flats, with 630 or 75% of the units in Narela alone. According to officials, 150 flats were sold in Loknayakpuram and 50 in Siraspur. "The positive momentum of the scheme is particularly evident in Narela, where all 115 EWS flats in Sector A1 A4 were fully booked. Additionally, MIG flats in We Loknayakpuram are almost sold out," said an official. The scheme offered ready-to-move-in flats at discounted rates across various categories, including economically weaker sections, low-income group (LIG), middle-income group (MIG) and high-income group (HIG). "It is an entirely online scheme, for which registration opened on



### Voter list update suggests EC may announce a schedule on...

**Divya Delhi:** The Bihar Election 2025 countdown has begun. The Election Commission released a crucial assembly poll update that suggests a Bihar election timeframe. The poll body announced "Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls" in Bihar and "house-to-house verification" to enroll all eligible citizens. June 25, according to the Commission. It said a draft electoral roll will be released on August 1 and the final one on September 30. The Bihar assembly elections schedule can be revealed in the first week of October.

May 27. Its key features include a first-come, first-serve approach, the availability of ready-to-move-in flats and the option for prospective

buyers to visit sample flats at sites," said the official. Prospective buyers can also check the official DDA website, <https://eservices.dda.org.in>.

## Surat dog registration requires 10 neighbors' NOC

**Divya Delhi:** Diamond City's pet-loving population is bewildered by Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC)'s contentious rule requiring pet owners to get 10 neighbours' and the society president's signatures to register their dog and get a pet ownership licence. SMC



officials defend the 2008 law

established by its governing body as a preventive step against legal problems, but dog lovers are shocked that neighbours can decide whether to retain a pet. In addition to neighbors' assent, owners must submit a copy of their Aadhaar card, municipal tax bill or rent agreement,

notarized undertaking, dog's image and immunization records, and other documentation. After a rottweiler killed a four-month-old in Ahmedabad, the prohibition is being strictly enforced. Surat's dog lovers are holding awareness events and submitting memorandums.

### 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.

## Uddhav, Raj slam Hindi 'imposition'

**Divya Delhi:** Cousins Raj and Uddhav Thackeray reiterated their opposition to the Maharashtra government's recent decision to make Hindi the default third language in primary education, with their parties set to take part in separate protests against the move on July 6 and July 7, adding fuel to growing speculation that they're set to reunite after nearly two decades ahead of local body polls across the state.

A week after the Bharatiya Janata



Party-led Mahayuti government issued an order stating that Hindi will "in general" be the third language for classes 1-5 in Marathi- and English-medium schools unless at

least 20 students in a class opt for an alternative, the Thackeray cousins held separate press conferences in which they opposed the three-language formula and the "impo-

sition of Hindi" in Maharashtra. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said the Mahayuti government's decision was akin to declaring a "language emergency" in the state. The former chief minister said his party was not opposed to Hindi as a language, but was against its imposition in Maharashtra. He added that by doing so, the Mahayuti wants to "poison the harmony" between Marathi- and Hindi-speaking people for its politics.



## Centre requests a vendor survey from MCD under the 2014 Act

**Divya Delhi :** The central government ordered the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to conduct a sellers' survey across the city under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014. The under secretary of the Union housing and urban affairs ministry wrote to the MCD commissioner to review the vendors' association's representation, citing a National Hawker Federation letter. The letter recommended 2014 Act-compliant action."NHF's representation raises major concerns about Delhi's street vendor treatment and regulation. Under secretary Asgar Ali wrote that the current vendor survey lacks transparency and legal compliance, excludes town vending committees (TVCs), continues harassment and evictions despite valid identification, and lacks proper social protection ".It calls for immediate action to halt flawed survey



### NDMC accepts mech sweepers, pink toiles, temple upkeep

**Divya Delhi:** Officials said the Municipal Council (NDMC) approved a series of civic infrastructure projects on Wednesday to improve public amenities in Lutyens' Delhi, including the purchase of new mechanical road sweepers (MRS), the

practices, reconstitute and empower TVCs through inclusive elections, develop a heat-wave preparedness plan for vendors, legally recognise and integrate weekly markets into urban planning, enforce the provisions

construction of "pink toilets" for women in all major markets, and the beautification of key temple complexes. Along with policy issues, the council overwhelmingly condemned the 1975 Emergency, calling it a "dark phase" that violated human freedoms.

of Street Vendors Act 2014, create urban space for vending and utilise NULM funds transparently," it said. NHA secretary Anil requested TVC-led implementation, policy review, and stakeholder coordination .

## Centre informs SC child's caste certificate not affected by marriage

**Divya Delhi:** The Centre responded to a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by retired Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) school teacher Santosh Kumari, who questioned the Capital's policy of issuing OBC certificates to any "paternal blood relative".

The petition demanded a statewide policy to grant such certificates to children of OBC single mothers, whether separated or divorced. The Indian Department of Social Justice and Empowerment responded, "The central government is of



the view that any child born to an OBC parent, whether the parents are separated or divorced, should be entitled to an OBC caste certificate based on the credentials of either the OBC father or the OBC mother, depending on who has custody or is actively raising the child." It

stated that adding such benefits would need a "comprehensive reevaluation of the criteria governing OBC classification, which are rooted in indicators of social and educational backwardness rather than merely lineage or parentage."In circumstances where an OBC certificate is awarded based only on the mother's qualifications, "It must be clearly established that the child has been living with and brought up solely by the mother." A preventive mechanism should also be in place to avoid misuse of this benefit."

### Govt may extend excise policy for 3 months

**Divya Delhi:** The Delhi government may extend the excise policy for three months. According to reports, the committee struggled to improve customer experience, make retail liquor stores accessible throughout the city, and ensure brand and variant availability. They stated that

the chief minister has given stringent orders to eliminate favoritism and make the policy "fool-proof" to corruption. Sources said these difficulties hampered the disputed policy issued in Nov 2021, which was withdrawn in Aug 2022 after CBI filed a case over suspected irregularities

in its design and implementation. The policy may take time to finalize, and the current one expires in a week. Then it was discussed to extend the policy for at least three months "A source claimed the political dispensation will make the ultimate decision.

## Direct transfer to Kanwar committees will be initiated by Delhi government

**Divya Delhi :** According to chief minister Rekha Gupta's social media post, the Delhi government has decided to stop using tenders to set up kanwar camps and will instead start sending money directly to certified kanwar committees so they can help pilgrims. Depending on the size and duration of the camp, approved committees would receive a one-time help ranging from 50,000 to 10 lakh. For registration, the recommendation of the local member of parliament and assembly is now required. The chief minister announced at a press conference that the kanwar committees would receive half of the total grant money ahead of



time, with the other half being released once they submit the utilisation certificate (UC), verification with geo-tagged photos taken by the SDM or tehsildar, and all audit documents. The chief minister also announced that each camp will receive free energy up to 1,200 units. However, he blamed the

tender system for "corruption" and launched an attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) because of it, saying that the money never made it to the committees. An unprecedented decision was made today at the cabinet meeting to ensure that the forthcoming Kanwar Yatra is magnificent, sacred.

