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NEWS BOX

Afghan polio survivor's sock factory provides hope by employing disabled workers

HERAT. (Agency)

In a tiny room in the center of Herat, Afghanistan's westernmost city, Shahabuddin uses his hands to propel himself along the floor to a freshly-made pile of socks waiting to be sorted and packaged. A double amputee since a roadside bomb took both his legs a decade ago, when Afghanistan was mired in conflict between U.S.-led forces and Taliban insurgents, the 36-year-old father of four had struggled to find work. Unemployed for the last decade, he had been forced to rely on relatives for his family's survival. But a new sock production workshop in Herat employing only disabled workers has given him new hope. "I became disabled due to the explosion. Both my legs were amputated," Shahabuddin, who like many Afghans since by only one name, said during a brief pause in his work in early December. "Now I work here in a sock factory, and I am very happy that I have been given a job here." The workshop is the brainchild of Mohammad Amiri, 35, a former grocery shop worker who started the business about a month ago. Amiri, himself disabled by childhood polio, wanted to create jobs and help provide income for other people with disabilities, particularly as many of them were injured during the conflict and have no other means of income. He teamed up with another polio survivor to start the sock factory with a workforce of men disabled either through traumatic injuries or because of congenital issues or other reasons. They make four types of socks: long and short, for winter and summer. "The factory, which is funded and supported by people with disabilities, began operations last month and currently employs around 50 people with disabilities," Amiri said. "They are busy in the production, packaging and sale of socks in the city." A combination of decades of conflict, a weak health care system and struggling economy have contributed to high levels of disability in Afghanistan. Data from a 2019 Model Disability Survey conducted by The Asia Foundation nonprofit organization indicates that nearly 25% of adults live with a mild disability, while 40% have moderate and about 14% have severe disabilities.

Hong Kong's pro-democracy media tycoon Jimmy Lai's national security trial verdict on December 15

HONG KONG.(Agency)

Hong Kong pro-democracy media tycoon Jimmy Lai will receive the verdict in his national security trial on December 15, a court website showed. Lai, who turned 78 this week, is charged with foreign collusion under Hong Kong's national security law, which Beijing imposed following huge and sometimes violent pro-democracy protests in 2019. The founder of the Apple Daily newspaper has been behind bars since late 2020, reportedly in solitary confinement, with Western nations and rights groups calling for his release. Lai's case is scheduled for a 60-minute hearing "for verdict" before a three-judge panel at 10 am (0200 GMT) on Monday, according to a court diary item seen on Friday. Aside from the collusion offence -- which could land him in prison for life -- Lai is also charged with "seditious publication", with prosecutors citing 161 items including op-eds with Lai's byline. Hong Kong authorities have repeatedly rejected criticism related to Lai, saying that his case was "handled strictly on the basis of evidence and in accordance with the law". During his trial, which began in December 2023, Lai denied calling for sanctions against China and Hong Kong as a whole and said he never advocated separatism or violent resistance. "The core values of Apple Daily are actually the core values of the people of Hong Kong... (including) rule of law, freedom, pursuit of democracy, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly," Lai said in his testimony. Lai is a British citizen, and his son Sebastian voiced new concerns last week over the mogul's health.

"1 H-1B Worker Equals 10 Illegal Aliens": US Pollster's "De-Indianise" Call

World . (Agency)

Mark Mitchell, a leading US commentator and pollster, stirred a row after suggesting that major US firms should "de-Indianise" themselves. He said he wants to launch a consultancy to help corporations with the process. His remarks, posted on X, have sparked social media discussion about the role of Indian professionals in America's technology sector.

"I have never in my life wanted anything more than this: to build a new corporate consultancy helping major firms de-Indianise," Mitchell posted.

The statement came days after Mitchell, the head pollster at Rasmussen Reports, criticised the growing number of Indian professionals in the United States under the H-1B visa programme during a podcast.

Attack On H-1B Visa Speaking at 'The War Room' podcast with Stephen Bannon, Mitchell hit out at Indian dominance in the H-1B visa programme and said sending back a senior H-1B developer working at top firms like Apple was economically the same as deporting ten illegal aliens. "But for every single H-1B, you know, senior developer at Apple that we send back, that's the equivalent economically, probably, of deporting ten illegal aliens. So, I don't know why we didn't do that yesterday. And the idea, yes, a lot of these people are entry level, but a lot of them are making a tonne of money," he said in the podcast released on December 8. The American pollster claimed 12 million American tech workers were left jobless because the "foreign-born workforce" has 'indicated' Silicon Valley.

