



# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### Edward Snowden's 'free speech' retort to Elon Musk's poll on dissent

**World.** Among many hits and replies to the post, one came in from whistleblower Edward Snowden, whose revelations about alleged espionage by the US National Security Agency (NSA) shook the world back in 2013. "First of all, Americans' freedom of expression, which includes all manner of flag-trampling and other unlikely acts, is constitutionally-protected for a very good reason. Secondly, what are you going to do when they tear it down and replace it with this?" Snowden posted on X with a picture of fast food giant McDonald's in his reply. Elon Musk's post apparently referred to the ongoing pro-Palestine protests at university campuses across the United States and how those protesters should be treated. Musk followed his online poll with a comment on his own post that read "I'm not saying they can't come back, but they have to experience that country for some period of time before returning." Meanwhile, Snowden seemed to be suggesting that it would rather be a good idea to take those using the right to free speech to McDonald's to eat. Edward Snowden had fled the US and was given asylum in Russia after leaking secret files in 2013 that revealed vast domestic and international surveillance operations carried out by the NSA, where he once worked.

### Security measures tightened for Chinese nationals in Pakistan, to now travel with armoured vehicles

**World.** Movement restrictions have now been placed on Chinese nationals in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) region, as per a report by Dawn. The KP government has mandated that Chinese citizens must travel accompanied by armoured vehicles while in the area. This directive was announced by a senior police official during a meeting held on Wednesday. Tahir Ayub Khan, deputy inspector general of police in Hazara range said, "As we're adopting all possible measures for the safety of Chinese nationals, they shouldn't travel in the province without armoured vehicles in line with the government's directions". The meeting, convened to address security concerns for the Suki Kinari hydropower project in the Malkandi area of Kaghan Valley, brought together various stakeholders, including security personnel, Chinese engineers, and project managers. Discussions centered on the implementation of stringent security measures to safeguard the lives of individuals involved in critical infrastructure projects, as reported by Dawn.

### 2,000 arrested as protests rock US colleges, Biden says 'order must prevail'



**New Delhi.** At least 2,000 people have so far been arrested in connection with the protests on college campuses against the Israel-Hamas war. According to the Associated Press, the arrests have been made across 35 campuses, since a tent encampment began at Columbia University on April 17. Meanwhile, a police officer involved with clearing protesters from a Columbia University building fired his gun inside the hall. However, no one was injured. The demonstrators had seized Hamilton Hall on April 30, ramping up their presence on the campus from a tent encampment that had been there. Tensions on college campuses have been building for days as administrators turned to police to clear demonstrators by force, leading to clashes that have seized widespread attention.

### Death toll from rains in southern Brazil climbs to 29, Lula visits region

**SAO PAULO.** The death toll from heavy rains in Brazil's southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul rose to 29, local authorities said on Thursday evening, as the state government declared a state of public calamity to handle the dramatic situation. The storms, which have caused the greatest devastation in the state in recent years, also left 60 people missing and 10,242 displaced in 154 cities, according to Rio Grande do Sul's civil defense.

"It's not just another critical case; it's the most critical that the state will probably have recorded in its history," state Governor Eduardo Leite said in a live broadcast on social media, adding that the situation is worse than last year's rains in the state. More than 300,000 people have also been left without electricity after a dam at a small hydroelectric power plant burst on Thursday, the state's main utilities company said. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva flew over the affected areas and met with Governor Leite in Santa Maria on Thursday for an emergency meeting. "I told the governor and my ministers that the federal government will make every effort. ... We will take care of this with great care and respect," Lula said during the meeting.

In a video posted on social media, Leite called for coordination in the efforts to rescue people, asking for "full force" as he declared a state of public calamity citing the risk faced by the state as a result of climate events. Lula told Leite in a call late on Wednesday he would send as many men as necessary to help deal with the situation, the president's office said.

## Russian troops enter base housing US military in Niger: Report

**The move by Russia's military puts US and Russian troops in close proximity at a time when the nations' military and diplomatic rivalry is increasingly acrimonious over the conflict in Ukraine.**

**Washington.** Russian military personnel have entered an air base in Niger that is hosting US troops, a senior US defense official told Reuters, a move that follows a decision by Niger's junta to expel US forces from the country. The military officers ruling the West African nation have told the US to withdraw its nearly 1,000 military

personnel from the country, which until a coup last year had been a key partner for Washington's fight against insurgents who have killed thousands of people and displaced millions more.

A senior US defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Russian forces were not mingling with U.S. troops but were using a separate hangar at Airbase 101, which is next to Diiori Hamani International Airport in Niamey, Niger's capital.

The move by Russia's military puts US and Russian troops in close proximity at a time when the nations' military and diplomatic rivalry is increasingly acrimonious over the conflict in Ukraine.

It also raises questions about the fate of US installations in the country following a withdrawal. "The situation is not great but in the short-term manageable," the official said. The Nigerian and Russian embassies in Washington did not



immediately respond to a request for comment. The US and its allies have been forced to move troops out of a number of African countries following coups that brought to power groups eager to distance themselves from Western governments. In addition to the impending departure from Niger, U.S. troops have also left Chad in recent days, while French forces have been kicked out of Mali and Burkina Faso. At the same time, Russia is seeking

to strengthen relations with African nations, pitching Moscow as a friendly country with no colonial baggage in the continent. Mali, for example, has in recent years become one of Russia's closest African allies, with the Wagner Group mercenary force deploying there to fight jihadist insurgents.

Russia has described relations with the United States as "below zero" because of US military and financial aid for Ukraine in the war now approaching the end of its second year. The US official said Nigerian authorities had told President Joe Biden's administration that about 60 Russian military personnel would be in Niger, but the official could not verify that number. After the coup, the US military moved some of its forces in Niger from Airbase 101 to Airbase 201 in the city of Agadez. It was not immediately clear what US military equipment remained at Airbase 101.

## Turkey Halts Trade With Israel Amid "Violence" Against Palestinians

**Ankara.** Turkey halted all trade activities with Israel due to the latter's "non-stop violence" against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the Turkish Trade Ministry said. The move follows Turkey's imposition of restrictions on an array of exports to Israel since last month, which Ankara said on Thursday would remain in effect until a ceasefire in Gaza is achieved. In a statement, the Ministry recalled that Ankara previously restricted the export of 54 product groups to Israel in April because the "massacre, humanitarian catastrophe, and physical destruction caused by Israel continued," and the Israeli government "ignored" international ceasefire efforts and blocked humanitarian aid, Xinhua news agency reported. It is observed that the Israeli government continues



its aggressive behaviour and the humanitarian tragedy in Palestine worsens," the Ministry said.

"In this respect, the second phase of the measures taken at the state level has been initiated and export and import transactions with Israel have been suspended for all products," said the statement. Turkey will strictly and

decisively implement these new measures until the Israeli government allows the uninterrupted and sufficient flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza, it added. On the other hand, the Turkish Trade Ministry is coordinating with Palestinian authorities to ensure that Palestinian people "who are forced to live under occupation" are not affected by these restrictions, the Ministry noted. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, trade between the two countries amounted to \$6.8 billion in 2023, with Turkish exports accounting for 76 per cent of the total.

## Biden says 'order must prevail' during US college protests over war in Gaza

**WASHINGTON.** US President Joe Biden on Thursday rejected calls from student protesters to change his approach to the war in Gaza while insisting that "order must prevail" as college campuses across the country face a wave of violence, outrage and fear. "Dissent is essential for democracy," Biden said at the White House.

"But dissent must never lead to disorder." The Democratic president broke days of silence on the protests with his remarks, which followed mounting criticism from Republicans who have tried to turn scenes of unrest into a campaign cudgel. By focusing on a law-and-order message while defending the right to free speech, Biden is grasping for a middle ground on an intensely divisive issue in the middle of his reelection campaign.

He largely sidestepped protesters' demands, which have included ending



US support for Israeli military operations. Asked after his remarks whether the demonstrations would prompt him to consider changing course, Biden responded with a simple "no." Biden said that he did not want the National Guard to be deployed to campuses. Some Republicans have called for sending in troops, an idea with a fraught history. Four students were shot and killed at Kent State University by members of the Ohio National Guard during protests over

the Vietnam War in 1970. Tensions on college campuses have been building for days as demonstrators refuse to remove encampments and administrators turn to police to clear them by force, leading to clashes that have seized widespread attention.

Biden said he rejected efforts to use the situation to "score political points," calling the situation a "moment for clarity." "There's the right to protest, but not the right to cause chaos," Biden said shortly before leaving the White House for a trip to North Carolina. "People have the right to get an education, the right to get a degree, the right to walk across campus safely without fear of being attacked."

Biden's last previous public comment on the demonstrations came more than a week ago, when he condemned "antisemitic protests" and "those who don't understand what's going on with the Palestinians."

## Will accept Wisconsin poll results if everything is honest, says Donald Trump

**Washington** Former US President Donald Trump said he may not accept the 2024 election results in Wisconsin, a key battleground state in his matchup with President Joe Biden, leaving open the possibility of post-election turmoil. In an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Wednesday, Trump said that if he does not believe the result in November's election was legitimate, "you have to fight for the right of the country." The Republican presidential candidate's comments came on the heels of an interview this week with Time magazine in which Trump did not rule out the possibility of political violence around the election, saying "it depends on the fairness" of the process. On his way to an event on Thursday in Charlotte, North Carolina, Biden was asked whether he is worried Trump won't accept the



election results. "Listen to what he says," Biden said.

In the Journal Sentinel interview, Trump reiterated his baseless claims that he won Wisconsin - a Midwestern state he lost to Biden, a Democrat, by about 21,000 votes in 2020 - and that the election was tainted by fraud. Trump's campaign unsuccessfully sought to disqualify almost 240,000 ballots cast for Biden. Trump won Wisconsin over Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016, and his rematch this year with Biden is expected to be tight. He held campaign rallies on Wednesday in Wisconsin and Michigan, another battleground state. Trump said in the newspaper interview that he will not hesitate to raise doubts about the election if he is convinced something is amiss with the results. "I'd be doing a disservice to the country if I said otherwise," Trump said. "But no, I expect an honest election and we expect to win maybe very big."

## "He Respects Them": White House After Biden Calls Japan, India "Xenophobic"

**White House Press Secretary Karine Jean Pierre asserted that the President's comments were part of a broader message emphasising the strength derived from America's immigrant heritage.**

**Washington.** Hours after President Joe Biden termed India, Japan and other nations, "xenophobic," the White House clarified the President's intentions, emphasising his "respect" for allies and partners. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean Pierre asserted that the President's comments were part of a broader message emphasising the strength derived from America's immigrant heritage. "Our allies and partners know very well how much this

President respects them... He was making a broad comment speaking about this (US) country, speaking about how important it is to be a country of immigrants and how it makes our country stronger." The Press Secretary stressed that Biden's focus remains on bolstering diplomatic relationships with nations such as India and Japan, evident in his actions over the past three years. "Obviously, we have a strong relationship with India with Japan, and the President if you just look at the last three years has certainly focused on those diplomatic relationships," she added. "The broader case that he was trying to make," Jean Pierre continued, "which most leaders and allies across the globe understand that when it comes to who we are as a nation, we are a nation of immigrants." Emphasising the significance of America's immigrant identity, she reiterated Biden's belief that diversity strengthens the nation. "That is in our DNA. You have heard the President say it, it makes us better, and we are stronger for it and that is a very important point to know," Jean Pierre said



The comments were made at a Washington, DC, fundraiser that marked the start of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, which celebrates diversity in the United States. "One of the reasons why our economy is growing is because of you and many others. Why? Because we welcome immigrants," Biden said, according to a pool report and a transcript sent out by the White House. "Why is China stalling so badly economically? Why is Japan having trouble? Why is Russia? Why is India? Because they're xenophobic. They

don't want immigrants," he continued. "Immigrants are what makes us strong. Not a joke. That's not hyperbole, because we have an influx of workers who want to be here and just contribute," he added. White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby, also defended the President's comments, telling reporters that allies and partners like India and Japan understood that Biden "completely and utterly values the idea of alliances and partnerships." Immigration is a polarising issue in US politics, and will almost certainly play a major role in the November presidential election. Illegal border crossings have contributed to an average 2 million influx per year since 2021, the highest level ever.

Polls show broad public disapproval of how President Biden has handled the surge, and former president Donald Trump, who also faced criticism for his immigration policies, is running for office on promises to crack down and deport millions of people.

## 'Daro mat, Bhago mat...', PM Modi jabs as Rahul Gandhi switches from Amethi to Rae Bareli; files nomination

**RNS I Kolkata:** In a strategic move, Rahul Gandhi, a key figure in the Congress party, has shifted his electoral focus from Amethi to Rae Bareli. He submitted his nomination papers amidst heightened political fervor, indicating a significant change in his election strategy for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Prime Minister Narendra Modi seized on this development to criticize Gandhi, using his own slogan against him. Speaking at a rally in West Bengal, Modi remarked, "I had already informed you that the prince is seeking another seat for himself due to the fear of defeat in Wayanad. Now, he has had to leave Amethi and opt for the Rae Bareli seat. These people go around telling everyone 'daro mat' (don't be afraid)!



I would say the same to them, daro mat, bhago mat (don't be afraid, do not run)." The Congress party officially announced Rahul Gandhi as its candidate from Rae Bareli and Kishori Lal Sharma from Amethi in Uttar Pradesh, putting an end to all speculations. Rahul's decision to contest from Rae Bareli, a Congress stronghold where his mother Sonia Gandhi won in the 2019 elections, highlights the party's strategy to

strengthen its position in crucial constituencies. Sonia Gandhi, a Congress leader, has decided to step back from the Lok Sabha elections by choosing a Rajya Sabha seat. Rahul's choice to contest from Rae Bareli follows his defeat in Amethi in the 2019 parliamentary elections against Union Minister Smriti Irani, signaling a shift in his political strategy and campaign dynamics. Congress has fielded its top leader Rahul Gandhi from

Rae Bareli and Kishori Lal Sharma from Amethi in Uttar Pradesh to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Lok Sabha elections. As Rahul Gandhi filed his nomination to contest from the Raebareli constituency in Uttar Pradesh, CPI's Annie Raja criticized him, saying he should have revealed this earlier to the voters in Wayanad. Rahul was the UDF candidate in Wayanad where CPI fielded Annie Raja. The constituency went to polls on April 26 in the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections. "He should have shown political morality. He should have informed the people of Wayanad about Raebareli. It is not acceptable that he kept this away from the people of Wayanad," said Annie Raja.