### 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.

## PF funds can be accessed using ATMs

**Divya Delhi:** The government has increased the limit from ₹1 lakh for automated settlement of advances or partial withdrawals to ₹5 lakh. With the increased threshold of ₹5 lakhs, more advanced claims can now be processed automatically, within three days of submission, thanks to auto-settlement. The government announced in a statement that members will be able to receive timely financial support when they need it the most, thanks to the increased



cap and speedier fund access. At a ceremony marking the 100th day of the third tenure of the Modi government, Mandaviya initially announced the limit modification, which takes effect on Tuesday. An employee's provident fund (PF) account will be available to users while

dealing with an ATM, in addition to conventional savings accounts, according to the minister. Then, the user can make transactions and withdrawals of qualified amounts without having to submit an application to the state-run retirement funds manager, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). The PF account will be linked to ATMs, so employees can access their cash directly according to their eligibility, according to Mandaviya.

## Hundred Devi Buses Discontinued Service From Narela

**Divya Delhi:** 100 electric buses, once green but now saffron in color, were ceremonially christened by chief minister Rekha Gupta at the recently constructed Narela bus depot. Green has always been associated with environmentally conscious actions, and the recent color change has sparked some controversy. "The BJP is trying to inflame Hindu sentiments by painting Devi buses saffron," stated AAP Delhi convener Saurabh Bharadwaj. The Hindu faith will be offended by bus stains containing vomit, paan, spit, and mucus. Gupta justified the decision by saying, "Delhi is vibrant and colourful...so, as an experiment, green and orange buses have been introduced." She went on to say that the launch was dedicated to Lord Jagannath and



that it happened to coincide with Rath Yatra. Devi buses, which are nine meters long and have 23 seats plus room to stand for seventeen, are purpose-built for last-mile connectivity and are perfect for navigating the city's tight roadways. The wheelchair-accessible, air-conditioned buses have amenities such as panic buttons, CCTV cameras, and real-time tracking. Gupta stated that more than 2,000 e-buses are currently in operation in Delhi.

### 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 govt issues SOPs to enforce fuel ban on old vehicles from July 1

**Divya Delhi:** The Delhi government has released Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to implement a ban on refuelling end-of-life (EOL) vehicles in the city starting July 1. The move is based on a directive from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) aimed at curbing vehicular pollution. Under the new rules, diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years-regardless of their registration state-will not be allowed to refuel at any



petrol station in Delhi. Fuel stations have been instructed to display clear signage stating: "Fuel will not be dispensed to End of Life Vehicles 15 years old Petrol/CNG and 10 years old Diesel w.e.f. 01.07.202 Staff at fuel stations must be trained on CAQM

guidelines and the procedure to deny fuel to EOL vehicles. Petrol pumps are also required to maintain a manual or digital log of all fuel denial transactions involving such vehicles and submit weekly reports to the transport department through the official

### Social justice to be focus of BJP's Bihar polls campaign

**Divya Delhi:** The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance is placing social justice at the core of its election campaign in Bihar, with a focus on Prime Minister Modi and chief minister Nitish as champions of the poor and socially marginalised, people familiar with the strategy said. The BJP is keen to go to the polls, expected in October-November, as part of a strong coalition to tap into the "collective vote bank" of allies in the state, where it is in power with chief minister Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United) or JD(U). Other NDA constituents are Union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Awami Morcha (Secular) and Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP). The NDA constituents will jointly contest elections that are likely to be held later this year.

website.

## The pending health trade licenses will be expedited by MCD

**Divya Delhi:** The deliberative arm of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has announced a streamlined procedure for the approval of all outstanding health trade licenses. Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh expressed gratitude to chief minister Rekha Gupta for doing away with the need



to get a no-objection certificate from the Delhi Police, saying that this will allow more businessmen to save time. From October 2019 till now, the corporation has received 50,422 applications for health trade licenses. Out of these, 3,323 are currently being processed, 21,666 have

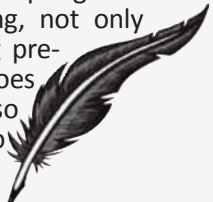
been issued, and 25,430 have been rejected, according to data published on the corporation's website. On the other hand, out of a total of 51,780 applications, 1,587 were pending processing, 13,354 were issued, and 36,839 were denied by the Delhi Police.



Editorial

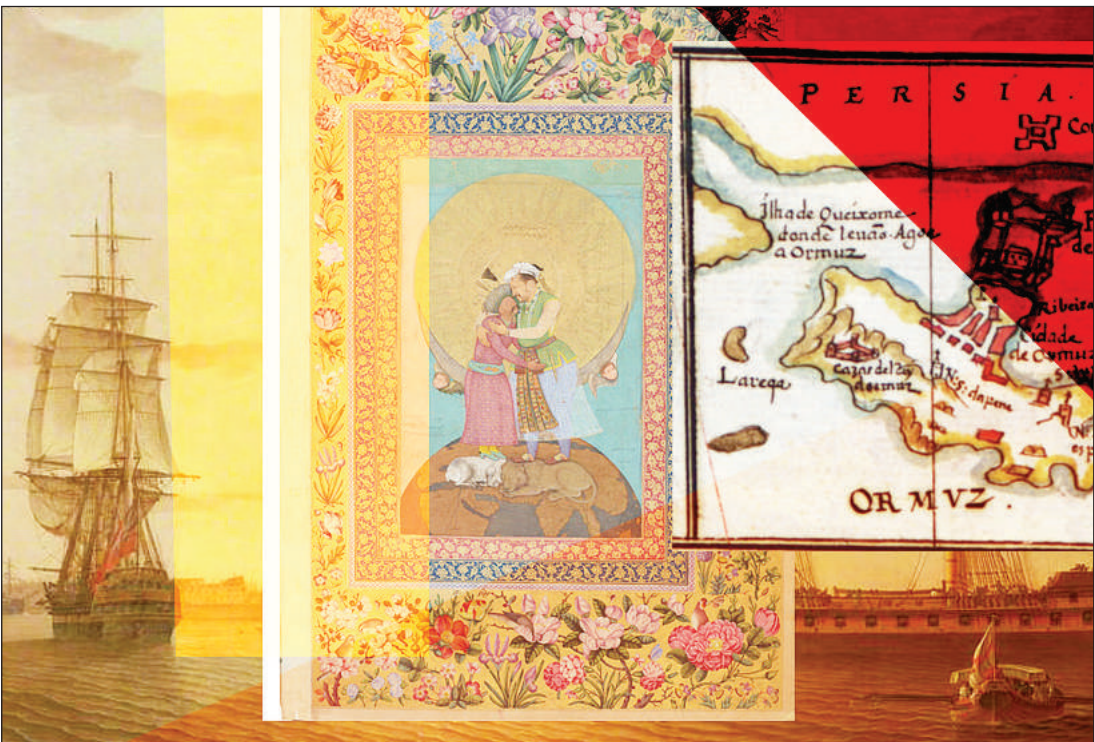
It’s curious even scientists discard spirit of science in daily life, become unscientific: Nehru