Bangladesh's ex-PM Khaleda Zia placed on ventilator support: Doctors

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson has been undergoing treatment at Dhaka's Evercare Hospital since November 23 for multiple health complications.

DHAKA . (Agency)

Former Bangladesh prime minister Khaleda Zia's health condition has deteriorated and she was placed on ventilator support, doctors said. "Her breathing difficulties increased, her oxygen level fell, and carbon dioxide levels rose," according to a statement on Thursday by the chief of the medical board cardiologist Shahabuddin Talukdar. It said the 80-year-old former premier was previously being treated with High Flow Nasal Cannula and BiPAP support, but as there was no improvement, she was placed

on elective ventilator support to give rest to her lungs and other vital organs. "The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson has been undergoing treatment at Dhaka's Evercare Hospital since November 23 for multiple health complications. The statement said the three-time premier was kept under round-the-clock medical watch by a team of local and foreign specialists, as several of her vital organs continue to be under severe stress. Her kidney function has stopped completely, and she is undergoing regular dialysis," the board said, adding she currently needed blood transfusions. The board detected problems in her "aortic valve" as well. "As her fever persisted and echocardiography showed issues in the aortic valve, a Transoesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE) was performed. It confirmed infective endocarditis, a serious



infection of the heart valve. Treatment for this has been started according to international guidelines," the statement read. It said that on November 27, the doctors detected her "acute pancreatitis" while Zia was being administered high-quality anti-biotic and anti-fungal drugs for "severe infections". Her personal physician and BNP standing committee member AZM Zahid Hossain has briefed the media on her health several times,

but this is the first time the medical board has issued a statement detailing her condition. In its statement, the board urged people not to circulate speculation or misinformation about Zia's condition and to respect her privacy and dignity. "Our medical team is working with the highest level of care, attention and sincerity." Zia was hospitalised on November 23 after she developed a chest infection that affected both her heart and lungs, and four days later, she was shifted to the coronary care unit (CCU) after several of her health complications worsened. She was scheduled to be flown to London last week with the medical board's consent but her scheduled departure was delayed as an air ambulance offered by Qatar could not reach Dhaka. The doctors later decided the former premier should receive continued treatment at the Evercare Hospital until she was deemed fit for the flight.

Japan issues tsunami advisory after 6.7 magnitude quake in country's northeast

KATHMANDU . (Agency)

Japan on Friday issued a tsunami advisory after a 6.7 magnitude earthquake shook the country's northeast, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. The quake occurred off the east coast of Aomori prefecture, in the north of Honshu, the main Japanese island, at a depth of 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) at 11:44 a.m. local time, JMA said. The Pacific coast of Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate and Miyagi prefectures could see a tsunami of up to 1 meter (3.2 feet), the agency added. Damage and injuries weren't immediately clear. An advisory is a lower level of caution than a warning.

Friday's quake followed a 7.5 magnitude earthquake earlier this week in the north that caused injuries, light damage and a tsunami in Pacific

coastal communities. At least 34 people were injured in that quake on



Monday off the coast of Aomori, the northernmost prefecture of Japan's main Honshu island.

A tsunami more than 2 feet (0.6 meters) above tide levels was measured in Kuji port in Iwate prefecture before all tsunami advisories were lifted. Power was knocked out for hundreds of

homes but was mostly restored Tuesday morning.

Authorities had warned of possible aftershocks. Officials said after Monday's quake there was also a slight increase in risk of a magnitude 8-level quake and possible tsunami occurring along Japan's northeastern coast from Chiba, just east of Tokyo, to Hokkaido. The agency urged residents in 182 municipalities in the area to monitor their emergency preparedness in the coming week, reminding them that the caution is not a prediction of a big one. The quakes occurred in the coastal region, where a magnitude 9.0 quake and tsunami in 2011 killed nearly 20,000 people and destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Myanmar military strikes a hospital in a rebel-controlled area, killing 34 and injuring 80 people

BANGKOK . (Agency)