## HC allows Hemant Soren to attend uncle's rites under Police Custody



**RNS I Ranchi:** The Jharkhand High Court has granted former Chief Minister Hemant Soren permission to attend the rites of his uncle for a limited time under police custody. The court, while refusing to grant him provisional bail, has imposed strict instructions. Hemant Soren is permitted to attend the Shradha ritual on May 6, but he is prohibited from speaking to the media or engaging in any political discussions. Hemant Soren, who is accused of money laundering

through a land scam, had applied for provisional bail. The special court of Ranchi PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) had previously denied him provisional bail on April 30. Subsequently, he filed an appeal in the High Court challenging this decision. In his appeal, Hemant Soren requested provisional bail for three days to attend the Shradha rites of his uncle. His uncle, Raja Ram Soren, who was the elder brother of JMM supremo Shibu Soren, passed away last Saturday.

## CCL Vigilance Conducts Surprise Checks at Two Mines

# Stock measurement underway



**RNS I Ranchi:** In a recent development, the CCL Vigilance team, under the guidance of CVO Pankaj Kumar, conducted surprise checks at two mines. Two multi-disciplinary teams, comprising 12 officers each from the command areas of CMPDIL and CCL, visited Amrapali OCP and Rajarappa Project. The teams are currently in the process of measuring the stock at these mines.

## Implements 100% Official Work in Hindi: Thakur



**RNS I Bokaro:** Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS), a unit of The Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has decided to conduct all office work in Hindi only. A meeting of Official Language Nodal Officers and department heads was held in the conference room of Tejas Bhawan on Friday, presided over by Senior General Manager and Project Head Shri Manoj Kumar Thakur. During the meeting, Thakur instructed all officers present to handle office work exclusively in Hindi. This includes responding to Hindi letters, ensuring all correspondence is in Hindi, submitting notes in e-office in Hindi, and maintaining service books and note sheets in Hindi.

Additionally, 50% of all book purchases should be Hindi books, and all orders from nodal officers and department members should be issued in Hindi.

The meeting also discussed inspecting Hindi letters and their copies in the official language, as well as using rubber stamps, nameplates, and information boards in two languages.

The program was conducted by Hindi officer Ravi Singha. Senior General Manager Rampraveesh Sah, Deputy General Manager Rajeev Ranjan Ojha, Sanjeev Kumar, Dilip Kumar, Lalan Prasad Gupta, Rajkumar Chaudhary, Shweta Rani, Mukesh Kumar, Ajay Kumar, Pratima Khalko Srivatsa, Sunita Kamari, Sanjeev Kumar, Akshay Kumar, RK Nirala, Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, Vasant Kumar Mahapatra, Pradeep Srivastava, Baldev Ram, Ramji Rajak and several other officials were present at the meeting.

## Mithila Mahila Samiti, Bokaro holds Summer Drink Competition



by Arun Pathak

**Bokaro:** The Mithila Mahila Samiti, a unit of the esteemed social and cultural organization Mithila Cultural Council in Bokaro, organized a Summer Drink Competition. The event took place on Thursday evening at the Vidyapati Auditorium of Mithila Academy Public School, Sector 4 E, under the Council's auspices. The competition saw enthusiastic participation from the members of Mithila Mahila Samiti.

The committee chairperson Seema Jha and cultural secretary Binu Chaudhary welcomed the participants. They also discussed the grand celebration of Janaki (Sita) Navami on 17th May, to be hosted by the Mithila Cultural Council and Mithila Mahila Samiti at the auditorium of Mithila Academy Public School.

Chanda Chaudhary won the first prize in the Summer Drink Competition, followed by Madhubala Jha in second place and Gudiya Jha in third. Prerna Ojha secured fourth place, while Renuka and Babita Jha shared fifth place. Consolation prizes were awarded to Amita Jha, Namita Jha, Bharti Jha, Sushila Rani, Kumkum Jha, Leela Singha, and Madhu Thakur. The competition judges Indira Jha, Savita Mishra, and Abha Jha honored the winners. Kiran Mishra, Asha Jha, Dr. Manju Jha, Poonam Jha, Asha Pathak, Pratibha Jha, Sushila Rani, and others were present at the event.

## BSL holds summit for its Brown Field expansion

**RNS I Bokaro:** A summit of key stakeholders and bidders for the brownfield expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant was held today in the Main Auditorium of the Human Resource Department.

The summit commenced with a welcome address by Anima Kushwaha, Chief General Manager (Projects), followed by insights shared by Executive Director (Projects & Additional Charge Material Management) under the theme "Towards Collaborative Success". Anoop Kumar, Executive Director (Colleries); S Mukhopadhyay, Executive Director (Projects) Bhilai Steel Plant; Alok Verma, Executive Director (Mines) OGOM; SK Verma, Executive Director (CET); and Tarun Mishra, Executive Director (Personnel & Administration) Rourkela Steel Plant, along with PK Rath, Executive Director (SRU), were prominently involved in the inaugural session.

## DAV Public School, Bokaro Celebrates 'Mango Day' with Virtual Mangoes

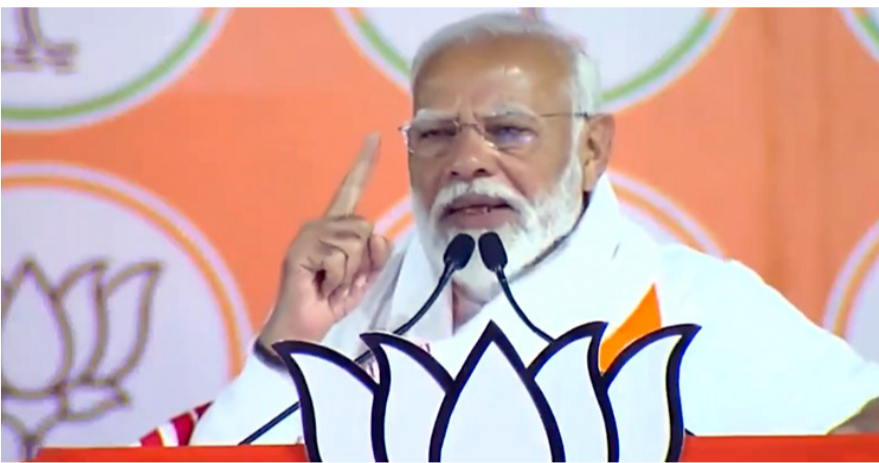


**RNS I Bokaro:** Little ones at DAV Public School, Sector 6, Bokaro, celebrated "Mango Day" with zest, participating in an online competition that transformed them into virtual mangoes. The event, part of the school's co-curricular activities, saw children from LKG and UKG classes dressing up as green and yellow mangoes and reciting poetry in both Hindi and English. School principal Brij Mohan Lal Das commended the children's enthusiastic participation in the Mango Day

celebration, emphasizing how such activities help correct pronunciation issues and develop language skills. During the event, teacher Bhavna Ghale enlightened the children about various types of mangoes, dishes made from them, and the mango production season. The program was conducted by teacher Aradhana Kumari. Students from both classes LKG and UKG, including Abhinandan Sinha, Arnab Mishra, Roshan Raj, Srishti Kumari, Sushmita Besra, Vanshika Kumari,

Vidyanshu Kumar, Vivek Oraon, Nikhil Singh, Mevan Kumar, Jatin Kumar, Aarav, Aarohi, Akhil, Aakriti, Anu, Ansh Kumar, Dakshita, Dishant, Harsh Palak, Paridhi, Rajveer Raunak, Ridhima, Rihaan, Ronit, Niranjana, Sahil Kumar, Saksham, Shanvi Mishra, Shivansh Kumar, Shreya, Shreyas Kumar, Sonam Kumari, Yash, Srishaili, Yug, and Ved actively participated. Teachers Bhavna Ghale, Aradhana Kumari, and Seema Mishra provided full support for the program.

## Modi Accuses JMM, Congress of Corruption



**RNS I Ranchi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a two-day visit to Jharkhand for a poll campaign, launched a scathing attack on the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha party and the Congress. Addressing a public event in Singhbhum, PM Modi accused the JMM-led coalition in the state of being steeped in corruption and looting. PM Modi highlighted a recent news report exposing a Congress MP caught with Rs 300 crore, questioning whose money it belonged to and labeling it as the money of the poor, laborers, farm-

ers, Dalits, and tribals of Jharkhand villages. "Whose money is this? It's the money of the poor, labourers, farmers, Dalits, and tribals of Jharkhand villages. Is this not a loot of your money," PM Modi said. Expanding on the alleged fallacies of the opposition, PM Modi criticized Congress and JMM leaders for being embroiled in scams and corruption. He questioned their motives for seeking power, suggesting it was for personal gain rather than the welfare of the people. "What face do the Congress and JMM leaders come

to you with? They are so shameless that even after getting caught in scams and corruption, they do not care about it. Why do you think they are so eager to make a government? Do you think it's for your good? They want to make a government in Delhi because they want to unleash unrestrained loot in the country," PM Modi said. "Before 2014, they did nothing but loot the country. In their government, adivasis are killed in broad daylight. They want to maintain terror of criminals among the adivasis," he added.

## DAV Gua Celebrates Rabindranath Tagore's Birth Anniversary with Enthusiasm

by Siddharth Pandey

**Gua:** DAV Gua celebrated the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore with great enthusiasm and reverence, under the guidance of school principal Usha Rai. The event was attended by all teachers and a large number of students. It began with the recitation of Vedic mantras by religion teacher Rajveer Singh, followed by offering flowers and homage to the poet. The program started with the lighting of the lamp and a welcome song performed by music teacher Yogendra Tripathi along with teachers Anirudh Dutta and Shri-



parna Sahu, and presented by students Ashutosh Behera and Aryan Jha. Anjan Sen recited Tagore's poem "Dale-Dale, Paate-Patte," followed by a captivating group dance by Anvesha Kanjilal, Ridhima Singh, and Krutika Jha. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Usha Rai highlighted Rabindranath Tagore's talents as a poet,

short-story writer, musician, playwright, novelist, and painter, noting his recognition as Kaviguru and the first Indian Nobel laureate in literature for his work, Gitanjali, in 1913. Senior teacher PK Acharya praised Tagore for his contributions to Indian literature and culture, including the establishment of Visva Bharati Shanti Niketan in Kolkata.

## Transgender Sunaina Kinner files nomination for Dhanbad Lok Sabha seat

by Chandan Pal

**Dhanbad:** On Friday, transgender candidate Sunaina Kinner, along with three other independent candidates, filed their nomination papers for the Dhanbad Lok Sabha seat. Among the other candidates were Laxmi Devi, Md Zahiruddin, and Anindita Das. A total of 11 candidates, including representatives from the BJP, Congress, and the Marxist Coordination Committee (MCC), have filed nominations for the Dhanbad Lok Sabha seat so far. The last date for filing nominations is May 6, with



voting scheduled for May 25. Sunaina Kinner's nomination roadshow was a highlight on Friday, drawing significant attention. Sunaina, a resident of Dhanbad, led a procession from Jharria in an open car, accompanied by hundreds of transgender individuals with their traditional musi-

cal instruments in different cars. The roadshow, which passed through Dhanbar, Purana Bazaar, Panitanki, and Bank More, culminated at Memko More. From there, Sunaina Kinner and her followers proceeded to the collectorate, singing and dancing in their traditional style along the way.

## "70,000 tons of adulterated coal seized in Jharkhand, reveals large-scale irregularities, revenue losses"

by Jai Sinha

**Bokaro:** In a significant development, authorities in Jharkhand have seized 70,000 tonnes of adulterated coal, exposing irregularities leading to substantial revenue losses. A special police team from the state headquarters in Ranchi conducted a raid at the Dugda railway siding in Bokaro district, resulting in the seizure of the adulterated coal. This operation also led to the identification of several individuals involved in the illicit activities, including Pramod Agarwal, Vineet Agarwal, Manoj Agarwal (alias Binu), and Meenu Agarwal from

the coal depot and transport agency BKB. Additionally, Narayan Agarwal from AAK Logistics Company and Dharmendra Singh (alias Bhola Singh), the depot operator, were implicated in the case. The police team lodged a First Information Report (FIR) at the Dugda police station and seized five Hyva trucks loaded with charcoal (rejected coal dust). The raid was prompted by information regarding the mixing of good quality coal with charcoal dust at the depot, which was then being sent from railway wagons to power plants in other states. The operation uncovered irregularities in coal quality,



forgery, and fraud, exposing a coal racketeering operation worth crores of rupees per day orchestrated by an organized gang in raid. The organized gang was involved in coal transportation

and illegal business, operating through three transporting companies that transport coal by rail from Dugda Railway Siding. These companies had built a coal depot by cutting down

forest trees near the siding and collected coal from mines using trucks. The police investigation revealed that Ashok Adi, a transporter, played a central role in the depot operations. It was

found that good quality coal was being mixed with charcoal (coal dust), deceiving coal purchasing companies, causing revenue losses to the government, and damaging national property. Ashok Adi is considered the kingpin of the seized trucks, and investigations are underway. Bokaro SP Pujya Prakash confirmed that an investigation has been initiated based on the FIR. This incident follows a similar seizure on 21 February 2020 when Dugda police station intercepted five trucks laden with illegal charcoal, all of which were linked to Ashok Adi, the accused kingpin.