In the course of less than four months, we have put up, declared open, or are going to declare open, three national laboratories. I suppose before this year is out, some more national laboratories will also be started. This is a great venture testifying to the faith which our scientists and, I hope, our Government have in science. I suppose the putting up of fine and attractive buildings does some service to science; nevertheless, buildings do not make science as Dr. Raman has often reminded us. It is human beings who make science, not bricks and mortar. Properly equipped buildings, however, help the human being to work efficiently. It is, therefore, desirable to have these fine laboratories for trained persons to work in and for persons to be trained for future work. You, Sir, referred to the spirit of science. I wonder what exactly that spirit is and to what extent we agree or differ in our ideas of it. Is science, as is often supposed, a handmaiden to industry? It certainly wants to help industry, though not merely for the sake of helping industry but also because it wants to create work for the nation, so that people may have better living conditions and greater opportunities for growth. That I suppose will be agreed to but there is something more to it. What ultimately does science represent? You, Sir, just referred to scientists declaring war on nature. May I put it in a different way? We seek the co-operation of nature, we seek to uncover the secrets of nature, to understand them and to utilise them for the benefit of humanity. The active principle of science is discovery. Now, what is, if I may ask, the active principle of a social framework or society? Usually, it stands for conservatism, remaining where we are, not changing and carrying on, though, of course, with some improvement and further additions. Nevertheless, it is a principle of continuity rather than of change. So, we come up against a certain inherent conflict in society between the co-existing principles of continuity and of conservatism and the scientific principle of discovery which brings about change and challenges that continuity. So the scientific worker, although he is praised and patted on the back, is nevertheless, not wholly approved of, because he comes and upsets the status quo of things. Normally speaking, science seldom really has the facilities that it deserves except when some misfortune comes to a country in the shape of war. Then everything has to be set aside and science has its way, even though it is for an evil purpose. It is interesting to see this conflict between the normal conservatism of a static society and the normal revolutionary tendency of the scientist’s discovery which often changes the basis of that society. It changes living conditions and the conditions that govern human life and human survival. I take it that most people who talk glibly of science, including our great industrialists, think of science merely as a kind of handmaiden to make their work easier. And so it is. Of course, it does make their work easier. It adds to the wealth of the nation and better conditions. All this science does. But surely science is something more than that. The history of science shows that it does not simply better the old. It sometimes upsets the old. It does not merely add new truths to the old ones but sometimes the new truth it discovers disintegrates some part of the old truths and thereby upsets the way of men’s thinking and the way of their lives. Science, therefore, does not merely repeat the old in better ways or add to the old but creates something that is new to the world and to human consciousness.If we pursue this line of thought, what exactly does the spirit of science mean? It means many things. It means not only accepting the fresh truth that science may bring, not only improving the old but being prepared to upset the old if it goes against that spirit. It also means not being tied down to something that is old.



Indians ruled the Gulf through Hormuz

Though an uneasy ceasefire between Israel and Iran continues, just two days ago, on 24 June, the Iranian parliament threatened the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. But this was not the first time that Hormuz, situated at the narrowest point of the Persian Gulf, has turned into a flashpoint between Iran and the West. Since at least 1300 CE, Hormuz has been the hinge of Eurasian trade, where thousands of Indians, Arabs, Iranians, Mongols, and Turks made their fortunes. Goods poured through Hormuz, to and fro the Mediterranean, West and Central Asia, South and Southeast Asia, and China. But in the 16th century, the Portuguese adventurer Alfonso da Albuquerque took control of the port. The shockwave rippled through the Western Indian Ocean; the decades after saw the end of Hormuz’s prominence, the development of Iran’s first maritime policy, and the immigration of tens of thousands of Indian traders and investors into the Gulf and Iran. This is the story of how Hormuz shaped the history of India and the world. Just as the Gulf’s geography offered opportunities throughout time, it also created challenges. Its character was utterly unique, nothing like our world of monolithic nation-states. Sam Dalrymple, historian and author of Shattered Lands: The Five Partitions of India, described Gulf towns to me as “trading islands/oasis towns wedged between the sand sea and the salt sea. They make less sense as states and more as oases filled with traders.” Their population was never



consistent: it waxed and waned with the trading seasons, which in turn depended on the monsoon. Outside these ports, weather conditions were extreme: storms, unseasonal winds, scorching heat and humidity. The Gulf’s northern edge, shielded from the Iranian Plateau by a mountain range, allowed little room for coastal states to grow. In the south, the vast Arabian desert was home to small tribes that occasionally preyed on sea traffic. Hormuz rose to prominence because it was able to offer safe ground for international trade, without the risk of piracy. This wasn’t what one would expect from looking at it. Barely a few kilometres across, sweltering Hormuz was encrusted in salt, with only one freshwater source. Its rulers solved this problem by importing water on barges from the shore. Markets were kept open all night to avoid the daytime

heat. In The Persian Gulf: A Political and Economic History of Five Port Cities, historian Willem Floor further explains that the rulers of Hormuz imposed an embargo on timber, oars, coir, iron and steel, which prevented their rivals from building ships. They then took control of nearby ports, establishing a chokehold on the Gulf. Though Hormuz’s rulers were Muslim, the island made no segregations on ethnic or religious lines. The second-largest ethnic group on the island were Indians, who conducted a roaring trade in horses in the 13th century CE. In ‘India’s Sea Trade with Iran in Medieval Times’, historian Shireen Moosvi discusses the Somanatha-Veraval inscription, recording the construction of a mosque in Somnath in 1264 by the Hormuz merchant Nuruddin Firoz. The Sanskrit portion of the inscription describes the

mosque as a dharma-sthanam, and mentions the direct involvement of Gujarat’s ruling Chalukya king and his officials in the grant. If this Hormuz merchant had such influence, writes Moosvi, “Hormuz merchants must surely have formed an elite group of some importance... in the Chaulukya kingdom of Gujarat.”For the next century, Hormuz continued to flourish. According to Moosvi, Hormuz’s networks extended as far as Uzbekistan and Turkey. Goods shipped from Hormuz reached, in relays, all the way to China. The Chinese admiral Zheng He brought his vast armada there multiple times in the 15th century, where he exchanged ceramics and silks for the luxuries of Western Eurasia. Strategic resources such as horses were shipped to India from Hormuz; in return, India provided necessities such as rice

to the Gulf ports, as well as cloth, metals, woods, and spices. In his edited volume India and the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800, MN Pearson notes that exchanges overwhelmingly favoured India. Vast quantities of silver and salt were required to balance the trade. In the early 1500s, the Portuguese erupted into the Indian Ocean. From their galleons—artillery platforms designed for deep-sea and coastal voyaging—they attempted to take control of trade gateways in the Indian Ocean, including Hormuz. They stationed a permanent garrison on the island in 1515, but immediately ran into problems. At the same time, the Mughal Empire of the Indian subcontinent consolidated its reach into Afghanistan. Conquering Kandahar, the Mughals stabilised overland routes from India to Central Asia, further weakening the appeal of Hormuz. According to Floor, the Ottoman Empire, which controlled Iraq, attempted to get rid of the Portuguese in 1552 but failed. It would be an Iranian power which finally expelled them and restored some normalcy to the Gulf trade.