An airstrike by Myanmar's military destroyed a hospital in an area controlled by a leading rebel armed force, killing 34 patients and medical staff, according to a rescue worker and independent media reports Thursday. About 80 other people were injured in the attack Wednesday night on the general hospital in Mrauk-U township, an area controlled by the ethnic Arakan Army in the western state of Rakhine. The military, which took over Myanmar's government in 2021 and has been fighting ethnic militias and armed resistance forces since then, has not mentioned any attack in the area. Wai Hun Aung, a senior official for rescue services in Rakhine, told The Associated Press that a jet fighter dropped two bombs at 9:13 p.m. with one hitting the hospital's recovery ward and the other landing near the hospital's main building. He said he arrived at the hospital early Thursday to provide assistance and recorded the deaths of 17 women and 17 men. He said that most of the hospital building was

destroyed by the bombs, and taxis and motorbikes near the hospital were also damaged. Rakhine-based online media posted photos and videos showing damaged buildings and debris



including medical equipment. The hospital has been the main source of health care for people in Rakhine, where most hospitals have closed because of Myanmar's civil war, said Wai Hun Aung. It was reopened after doctors gathered in Mrauk-U to provide much-needed medical services. Mrauk-U, located 530 kilometers (326 miles) northwest of Yangon, the country's largest city, was captured by the Arakan Army in

February 2024. The Arakan Army is the well-trained and well-armed military wing of the Rakhine ethnic minority movement, which seeks autonomy from Myanmar's central government. It began its offensive in Rakhine in November 2023 and has seized a strategically important regional army headquarters and 14 of Rakhine's 17 townships. Rakhine, formerly known as Arakan, was the site of a brutal army counterinsurgency operation in 2017 that drove about 740,000 minority Rohingya Muslims to seek safety across the border in Bangladesh. There is still ethnic tension between the Buddhist Rakhine and the Rohingya.

Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government, established by elected lawmakers who were barred from taking their seats in 2021, condemned the airstrike. The organization urged the international community to pressure the military to end its actions, take action against perpetrators and provide humanitarian assistance as soon as possible.

Thailand's Parliament dissolved ahead of new elections early next year

BANGKOK . (Agency)

Thailand's Parliament was dissolved Friday for new elections early next year in a country engaged in deadly fighting with Cambodia.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul dissolved the House of Representatives after getting approval from King Maha Vajiralongkorn, whose endorsement became effective Friday with its publication in the Royal Gazette. Anutin had signaled the move with a Facebook post late Thursday saying: "I'd like to return power to the people." The election must be held 45 to 60 days after the royal endorsement, a period during which Anutin will head a caretaker government with limited powers that cannot approve a new budget.

His action comes at a tricky political moment, as Thailand is engaged in large-scale combat with Cambodia over long-disputed border claims. About two dozen people were reported killed in the fighting this week, while hundreds of thousands have been displaced on both sides. Anutin has been prime minister for just three months, succeeding Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who served only a year in office.

Anutin won the September vote in Parliament with support from the main opposition People's Party in exchange for a promise to dissolve Parliament within four months and organize a referendum on the drafting of a new constitution by an elected constituent assembly. The party, which runs on progressive platforms, has long sought changes to the constitution, imposed during a military government, saying they want to make it more democratic. The issue of constitutional change appeared to trigger the dissolution, after the People's Party prepared to call a no-confidence vote Thursday. That threat came after lawmakers from Anutin's Bhumjaithai Party voted in favor of a bill to amend the constitution that the opposition party felt ran against the spirit of the agreement they had reached in September.

The People's Party holds the largest number of seats in the House of Representatives and is seen as the main challenger to Bhumjaithai. As news of the pending dissolution circulated late Thursday, its leaders said they hoped Anutin would still honor the agreement to arrange a constitutional referendum. Anutin had served in Paetongtarn's former government but resigned from his positions and withdrew his party from her coalition government in June in the wake of a political scandal related to border tensions with Cambodia. Paetongtarn, daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was suspended from office in early July after being found guilty of ethics violations over a politically compromising phone call with Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen ahead of July's armed conflict.

China's new 'condom tax' draws skepticism and worries over health risks

SURIN. (Agency)

China will soon start collecting a value-added tax on contraceptive drugs and products for the first time in over three decades, a move aligned with Beijing's effort to get families to have more children after decades of limiting most to one child. "Contraceptive drugs and products" will not be tax-exempt as of Jan. 1, according to the country's newest value-added tax law. Products such as condoms will be subject to the usual 13% value-added tax imposed on most products. While state-run news outlets have not widely highlighted the change, it has been trending on Chinese social media, drawing ridicule among people who joked they'd have to be fools not to know that raising a child is more expensive than using condoms, even if they are taxed. More seriously, experts are raising concerns over potential increases in unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases due to higher costs for contraceptives. The ruling Communist Party's past "one-child" policy was enforced from about 1980 until 2015 with

huge fines and other penalties and sometimes with forced abortions. In some cases, children born over the limit were deprived of an identification number, effectively making them non-citizens. The government raised the birth limit to two children in 2015. As China's population began to peak and then fall, it was lifted to three children in 2021. Contraception has been actively encouraged and easily accessed, even for free. "That's a really ruthless move," said Hu Lingling, mother of a 5-year-old who said she is determined not to have another child. She said she would "lead the way in abstinence" as a rebel. "It is also hilarious, especially compared to forced abortions during the family planning era," she said.

