

## Morning News Script

0730 hrs

8<sup>th</sup> April 2025

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India marks 10 years of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) today. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the Flagship Programme of the Prime Minister aimed at Funding the Unfunded micro enterprises and small businesses. By removing the burden of collateral and simplifying access, MUDRA laid the foundation for a new era of grassroots entrepreneurship. PMMY ensures collateral-free institutional credit up to 20 lakh rupees provided by Member Lending Institutions Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies and Micro Finance Institutions.

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Over 52 crore loans worth more than 32 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana till date. The scheme was launched in 2015 to provide collateral-free loans of up to ten lakh rupees to non-corporate, non-farm small and micro enterprises, aiming to facilitate financial inclusion and empower entrepreneurs. Under the scheme, three categories of loans are being provided. This includes Shishu of loans up to 50 thousand rupees, Kishor up to five lakh rupees and Tarun up to ten lakh rupees. Nearly 70 per cent of Mudra loans have been availed by women entrepreneurs, enhancing their financial independence and contributing to gender equality. The scheme has fostered a sense of self-reliance among marginalized groups by enabling them to sustain their livelihoods through entrepreneurship. SC, ST and OBC entrepreneurs have received over 50 per cent of all Mudra loans.

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The Women and Child Development Ministry will celebrate the 7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada from today as part of the government's ongoing commitment to addressing malnutrition. This year's Poshan Pakhwada will emphasise four key themes. These are a focus on the first one thousand days of life, popularisation of the beneficiary module of Poshan Tracker, management of malnutrition and a healthy lifestyle to address obesity in children.

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The Government has decided to increase the excise duty on petrol and diesel by two rupees per litre. However, oil marketing companies have clarified that there will be no hike in retail prices of the two petroleum products. Briefing media in New Delhi, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said that the hike in excise duty will not be passed on to the consumers.

According to the notification issued by the Finance Ministry, the raise in excise duty will be effective from today. The Minister also said that prices of LPG Cylinder has been increased by 50 rupees. Mr Puri said that the price of LPG for Ujjwala beneficiaries will now be 550 rupees and for others it will be 853 rupees from today.

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Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) will be held from 1st May to 4th may in Mumbai. Talking to media in New Delhi yesterday , Mr. Vaishnaw said that a very strong creator economy is forming in the country because Digital India has brought digital technologies to every corner of the nation.

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The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology yesterday launched the Digital Threat Report 2024 for the Banking, Financial Services, and insurance sector. Addressing the launch ceremony, Secretary S Krishnan emphasized the significance of cybersecurity awareness across all sectors of the industry. The Secretary noted that heightened vigilance and caution are essential, particularly in areas involving digital payments and the sharing of personal data.

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