But Hormuz would never again be independent. Up to this point, riven by internal strife, the Safavid dynasty of Iran had paid little attention to events in Hormuz—though they were technically its overlords. However, Shah Abbas I (r. 1587–1629), a contemporary of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, eventually consolidated power. He was alarmed by the loss of both Kandahar and Hormuz, crucial to Iran’s trade with the steppe and the ocean.

Delhi’s new fuel policy is forcing people to buy new cars. It won’t reduce pollution

There is an old saying in English—‘missing the woods for the trees’. It means getting so focused on the minor details that you overlook the bigger picture. And honestly, this is what I feel about the new ‘fuel policy.’ Starting 1 July, all end-of-life vehicles (EOL) in the national capital will be denied fuel and can also face deregistration, impounding or scrapping. Reportedly, many Delhi residents have been lining up at car showrooms, panic-buying new vehicles. A very close friend’s mother called me up and asked, “Beta, should we buy a new car?” Let me tell you a bit about aunty—she’s a retired government service officer and lives comfortably with her husband on a decent pension in one of those societies in Greater Noida. Other than the twice-a-week run to the shops and the occasional drive to meet friends in Delhi, their 11-year-old Hyundai i10 barely gets used. Yet because of the new fuel policy announced by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta—where

older vehicles will not be allowed to refuel, first in Delhi and later across the entire National Capital Region (NCR)—she is genuinely wondering what to do. Now, let me make it clear that money is not a problem in this case. This retired couple can easily afford a new car. It is just that they don’t see the need for one. And they shouldn’t have to. You can think of thousands of cases like this of retired folks with perfectly functional and perfectly maintained vehicles that will now have to be junked because of this new policy. This is a waste of resources. If it is pollution reduction that we are chasing, the policy doesn’t consider the massive carbon cost of building a new car from the ground up. I’ve read a few arguments in favour of shared mobility: the governments like Karnataka are trying to ban it altogether. And honestly, with how expensive and unreliable cabs have become, I’ve decided I’d rather just drive to the airport and pay the usurious parking fee myself.

UDF must look beyond Muslim votes to win 2026 polls

There is a new ‘captain’ in Kerala. After the Congress-led United Democratic Front wrested the Nilambur seat from the Left Democratic Front, the state media lavished praise on Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan for helming a crucial electoral win. On 23 June, the day of the Nilambur bypoll verdict, Satheesan watched the proceedings from the District Congress Committee (DCC) office in Ernakulam. As soon as the UDF ensured its victory, Congress leaders vied among themselves to shower praises on the LoP, led by MP Hibi Eden. It was a mark of appreciation for Satheesan, who didn’t bow down to former Nilambur MLA PV Anvar’s diktats and ensured a win despite the latter re-entering the fray. It was PV Anvar’s resignation that facilitated the byelection in the first place, even if he sought to extract his pound of flesh for extending his support to the UDF. Leaders within the Congress – such as Ramesh Chennithala and ally Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) – advocated Anvar’s accommodation, with the by-poll becoming a bellwether ahead of the 2026 assembly election. Nevertheless,

Satheesan stood his ground and took ownership of the decision to keep Anvar out. It was a marked departure from the consensual ways that have defined the Congress in recent times. The consensual approach was necessitated on account of the party’s weakening organisational apparatus, leaving it at the mercy of various stakeholders and its supporters frustrated. The UDF’s morale-boosting win and the credit to Satheesan prompted former LoP Ramesh Chennithala to come out publicly, stating how nobody hailed him as ‘captain’ when he led the UDF to bypoll victories in the past. Power struggles in the Congress aside, the UDF seems to be taking the wrong lessons from the bypoll by extrapolating it to 2026. On the contrary, the ruling Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) is leveraging even the loss to build its narrative for the upcoming assembly election. The Left’s route to a solitary seat

in successive Lok Sabha elections in 2019 and 2024 was marked by a shift in its Hindu vote base to the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP). The Left has traditionally been the ‘Hindu party’ in Kerala, whereas the UDF has been anchored by minority communities. Unlike the 2019 elections—held in the wake of the BJP-fuelled Sabarimala agitation—the 2024 loss made the switching of Hindu voters a perpetual phenomenon. If the CPI-M initially concentrated on carving out sections of UDF’s minority votes to counter the loss of its Hindu base, the 2024 loss demonstrated the urgency to hold on to its Ezhava vote bank. This prompted the Left to double down on its strategy of portraying the UDF as a front backed by communal elements.

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Europe’s factories to African startups—how India can act as a bridge between economies

Not long ago I heard a global CEO joke that India’s payment apps impress the world, yet our biggest export deals still settle in dollars. The comment stayed with me because it captured the paradox of modern India: a country with the tools and talent to bridge East and West, but not choosing to think bigger. Today’s global landscape is splintering. Rising tensions between the United States and China have prompted supply-chain realignments from Vietnam to Mexico. Political blocs, tariff walls, and digital standards

are being remade in real time. In this environment, many countries must choose sides. India, by contrast, can carve a third path: a true bridge economy that unites disparate markets through aligned infrastructure, finance, and digital networks. The first piece of this bridge is production. India’s Production Linked Incentive-driven factories are churning out smartphones, solar panels, and auto components on a scale unseen a decade ago. Exporters in Pune now ship precision parts as easily to Stuttgart in Germany

as they do to Lagos in Nigeria. Our manufacturing base overlaps the needs of advanced economies (where quality matters) and the rising purchasing power of the emerging economies. That dual fit is rare, and it underpins India’s unique value proposition. Digital rails reinforce this bridge. UPI’s transaction volumes surpassed global giants like Visa, turning wallets into gateways. Early UPI trials in the UAE and Singapore show how a rupee-linked digital corridor can settle micropayments instantly, without inter-

mediary banks. If India extends these rails to East Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Gulf, small businesses from Nairobi to Jakarta could transact with Indian partners as effortlessly as they do with local vendors. Digital payment networks are the plumbing of the 21st-century bridge. With our digital rails in place, the next step is ensuring those goods move as smoothly across ports and borders.Yet infrastructure alone is not enough. Logistics bottlenecks still cast a shadow on our ambition.





In a joint venture, Ambani and Adani will sell transportation fuel

**Divya Delhi :** In a joint statement, Adani Total Gas Ltd and Jio-bp, an arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, announced their partnership to sell auto fuel at select outlets. Certain ATGL outlets will offer Jio-bp's gasoline and diesel, while Jio-bp outlets will incorporate ATGL's compressed natural gas (CNG) dispensers. "This partnership will enable us to leverage each other's infrastructure, thus enhancing customer experience and offerings," said Suresh P. Manglani, executive director and CEO of Adani Total Gas. After Reliance bought a 26% interest in an Adani Power project in Madhya Pradesh, the two opposing billionaires teamed together again. "We are united by a shared vision to offer our customers a superior selection of high-quality fuels," stated Jio-bp chairman Sarthak



Behuria. "The partnership between RIL and the Adani Group is anticipated to be extremely complementary, providing substantial operational advantage via their combined physical presence," stated Nirav Karkera, head of research at Fisdrom. A more holistic consumer experience is the goal of the relationship, which is why both companies are offering complimentary items. Both parties stand to benefit from this partnership, which is especially noteworthy in an industry where state-run corporations predominate.