In 2024, 9.5 million babies were born in China, about one-third fewer than the 14.7 million born in 2019, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. That's despite a higher-than-usual birth rate driven by a traditional preference to give birth in the Year of the Dragon, according to Chinese astrology.

As deaths have outpaced births in China, India overtook it as the world's most populous country in 2023. The effect of the



tax "on encouraging higher fertility will be very limited. For couples who do not want children or do not want additional children, a 13% tax on contraceptives is unlikely to influence their reproductive decisions, especially when weighed against the far higher costs of raising a child," said Qian Cai, director of the Demographics Research Group at the University of Virginia. Still, imposing the tax is "only

logical," said Yi Fuxian, a senior scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"They used to control the population, but now they are encouraging people to have more babies; it is a return to normal methods to make these products ordinary commodities," Yi said. As is true in most places, most responsibility for birth control in China falls to women. Condoms are used by only 9% of couples, with 44.2% using intrauterine devices and 30.5% female sterilization, followed by 4.7% male sterilization, according to research released by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2022.

The rest use the pill or other methods. Given the authorities' longstanding invasive approach to their personal lives and bodies, some women are offended by the authorities' effort to again influence their personal choices about childbearing. "It is a disciplinary tactic, a management of women's bodies and my sexual desire," said Zou Xuan, a 32-year-old teacher in Pingxiang in China's southern province of Jiangxi.

Historic Shift: Modi Govt Approves Atomic Energy Bill Allowing Private Entry in Nuclear Power

New Delhi: Marking a historic reform in India's atomic energy framework, the Union Cabinet on Friday approved the Atomic Energy Bill, 2025, a sweeping legislation that will finally allow private companies to participate in the country's civil nuclear ecosystem.

The Bill — titled SHANTI (Sustainable Harnessing of Advancement of Nuclear Technology for India) — is expected to be tabled in Parliament next week. Officials said the proposed law serves as a comprehensive umbrella framework aimed at modernising regulations, boosting investment, and accelerating the expansion of nuclear power in the country. Once enacted, SHANTI will open previously restricted sectors such as



atomic mineral exploration, nuclear equipment manufacturing, component engineering, and allied services to private entities — a move that the government believes will catalyse technology development and reduce India's dependence on imports.

Senior government sources described the legislation as a “game-changer” that aligns with India's long-term clean-energy goals and its ambition to significantly scale up nuclear power capacity by 2047. The decision marks the

most significant shift in India's nuclear policy in decades, signalling the government's push to bring industry expertise, innovation, and private capital into one of the nation's most strategically important sectors.

SAIL's Shankar Prasad Das Appointed Head of Benga Mines in Mozambique

by S K Pandey

Gua: In a major international posting, Shankar Prasad Das, General Manager (Mines) at SAIL's Gua unit, has been selected as Head of Mine for Benga Mines in Tete, Mozambique under International Coal Ventures Private Limited (ICVL).

The announcement has drawn warm congratulations from locals and colleagues, recognising his three decades of service in SAIL and strong professional record. ICVL — a joint venture of SAIL, RINL, NMDC, Coal India Ltd., and NTPC, under the Ministry of Mines — oversees overseas coal assets to support India's growing demand for coking and thermal coal. A mining graduate from ISM Dhanbad, Das has



served across SAIL's major mining divisions, including Gua, Kiriburu, Kolkata Headquarters, and Megha-hatuburu, as well as a stint at IIM Indore. He is set to assume charge of the Mozambique operations in December 2025. He said the appointment reflects years of experience and commitment, adding that Benga Mines is an internationally recognised asset crucial to ICVL's global coal strategy.

Nationwide Census 2027 to Roll Out in Dual Phases



News Desk: India is gearing up for its largest data-gathering mission yet, with the Union Cabinet — led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi — approving the rollout of the Census of India 2027 along with a mega budget of ₹11,718.24 crore. Under the approved plan, the Census will be conducted in two sweeping phases:

- Houselisting & Housing Census: April to September 2026
- Population Enumeration: February 2027

Snow-bound territories — including Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand — will start population enumeration early, from September 2026, owing to climatic constraints.