# Behind Priyanka Gandhi's 'No' To Poll Fight, A Recurring BJP Taunt: Sources

Some Congress leaders fear that Priyanka Gandhi's decision may create a negative perception among voters.

**New Delhi:** The Congress's announcement of candidates for its two prestige seats, Amethi and Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, has effectively put the lid on speculation regarding senior party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's electoral debut.

According to sources in the party, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge had requested Ms Gandhi Vadra to contest from Amethi or Rae Bareilly, but she refused. Behind her reluctance, sources said, was the fact that a victory for her and her brother Rahul Gandhi would put three members of the Gandhi family in Parliament -- mother Sonia Gandhi is now in Rajya Sabha. This would reinforce the BJP's charge of dynastic politics, she reasoned, according to sources in the party. Some leaders, however, fear that her decision may create a negative perception among voters. Ms Gandhi Vadra has been campaigning extensively and has been the face of the Congress's counterstrike after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'mangalsutra' charge at the Grand Old party. Many feel that the Congress could have benefited from her star power if she contested the



polls. The Congress's much-awaited decision on these two seats came early this morning. A big surprise was Rahul Gandhi being fielded from Rae Bareilly, and not Amethi, which he has represented thrice in Lok Sabha. For Amethi, the Congress chose Kishori Lal Sharma, a long-time loyalist of the Gandhis. Mr Sharma, who has earlier worked as Sonia Gandhi's representative in Rae Bareilly, will be contesting his first

election. Both Rahul Gandhi, who is also contesting from Kerala's Wayanad, and Mr Sharma will be filing their nomination today. Amethi and Rae Bareilly will vote in the fifth phase of Lok Sabha polls. Mr Gandhi will take on the BJP's Dinesh Pratap Singh in Rae Bareilly and Mr Sharma is up against Union Minister Smriti Irani in Amethi. Ms Irani had scored a shock win against Mr Gandhi in the 2019 polls and has been campaigning extensively in the constituency. Congress leaders are confident that Mr Gandhi will post a thumping win in Rae Bareilly. For Amethi, they say that Mr Sharma is a grassroots leader who will perform well. Ms Gandhi Vadra took to social media to extend her greetings to Mr Sharma. "Kishori Lal Sharma shares a bond with our family. He has been dedicated to serving the people of Amethi and Rae Bareilly. His zeal for public service is example," she said. "It is heartening that the Congress has named him its candidate from Amethi. His dedication and sense of duty will surely bring his success in this election," she posted on X.

## Rape case against Karnataka MP Prajwal Revanna in sex tapes scandal

**Bengaluru.** A rape case has been filed against JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna in the sex tapes scandal. This is the second case against the legislator in the case, and was filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Karnataka Police.

The case has been filed under Section 376 of the IPC. It lists charges under Section 376(2) (N) (committing rape repeatedly), 506 (criminal intimidation), 354A(1)(ii) (demand for sexual favour), 354(B) (assault or criminal force on a woman with the intention to disrobe her), and 354(C) (uploading of nude or semi-nude pictures), and the IT Act. Prajwal Revanna, who is the grandson of former Prime Minister and JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda, has been named as the sole accused in the FIR. The SIT officers submitted the FIR to the magistrate's court on Thursday. Earlier, a case was registered against Prajwal Revanna and his father and

former Karnataka minister HD Revanna for sexual harassment, intimidation, stalking and outraging the dignity of a woman based on a complaint by a woman who worked at their house. Prajwal Revanna, who is seeking re-election from Hassan constituency in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, has been embroiled in a massive controversy after multiple explicit videos purportedly of him were shared widely on social media. The JD(S) MP, however, has alleged the videos were morphed and also lodged a complaint in the matter via his polling agent.

The SIT formed by the Karnataka government issued a global lookout notice against him on Thursday at all immigration centres around the world. Prajwal Revanna fled the country soon after the sexual abuse allegations surfaced, and later was reported to have gone to Frankfurt in Germany on April 26.

## Hemant Savara, former minister's son, is BJP's final pick in Maharashtra

With the announcement of Hemant Savara's candidature in the Palghar constituency, the BJP has now named all of its candidates for the 28 Lok Sabha seats that the party is contesting in Maharashtra.



**Mumbai.** The BJP on Thursday announced the candidature of former state minister late Vishnu Savara's son Hemant Savara from Maharashtra's Palghar Lok Sabha constituency. With this, the BJP, which is fighting the Lok Sabha polls in alliance with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress

Party, has named candidates for all the seats it will contest in Maharashtra. Savara is the son of former BJP minister for tribal development Vishnu Savara, who died in 2020. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) has fielded Bharati Kamadi from Palghar, sitting MP Rajendra

Gavit, part of the Shinde-led Shiv Sena, has been dropped. Gavit, who was with the Congress until the death of sitting MP Chintaman Vanaga in 2018, joined the BJP and won the bye-election. During the 2019 general elections, to ease the strained relations between the BJP and the Shiv Sena, the former handed over Palghar Parliamentary seat to the Sena, which renominated Gavit. Gavit sided with Eknath Shinde after the latter's rebellion in June 2023 split the Shiv Sena. Of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state, the BJP will contest 28, which is five more than what it contested in the 2019 general elections, Shiv Sena 15, NCP four, while one seat has been given to NDA ally Rashtriya Samaj Paksha (RSP). The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has already announced all its candidates. The Shiv Sena (UBT) is contesting 21 seats, followed by the Congress 17 and the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) 10 seats.

## "Hospitality, Then Goodbye": Jyotiraditya Scindia To Congress Leaders Campaigning In MP

The family of "Maharaj" -- as the erstwhile royal is known across the area - has been representing the constituency since 1950s

**Bhopal:** Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, facing his first election from home turf Guna after shifting to the BJP, appeared quite at ease on the campaign trail. "Politics and elections are not an end for us, it is a beginning to take forward the practice of service to people," he told NDTV in an exclusive interview. The family of "Maharaj" -- as the erstwhile royal is known across the area - has been representing the constituency since 1950s. His grandmother Vijayaraje Scindia and his father Madhavrao Scindia were both MPs from whichever party they represented. Mr Scindia contested his first election in 2002 after the death of his father, and has been a four-time MP from the seat -- till he lost to the BJP's KP Singh Yadav in 2019. This time, his key opponent is Congress's Yadvendra Yadav, the son of BJP leader Rao Deshraj Singh Yadav, who was a three-time legislator from Mungaoli. The Congress strategy is to consolidate the Yadav vote, which had paid



off for the BJP candidate in 2019. The Yadavs comprise a chunk of Guna's population and are expected to account for around 250,000 votes. On the rare occasions the constituency has chosen a non-Scindia to represent them, the candidate belonged to the Yadav community. The Yadav

community's heft has been reflected in the BJP's choice of Chief Minister this time. In March, after the Congress candidate was announced, Mohan Yadav had led a Yadav community meeting where Mr Scindia was also present. The minister appeared unperturbed by the Congress choice. "In this constituency everyone belongs to me and I belong to everyone. The Scindias have never contested elections on basis of caste and creed. And we have contested against candidates from every community. It is upto a party which candidate they choose," he told NDTV. Asked about Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra coming to campaign for the Congress candidate, Mr Scindia - known to be close to the Gandhis before his crossover to the BJP - said: "Any leader can come, we provide them hospitality under the Atithi Devo Bhava (Guests are gods) maxim. We provide them hospitality and after that, bid them goodbye".

## Pinarayi Vijayan holds meet to assess heatwave, monsoon preparedness in Kerala

**Thiruvananthapuram.** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday chaired a meeting of the Disaster Management Authority to assess the possibility of heatwave and monsoon preparedness in the state. District Collectors of various districts apprised the chief minister about the ground situation and their preparedness for any eventualities in respective districts. In the meet, several issues pertaining to the challenges posed by the heatwave onslaught and the ensuing monsoon season were discussed and a set of guidelines were issued. Educational institutions, including professional colleges in the state to be closed till May 6. Daytime parades and drills are to be avoided at training centres of police, fire brigade, National Cadets Corps (NCC) and other forces. Citizens requested to avoid exposure to direct sunlight on the body between 11 am to 3 pm.

Construction workers, agricultural workers, hawkers, fishermen, and those engaged in other strenuous jobs should adjust their working hours accordingly, while workplaces roofed with asbestos and tin sheets should be closed during the day. Provision should be made to shift the guest workers, including those living in these roofed houses, to relief camps. Fire audit to be conducted and safety precautions to be taken in fire prone areas such as markets, buildings, waste collection and storage facilities. Cattle should not be allowed to graze in the midday sun and other domestic animals should not be tied up in the sunlight. Drinking water should be ensured in places like tribals habitations etc. People encouraged to plant shade trees in all public places on the World Environment Day, on June 5. Local self-government bodies should start pre-monsoon cleaning as a matter of urgency and not allow garbage to pile up in public places. Mosquito control should be widespread. The chief minister also issued instructions that the Local Government Department should take care to prepare the buildings to be used as relief camps. This should be completed before May 25. The Rule Curve Monitoring Committee should ensure that the water in the dams does not rise above the rule curve approved by the Central Water Commission. Also, trees, branches, hoardings, posts etc. posing any danger should be removed before rain apart from strong awareness to be created among the people in the hilly areas prone to landslides.



## "Jizya Tax On Hindus": Yogi Adityanath Targets Congress Over Inheritance Tax

A new version of the Congress-SP alliance has emerged, proposing the imposition of inheritance tax, Yogi Adityanath alleged likening this "proposal" to Aurangzeb's imposition of jizya tax on the Hindus.

**Firozabad, UP:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday likened the Congress "proposal" to impose an inheritance tax to the jizya levied on the Hindus during Aurangzeb's rule, and also accused the party of encouraging cow slaughter. He made the remarks at an election rally in Firozabad. He also held a roadshow in Mainpuri. Addressing a public meeting in Firozabad in support of BJP candidate Rajveer Singh, Mr Adityanath said the Congress' manifesto suggested granting minorities the freedom to consume food according to their preferences. The majority of Indians say that we do not eat beef, but some people deliberately encourage cow slaughter to irritate them," he was quoted as saying according to a

press statement issued in Lucknow. A new version of the Congress-SP alliance has emerged, proposing the imposition of inheritance tax, Mr Adityanath alleged likening this "proposal" to Aurangzeb's imposition of jizya tax on the Hindus. The row over inheritance tax erupted after Sam Pitroda, chairperson of the Indian Overseas Congress, had spoken about inheritance tax in the US while delving into the issue of redistribution of wealth. The Congress, however, distanced itself from the remarks. In Etah, Mr Adityanath held a rally in support of BJP candidate Vishwadeep Singh. In the rally, he said that Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar opposed reservation on the basis of religion, yet the Congress is allegedly

seeking to impose Taliban-like governance with the aim of "Islamising" India. "By doing so, the Congress is maliciously attempting to sow division in the country once again. Beware of the alliance between the Congress and the SP. These parties aim to prioritise reservation for Muslims over backward castes and Scheduled Castes," he further said. He said that the voters are faced with a choice between those who "betray" Lord Ram and those who are the devotees of Ram. Adityanath held a roadshow in Mainpuri, where he accused the Congress and the SP of trying to divert reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs to the minorities. "The SP-Congress alliance is part of a conspiracy aimed at dragging India



back to slavery. These individuals are plotting to undermine the reservation for the Scheduled Castes, tribals, and backward castes, diverting it to the minorities," Mr Adityanath was quoted as saying in the press note. The Uttar Pradesh chief minister made the remark at a roadshow in support of BJP candidate Jaiveer Singh in Mainpuri, an SP bastion,

where he was showered with flowers from people standing atop bulldozers amid echoes of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai'. The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh has used bulldozers to raze buildings owned by "criminals", and the machine is projected as a "symbol" of law and order. Braving the scorching heat, the people of Mainpuri thronged the streets to welcome Mr Adityanath, the press note added. Several bulldozers, stretching from the Arya Samaj complex to the Bhavant intersection, lined the roads during the roadshow. Yogi Adityanath said the entire life of former chief minister Kalyan Singh was devoted to Shri Ram and the progress of the state.

## Poll rhetoric threatens India's plurality

INDIA'S compelling reality is its immense diversity. No political dispensation, no matter how powerful and ideologically driven it may be, can succeed in putting a monochromatic frame over this. Ours is a shared culture, but the emphasis lies on the aspect of sharing, not of adhering. It's a crossroads culture, created through the assimilation of influences India was exposed to through the millennia. It lay at the intersecting point of the caravan routes from Central Asia, stretching into the West Asia and to the Mediterranean, and the maritime sea routes connecting it to both the eastern and western flanks of the Indian Ocean. Just as Indian religious and political thought, languages and art and architecture flowed out to these geographies outwards from the subcontinent, so, too, did corresponding influences from the latter spread across India. This has bequeathed to Indian culture and to the temperament of its people an innate cosmopolitanism, which makes Indians one of the most adaptable people in the world. We have been the original global citizens of the world. It is a matter of pride that the country has been able to conduct elections on an unprecedented scale every five years and that there has been a smooth & uneventful transfer of power. When India hosted the G20 summit in September 2023, it was most appropriate to have Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the whole world is one family) as its defining motto. But to embrace the whole world, one must begin with embracing the people of one's own country. This is also the reason why the Preamble to the Constitution lays as much stress on fraternity as it does on liberty and equality. Fraternity is particularly important for a diverse country like India. It creates a sense of affinity that transcends differences in caste, creed or religion and in the ways of living. It is fraternity which is the true basis of nationhood. Of belonging to a common cause and engaged in the pursuit of a shared national mission.