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 frontload 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).

JioHotstar Reaches 300 Million Subscribers, Closer to Netflix

**Divya Delhi:** JioHotstar, a worldwide OTT player from India, is closing in on Netflix's subscriber dominance. JioCinema and Disney+Hotstar now have 300 million users, up from 50 million in February 2025 after the 2025 TATA IPL. The 2025 Indian Premier League season greatly impacted JioHotstar's client base. It rose from 50 million subscribers in February to 280 million by May and 300 million currently. Digital viewership overtook television for the first time, causing tremendous development. Digital reach was 652 million versus 537 million TV viewers. The final IPL 2025 match



received 237 million digital viewers and 189 million TV viewers. Along with user growth, the platform broke revenue records. JioStar, the parent company of JioHotstar, announced that the 2025 IPL had the largest advertising and subscrip-

tion revenue. Historically, league rights were auctioned for 23,575 crore for TV and 20,500 crore for digital over 5 years, indicating great value. The IPL's peak internet viewership was 55.2 million and TV viewing time was 514 billion minutes.

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

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

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

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

JSW to acquire Dulux Paints for 9,000 crore

**Divya Delhi :** JSW Paints will buy 75% of Dulux-owner Akzo Nobel's India operations for Rs 9,407 crore (\$1.1 billion), the sector's biggest purchase amid rising competition. JSW Paints, founded by steel tycoon Sajjan Jindal in 2019, will become the fourth largest participant in the sector, controlled by Asian Paints, Berger Paints, and Kansai Nerolac. Aditya Birla Group launched Birla Opus in 2024. According to Indian takeover legislation, JSW Paints would openly offer Rs 3,929 crore to Akzo Nobel India's public stockholders for a 25% stake.



Public shareholders would receive Rs 3,418 per share in the open offer, while JSW Paints will pay the Dutch firm Rs 2,762. Based on the open offer response, JSW Paints would buy enough shares from the Dutch company to

maintain 75% ownership in Akzo Nobel India. JSW Paints, part of the \$23-billion JSW Group, will market Akzo Nobel India after the purchase, with the Dutch corporation perhaps remaining a public shareholder.

Birla Co. recovers Rs 2 crore in stolen digital gold

**Divya Delhi :** Hackers breached the ABCD mobile app run by Aditya Birla Capital and stole digital gold valued at approximately Rs 1.95 crore from 435 user accounts, according to Divya Delhi. On June 9, the scam was exposed after multiple consumers contacted the company's call center to express their dissatisfaction with the theft of their digital gold. Concerned about this, the company's technical staff launched an internal investigation and filed a first information report. According to our sources, the affected accounts now have their balances returned by the company.

The BSE was fined 25L for the unfair distribution of corporate information

**Divya Delhi :** According to Divya Delhi, the 45-page SEBI order confirmed that the BSE's system design allowed paying clients and the internal listing compliance monitoring (LCM) staff to view business announcements ahead of schedule. Prior to the information being made public on its website, this occurred. Because there were no measures in place to ensure that all stakeholders had equal and contemporaneous access to the data, the regulator deemed this to be a breach of norms. To keep infor-



mation inequality at bay and guarantee fair markets, this is crucial. After reviewing the Securities Contracts (Regulation) SECC (Stock Exchange and Clearing Corporations Regulations, 2018), SEBI determined that BSE had broken Regulation 39(3). All users must have fair and transparent access for stock exchanges to

comply with the rules. Additionally, the regulator brought attention to the fact that BSE neglected to establish a really basic syndication (RSS) feed, which would have mitigated the possibility of unequal access to corporate filings. Inspections revealed gaps, but BSE just created a time gap to fix the problem, according to SEBI. The regulator also pointed out significant problems with BSE's oversight of client code updates, which are permitted only for legitimate mistakes.

NHAI to blacklist FASTags 'kept in hand', seeks details from toll operators

**Divya Delhi:** Drivers who don't fix their FASTags on the windshield of their vehicles will face permanent blacklisting of tags, a measure taken in view of the malpractice of people handing out "loose or unfixed tags" for payment of highway-user fee, which leads to congestion at toll plaza lanes and sometimes altercations with toll collectors. The NHAI company dealing with toll collection and management of highways, IHMCL, has asked federations of toll collectors, highway builders and operators to report such cases for quick action. "Tags-in-hand" have been categorised as "loose tags". Despite repeated advisories against the practice there have been several cases of people handing out FASTag at toll gates



Total bids for three initial public offerings (IPOs) reached 22.5 billion rupees

**Divya Delhi :** Nearly 22,500 crore rupees were raised in three separate initial public offerings (IPOs) that concluded. The combined target amount for all three was 2,562 crore rupees. According to data from the exchanges and merchant bankers, the 119 crore rupee IPO of Globe Civil Projects was subscribed 86 times, the 853 crore rupee IPO of Ellenbarrie Industrial Gases was subscribed 22 times, and the 1,590 crore rupee IPO of Mumbai-based real estate giant Kalpataru was subscribed 2.3 times.

for deduction of user fee. In letters addressed to these federations, IHMCL said, "This leads to lane-level congestion due to manual handling

and violation issues, misuse in closed-loop tolling operations, generation of false charge-back demands and overall disruption.

GST compensation fund likely to have 95k cr surplus

**Divya Delhi:** They requested anonymity and stated the GST Council may determine how to use this extra compensation cess. Cess funds are used for a specified purpose and are levied in addition to taxes. These insiders claimed the GST Council, the top indirect



tax decision-making body, will meet before or after the Monsoon session of

Parliament, depending on member availability. They said the Council meeting is overdue and coming soon. Last December 21, the 55th GST Council met in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. They stated the Council will discuss tax rate rationalization, compliance

ease, and cess reform during its 56th meeting. The council may replace the GST compensation cess on sin goods and luxury commodities like cigarettes and cars with two specific-purpose levies to fund health and clean energy projects.

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.

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

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

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




### Dual Degrees Granted Prior to 2022 by UGC

Divya Delhi: Students can breathe a sigh of relief as the University Grants Commission (UGC) has revised its provisions regarding dual degrees. Acquired degrees prior to 2022 will now be recognized as valid, as long as they were earned in accordance with UGC requirements. Starting from that day forward, students were able to pursue two degrees simultaneously according to a notification issued by the UGC. All degrees earned at the same time prior to April 13, 2022, were null and void. Those UGC guidelines state that a student cannot claim benefits based on two degrees earned concurrently before 13 April 2022, and they also state that these degrees will not be recognized. The UGC resolved to revise this previous regulation during its meeting on April 3, 2025. Guidelines were subsequently updated and released on June 5, 2025. New regulations make it possible to recognise a student's dual degree completion provided both degrees were earned in accordance with UGC requirements. If you want to get two degrees at once, you have to meet the requirements set out by the UGC. Both classes should not have conflicting schedules. Both courses can be taken in physical mode, however the class times need to be different.