With nearly 30 lakh enumerators set to hit the field, the exercise is poised to be one of the world's largest administrative operations.

Marking a sharp tech shift, the 2027 Census will use a dedicated mobile application for real-time data capture and a central monitoring dashboard to enhance accuracy, speed and transparency.

This will be India's 16th Census and 8th since Independence, promising the country's most comprehensive snapshot yet — covering demography, housing conditions, religion, SC/ST data, language, literacy, migration patterns, economic activity, fertility indicators and more.

The entire operation will be governed by the legal framework of the Census Act, 1948 and Census Rules, 1990, ensuring a structured and secure execution of the nation's biggest counting exercise.

BSL Hot Strip Mill Marks Golden Jubilee, Completes 50 Years of Excellence



Bokaro: Bokaro Steel Plant's (BSL) Hot Strip Mill (HSM) celebrated a major milestone on 12 December 2025, completing 50 years of uninterrupted, high-performance operations since its commissioning in 1975.

Executive Director (Operations) Priya Ranjan led the Golden Jubilee celebrations, cutting a cake and applauding the HSM team for five decades of strong production, technological advancement and contribution to India's industrial growth. He described the mill as a “vital pillar” of BSL's output and a key producer of high-quality flat steel products crucial for national infrastructure.

Executive Director (Operations) Anup Kumar Dutt, addressing the gathering, credited the achievement to the unit's teamwork, innovation, technical skill and steadfast focus on safety, quality and customer satisfaction. He urged the workforce to sustain the same dedication in the years ahead.

Senior officials, including CGM (Maintenance) Sharad Gupta and CGM (HSM) P.K. Verma, joined employees and contract workers at the ceremony held at the HSM premises. Welcoming the attendees, Verma congratulated the team for its continued excellence and commitment throughout the mill's 50-year journey.

Winter Relief: Mithila Mahila Samiti Extends Help with Blanket Distribution



Bokaro: In a compassionate outreach drive, Mithila Mahila Samiti, the women's wing of the Mithila Cultural Council, distributed blankets to the needy on Thursday afternoon. Led by President Poonam Mishra and Secretary Abha Jha, a large team of committee members — including Dr. Manju Jha, Sheela Mishra, Indira Jha, Seema Jha, Asha Jha, Beenu Chaudhary, Beena Jha, Ruby Thakur, Poonam Jha, Perna Ojha, Bandana Jha, Aparna Jha, Babita Jha, Ritu Mishra, Kiran Jha, Kumkum Jha, Alka Jha, Leela Jha and others — visited Sector 4 Sai Temple, Sector 4 City Centre and the Jagannath Temple complex. The group distributed blankets to economically disadvantaged individuals, aiming to provide relief.

Bristol Museum Heist: 600+ Colonial-Era Artefacts Linked to India Stolen



Bristol: In one of the biggest heritage thefts reported in recent years, more than 600 artefacts—many tied to India's colonial history—were looted from a Bristol museum storage facility after a break-in during the early hours of September 25.

According to Avon and Somerset Police, a four-member gang forced entry into a building on Cumberland Road between 1 am and 2 am, escaping with hundreds

of rare and culturally significant objects from the Bristol Museum's British Empire and Commonwealth collection. “These stolen items form part of a collection that helps us understand a complex chapter of British history,” said DC Dan Burgan, who is leading the investigation. He called the theft a “major cultural loss” for the city, noting that many pieces were donated over decades and hold deep historical value.



Police said the burglars made off with a vast assortment of objects—ranging from symbolic artefacts, carved figures and silver pieces to memorabilia linked to Britain's rule across former colonies. Detectives have released CCTV images of four men who may have information about the crime. “So far, we've carried out extensive CCTV reviews, forensic examinations and are working closely with the vic-

tims,” Burgan said. He urged the public to come forward if they recognise the men or have spotted any of the stolen items on resale platforms. Information can be shared by calling 101 and quoting reference 5225269603. The investigation continues, with police warning that the artefacts may already be circulating in the underground market for colonial-era collectibles.

IIT-ISM Dhanbad Professor Wins Prestigious IEI Young Engineers Award 2025

Dhanbad: IIT-ISM, Dhanbad has announced that Prof. Sourav Sengupta, from the Department of Chemical Engineering, has been selected for the IEI Young Engineers Award 2025, one of India's highest honours for outstanding early-career engineers. The award, presented annually by The Institution of Engineers (India), recognises exceptional engineers under the age of 35



who have demonstrated remarkable achievements in research, technological innovation, development,

and technology transfer. Prof. Sengupta's selection underscores his notable contributions to cutting-

edge engineering research and his dedication to pushing the boundaries of scientific innovation. The institute congratulated Prof. Sengupta, calling his achievement a matter of immense pride for IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. His recognition, it said, strengthens the institute's tradition of pioneering research and nurturing the next generation of engineering leaders.

Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan Marks Closing of 20th Tripitaka Chanting in Bodh Gaya



by Suresh Pd Nikhar

Gaya: The 20th International Tripitaka Sutra Chanting Ceremony wrapped up on Friday at the iconic Mahabodhi Temple, ending 11 days of continuous spiritual recitation by monks from India and abroad. Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan graced the grand finale as chief guest and was welcomed by BTMC Chairman-DM Shashank Shubhankar and

Secretary Dr. Mahashweta Maharathi. Addressing the gathering, the Governor said that events like the Tripitaka chanting spread messages of peace, harmony, and compassion, and reaffirm Bodh Gaya's place as a global beacon of Buddhism. He called the Mahabodhi Temple a symbol of Bihar's identity and worldwide unity, urging efforts to enhance its spiritual appeal.

The chanting ceremony, held at the temple complex and Kalachakra Ground, drew Buddhist monks and devotees from several countries, filling Bodh Gaya with devotion and serene spiritual energy. BTMC, the district administration, and Buddhist organizations ensured smooth conduct of the event. As the ceremony concluded, devotees expressed excitement for next year's observance.



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Protest In Bengal Against BSF; 'Let Women Object': Mamata Banerjee

In a heated escalation, Mamata Banerjee blames the BSF for pushing Indians into Bangladesh and attacks the Centre for blocking MGNREGA and housing scheme funds.

KOLKATA .(Agency)
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday called on women across the state to step forward and raise their voices against what she described as atrocities committed by the Border Security Force (BSF) in border side regions. Addressing a Trinamool Congress rally at Rashleela ground in Cooch Behar, Banerjee urged women to lead the resistance. “Let our mothers and sisters come forward and speak out against the BSF’s actions in the border areas,” she said, adding that she wanted to see whether Bengal’s women could prove “braver and stronger” than those affiliated with the BJP.

The Chief Minister also appealed to residents to stay united and not be intimidated by Central forces. During an administrative meeting in the district on Monday, she had already instructed the police to respond swiftly to any reports of harassment by the BSF. Reiterating her stance, Banerjee assured people that no detention camps would be set up in Bengal under her government. “No one will be pushed back. As long as the Trinamool Congress is in power, there will be no detention camps here. We will not bow down to the BJP,” she said. “We are working to bring back the remaining four Bengali-speaking Indian



nationals from Bangladesh,” she said, noting that one of them, a pregnant woman, Sunali Khatun, and her eight year old son had already been reunited with their family in Birbhum. “Despite having valid citizenship documents, the BSF pushed them into Bangladesh,” she alleged.

In June, six residents of Paikar village in Murarai, Birbhum, were reportedly forced across the border by the BSF on suspicion that they were Bangladeshi citizens. Referring to this, Banerjee linked the issue to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. She claimed the Election Commission might announce dates for next year’s Assembly polls soon after releasing the final voters’ list to prevent legal challenges. She further alleged that names of genuine voters were being removed during the revision process, even claiming that “people who are alive are being marked as dead” in the updated rolls.

In rare unity, Rahul Gandhi's air pollution discussion call gets government nod

Rahul Gandhi pressed the Lok Sabha for an urgent and structured discussion on worsening air pollution, calling it a cross-party public health emergency. The government signalled readiness, with Kiren Rijiju saying a discussion will be scheduled soon.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday pushed for an urgent and structured discussion on India's worsening air pollution in Parliament, framing it as a public health emergency that cuts across party lines. The government signalled it was willing to take up the discussion. Rising to speak during Zero Hour, the Congress leader said India's biggest cities were living under a blanket of poisonous air. “Most of our major cities are living under a blanket of poisonous air. Millions of children are getting lung disease. Their future is being destroyed. People are getting cancer. Older people are struggling to breathe. This is an interesting issue because I'm certain that there will be full agreement between the government and us on this issue,” Gandhi said.