The framers of the Constitution recognised that Indian nationalism would have to be built on acknowledging rather than suppressing the multiple identities of its people. And yet, in the final analysis, they did not quite trust the people of India to successfully balance their separate identities with an overarching concept of equal citizenship. In its final shape, its subsequent amendments and in laws passed by the legislature, the Constitution enabled the coercive power of the state to be progressively strengthened at the expense of the citizen. The state became selective in allowing some assertions of separate identities but in seeking to suppress others, the touchstone being what best served political interests of the moment. Suppression of some identities would be justified on the grounds of a threat to national unity. Others may be promoted and even legitimised to ostensibly advance national unity. The state is able to use its control and influence over the media and information channels to demonise some communities but ennoble others. Political rhetoric, then, aligns with the strategy of the moment. Such rhetoric often takes on a hysterical pitch, which drowns out all reasoned arguments.

In a democracy, the holding of free and fair elections is indispensable but not sufficient. An independent media and a vibrant civil society provide the means to safeguard the ordinary citizen against transgressions by the state. They hold the state accountable on behalf of the citizen and constitute an alternative channel of information for the people. This is also the role played by a powerful and independent judiciary. In history, it has often been the case that the national security and national unity arguments have been used as powerful labels to delegitimise independent institutions and dissenting voices and, eventually, political competition. India is midway through its 18th General Election. It is a matter of pride that the country has been able to successfully conduct these elections on an unprecedented scale every five years and that there has been a smooth and uneventful transfer of political power without violence or challenge.

## Palestinian knowledge ecosystem under Israeli attack

Epistemicide means the killing, silencing, annihilation or devaluation of a knowledge system.

ISRAEL'S attack on universities and other educational institutions in Gaza is seen as a deliberate effort to destroy Palestinian knowledge and learning ecosystem. So far, all 12 universities have witnessed aerial strikes. Israel's targets included Al-Azhar University and the Islamic University of Gaza (IUG), resulting in the destruction of years of research by Palestinian faculty, scholars and the students. Prof Sufian Tayeh, President and Vice Chancellor of the IUG, and his family members were killed in an Israeli attack on the campus. The IUG is Gaza's leading academic institution, and Prof Tayeh was an internationally acknowledged researcher. Dr Refaat Alareer, a professor of English literature at the IUG, is among 90-odd university professors killed in the ongoing assault. As per statistics released by the Palestinian Ministry of Education, till January 20, 2024, nearly 4,400 students were killed and 7,800 injured, while 231 teachers and administrators were killed and 756 injured in the attacks along with the complete or partial destruction of 378 state-run schools and those run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Gaza. At least 97 journalists and media workers are among more than 35,000 fatalities since the war began in October 2023. In the International Court of Justice, the legal representative of South Africa, Blinne Ni Ghralaigh, said: "Almost 90,000 Palestinian university students cannot attend university in Gaza. Over 60 per cent of the schools, almost all universities and countless bookshops and libraries have been damaged and destroyed. Hundreds of teachers and academics have been killed, including deans of universities and leading Palestinian scholars... obliterating the prospects of education of Gaza's children and young people."

Many cultural heritage sites, including libraries, archives and museums, have also been wrecked, wiping out the symbols and documented history of the people. Palestinian intellectuals see it as an effort to 'erase the Palestinian existence from history' and 'erase Palestine from the political map', as Muhammad Ayyash, Professor of Sociology, Mount Royal University, Canada, describes it in a letter to the Canadian Association of University Teachers. "The devastation of Palestinian knowledge, knowledge producers, and knowledge-producing institutions is nothing short of epistemicide," says Prof Ayyash. Epistemicide means the killing, silencing, annihilation or devaluation of a knowledge system. Sociologist Boaventura de Sousa Santos coined this term and designated it as the "death of knowledge — of a subordinated culture caused by colonisation, oppression and genocide". It can be both military as well as ideological/epistemological. It involves appropriation/destruction in the name of liberation, aggression in the name of peace, destruction of life in the name of the sacredness of life, and infringement on human rights in the name of the protection of rights. Rebuilding the Palestinian education system was



the topmost priority of the Palestinian educated elite after their displacement to make way for Israel in 1948. They saw education as an engine to rebuild their lives and make progress. Many scholars moved to Gaza from different places with the hope of making it a place of meaningful cultural exchange, scientific advancements, understanding of history, creative literary works and advancing the Palestinian society. Whether they succeeded or not can be debated, but for sure, Palestine is counted among the regions having the highest literacy rate. Palestine's literacy rate is 97.51 per cent, as per estimates of the World Bank. Palestinians are known as the "world's best educated refugees".

Academics worldwide understand this and that is the reason behind the uprising by university professors and students in the US and other countries. The reverberations of what is happening in Palestinian educational institutions are being felt on campuses abroad. Encampments have been set up in several universities to protest the US government's continuous monetary, military, diplomatic and moral support to Israeli aggression. The police were called in at about 10 universities and 645 arrests were made; many of those arrested were released later. Highly ranked Columbia and Boston universities have become hubs of protests; more

than 200 arrests were made from the campuses of these two universities. A significant number of faculty members have either participated or supported the call for a ceasefire in Gaza. In some universities, the administrators have cracked down on agitating students, resulting in the expulsion of some of them.

Scuffles have been reported between pro-Palestine and pro-Israel demonstrators at the University of California at Los Angeles and other places.

The world must raise the pitch to save Palestinian education from destructive and divisive misadventures. It takes weeks to destroy the knowledge system but decades to rebuild it.

Sadly, Palestinian universities have faced exclusion in the past, when some universities of countries aligned with Israel showed reluctance to enter into academic exchange agreements with Palestinian institutions. On the other hand, students from universities of Israel were welcomed to enjoy the benefits of international collaboration. Israeli universities have 60 existing academic agreements with post-secondary institutions of Canada. It is time for academicians, faculty associations and unions, especially in the developed world, to introspect and build public opinion to end the war, besides promising support for rebuilding the beleaguered Palestinian system.

## Food safety concerns

FSSAI to scale up quality checks

AMID a controversy over alleged adulteration of spices exported by MDH and Everest and the concerns over high sugar content in infant food products of Nestle India and Cadbury, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has announced a comprehensive plan to enhance inspections across the nation. By conducting pan-India monitoring of spices, culinary herbs and other food items, the FSSAI aims to enforce stringent standards and safeguard consumers against potential health risks.

However, it is a poor reflection on the FSSAI's regulatory mechanism that this initiative stems not from its own findings but from the US authorities' refusal of certain spice-related shipments over the past few months and the recent ban imposed by Singapore and Hong Kong on spice



companies which are suspected of supplying contaminated condiments and masalas. Earlier, the row

over high sugar content in infant foods had prompted the FSSAI to scrutinise baby formula products, in accordance with its mandate to protect vulnerable users.

In another proactive step towards addressing the challenges in food safety, the FSSAI has decided to leverage the expertise of specialists from universities, research institutes and government organisations to enhance its capacity for risk assessment and mitigation and, thereby, ensure robust oversight of the food supply chain. By expanding its ambit to fruits, vegetables, fish products, fortified rice and milk products, the FSSAI aims to deal with diverse aspects of the problem. Looking to allay concerns over adulteration and contamination through surveillance, testing and enforcement, the FSSAI can play a bigger role in promoting food safety and building consumer confidence in India's food industry.

## Lack of a National Security Strategy disquieting

The absence of an NSS is believed to be impacting the reorganisation of the country's military into integrated theatre commands.

THE ongoing General Election has further delayed the long-deferred National Security Strategy (NSS), despite the plethora of high-powered consultative and advisory bodies and think tanks in India's strategic and military planning realms.

For the defence and security establishment that continually tom-toms its achievements, the lack of an NSS — despite three attempts to produce one in recent years — is disquieting. It is especially troubling as this hiatus persists at a juncture when India confronts threats from nuclear neighbours China and Pakistan and faces technological challenges on the 21st-century battlefield frequently enumerated by the country's military chiefs.

The absence of an NSS, from which would also flow the long-delayed and equally vital National Defence Strategy, is believed to be impacting the reorganisation of the military into tri-service integrated theatre commands (ITCs) by harnessing their combined financial, materiel and overall operational capabilities. The architecture of the ITCs was to be forwarded to the government for approval by 2022 by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) before operationalising them the following year, but it remains a work in progress. Media reports in late 2023 had indicated that the National Security Council Secretariat was being tasked with drawing up an NSS with inputs from ministries and assorted departments and forwarding it to the Cabinet Committee on Security headed by PM Narendra Modi for eventual sanction. But no deadline was seemingly determined for such a document, the responsibility for which will now be that of the government which will assume office after the elections. But these recurrent rain checks in framing the critical national security architecture were in inverse proportion to the cluster of recommendatory organisations established over

decades to devise a robust NSS. Topping this list is the high-rolling, but seemingly dormant, Defence Planning Committee (DPC) created in April 2018 as an 'overarching' body to manage India's defence and security strategy, prepare military capability plans, fast-track materiel acquisitions and augment military diplomacy. In tandem is the attendant Strategic Policy Group (SPG), revamped some six months later the same year as the first level of the three-tiered National Security Council. The group's founding responsibility was to foster inter-ministerial coordination and integration of relevant inputs for formulating national security policies like the NSS and related policies and procedures.

Both organisations are headed by National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, and their membership was more or less analogous, comprising the three service chiefs and the defence and foreign secretaries. DPC members also include the federal revenue secretary and Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman — a responsibility that transferred itself to the CDS in December 2019. The Integrated Defence Staff, also headed by the CDS, was designated the secretariat of the DPC, which encompassed four sub-committees to execute its myriad responsibilities.

SPG membership was larger and included heads of the domestic and overseas intelligence-gathering agencies, the cabinet secretary and the secretaries of home, finance, defence production, revenue, atomic energy and space. The scientific adviser to the defence minister and the NITI Aayog vice-chairman, too, were members of the SPG, which was earlier chaired by the cabinet secretary. But after its refurbishment and expansion, the secretary now reports to the NSA. In short, both the DPC and the SPG were more than qualified to construct an NSS



and the attendant national defence strategy. But senior service veterans and security officials concurred that both these organisations had little or no output to show for themselves over the past eight years, with little of policy import forthcoming from either. Their meetings, too, had been infrequent.

Furthermore, these two bodies are supplemented by a host of think tanks backed by either the Ministry of Defence or hand-held by the individual services. These include the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in Delhi, the country's foremost think tank whose founding charter encompasses advanced research in defence, strategic and security issues and other related matters.

Also, there are three service-sponsored think tanks, the Centre for Land Warfare Studies, the National Maritime Foundation and the Centre for Air Power

Studies, all operating out of Delhi. Complementing them is the high-maintenance — but low-performance — Centre for Joint Warfare Studies created in 2007 in Delhi to "rise above sectoral and departmental legacies and to examine joint warfare and synergy issues in their entirety" to provide inputs for an NSS. However, these bodies that, from time to time, are involved in organising seminars and discussions on national security and India's exalted but elusive role as a major player in global strategic matters, remain mum publicly on anything to do with an NSS, as was flagged by former Army Chief Gen MM Naravane in late 2022. At a lecture in New Delhi, Gen Naravane

recommended the establishment of a higher defence organisation (HDO) with representation from all ministries for a comprehensive approach to theaterisation, which would serve as the 'interface' between the government and the ITC commanders on the ground. "Once these two pillars — NSS and HDO — are in place, we can start thinking about theatre commands," said the former Army Chief, who retired in April 2022, adding that all talk of theaterisation was simply putting the cart before the horse. But once framed, the NSS, he stated, would make it clear whether the military's role was just to defend the country's land borders and territorial waters or if it extended to the wider primary strategic arc stretching from the Persian Gulf to the Malacca Strait. Hopefully, the proposed HDO will not end up being another non-performing asset.

## सुप्रीम कोर्ट भिडिपिएटि मामलार राय संरक्षण करलो

सुप्रीम कोर्ट आज इलेक्ट्रॉनिक भोटिंग मेशिन (इडिएम) एर भोट गणनाय भोटार डेरिफायबल पेपार अडिटे ट्रेल (भिडिपिएटि) पेपार लिपिगुलिंर सहजेई पांच मास पर्यंत पुरो प्रतिरोध करी विचार करी हछे। एकटि तालिका प्रतिरोधक पेटिशनर। मामलाटि निजे सुप्रीम कोर्टेर एकटि वेश, याते न्यायविचारक सज्जीब खान्ना एवंग दीपकर दत्त उपस्थित छिलेन, इडिएम एर काजेर सम्पर्के निर्देश दिजे एक धाराविशेष प्रश्न करेछिलेन। शूनानिर समये, वेश्चि इडि-एम एवंग भिडिपिएटि एवंग तादेर निरापत्ता वैशिष्ट्य सम्पर्के इसिआई कर्मकर्तादेर साथे व्यापकभावे इंटरअप्टि करे। इसिआई निश्चित करेछे ये इडिएम कौनओ पर्याये पांच मास पर्यंत परिवर्तन करी असभव। एटि आरौ स्पष्ट करेछे ये माइक्रोकॉन्ट्रोलरगुलि शारीरिकभावे अक्सेस करी याय ना एवंग एकरा प्रोग्राम तादेरके फूलना हयेछे। इसिआई युक्ति दिजेछे ये एखन पर्यंत 81,७२९ घंटिनार क्रमवर्धमान प्रमाण रयेछे, एवंग प्राय चार कोटि भिडिपिएटि पेपार लिपि ग्याच हयेछे।

इसिआइके विश्वास करार साथे साथे, वेश्चि एहि मस्य दिजेछिल ये वर्तमान भोट प्रणालीके सशक्त करार जन्य ये सभाव्य संस्कार प्रयोजन ता पर्यालोचना करवे। तवे, सुप्रीम कोर्ट पेपार ब्यालटे फिरे येतेर धारणाके मस्य करेछे ना।

इसिआइ एक्छुनि असम्पूर्ण भिडिपिएटि लिपिगुलिंर पुरो गणना करी कार्यकर नय बले एकटि अडिपयोग करेछे।