**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.



### Indian medical students in Iran face uncertainty amid Iran-Israel rivalry

Divya Delhi: The Indian government began Operation Sindhu to evacuate its residents, including over 6,000 students, from war-torn Iran amid rising tensions with Israel.

New Delhi received 110 Indians, mostly students, on the inaugural flight from Yerevan, Armenia. Due to instability in Ukraine and Russia, most MBBS students chose Iran. However, the Iran-Israel war has placed their careers on hold indefinitely, worrying these youngsters. Hasan Zaidi from Agra, Uttar Pradesh, who studied MBBS in Iran in 2024 at Arak University of Medical Sciences, Arak, told Education Times he only wants to return.

He to India after his first year of study. We initially thought the war would finish shortly and we wouldn't need to return. I chose Iran because the war in Russia and Ukraine made schooling dangerous. A similar issue has occurred in Iran unexpectedly. Safety is why I selected this country, adds Hasan. Tehran is dangerous. Iranians are moving to safer locations.



### AR and VR have the potential to make cultural heritage more accessible to everybody

Divya Delhi: India has to make use of technology to market and protect its history. Dr. Neeru Misra, a visiting professor at the BL Institute of Indology in Delhi and a former director of the ICCR, will discuss the challenges of digital preservation and how new technologies might help preserve cultural artifacts for future generations. When used to the preservation of artifacts and cultural history, digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI) will have a revolutionary impact. The process of digitization involves creating digital archives that are resistant to damage by using high-resolution imagery and 3D modeling to preserve artifacts. Scholarly investigation and popular appreciation will be made easier with this measure, which will safeguard physical degradation and guarantee accessibility on a worldwide scale. Predicting possible harm, analyzing environmental conditions that impact artefact deterioration, and enabling exact restoration are all ways in which artificial intelligence (AI) enhances preservation. As an added bonus, it uses historical data to restore damaged or lost works while maintaining their authenticity. In addition to these initiatives, VR and AR provide democratized access to cultural heritage by providing virtual experiences of historical sites and artifacts.




### DU's Decline to Publish Articles on Islam, Pakistan, and China Sets Off

Divya Delhi : An alleged set of political science graduate papers focusing on Islam, Pakistan, and China were recently rejected by a tribunal at Delhi University. Many members were opposed to the plan. People felt strongly about it; some thought it was an example of ideological censorship, while others saw it as a way to make the curriculum more "India-centric and bias-free." The Standing Committee for Academic Matters at DU met and decided to eliminate four elective courses: Islam and International Relations, Pakistan and the World, China's Role in the Contemporary World, and State and Society in Pakistan. When the group reconvenes on July 1, they will finally get down to reading and discussing paper number five: Religious Nationalism and Political Violence. Professor Monami Sinha, who was on the committee, disagreed with the decision and claimed that the changes show an effort to water down content that is controversial but still relevant to academia. We contended that thorough research on China and Pakistan.



### University of Leeds, University of Delhi sign MoU

Divya Delhi: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Universities of Leeds (UoL) in the United Kingdom and Delhi (DU) in India, formally establishing a strategic academic relationship between the two institutions. The two institutions hope to strengthen their capacity-building efforts, exchange teachers and students more easily, and increase their collaborative research through this arrangement. The institution has released a statement stating that the MoU lays the groundwork for a lasting academic partnership that will include collaborative research, academic events, co-teaching, and shared learning platforms. In order to facilitate international cooperation and the generation of new information, the two schools intend to forge closer relationships with one another. The social science faculty at the University of Leeds spearheaded the development of the friendship that would eventually blossom into the cooperation.




### 3rd-gen IITs struggle with low enrollment and placements

Divya Delhi: Five third-generation Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) founded between 2015 and 2016 are falling short of their intake targets, with fewer masters and PhD enrolments than available seats, declining placements, and faculty vacancies. The government announced six new IITs in Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, Dharwad, Tirupati, and Goa in 2015, with a "initial intake of 180 students in the first year from temporary campuses, increasing to 450 in the second year and to 928 (including 840 undergraduates) in the third year". In 2017, the Union Cabinet changed the intake estimates.

According to 2017 Cabinet-approved figures shared by IIT Tirupati, by 2023-24, IIT Tirupati and IIT Palakkad would have 2,550 students (900 undergraduates) and the remaining IITs 2,540 students (1,170 undergraduates) across all courses. Right to Information (RTI) Act data and open source data suggest that many of these institutes are still falling short of the predicted figure.


At present, IIT Tirupati has 1,700 students, which is expected to rise by 2021-22. IIT Tirupati director K.N. Satyanarayana said "The Cabinet approval for construction of a permanent campus for 1,200 students was given only in November 2017 as part of Phase A. COVID years delayed targets. The Cabinet recently approved Phase B construction to accommodate 1,300 more students (2500) by 2029.



### Class 10 CBSE final two board exam policy: first option mandatory, second optional

Divya Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) announced its final policy for two board exams for Class 10 students in 2026, making the first mandatory and the second optional. The Board produced a policy draft in February and solicited stakeholder input. CBSE Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj reported that 65% of pupils supported twice-assigned tests. To ensure pupils take the first exam seriously, teachers and principals advised making it mandatory. The 2023 National Curriculum Framework, modified to reflect the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, allows students two attempts each year—one main exam and one optional improvement exam—to minimize the high-stakes character of board exams. Exams are between February and May. The CBSE has ruled that students who are missing in three or more courses during the first board exam, which would be the major exam, cannot sit the second (optional) exam. According to the final policy, such students would be placed in the 'Essential Repeat' category."

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### Iranian medical students from India face an uncertain future

Divya Delhi: With tensions rising between Iran and Israel, the Indian government has initiated Operation Sindhu to remove its nationals, including more than 6,000 students, from Iran, which is currently experiencing the effects of a civil war. The inaugural aircraft touched down in New Delhi from Yerevan, Armenia, with 110 Indian nationals on board, the majority of them were students. Because of the unpredictability in Russia and Ukraine, the majority of these MBBS candidates choose to study medicine in Iran. The students' careers have been put on indefinite hold due to the ongoing Iran-Israel conflict, and they are worried about it. Hasan Zaidi, an MBBS student from Agra, Uttar Pradesh, who went to Iran in 2024 to attend the Arak University of Medical Sciences in Arak, is only considering going back. He felt compelled to go back to India after this, his first year of college. At first, we thought the war would be over soon and that we wouldn't have to come back. I opted for Iran since my schooling appeared safer than in Russia or Ukraine due to the ongoing conflict. Quite unexpectedly, a comparable scenario has just surfaced in Iran. Tehran is in a very precarious position. Iranians are fleeing to more secure regions. According to Hasan, the Indian embassy in Tehran is providing assistance to students who are attempting to evacuate through neighboring countries such as Turkmenistan and Armenia.