Furthermore, the former Congress president stressed that this was one of the rare issues on which the House could find complete unanimity. "This is not an ideological issue," he said, adding that both the government and the Opposition shared the responsibility to respond. He urged the government to allow a full debate and

commit to concrete measures. Responding to Rahul Gandhi's suggestion, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government was ready for a discussion on the issue and the Business Advisory Committee of the Lok Sabha can allot time for the same. "The issue raised by Rahul Gandhi was also brought to notice in the Business Advisory Committee. From Day 1, the government has made it clear that it is ready to discuss all important matters and find solutions, taking along suggestions from the Opposition. We will see how we can take up this discussion. We will come back and let us see how we can structure this discussion. We are ready to take up this matter," Rijiju said.

"Samajwadi To Majawadi": BJP Slams Siddaramaiah On Flight Travel Expenses

Siddaramaiah's economic advisor and Congress MLA Basavaraj Raya Reddy, responding to the criticism, said he is using it for official tours.

New Delhi. (Agency)
BJP leader CT Ravi took a dig at Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after newly released government records revealed that the state spent more than Rs 47 crore on his helicopter and chartered aircraft travel between May 2023 and November 2025. Questioning Siddaramaiah's 'socialist' image, the BJP leader said he has transformed from "Samajwadi" to "Majawadi" (a political term suggesting his luxury and personal enjoyment). "From 'Samajwadi', Siddaramaiah is now 'Majawadi'. He avoids roads because of the poor conditions. The people of the state are paying for his air travel," Ravi said.



Siddaramaiah's economic advisor and Congress MLA Basavaraj Raya Reddy, responding to the criticism, said he is using it for official tours.

"He's 79, and he's only using it for official tours. What's wrong with this? It's not a big amount in comparison to the thousands of crores spent by the Prime Minister," he said. Siddaramaiah's air travel expenses were disclosed in a written reply to a question raised by BJP MLC N. Ravi Kumar, who had sought the details. According to the data, the state government spent Rs 12.23 crore on chartered flights for the Chief Minister and his entourage during the 2023-24 financial year. The records list frequent trips between Bengaluru's HAL Airport and districts such as Mysuru, Hubballi, Belagavi and Kalaburagi.

Air Force's first woman Rafale pilot joins Hawk training, silences Pakistan hoax



New Delhi.(Agency)
Squadron Leader Shivangi Singh, India’s first woman Rafale pilot, has moved into a new role as an instructor with the Indian Air Force’s Hawk training fleet. The

development comes after her name became the subject of false claims by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, where Pakistani media had circulated fabricated reports suggesting she had been captured by the

Squadron Leader Shivangi Singh, India's first woman Rafale pilot, has transitioned to an instructor role in the Indian Air Force's Hawk training fleet, showcasing her dedication and expertise. Despite false claims by Pakistan, her career continues to inspire and mentor the next generation of fighter pilots.

forces. The claims were eventually debunked by the IAF. FROM RAFALE TO HAWK TRAINING Commissioned in 2017, the Varanasi-born officer belongs to the second batch of women fighter pilots. She previously flew the MiG-21 Bison before joining Ambala’s Rafale squadron, where she gained recognition for her professionalism during high-intensity missions and major exercises. She also accompanied President Draupadi Murmu on a recent Rafale sortie. DEBUNKING THE FAKE NEWS Responding to the false claims, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari dismissed them as “Manohar Kahaaniyaan,” underscoring that

the IAF would not be distracted by Pakistan’s propaganda. Singh’s recent graduation from the prestigious Flying Instructors School in Tambaram further highlighted her operational credentials, completing one of the toughest aviation courses in the military. MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION Now assigned to a premier training unit, Squadron Leader Singh will mentor young fighter pilots, sharing her expertise with both legacy aircraft and next-generation fighters. Officials say her experience will play a crucial role in preparing India’s future combat aviators.

Shashi Tharoor skips Rahul Gandhi-led Congress MPs' meet, third in a row

BELAGAVI.(Agency)
Congress MP Shashi Tharoor was absent from a meeting of the party’s Lok Sabha MPs chaired by Rahul Gandhi on Friday, raising questions within the party about his recurring absence from key deliberations. Party sources said Tharoor had informed the leadership in advance, though the Congress chief whip claimed he was unaware of the reason for the MP’s absence. The Thiruvananthapuram MP, who has faced scrutiny over his comments perceived as favourable to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling Bharatiya

Janata Party, missed the meeting once again, continuing a pattern of non-attendance at Congress's Lok Sabha gatherings in recent weeks. ANOTHER MISSED MEETING Tharoor was also absent alongside Chandigarh MP Manish Tiwari. According to his public schedule, Tharoor was in Kolkata last night for an event hosted by the Prabha Khaitan Foundation, indicating he may not have returned to Delhi in time for the meeting. This comes days after Tharoor clarified that he had not deliberately skipped the Congress strategic group meeting on