इसिआइ आरुग दावि करेछे ये, भिडिपिएटि लिपिगुलिंर पुरो गणना करी कार्यकर नय। वर्तमाने, प्रति सभासदकेन्द्रे पांचटि येषावे अव्याहृत इडिएम एर भिडिपिएटि लिपि याचाई करी हय।

पेटिशनारीकाररी, यारा गणतान्त्रिक संस्कार एवंग इडिएम वा बिना इडिएम सह एकटि आरुग स्पष्ट निर्वाचनी प्रणालीर अधिकारी दावि करेछे, तादेर मते देशेर ९९ कोटि निरक्षित भोटारदेर एकटि आरुग स्पष्ट निर्वाचनी प्रणालीर अधिकार रयेछे।

### Ways to protect yourself from Dengue

- Remove mosquito habitats
- Use mosquito repellent
- Keep your home clean
- Use netting for windows and gaps
- Clear clogged drain
- Light up your home and use air conditioning
- Wear long clothing

## दो हजार रुपये के 97.76 फीसदी नोट बैंकिंग सिस्टम में आ गए वापस : आरबीआई

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (आरबीआई) ने गुरुवार को कहा कि 2,000 रुपये मूल्य वर्ग के 97.76 फीसदी नोट बैंकिंग प्रणाली में वापस आ गए हैं। रिजर्व बैंक ने बताया कि सिर्फ 7,961 करोड़ रुपये के नोट ही अभी जनता के पास हैं। हालांकि, 2000 रुपये मूल्य का नोट अभी वैध है। आरबीआई ने जारी एक बयान में कहा 19 मई, 2023 को 2000 रुपये मूल्य वर्ग के नोट को वापस लेने की घोषणा के वक्त बाजार में मौजूद दो हजार रुपये के नोटों का मूल्य 3.56 लाख करोड़ रुपये था। आरबीआई के मुताबिक 30 अप्रैल, 2024 को बाजार में सिर्फ 7,961 करोड़ रुपये के नोट मौजूद हैं। इस तरह 2000 रुपये मूल्य वर्ग के 97.76 फीसदी नोट बैंकिंग सिस्टम में वापस आ चुके हैं। केंद्रीय बैंक ने कहा कि 2000 रुपये मूल्य का नोट अभी वैध है। लोग



को जमा कर सकते हैं या उन्हें अन्य नोट से बदल सकते हैं। रिजर्व बैंक के मुताबिक जनता 2000 रुपये के नोट को भारतीय डाक के माध्यम से भी आरबीआई के किसी भी कार्यालय में भेजकर उनके बराबर मूल्य की राशि अपने बैंक खातों में

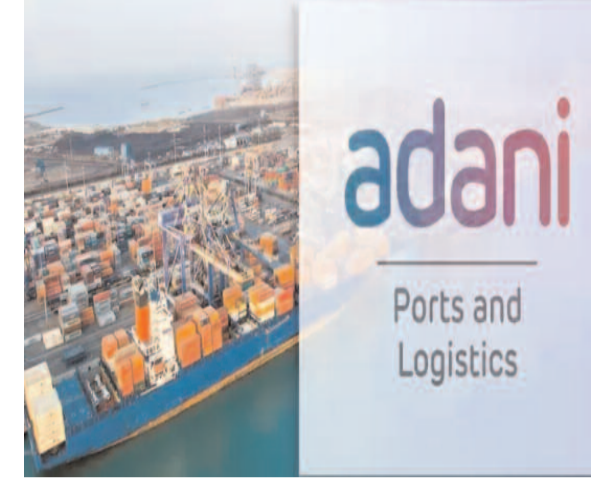
जमा करा सकती है। उल्लेखनीय है कि आरबीआई द्वारा नवंबर, 2016 में 1000 रुपये और 500 रुपये मूल्य वर्ग के नोट बंद करने के बाद 2000 रुपये के नोट जारी किए थे। केंद्रीय बैंक ने अपनी स्वच्छ नोट नीति के तहत उच्च मूल्य वाले बैंक नोटों को प्रचलन से वापस लेने की घोषणा की है।

## अडाणी पोर्ट्स का चौथी तिमाही में मुनाफा 77 फीसदी बढ़कर 2,014 करोड़ रुपये

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। अडाणी समूह की कंपनी अडाणी पोर्ट्स ने वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 की चौथी तिमाही के नतीजे का ऐलान कर दिया है। 31 मार्च को समाप्त चौथी तिमाही में अडाणी पोर्ट्स एंड स्पेशल इकोनॉमिक ज़ोन लिमिटेड (एपीएसईजेड) का मुनाफा 76.87 फीसदी बढ़कर 2,014.77 करोड़ रुपये पर पहुंच गया। एपीएसईजेड ने गुरुवार को शेयर बाजार को जानकारी दी कि 31 मार्च को समाप्त वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 की चौथी तिमाही में उसकी एकीकृत कुल आय बढ़कर 7,199.94 करोड़ रुपये हो गई, जो इससे पिछले वित्त वर्ष की समान अवधि में 6,178.35 करोड़ रुपये थी। इसके अलावा जनवरी-मार्च तिमाही में कुल व्यय बढ़कर 4,450.52 करोड़ रुपये हो गया, जो इससे पिछले वित्त वर्ष की इसी

तिमाही में 3,995 करोड़ रुपये था। कंपनी ने कहा कि देश की सबसे

फीसदी बढ़कर 2,014.77 करोड़ रुपये रहा है। इससे पिछले वित्त वर्ष



बड़ी एकीकृत लॉजिस्टिक्स कंपनी का जनवरी-मार्च तिमाही में एकीकृत शुद्ध लाभ 76.87

2022-23 की समान अवधि में कंपनी को 1,139.07 करोड़ रुपये का मुनाफा हुआ था।

## क्रिप्टो करेंसी मार्केट में तेजी का रुख, टॉप-10 की सभी आभासी मुद्राएं ग्रीन जोन में

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। क्रिप्टो करेंसी मार्केट में खरीदारी का रुख नजर आ रहा है। मार्केट कैप के लिहाज से टॉप-10 में शामिल सभी क्रिप्टो करेंसीज आज बहुत के साथ ग्रीन जोन में बनी हुई हैं। दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी क्रिप्टो करेंसी बिटकॉइन ने आज 58 हजार डॉलर के स्तर को पार किया। दूसरी सबसे बड़ी क्रिप्टो करेंसी एथेरियम की कीमत में भी आज 3 प्रतिशत से अधिक का उछल आया है। भारत में क्रिप्टो करेंसी का कारोबार करने के लिए अधिकृत एजेंसी कॉइन मार्केट कैप के मुताबिक भारतीय समय के हिसाब से आज शाम 7 बजे तक बिटकॉइन 0.68 प्रतिशत की मजबूती के साथ 58,135.80 डॉलर यानी 48.52 लाख रुपये के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा था। इसी तरह एथेरियम की कीमत भी आज

3.58 प्रतिशत की तेजी के साथ 2,996.86 डॉलर के स्तर पर आ 0.01 प्रतिशत, एक्सआरपी 4.38 प्रतिशत, डॉगकॉइन 4.70 प्रतिशत,

कॉइन 1.39 प्रतिशत की तेजी आई है। फिलहाल क्रिप्टो करेंसी का ग्लोबल मार्केट कैप बढ़ कर 2.17 लाख करोड़ डॉलर यानी करीब 181.13 लाख करोड़ रुपये हो गया है। ग्लोबल मार्केट कैप में तेजी आने के साथ ही पिछले 24 घंटे के दौरान क्रिप्टो करेंसीज के लेन-देन में भी तेजी आई है। इस अवधि में कुल 8,670 करोड़ डॉलर यानी 7.24 लाख करोड़ रुपये की क्रिप्टो करेंसी की लेन-देन हुई, जो 1 दिन पहले की तुलना में 16.37 प्रतिशत अधिक है। कीमत में तेजी आने के बावजूद पिछले 24 घंटे के कारोबार के दौरान क्रिप्टो करेंसी मार्केट में इस आभासी मुद्रा की स्थिति 0.59 प्रतिशत कमजोर हुई है, जिसके कारण इसकी मार्केट हिस्सेदारी घट कर 52.42 प्रतिशत रह गई है।



गई। बिटकॉइन और एथेरियम के अलावा 1.97 प्रतिशत, इस्टा इएमआई कार्ड के साथ कारोबार कर रहे थे। पिछले 10.75 प्रतिशत, यूएसडी कॉइन

टॉनकॉइन 2.37 प्रतिशत और कार्डानो 4.91 प्रतिशत की मजबूती के साथ कारोबार कर रहे थे। पिछले 24 घंटे के कारोबार के दौरान क्रिप्टो

## आरबीआई ने बजान फाइनेंस पर से प्रतिबंध हटाया, ईकॉम और इंस्टा ईएमआई कार्ड के माध्यम से ऋण देना फिर से शुरू करने की अनुमति दी

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई) ने बजान फाइनेंस को अपने दो ऋण उत्पादों - ईकॉम और इंस्टा ईएमआई कार्ड के तहत नए ऋणों की मंजूरी और वितरण फिर से शुरू करने की अनुमति दी है। कंपनी द्वारा इसके अनुपालन का संकेत देने और औपचारिक रूप से आरबीआई से समीक्षा की मांग करने के कुछ ही दिनों बाद यह घटनाक्रम सामने आया। हम सूचित करना चाहते हैं कि आरबीआई ने अपने पत्र दिनांक 2 मई 2024 के माध्यम से, कंपनी द्वारा की गई उपचारात्मक कार्रवाइयों के आधार पर, तत्काल प्रभाव से ईकॉम और ऑनलाइन डिजिटल 'इंस्टा ईएमआई कार्ड' पर उक्त प्रतिबंध हटाने के अपने निर्णय से अगवात कराया है। बजान फाइनेंस ने गुरुवार को एक नियामक फाइलिंग में कहा। कंपनी ईएमआई कार्ड जारी करने सहित उपरोक्त दो व्यावसायिक क्षेत्रों में ऋणों की मंजूरी और वितरण फिर से शुरू करेगी। केंद्रीय बैंक के डिजिटल ऋण दिशानिर्देशों का पालन करने में विफल रहने के लिए एनबीएफसी को पिछले साल नवंबर के मध्य में ऐसे लेनदेन को रोकने के लिए कहा गया था - विशेष रूप से दो ऋण उत्पादों के तहत उपरोक्त दोनों महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य विवरण जारी न करने के लिए। बजान फाइनेंस, की सहायक कंपनी बजान फिनसर्व, ऋण देने और जमा स्वीकार करने का कार्य करता है। गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनी खुदरा, एएमआई और वाणिज्यिक ग्राहकों के लिए एक विविध ऋण पोर्टफोलियो होने का दावा करती है।

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारतीय राष्ट्रीय भुगतान निगम (एनपीसीआई) की विदेशी शाखा ने बैंक ऑफ नामीबिया (बीओएन) के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। ये समझौता नामीबिया के लिए एकीकृत भुगतान इंटरफेस (यूपीआई) जैसी त्वरित भुगतान प्रणाली विकसित करने के लिए किया गया है। एनपीसीआई ने एक बयान में बताया कि अफ्रीकी राष्ट्र में यूपीआई जैसी वास्तविक समय भुगतान प्रणाली विकसित करने के लिए बैंक ऑफ नामीबिया के साथ अपनी साझेदारी महत्वपूर्ण है। ये अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में यूपीआई के लिए किसी केंद्रीय बैंक के साथ

## एनपीसीआई ने यूपीआई के लिए बैंक ऑफ नामीबिया के साथ किया समझौता

हमारा पहला सहयोग है। हम 'मेड इन इंडिया' तकनीक के साथ नामीबिया के नागरिकों की सहायता के लिए

लाभ उठाकर नामीबिया को अपने वित्तीय परिवेश तंत्र को आधुनिक बनाने में मदद करना है। इस समझौते

उत्साहित हैं। दोनों देशों के बीच हुए समझौते का उद्देश्य भारत की यूपीआई प्रौद्योगिकी और अनुभवों का

शामिल है। इस मौके पर एनपीसीआई इंटरनेशनल के सीओओ तिरेश शुक्ला ने कहा कि इस प्रौद्योगिकी को सक्षम करने से देश को डिजिटल भुगतान परिदृश्य में संप्रभुता प्राप्त होगी। इसके साथ ही बेहतर भुगतान अंतर-संचालन एवं वीचिंत आबादी के लिए बेहतर वित्तीय पहुंच से लाभ होगा। बैंक ऑफ नामीबिया के गवर्नर जोहान्स गवाक्सैब ने कहा कि हमारा मकसद वीचिंत आबादी के लिए पहुंच और सामर्थ्य को बढ़ाना है। उन्होंने कहा कि 2025 तक भुगतान साधनों की पूर्ण अंतर-संचालनीयता हासिल करना, वित्तीय क्षेत्र का आधुनिकीकरण करना और एक सुशुद्ध एवं कुशल राष्ट्रीय भुगतान प्रणाली सुनिश्चित करना है।