BJP backs Diljit amid calls to revoke citizenship for 'Sardar Ji 3'

**Divya Delhi:** Following backlash for his film "Sardaar Ji 3" with Pakistani actor Hania Aamir, BJP national spokesperson RP Singh and former DSGMC chief Manjit Singh G K.has have supported Punjabi musician and actor Diljit Dosanjh. R P Singh called Dosanjh "a national asset and a global ambassador of Indian culture" on his X account and criticized the Federation of Western India Cine Employees for demanding action against him. FWICE's demand to revoke his Indian citizenship over an accidental film shoot is unreasonable and disproportionate. Pre-Phalgam filming featured a Pakistani actress. Angry people can boycott or ask the film not to be shown in India. He argued that criticizing Diljit's patriotism and demanding such an extreme move is unreasonable. Then did FWICE or others object? TV news programs sometimes invite Pakistanis to enhance ratings. Should anchors also give up citizen-



Neurologist confirms Salman Khan's terrible health condition

**Divya Delhi :** Salman Khan disclosed on The Great Indian Kapil Show that he had a brain aneurysm and arteriovenous malformation. Salman Khan has trigeminal neuralgia, a chronic facial nerve pain illness. Dr. Furqan Khan, consultant neurologist, Saifee Hospital, Mumbai, explained trigeminal neuralgia . "Trigeminal neuralgia is a chronic nerve condition that causes sudden, extreme, electric-shock-like pain on one side of the face. It's quick but powerful and can be caused by eating, brushing teeth, chatting, or a small breeze. The trigeminal nerve, which sends face signals to the brain, is affected.

ship? Avoid devaluing nationalism and weaponizing patriotism. He advised FWICE to reconsider its position—targeting our skills lowers our morality. At the party's Chandigarh headquarters press conference,

Punjabi actor and BJP cultural cell convener Hobby Dhaliwal supported Diljit. Dhaliwal called Diljit a global Punjabi cultural ambassador and artist. "During national stress, he is being defamed with false accusations.

Hridhu Haroon to star in emotional Tamil action drama

**Divya Delhi :** Hridhu Haroon's birthday was celebrated by fans and the film team with a trailer for his upcoming Tamil flick, 'Texas Tiger.' Streets roar. The world listens " On Instagram, the 'All We Imagine as Light' actor posted a preview with the caption, "The streets roar. The world hears. Texas Tiger, starring @hridhuharoon from #AllWeImagineAsLight, has a title. Written and directed by @k\_thirumaaran." New 'Texas Tiger' teaser shows protesters against a band or



person named 'Texas Tiger.' Some support 'Texas Tiger,' but others oppose it due to filthy lyrics and other reasons. From the teaser, the Hridu Haroon film promises high-octane action,

emotional storytelling, and a song. Selva Kumar Thirumaaran directed and wrote 'Texas Tiger' Selva Kumar, widely known for 'Family Padam,' has always told emotive stories. 'Texas Tiger' should have high drama, meaningful character arcs, and commercial appeal. Hridhu Haroon was crucial in the Malayalam suspense action drama 'Mura,' which was well-received. Besides Hridhu, Suraj Venjaramoodu was crucial to the film.

Raja Chaudhary brands ex-wife Shweta Tiwari "illiterate."

**Divya Delhi:** Raja Chaudhary, Shweta Tiwari's first husband, recently discussed their tumultuous marriage and divorce. Raja regretted how their breakup was handled publicly while defending himself against domestic abuse and drinking claims. "If given a chance," he said,

"I would ask Shweta why she didn't resolve the matter between us instead of involving the police." Shweta's inner circle helped destroy their marriage, Raja said. Raja stated he worked, but less, when asked about his role in the marriage, especially if Shweta was

the sole providers. He claimed that poverty made her vulnerable to change when money came in.

Tumne paise dekhe nahi, bachpan se tumne gareebi ki zindagi ji hai, chawl main rahe ho... jab paise aaye toh dimaag kharab ho jaata hai logon ka," remarked.

CAPSULES

Yo Yo Honey Singh's 'One Thousand Miles' music video comes a decade later

**Divya Delhi:** The music video for Yo Yo Honey Singh's "One Thousand Miles" will be released after a decade. Honey Singh teased the song video on social media, writing, "Shooting One Thousand Miles on public demand. Which lead actress? She's special to me." Next, he announced that Mandy Takhar will headline the "One Thousand Miles" video. Another post said, "Finishing my life's chapter. Most anticipated One Thousand Miles featuring Mandy Takhar, "That song is my life." Honey Singh returned to Mandy after 12 years and dubbed her his "favourite person on earth" in a post. "One Thousand Miles" from Honey Singh's 2014 album "Desi Kalakaar" is a hit. T-Series and Bhushan Kumar are backing the singer's "pending chapter" project, which he wants to finish. Honey Singh released a romantic music video "Teri Yaadein" with Nargis Fakhri and Grini in May. Honey Singh produced and mixed the song, which Grini and he wrote.



Milap Zaveri's Masti 4 Stars Former Miss India Ruhii Singh

**Divya Delhi :** Ex-Miss India actor Ruhii Singh will bring her vivacious attitude and "goofy" side to the silver screen in Masti 4, the fourth episode in Bollywood's popular adult comedy franchise. The film, directed by Milap Zaveri and produced by Indra Kumar and Ashok Thakeria under the Maruti International banner, promises more laughs, wild antics, and pandemonium fans expect from Masti. For Ruhii, who plays one of the three female leads opposite Aftab Shivdasani, this is a milestone. Ruhii has spent a lot of time practicing her comic timing and screen-play rhythm to give a great



performance. Ruhii shared, "I'm watching lots of comedy films and works of legendary comedy actors like Melissa McCarthy, Jim Carrey, Robin Williams, Paresh Rawal, Tina Fey, etc., to understand their comic

timing and the art. The script and sequences are also being worked on with my acting teacher, Abhay Joshi from the National School of Drama. I'm eager to perform with preparation."

SS Rajamouli says Nani will be in his Mahabharata dream

**Divya Delhi:** SS Rajamouli announced that Nani will star in his Mahabharata-based film 'Hit: The Third Case' during a Hyderabad pre-release event. In an X (previously Twitter) footage provided by Suresh PRO, Rajamouli confirmed Nani's casting in his dream project. He stated, "Nani will be in my Mahabharata film. The 'Baahubali' filmmaker, famed for his huge cinematic vision and blockbusters, has always expressed his intention to turn the Mahabharata into a decade-long film series. His announcement that Nani will star is the first casting news for this big project.

Left IIT for acting, costs Rs 70,000 per episode, owns expensive cars

**Divya Delhi:** Famous for his role in OTT series 'Panchayat', Jitendra Kumar's narrative shows that following one's heart pays off. Jitendra, from a Rajasthani hamlet, dreamed big. He idolized Shah Rukh Khan, Nana Patekar, and Amitabh Bachchan as a child. Life first took him in a different direction. Jitendra's father sent him to Kota to study for the IIT entrance examinations to safeguard his future. Jitendra passed the difficult JEE exam and got into IIT Kharagpur's Civil



Engineering program with hard work. It seemed like the start of a satisfying technical career. IIT is where the 'Kota Factory' actor acquired his interest for acting. He investigated theatre and stage performances with the IIT Kharagpur 'Hindi Technology Dramatic Society'. He met Biswapati Sarkar, TVF's

creative director, here. Jitendra's life was altered after this fortuitous meeting. The 'Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan' actor chose a well-paying MNC job after graduating, as is typical for IITians. He quickly realized his true calling was elsewhere. He risked quitting his high-paying engineering career to pursue acting. Jitendra became famous with 'Pitchers'. This series earned him recognition and many more opportunities. He then appeared in 'Kota Factory', where he played Jeetu Bhaiya.