## दिनभर के उतार चढ़ाव के बाद बढ़त के साथ बंद हुआ बाजार, सेंसेक्स और निफ्टी में तेजी

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिनभर उतार-चढ़ाव का सामना करने के बाद घरेलू शेयर बाजार आज मामूली बढ़त के साथ बंद होने में सफल रहा। आज के कारोबार की शुरुआत गिरावट के साथ हुई थी। पूरे दिन बाजार में तेजी और मंदी दोनों के बीच एक दूसरे पर हलचल होने की कोशिश चलती रही, जिसकी वजह से शेयर बाजार के दोनों सूचकांकों की चाल भी ऊपर नीचे होती रही। पूरे दिन के कारोबार के बाद सेंसेक्स 0.17 प्रतिशत और निफ्टी 0.19 प्रतिशत की मजबूती के साथ बंद हुए। आज दिनभर के कारोबार के दौरान मेटल, ऑटोमोबाइल, ऑयल एंड गैस और पावर सेक्टर के शेयरों में खरीदारी होती नजर आई। दूसरी ओर रिजल्ट और बैंकिंग सेक्टर के शेयरों में गिरावट का रुख बना रहा। ब्रॉड मार्केट में भी आज आमतौर पर मिला-जुला कारोबार होता रहा। पूरे दिन हुई खरीद बिक्री के बाद बीएसई का मिडकैप इंडेक्स 0.91 प्रतिशत की तेजी के साथ बंद हुआ। इसी तरह स्मॉलकैप इंडेक्स ने 0.29 प्रतिशत की मजबूती के साथ आज के कारोबार का अंत किया। आज बाजार में मिडकैप और स्मॉलकैप शेयरों में हुई खरीदारी के कारण स्टॉक मार्केट के निवेशकों की संलग्नता में 2 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की बढ़ोतरी हो गई। बीएसई में लिस्टेड कंपनियों का मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन आज के कारोबार के

बाद बढ़ कर 408.62 लाख करोड़ रुपये (अस्थाई) हो गया। पिछले कारोबारी दिन यानी मंगलवार को इनका मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन 406.55 लाख करोड़ रुपये था। इस तरह निवेशकों को आज के कारोबार से करीब 2.07 लाख करोड़ रुपये का फायदा हो गया। आज दिनभर के कारोबार में बीएसई में 3,957 शेयरों में एक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें 1,913 शेयर बढ़त के साथ बंद हुए, जबकि 1,924 शेयरों में गिरावट का रुख रहा, वहीं 120 शेयर बिना किसी उतार चढ़ाव के बंद हुए। एनएसई में आज 2,234 शेयरों में एक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें से 1,115 शेयर मुनाफा कमा कर हर निशान में और 1,119 शेयर नुकसान उठा कर लाल निशान में बंद हुए। इसी तरह सेंसेक्स में शामिल 37 शेयरों में से 19 शेयर बढ़त के साथ और 11 शेयर गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए। जबकि निफ्टी में शामिल शेयरों में से 28 शेयर हरे निशान में और 22 शेयर लाल निशान में बंद हुए।

बीएसई का सेंसेक्स आज 91.05 अंक टूट कर 74,391.73 अंक के स्तर पर खुला। शुरुआती कारोबार में ही ये सूचकांक 122.09 अंक की कमजोरी के साथ 74,360.69 अंक के स्तर तक पहुंच गया लेकिन इसके बाद बाजार में खरीदारों ने अपना जोर लगाया। खरीदारी के सपोर्ट से ये सूचकांक 329.65 अंक की बढ़त के साथ 74,812.43 अंक तक पहुंच गया। हालांकि आखिरी आधे घंटे के कारोबार में बिकवाली का दबाव बन जाने के कारण सेंसेक्स ऊपरी स्तर से करीब 200 अंक गिर कर 128.33 अंक की मजबूती के साथ 74,611.11 अंक के स्तर पर बंद हुआ।

सेंसेक्स की तरह ही एनएसई के निफ्टी ने आज 37 अंक की कमजोरी के साथ 22,567.85 अंक के स्तर से कारोबार की शुरुआत की। बाजार खुलने के बाद ही लाल और बिकवालों के बीच लगातार खींचतान चलती रही, जिसकी वजह से इस सूचकांक की चाल में भी लगातार उतार-चढ़ाव होता रहा। खरीदारी के सपोर्ट से ये सूचकांक 105.65 अंक उछल कर 22,710.50 अंक तक पहुंच गया। हालांकि कारोबार के अंतिम दौर में हुई मुनाफासूली के कारण निफ्टी ऊपरी स्तर से करीब 60 अंक फिसल कर 43.35 अंक की तेजी के साथ 22,648.20 अंक के स्तर पर बंद हुआ। पूरे दिन के कारोबार के बाद स्टॉक मार्केट के दिग्गज शेयरों में से बीपीसीएल 4.49 प्रतिशत, पावर ग्रिड कॉर्पोरेशन 3.89 प्रतिशत, एशियन पेट्रॉस 3.46 प्रतिशत, बजान ऑटो 2.32 प्रतिशत और टाटा मोटर्स 1.97 प्रतिशत की मजबूती के साथ आज के टॉप 5 गेनर्स की सूची में शामिल हुए। दूसरी ओर, कोटक महिंद्रा 2.97 प्रतिशत, टाटा कंज्यूमर प्रोडक्ट्स 1.55 प्रतिशत, भारती एयरटेल 1.38 प्रतिशत, एक्सिस बैंक 1.38 प्रतिशत और एचडीएफसी लाइफ 1.25 प्रतिशत की गिरावट के साथ आज के टॉप 5 लुजर्स की सूची में शामिल हुए।

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। घरेलू सर्राफा बाजार में गिरावट का रुख लगातार जारी है। मिडिल इस्ट में तनाव कम होने का असर गोल्ड मार्केट पर भी पड़ा है, जिसके कारण कुछ दिन पहले ही 75 हजार रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के सर्वोच्च स्तर पर पहुंच चुका सोना अब लगातार सस्ता हो रहा है। सोने के भाव में आज 1 हजार रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम से भी अधिक की गिरावट दर्ज की गई। इस गिरावट की वजह से देश के ज्यादातर सर्राफा बाजारों में 24 कैरेट सोना 71,500 रुपये से 71,650 रुपये प्रति ग्राम के स्तर के बीच कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह 22 कैरेट सोना भी 65,540 रुपये से 65,690 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के भाव पर बिक रहा है। देशभर में सिर्फ चेन्नई के सर्राफा बाजार में 24 कैरेट सोना 72 हजार रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 66 हजार रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर के ऊपर बिक रहा है। सोने की तरह ही चांदी में भी आज 500 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम तक की गिरावट

आई है। इस गिरावट के कारण आज दिल्ली सर्राफा बाजार में चांदी 82,900 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के

चेन्नई के सर्राफा बाजार में 24 कैरेट सोने की रिटेल कीमत आज 72,370 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और

22 कैरेट सोना 65,540 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर पहुंच चुका आज लखनऊ के सर्राफा बाजार में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 71,650 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 65,690 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। पटना में 24 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 71,550 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम हो गई है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोना 65,590 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। जयपुर में 24 कैरेट सोना 71,650 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 65,690 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। देश के अन्य राज्यों की तरह कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना और ओडिशा के सर्राफा बाजार में भी सोने की कीमत में आज बड़ी गिरावट आई है। इन तीनों राज्यों की राजधानियों बेंगलूरु, हैदराबाद और भुवनेश्वर में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 71,500 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह तीनों शहरों के सर्राफा बाजारों में 22 कैरेट सोना 65,540 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है।



स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। दिल्ली में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 71,650 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 65,690 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई। इसी तरह मुंबई में 24 कैरेट सोना 71,500 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 65,540 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है।

22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 66,340 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख शहरों के अलावा अहमदाबाद में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 71,550 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 65,590 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह कोलकाता में 24 कैरेट सोना 71,500 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और

कहा, हमें उम्मीद है कि यह प्रकृति में अधिक संरचनात्मक है और एकरागी नहीं। डबल के लिए, मार्च तिमाही में ग्रामीण बाजारों में शहरी बाजारों की तुलना में 400 आधार अंक (बीपीएस) की वृद्धि हुई। गुरुवार को कंपनी का तिमाही शुद्ध लाभ 16.2 फीसदी बढ़कर 350 करोड़ हो गया, जो एक साल पहले 301 करोड़ था।

## डबल को गामीण सुधार के शुरुआती संकेत दिखे, उसने टैल्कम पाउडर बाजार में प्रवेश किया

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। डबल इंडिया ने गुरुवार को बाजार के आंकड़ों का हवाला देते हुए ग्रामीण मांग में बढ़ोतरी के शुरुआती संकेतों की ओर इशारा किया और कहा कि सामान्य मानसून के पूर्वानुमान से आने वाले महीनों में ग्रामीण खपत में और बढ़ोतरी हो

सकती है। इसके अतिरिक्त, कंपनी ने चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में मध्यम से उच्च एकल-अंकीय वॉल्यूम वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया है, कंपनी के प्रबंधन ने अपनी कमाई के बाद सम्मेलन काल में कहा ग्रामीण विकास एक तरह से आगे देखा है, नील्सन डेटा में हमने ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 120-150 बीपीएस

सुधार देखा है। शहरी विकास लगभग समान बना हुआ है या थोड़ा कम हुआ है, लेकिन ग्रामीण विकास में तेजी आ रही है; यह पिछले दो से तीन महीनों में क्रमिक रूप से हो रहा है...इसलिए लगभग तीन वर्षों के बाद, हम ग्रामीण को शहरी से आगे देख रहे हैं। डबल इंडिया के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी मोहित मल्होत्रा ने

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दुनिया में रिश्ते के बिना प्यार का अहसास ही नहीं हो सकता। रिश्ता चाहे कोई भी हो खास होता है। इसे निभाने के लिए शुरुआत भी अलग तरीके की होना चाहिए। फिर चाहे वो दोस्ती हो या फिर रिश्तेदारी।

## अगर रखेंगे इन बातों का ख्याल रिश्ता हो जाएगा मजबूत

खुशियों का अहसास अपने से ही होता है। इसे हमेशा के लिए गहरा करने के लिए कुछ खास बातों की तरफ ध्यान देना बहुत जरूरी है ताकि आने वाला हर पल हसीन रहे। अगर किसी कारण रिश्तों में गलतफहमियां आ भी जाए तो एक दूसरे पर यकीन इतना गहरा हो कि कोई दूसरा आपमें अपनी जगह बना न सके। लेकिन इसके लिए कुछ बातों का खास ख्याल रखना भी बहुत जरूरी है ताकि प्यार से संजो कर रखा गया यह रिश्ता जिंदगी की जरूरत बन जाए।

### एक दूसरे को जानना जरूरी

आप किसी से प्यार करते हैं तो इसके लिए एक बात को जान लेना बहुत जरूरी है आपको उसकी आदतों के बारे में जानना होगा। इससे आप खुद को और अपने बढ़ते रिलेशनशिप को कुछ समय दे पाएंगे। जो भविष्य में आपके लिए परेशानी नहीं बनेगा।

### रिलेशनशिप से बनें पहचान

दोस्ती को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए कुछ बातों को समझना बहुत जरूरी है। जैसे दोस्ती इस तरह की हो जो आपकी पहचान बनें। इस बात का ध्यान रखें कि कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं कि आप दोस्ती में खोते जा रहे हैं। यह बदलाव आपके लिए खतरनाक हो सकता है।

### कभी शक भी जायज

जहां यकीन है वहां शक होना भी कभी कभी जायज होता है। पार्टनर पर जरूरत से भी ज्यादा यकीन कर लेने से भी कई बार रिश्ता खराब होने का डर रहता है। थोड़ा बहुत शक करना या फिर पजोसिव होने से पार्टनर को भी पता चलता है कि आप उनके लिए कितने जरूरी हैं।

### एक-दूसरे को दें वक्त

एक-दूसरे के साथ समय बिता कर उसके बारे में बहुत कुछ जानने को मिलता है। कई बार ज्यादा देर तक बनाई गई दूरी भी रिश्ते में खटटास पैदा कर सकती है। ऐसे में समय की कमी के कारण अगर पार्टनर के साथ नरजागी है तो एक-दूसरे को समय जरूर दें। कहीं न कहीं आपके रिश्ते में

मजबूती आनी शुरू हो जाएगी। कोशिश करें एक-दूसरे के साथ समय बिताएं।



घर में लगे कांच का गंदा होना और उन पर दाग-धब्बे पड़ना आम समस्या है। इनको साफ करना बहुत ही मुश्किल होता है। कई बार दाग इतने ज़िद्दी होते हैं कि सर्फ, शेपू से साफ करने भी इन पर कोई असर नहीं होता। इन चीजों से कांच साफ करने पर यह धुंधला और गंदा हो जाता है। जो देखने में बहुत ही अजीब सा लगता है। ऐसे में खिड़की, दरवाजा, ड्रेसिंग टेबल और बाथरूम के शिरो की चमक लौटाने के लिए घर में पड़ी कुछ चीजों का उपयोग कर सकते हैं। आज हम आपको गिरलिन प्रिंटेड और इनके सही इस्तेमाल से कांच साफ करने का तरीका बताएंगे। इससे एक बार फिर से चमक उठेंगे।

### नमक

नमक खाने के स्वाद को बढ़ाने के साथ ही घर की साफ सफाई करने के काम भी आता है। इसका इस्तेमाल करके घर के शीशों को आसानी से साफ किया जा सकता है। नमक से शीशे साफ करने के लिए इसको पानी में डालकर घोल बनाएं। इससे शीशा साफ करें, शीशा चमकने लगेगा। इसके अलावा, कपड़े पर लगे कोल्डड्रिंक के दाग आदि को छुड़ाने में भी नमक का प्रयोग किया जाता है।

### वलब सोडा

कांच की गंदगी साफ करना का सबसे आसान और सस्ती चीज है वलब सोडा। इसका इस्तेमाल करने के लिए वलब सोडा को एक स्प्रे बोतल में भर लें। कांच में जहां गंदगी दिखे वहीं इसे स्प्रे करें और साफ कॉटन के कपड़े से पोछ लें। इस तरह से कांच साफ करने से चमक उठेगा।

### ठंडे पानी

शीशे पर पड़े दागों को दूर करने के लिए ठंडा पानी लें। पानी को धीरे-धीरे शिशे पर फेंकें। अब इसको नर्म कपड़े की सहायता से आराम से

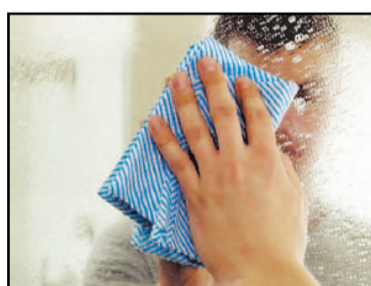
साफ करें। ऐसा करने से कुछ ही समय में दाग मिट जाएंगे।

### अल्कोहल

शीशे के पुराने और ज़िद्दी दागों को दूर करने के लिए अल्कोहल डालकर कांच साफ करें। कुछ ही मिनटों में दाग छूमंतर हो जाएंगे।

### नींबू का रस

नींबू के रस से आसानी से घर के गंदे शीशों को साफ किया जा सकता है। नींबू के रस में थोड़ा सा पानी डालकर मिक्स करें। अब एक सूती कपड़ा लें। इसके बाद उस कपड़े धीरे-धीरे शीशे को साफ करें।



## शीशों से नहीं छूट रहे दाग-धब्बे तो अपनाएं ये तरीके



### बेकिंग सोडा

बेकिंग सोडा का इस्तेमाल खाना बनाने के अलावा शीशे को साफ करने में भी किया जाता है। कांच को साफ करने के लिए बेकिंग सोडा को पानी में मिलाकर स्पॉज या किसी मुलायम कपड़े की सहायता से साफ करें। ऐसा करने से इसके दाग-धब्बे साफ हो जाएंगे और कांच चमक उठेगा।

### सिरका

कांच को अच्छे से साफ करने के लिए सिरके का

उपयोग करें। शीशे की गंदगी साफ करने के लिए सिरके को एक स्प्रे की बोतल में डाल लें। आवश्यकता पड़ने पर कांच पर इससे स्प्रे करें और साफ कपड़े से साफ करें।

### अखबार



कांच को साफ करने के लिए अखबार के टुकड़े की बॉल बनाकर पानी में डालकर निकाल लें। अब इसको हल्के हाथों से शीशे पर घुमाएं। आप चाहे तो इसमें विनेगर भी डाल सकते हैं। इन दोनों को मिलाकर लगाने से कांच अच्छे से साफ हो जाएगा।

## प्रेग्नेंसी में रखें खुद का ख्याल



प्रेग्नेंसी में नन्हें मेहमान के आने की जितनी ज्यादा खुशी होती है, उससे भी ज्यादा इस बात का फिक्र सताता है कि आने वाला बच्चा हैल्दी हो। इस लिए मां का खास ख्याल रखा जाता है क्योंकि उसी से बच्चे को पूरा पोषण मिलता है। अगर मां में ही पोषक तत्वों की कमी होगी तो भविष्य में इसका असर बच्चे पर भी पड़ेगा। कैल्शियम, आयरन, विटामिन, खनिज पदार्थ, फाइबर, पोटाशियम आदि से भरपूर आहारों का सेवन गर्भावस्था में बहुत जरूरी है। इसी से बच्चे का शारीरिक और मानसिक विकास होगा और बीमारियों से भी उसका बचाव रहेगा। शरीर में इस समय हार्मोन्स का परिवर्तन होने से मां का मूड बदलना स्वाभाविक है। इससे उसे बहुत सी परेशानियों से भी गुजरना पड़ता है। ऐसे में प्रेग्नेंसी का समय एज्वाय करने के लिए कुछ बातों का खास ख्याल रखना बहुत जरूरी है।

### ऐसे करें स्किन केयर

गर्भावस्था में पेट और स्तन का आकार बढ़ने से स्किन पर खिंचाव के निशान पड़ जाते हैं। जिससे स्किन पर धारियां और गहरे भूरे रंग की लकीरें पड़ने का डर रहता है। इसके लिए अपनी मर्जी से दवाइयों खाने की गलती न करें। खास तरीकों से ही अपनी स्किन की केयर करें। प्रेग्नेंसी में त्वचा खुष्क होने लगती है इसलिए नहाने से पहले सरसो या फिर जैतून के तेल से शरीर की मसाज करें। मसाज हमेशा हल्के हाथों से करें। इससे त्वचा में नमी बरकरार रहेगी और त्वचा पर पड़े दाग-धब्बे भी दूर हो जाएंगे। पर्याप्त मात्रा में पानी का सेवन करना बहुत जरूरी है। इससे स्किन और सेहत दोनों अच्छी रहेगी। स्ट्रेच मॉस्कर पर दवाइयों लगाने की बजाए नारियल

का तेल लगाएं। इससे किसी तरह की एलर्जी भी नहीं होगी और दाग के निशान भी गायब हो जाएंगे।

### कपड़े पहने स्टाइलिश

गर्भावस्था के समय मां जितना खुश रहेगी बच्चा भी उतना ही हैल्दी रहेगा। गर्भवती महिला का स्मार्ट बनकर रहना बहुत जरूरी होता है। ड्रेसिंग स्टाइल भी आपकी खुशी को व्यक्त करने का काम करता है। इस समय टाइट कपड़े पहनने से परहेज करें। इससे बच्चे की ग्रोथ होने में आसानी होगी।

स्टाइलिश मैक्सि ड्रेस पहनने में आरामदायक होती है। डार्क रंग के कपड़े इस समय मन को खुशी देते हैं।

पलोरल या फिर कॉटन प्रिंट के आउटफिट्स बहुत अच्छे लगते हैं।

### सेहत के रखें ख्याल

संतुलित आहार खाना इस समय बहुत महत्वपूर्ण होता है। फल, सब्जियां, दूध, सूप आदि समय-समय खाना बहुत जरूरी है। एक बार खाने की बजाए 2-3 घंटे में कुछ न कुछ खाना चाहिए।

रोटी, ब्रेड, चावल, साबुत अनाज को अपनी डाइट का हिस्सा बनाएं। इन चीजों से आपको प्रोटीन मिलता है। इस समय प्रोटीन का सेवन बहुत जरूरी होता है।

दूध, पनीर, अंडे, छाछ को भी आहार में शामिल करें। दूध से एलर्जी है तो छोले, राजमा, जई, बादाम, सोया दूध और सोयाबीन पनीर का भी खा सकते हैं।

फलों का जूस पीने से साथ-साथ फल चबाकर खाने से ज्यादा फायदा मिलता है। यह शरीर में ऊर्जा का स्तर बनाए रख सकते हैं।



### हर महिला के काम को

## आसान बना देंगे ये स्मार्ट ट्रिक्स

हाउस वाइफ ही नहीं बल्कि वर्किंग वूमन्स का भी किचन के साथ गहरा रिश्ता होता है। वैसे तो गुहणीयां खाना बनाने से लेकर किचन में हर में माहिर होती हैं लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी कई बार उन्हें काम करते समय कुछ परेशानियों का सामना करना पड़ता है, जिसके कारण काम में देरी हो जाती है। किचन से जुड़ी छोटी-मोटी बातों के बारे में हर औरत को पता होना चाहिए, ताकि वो अपने काम को और भी आसान बना सके। आज हम आपको ऐसे ही कुछ ट्रिक्स बताने जा रहे हैं, जिनकी मदद से आप अपने काम को और भी आसान बना सकते हैं। ये शानदार किचन ट्रिक्स आपका काम आसान करने के साथ-साथ खाने का स्वाद भी बढ़ जाएगा। किचन ट्रिक्स

बादाम या टमाटर छिलने के लिए पहले उन्हें 5-10 मिनट तक पानी में उबालें। इससे इनके छिलके आसानी से निकल जाएंगे। प्याज को काटने और लहसुन को छिलने से पहले उसे 10 मिनट के लिए पानी में भिगो दें। इससे प्याज काटते समय आंसू नहीं आएंगे और लहसुन के छिलके भी आराम से उतर जाएंगे। सूखे मेवे या ड्राई फ्रूट्स को काटने से पहले 1 घंटे के लिए फ्रिज में रख दें। इससे यह सॉफ्ट हो जाएंगे और आप इन्हें आसानी से काट सकेंगी। मशरूम को कभी भी पानी से न धोएं। क्योंकि यह पानी को सोख लेते हैं और कपाते समय पानी छोड़



## पहली डेट के बाद मैसेज कर रहे हैं तो न करें ये बात

जब कोई लड़का या लड़की नए-नए रिलेशन में पड़ते हैं तो वह हर वक्त एक-दूसरे से बात करने का बहाना ढूँढते रहते हैं। हर वक्त मैसेज के जरिए एक-दूसरे से बात करने लगते हैं लेकिन नए रिश्ते में लड़की को अधिक मैसेज करने से आपका बना हुआ रिश्ता टूट भी सकता है क्योंकि कोई भी लड़की शुरुआत में अपनी लाइफ में किसी दूसरे की देखभाल अंदाजी पसंद नहीं करती। इसलिए ऐसे में लड़कों को थोड़ा सावधानी बरत कर लड़की को मैसेज करने चाहिए, ताकि लड़की को किसी बात का गुस्सा न लगे। कई बार ऐसा होता है कि लड़के बेवक्त लड़की को मैसेज करने लगते हैं या फिर ड्रिंक करके मैसेज में कुछ भी बोल देते हैं, जो लड़की को बिल्कुल भी पसंद नहीं आता है और आपका रिश्ता बनता-बनता टूट जाता है। अगर आप भी अभी नया-नया रिश्ता बना रहे हैं तो लड़की के साथ मैसेज पर बात करते समय कुछ बातों पर जरूर ध्यान रखें।

### अधिक मैसेज न करें

पहली डेट के बाद लड़की के साथ बातचीत बढ़ाना अच्छी बात है लेकिन इसका मतलब ये नहीं कि उसके बार-बार मैसेज करके टंग करते रहें। अधिक मैसेज करने से भी रिश्ता जुड़ने से पहले ही टूट सकता है। इसलिए मैसेज करने पहले इस बात का खास ध्यान रखें।

### देर रात मैसेज न करें

दिन के समय मैसेज करके थोड़ी-बहुत बात करना तो ठीक है लेकिन देर रात तक लड़की को कभी मैसेज न करें। इससे

देते हैं, जिससे सबकी का टेस्ट खराब हो जाता है। इसकी बजाए आप मशरूम को गीले कपड़े से साफ करें।

अगर आप पनीर बना रही हैं तो उसमें थोड़ा-सा ऑयल लगा दें। इससे यह बर्तन के साथ चिपकेंगे नहीं।

शहद की शुद्धता पता लगाने के लिए उसकी कुछ बूँदें कांच की बोतल या गिलास में डालें। अगर शहद तले पर बैठ जाए तो शुद्ध है और अगर वो पानी में मिक्स हो जाए तो मिलावटी है।

अगर आप बिरयानी या कोई ग्रेवी वाली डिश बना रही हैं तो उसमें दही डालने से पहले अच्छी तरह फेंट लें। इससे खाने का स्वाद बढ़ जाएगा। इसके अलावा सब्जियां उबालने के बाद इसके पानी को दाल बनाने में इस्तेमाल करें। इससे दाल का स्वाद दोगुना हो जाएगा।

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# Beginners' guide

## to growing orchids at home

And just when you are about to give up, they surprise you with their real beauty -in various shapes, sizes, colours and fragrances. And like most pretty things, they are high-maintenance," says Dr SL Rahman, joint secretary, The Agri Horticultural Society of India. However, not all orchids are difficult to grow. Some are practically indestructible. It is estimated that there are more than 1,300 species of orchids found in India, primarily in the Northeast -Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh -and also in Sikkim and south India. Most orchids are perennial herbs with simple leaves and if raised in the right conditions (temperature not less than 16-17°C), they should last eight weeks with flowers, after which the blooms slowly start dropping off. They eventually re-flower. A word of caution: Never cut off the aerial roots, and never, ever remove the orchids from the pots they root in.

### BEGINNERS' CHALLENGE

Growing orchids can be addictive. But you can take proper care of your orchid only when you know its genus. Most orchids you get in nurseries are hybrids, created specifically for flowers. They are easy to care for at homes and offices. However, a few things should be kept in mind, like light and humidity. If you can imitate a plant's natural habitat, it will thrive.

### ORCHIDS WHICH ARE GOOD FOR BEGINNERS

The most commonly available orchids, such as the Moth Orchid, Phalaenopsis and Cattleya are so popular because they grow well at home. Phalaenopsis hybrids are usually considered the 'beginners' orchids', largely because they re-bloom under the conditions most windowsill growers can offer them. They require lower light. African violets can adapt to different humidity levels. They, however, easily die off due to over-watering. Underwatering can be a problem too. In Vedic scriptures, there is mention of a plant named Vanda, which has been adapted as a generic name for one of the most beautiful group of orchids. "Vandas could be mostly found on trees. And unlike most plants, they do not grow in soil, but air. Their roots attach to trees or rocks, and they draw moisture and nutrients that wash over them in the forest," Dr Rahman tells us. SOIL Beginners often make the mistake of assuming that orchids need to be potted in soil like other

blooming flowers. That would be a grave mistake. Most orchid roots need far more air than potting soil would give them. So, look for a porous mix.

### LIGHTING

Direct sunlight should be avoided. Some common types of orchids that thrive on bright light are Cattleya and Vanda, while low light is preferred by Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum, among others. Orchids should be given as much light as they can tolerate. Varieties with thicker and erect leaves can tolerate more light than those with thinner or more horizontal leaves. Too little light is one of the common mistakes beginners make.

### TEMPERATURE

Warm-growing orchids like day temperatures between 21°C and 29°C. This includes Phalaenopsis orchids. The commonly available orchids that are sold in nurseries do well in temperatures that are comfortable for human beings.

### HUMIDITY

Most orchids like about 70 per cent humidity in the atmosphere, which is more humid than most homes. So, you have to make an effort to provide your plants with extra humidity. Orchids usually appreciate misting with a spray bottle. If the plant has aerial roots growing up and out of the pot, those roots will like getting some moisture. At home, you can keep the the planter on a tray. Fill it with water and gravel. As the water evaporates, it will provide some extra humidity to the plant. For anyone keeping tropical plants on a windowsill, this technique really helps.