The Great Indian Kapil Show costs Rs 5 cr every episode

**Divya Delhi:** India and beyond love The Great Indian Kapil Show, which revolutionized comic talk shows with its humor and famous guests. The show, hosted by Kapil Sharma, has made him a legend in Indian entertainment and given spectators many chuckles. The Netflix drama had two successful seasons and is showing its third, each more star-studded than the previous. Kapil is loved for his wit and comedic timing, but his huge salary has made headlines. The Great Indian Kapil Show pays Kapil Sharma an amazing Rs 5 crore per episode. The report says Kapil Sharma earned Rs 65 crore in the first season, which had 13 episodes. The second season apparently followed the same concept and payout structure,



adding Rs 65 crore to his profits. Kapil is anticipated to earn another Rs 65 crore in the third season, which is following the similar pattern. His Netflix series revenues are Rs 195 crore, just Rs 5 crore short of Rs 200 crore. This is outstanding and historic in Indian television and OTT, making Kapil Sharma one of the highest-paid comedians in the country . Some of the show's most popular actors, including Sunil Grover, earn around Rs 25 lakh per episode.

Kriti Sanon could replace Kiara Advani in Don 3

**Divya Delhi:** Last month, reports surfaced that Kiara Advani, who was originally cast as Don 3's lead, will finish War 2 and Toxic and leave the picture. She and husband Sidharth Malhotra are having their first child later this year. Among the rumored candidates for the action franchise opposite Ranveer Singh were Kriti Sanon and Sharvari.

Amit Sial's most unsettling experiences while filming his new OTT series

**Divya Delhi:** The Rajiv Gandhi assassination is a frightening episode in Indian politics. Indian politics, security, and justice were irrevocably changed by the assassination. A handful of police led a 90-day manhunt through shifting alliances, cross-border machinations, and emotional dam-



age in one of our nation's most complicated, high-stakes investigations. D.R. Kaarthikeyan, the SIT leader, is played by Amit. The actor remarked, "Playing a real person, especially someone as dignified and resolute as Mr. Kaarthikeyan comes with a sense of responsibility." It

goes beyond performance. It's about being a man who kept going through a storm. Key actors include Sahil Vaid, Bagavathi Perumal, Danish Iqbal, Girish Sharma, Vidyut Garg, Shafeeq Mustafa, Anjana Balaji, B. Sai Dinesh, Shruthi Jayan, and Gouri Menon.

Rashami Desai says 'spread kindness'

**Divya Delhi :** Actress Rashami Desai urged everyone to be fair and sensitive during this tough time, slamming trolls Desai remarked in her Instagram stories, "Aree bhaiya, let's spread kindness and compassion instead of judgment! Not merely a pet, Simba was Shefali's treasured son. Her abrupt death leaves a great vacuum, and I encourage the media to respect the family's grief and allow them room. Avoid sensationalism and exhibit empathy.

Anshula Kapoor leaves 'The Traitors'

**Divya Delhi :** The reality show "The Traitors" has finished season one. Anshula Kapoor, Janvee Gaur, Elnaaz Norouzi, Sufi Motiwala, and Jannat Zubair were ousted this week from Karan Johar's show. Anshula said, "When I was voted out, my instinct never told me Elnaaz may be a traitor. Only part of my defense of her was seen on TV. I think that made folks on the fence about me mistrust me because I supported her." Anshula eagerly



anticipated returning home. "My game ended with hers. I emerged smiling. I got up from the Circular Shock table laughing. I couldn't conceal it! I was

pleased to talk to my brother at home, but worried without Maheet Chachi or Elnaaz "said. Anshula explained why she accepted "The Traitors": "I

made a personal decision that year to say "yes" to things that worry me, especially those that aren't my first inclination. That dread typically implies I should attempt. I wanted to challenge myself. I accepted all offers to write a book, act in 'The Traitors', or perform spoken word." She said she's delighted she did the show since it was so unique. Prime Video will stream "The Traitors" finale on July 3.



# Star Indian Icon Award Show by Prerna Foundation



**Divya Delhi :** Prerna Foundation held STAR INDIAN ICON AWARD Show at Radisson Blu Hotel, Dwarka, Delhi. Palvinder Singh, Prerna Foundation founder, lit lamps to start the program. Since 2002, Prerna Foundation has educated over 20,000 children and strives to improve society. In this exceptional event, outstanding personalities in society, education, medicine, art, lit-



erature, and entrepreneurship were honored. Popular actresses Navina Bole and Kamal Ghimire attended the show. Along with the award ceremony, HONORARY DOCTORATE titles were conferred to persons who have made significant contributions to society. Colorful cultural performances energized this award show. The audience loved the dance, music, and inspiring speech.

The program also sent a social message by arguing that men should have the same constitutional rights and protections as women. This statement promoted social balance and equality. On this occasion, Palvinder Singh released a book on his inspiring social service adventure. The programme ended with thanks to distinguished guests, participants, and organizers.

## At the Constitution Club on the Foundation Day of Rajnitik Ki Pathshala, those who have helped develop democratic awareness were honored



**Divya Delhi :** The Constitution Club was the site of a magnificently staged ninth Rajnitik Ki Pathshala foundation day program. The creator, Dr. Ajay Pandey, presided over the program, which commenced with the lighting of lamps. Among the distinguished visitors in atten-

dance were Dr. Abhishek Verma, Naresh Sisodia, Ashok Choubey, Rohit Pandey, S.K. Duggal, A.P. Singh, Devendra Yadav, and Jitendra Singh Shunty. Dr. Ajay Pandey launched Rajnitik Ki Pathshala in 2017, and since then, thousands of individuals have been brought together to pro-

mote constitutional awareness and democratic principles throughout the nation. Guests praised the program's effort to raise political consciousness as they addressed pressing topics such as caste prejudice and the country's progress. Dr. Ajay Pandey's work was also lauded. At this event, lead-

## Aishwarya Sharma headlined the Delhi Bridal Competition and Makeup Seminar Award Show



**Divya Delhi :** A huge bridal competition and makeup seminar award show was held at SK Precious Banquet in Janakpuri, Delhi.

Harshal Ramman, who promotes makeup newcomers, planned the event. Celebrity visitor Aishwarya Sharma from 'Ghum Hai Kisi

Ke Pyaar Mein' attended. Her presence made the presentation more charming and energized the audience. This particular event gave makeup artists and models from throughout the country a platform to shine. The event's highlight was makeup educator Sneha

Sharma's live makeup class, where she taught makeup artists about the current trends, bridal looks, and industry skills. Participants in the bridal competition portrayed traditional to modern brides well. Each model's makeup and beauty abilities captivated the crowd

during the ramp walk. Crowning and awarding them encouraged them. Harshal Raman remarked, "These events showcase emerging talent and give the makeup industry a professional identity. We want to provide new makeup artists in the country a stage to improve."

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