### NUTRITION

Orchids need nitrogen, sulphur, phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium for growth.

### WATER

Overwatering kills far more orchids than underwatering. When in doubt, just don't water. The potting mix also has a lot to do with how often an orchid needs watering. Most orchids are sold in mixes that allow for weekly watering. Don't water until the soil is approaching dryness. To water, just submerge the pot in a bucket for a few seconds, then lift it out and let the excess water drain off.

orchid,

### PRUNING

Beginners often wonder how to prune orchids.

Trimming old flower stems that have turned brown is a good idea. If it's still green, it may re-bloom, either from the tip or by branching further back on the stem. Trimming orchids should only be done to remove leaves, roots, or flower stems that have already died or have turned brown. You must sterilise your cutting tools or use disposable ones so that you don't spread diseases between plants. The best time to re-pot is when new roots start to grow. So, what are you waiting for? Get started!



# This is what Indian offices need to change

An office worker spends nearly five years sitting at a desk and thus it is important to understand that the ergonomics in relation to office furniture is important. With the league of start-ups, new work culture has cropped up. There are no rigid cabin walls and heavy furniture anymore to keep the equations between the employees at bay. New-age concept furniture is building the backbone of successful offices. We spoke with Umesh Rao, Founder & CEO, Vector Projects to understand what is the latest trend and if Indian offices are ready for the change.

### What is floating furniture all about? How does help soothe an office environment?

Floating furniture is a new concept that has been introduced in the interior space. While in the recent past, rigid and bulky furniture were the norm at workspaces, the new-age concept of floating furniture has changed functionality of an office.

One such product is E-Stills Desk System. This product can be modified to not only function as a staff workstation, but as a manager workstation or conference table. The system offers the utility of a sturdy desk, while allowing agility of a compact workstation at the same time. It was also built to solve one of the basic challenges faced by small offices - a cluttered workspace with numerous pieces of furniture & accessories.

The modern designing techniques using cutting-edge technology, by not completely tarnishing the traditional furniture look has increased the demand for floating furniture in the markets.

### What kind of changes do you think Indian offices need currently and why?

confined to comfortable and passive to portable.

Radical design doesn't mean only futuristic. If interpreted correctly, it could be a mix of traditional and modern decor. That is the beauty of this concept, it lets you decide how 'radical' you want to be.

While radical design and seating has transformed large offices, it has also come as a boon to small offices and has changed how small spaces are planned. The question of small working spaces confining the application of radical designs has been solved by creating multipurpose furniture and systems that fit the needs & budget of clients.

### Which is the most difficult corner in Indian offices that you always fail to modify?

It wouldn't be right to generalize; however, we have seen that the Indian Companies are still paper intensive and this leads to a huge requirement for storage. There are statutory obligations

that require some of the contracts, legal documents to be preserved for 10 years. High numbers of storage units limit the flexibility and openness in the office. We are suggesting ways to combat this by providing Compactor storages for dead and movable storage caddies for personal storage. This partially helps to achieve the balance between storage needs and flexibility.

### What changes do you wish to make to Indian Government offices?

Indian Government offices are the perfect example of traditional work-spaces. With private organisations adapting new age office concepts, the government workspaces also need to transform to become attractive to young talent. For starters, the work environment and the office design can become more transparent. The area could be distributed more equitably between cabins and open work areas. Technology could be integrated more closely in the office design. An efficiently planned, well lit, well ventilated workspace can really help to enhance productivity regardless of the sector.

In order to successfully create a rich working environment, it is essential to make employees feel comfortable and at ease, while being efficient and productive. With open workspaces, flexi-seating, and ergonomically enhanced furniture, Indian offices today are in the process of re-invention.

It is important that workplaces that can help enhance productivity are introduced. For example, many companies like Google, Facebook have opted for new age offices that have employee friendly environment. While the country is still adapting itself to this new concept, start-ups have started to pave the way. They have redefined commercial interior spaces in the country by breaking the monotony and cutting the clutter associated with traditional workspaces.

### What is radical seating all about?

The term 'Radical' in its simplest form, means a departure from tradition. For us, it represents change and departure. Change from routine and departure from monotony at the workspace. Radical design has slowly started to gain acceptance in offices. The scenario has changed from restrictive to refreshing,

## Set up your own terrace Vegetable garden

Have you, inspired by what Jyotika did in 36 Vayadhinile, wanted a terrace veggie garden of your own? It's a good idea, actually, to grow everyday spices and herbs, so that you have them at hand — fresh — whenever needed. But if you're among the many who don't know how to go about setting up this garden, read on...

### Choose the right space

Go to the terrace, take a good look. Judge the play of the sun throughout the day. And then, select a place that is shady, but at the same time, gets direct sunlight for some part of the day. You've

to ensure that the plants get at least five hours of sunlight daily. But mind you, herbs are delicate leaves, so be careful that the sunlight is not so strong that the leaves get scorched by the heat.

### Get this...

The state government, as part of its environment and green cover initiatives, provides coir peats that come in plastic bags, which means you can grow the veggies in them, without having to bother about spending on pots. To begin with, wet the peats, place them on a sheet in the terrace. Keep watering them regularly, and in about a week, you'll see what looked like a small brick would've expanded to look like debris, and filled the bag. Now, to plant the seeds...

### Prepare the soil

Get some soil and natural manure from any nursery, and mix it well with the peats. If you want to keep it organic, add cow dung or goat dung manure to the mix.

Leave this mix aside for a few days. Meanwhile, when you peel veggies, etc, do not throw away the skin. Instead, create your own compost with these vegetable skins and waste veggies in another pot in the terrace, and add them to this mix. After about a week, this mix is ready for plantation. Get the seeds of whatever you want to grow (tomatoes, chillies, coriander, basil and herbs are good choices). Sprinkle a few seeds over the mix, slightly dab them in with your hand, and leave it be for a couple of days. Watch them grow.

### Pick the right veggies



To start with, try out just one or two vegetables, and then go in for more veggies. Tomatoes, chillies and keerai (spinach) are easy to grow, so start with them. Sometimes you might need to net out the seeds and the saplings as they grow, to keep pesky sparrows and other birds from feasting on them.

### Watering is the key factor

Water the plants regularly, as and when needed. Excess water often causes damage and decay to plant roots, and it also washes away the nutrients of the soil. Also, post every heavy rainfall, remember to add manure to the soil.



# Anushka Sharma

and Virat Kohli's Son Akaay's FIRST Details Out: 'He's So Golu Molu'

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli have been extremely protective of their children. While Anushka had confirmed she was pregnant when she was expecting her first baby, Vamika, with Virat, the second time around, she did not even let the media know she was expecting her second child. The couple went on to surprise everyone with the news of their son Akaay's arrival in February. While Anushka and Virat have remained tight-lipped about the newborn, TV star Aamir Ali revealed he's seen a picture of Akaay and he's adorable. Aamir recently collaborated with Virat on an ad. In a new interview, Aamir spoke about working with Virat when he brought up his and Anushka's



children. He told Zoom TV that Virat has a spark on his face when he talks about his family. "We did have a chat about cricket, but when he spoke about his family, he had a different spark on his face," he said. The TV star added, "He showed me his daughter's photo and also spoke about Anushka. He had a different spark on his face. That was the most endearing thing I liked about him." Speaking about Akaay, Aamir said, "Akaay is damn cute. I told him it's good that you've kept them away. It's Anushka's decision to keep the

kids away (from the media and fans). Kids have to be. But he's so golu molu and a cute pie, god bless him." In a statement earlier this year, Anushka and Virat announced the arrival of their second child. "With abundant happiness and our hearts full of love, we are pleased to inform everyone that on 15th February, we welcomed our baby boy Akaay and Vamika's little brother into this world!" Anushka and Virat announced.

We seek your blessings and good wishes in this beautiful time in our lives. We request you to kindly respect our privacy at this time," they added. The couple has been receiving love since the announcement. Ranveer Singh commented, "?????????" Shweta Bachchan added, "? Congratulatory." Alia Bhatt also joined in and congratulated them. "How beautiful! Congratulations?," Alia wrote.



## Jeo Baby-starrer Swakaryam Sambhavabahulam To Release On This Date; Motion Poster Out



Filmmaker and actor Jeo Baby will be next seen in Swakaryam Sambhavabahulam. It is written, directed and produced by debutant Naseer Badarudeen under the banner of N Tales Production. The film stars Jeo Baby and Shelly in the lead roles while Anju Antony, Arjun, Ranji Kankol, Sajin Cherukayil and RJ Anjali will be playing the supporting roles in the film. The makers have released the motion poster of Swakaryam Sambhavabahulam. The motion poster presents a brief introduction to the film's characters. The motion poster has gone viral. The first look poster of the movie was released last year. Swakaryam Sambhavabahulam is slated to release in theatres on May 31. The movie is touted to revolve around a village which weaves the lives of different characters together through an event. Jeo Baby and other actors shared the motion poster on Instagram. An eventful tale unfolds. Presenting the motion poster for Swakaryam Sambhavabahulam. Coming to theatres on 31 May 2024!" wrote Jeo Baby while sharing the motion poster. The cinematography of the movie is done by Rakesh Dharan while the music is composed by Sidhartha Pradeep.

Jeo Baby was last seen acting in the movie Pulimada which was directed by AK Sajan. He played a supporting role in the movie. Jeo Baby is also known for directing critically acclaimed movies like The Great Indian Kitchen and Kaathal-The Core. His last directorial was Kaathal-The Core which starred Jyothika and Mammooty in lead roles. The movie also came under the radar of critics due to the portrayal of a gay character by Mammooty. Despite the backlash, the movie was commercially successful at the box office. In May, the actor will be gracing his fans with two movies-Mandakini and Swakaryam Sambhavabahulam. Mandakini is slated to release on May 24. It is directed by Vinod Leela and stars Althaf Salim, Anarkali Marikar and Ganapathi S Poducal in lead roles. The film revolves around a married couple who faces an unlikely trouble during their wedding night. The movie is about how the incident affects the family and how they overcome it.

## Malayalam Film Mandakini To Release On May 24; Check Out Trailer



The trailer of Mandakini, written and directed by Vinod Leela, has been released. The film stars Althaf Salim and Anarkali Marikar. The movie is produced by Sanju Unnithan under the banner of Spire Productions. The cinematography is by Shiju M Bhaskar, and music by Bibin Ashok. Mandakini is a comedy entertainer and features the lead actors as a married couple. It also stars Ganapathi, Jafar Idukki, Sarita Kuku, Vineet Thattil, Ashwathi Srikanth, Kutty Akhil, Akhila Nath, Ala S. Naina, Guinness Vinod, Rashmi Anil, Babita Basheer, Prathish Jacob, Ambili Sunil, Akhil Shah and Ajim Shah in important roles in the films. Anarkali is playing the role of Ambili in the film, where Althaf is playing the role of Aromal. Mandakini will hit theatres on May 24 this year. Earlier, Althaf Salim has expressed his excitement for the film's release on the social media platform. "Happily wrapped up the shoot of my First movie as the lead character with the amazing co-star Anarkali. Thanks to the wonderful team," he shared on Instagram with a poster depicting festivities of the wedding. Althaf is set to start shooting for his film Odum Kuthira Chaadum Kuthira, which stars Fahadh Faasil and Kalyani Priyadarshan. Althaf Salim also worked in many films like Odum Kuthira Chadum Kuthira, Njandukalude Naattil Oridavela (2017) and Premam (2015). He made his directorial debut with the Nivin Pauly-starrer Njandukalude Naattil Oridavela.

Mandakini marks the debut of visionary Malayalam filmmaker and scriptwriter, Vinod Leela. He was born in Kalady and studied cinematography at the esteemed Chetana Media Institute. Starting his journey with shorts such as God of Small Things, he gained recognition for his innovative storytelling with pieces such as Kalpadukal and Suhra. His journey demonstrates his dedication to technical brilliance and sophisticated storytelling.

# Upasana Singh

On Initial Doubts About Iconic 'Judaai' Dialogue 'Abba Dabba Jabba': 'I Was Not Convinced'



Upasana Singh, a renowned Indian actress with a career spanning almost four decades, has captivated audiences with her memorable performances. One of her standout roles, cherished by fans, was in the 1997 film 'Judaai,' alongside Anil Kapoor, Sridevi, and Urmila Matondkar. In this Raj Kanwar directorial, Upasana portrayed a dual role, playing both Paresh Rawal's wife and his daughter who becomes romantically involved with Johnny Lever's character. Her dialogue 'Abba Dabba Jabba' from the film became iconic. During the discussion about her involvement in the film, Upasana confessed her admiration for Sridevi and inquired about the possibility of sharing the screen with the cinema icon, "Raj Kanwar agreed. That's when I decided to go ahead," Upasana Singh disclosed to

the Times of India. Despite initial reservations, particularly regarding the iconic 'Abba Dabba Jabba' dialogue, Upasana eventually embraced the role, emphasizing her commitment to infusing the character with a range of expressions and vocal nuances. She shared, "Then he told me about the Abba Dabba Jabba line. I was not at all convinced that a mute person could speak only these words.

He told me to try it. I told myself to play the character with as many variations of expressions and voice. I have always been experimenting with roles." Singh also revealed that she initially found the plot of Judaai, where the wife sells her husband, to be peculiar. However, she chose not to address this concern at the time. She recalled, "I was wondering how people would digest this. But Judaai became such a big hit that people started knowing me as 'Abba Dabba Jabba' rather than my real name. I did so many live shows where



people demanded that I say that dialogue." Her portrayal of the character earned her widespread recognition, with audiences often associating her with the famous dialogue. Having ventured into Punjabi cinema with notable success, including directing a film, Upasana discussed her forthcoming projects, expressing her interest in production and the imminent release of several Punjabi films. Fans can look forward to seeing her in the upcoming movie 'Carry On Jatttije,' alongside Gippy Grewal.