November 30. He said he had been on a flight from Kerala when that meeting took place. “I did not skip it; I was on a plane, coming from Kerala,” he had said on

December 1, after his absence drew attention within the party. PATTERN OF NON-ATTENDANCE SPARKS TALK Tharoor had also missed the Congress discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) issue earlier, citing ill health. His office had then explained that the MP was travelling with his 90-year-old mother on a later flight from Kerala and could not reach Delhi in time. Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, too, had skipped that meeting due to local body poll campaigning in Kerala.

A shaman who shattered the lens of the Anthropocene

The big problem with information today is not noise, but silence. The latter is the most eloquent part of a lecture. Yet, one never asks about the kind of violence that precedes every part of a story.

My next-door neighbour, a sociologist, recently commented, “Why is everyone talking about development when they should be talking about the Anthropocene? Silence needs a new kind of storytelling.” It reminded me about a Pakistani social scientist who talked at length about a conference.I once met Ziauddin Sardar, the well-known futurist, at Perth airport. We had three hours to kill. He was returning from a conference, and I from visiting relatives. Zia was a wonderful gossip and even more entertaining as a social scientist. He was a genuine South Asian. He wrote the most interesting article on the Ambassador car—I wish Ratan Tata had read it before he introduced the Nano.On this day in Perth, Zia was waiting to gossip—not just about the conference, but about his old colleagues and friends in India. He felt gossip was disappearing. And gossip, he felt, made eccentricity and dissent available. This is what he felt made India of the 1970s so interesting. Zia desperately missed his colleagues at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. India, he felt, had become rigid and straightforward. He felt that the present regime had added to the mediocrity, destroying India’s sense of play and dissent.

I asked Zia about the changes. He sat silently for a while, drinking his coffee. Then he said that today, the future is an extrapolation, regimented into a straight line of expectations. Earlier, the future was a domain of dissent and diversity. The future is a pretext for freedom—an invitation to the Homo ludens, the human as a player. Zia explained that earlier, such conferences were full of oddballs, marginals who ambushed you with new ideas. The future was open-ended and inclusive. Over the next three hours, he proceeded to describe the three-day conference he had been part of.

The first day was a meeting of knowledge and power, demonstrating the competence of policy. There was only one interesting paper, from South Africa. It talked about Islam in general and believed that India could add a new kind of Islamic imagination to the future.

The second day focused on the basic theme of the conference: the Anthropocene. The word ‘Anthropocene’ was coined by Dutch scientist Paul J Crutzen. He believed it’s a new geological era during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment. Crutzen wanted to create the picture of a wounded Earth—damaged by a promethean man. The Anthropocene was a statement of guilt.

Unfortunately, the debate got involved in dates. Dutch scientist Wiebe Bijker felt that assigning dates to the era had become an obsession. The question was whether to date the Anthropocene to the beginning of the Spanish conquest, which eliminated a million indigenous people, or to locate it at the Industrial Revolution. Today, many prefer to locate it with the birth of the atom bomb.Zia said, regardless of the dates, what the dating did was remove the question of guilt—the fact that Earth was being destroyed by man. He added that two earlier papers that had discussed the Anthropocene were purely economic exercises, where climate change became a battle between the centre and the periphery.

But the next paper ambushed the conference. It was by a shaman serving as a lecturer at a local university. The shaman’s speech was electric, as if it was an afterthought brought into the conference. He said that what futurology lacked was the quality of storytelling, the ability to create a new myth for the Anthropocene. The Western idea of Anthropocene was an incomplete myth—it talked of Prometheus, but it had no sense of an alternative. The myth one needed to destroy was the idea of economics, which is centred around the ‘noise’ called consumption.

The old in the new labour codes

The laws won’t really count as long as informal workers dominate the Indian industry

THE latest labour codes, released last month, have many new features. Yet, discussions on them in the media and Parliament keep hovering around how best to tame the working class. There are abundant sweeteners in the new laws but the fear of strikes still sticks out like a red chilli. As a result, the emphasis again is on anti-strike mechanisms. This is an uncalled-for overkill, based on habit, not reason, as we shall soon see.The truth is that over the years, the number of strikes has progressively fallen. Yet, the fear of worker unrest dominates labour laws ever since the first factory horn blared. Strikes were at their highest when, paradoxically, labour laws were at their harshest too. That was when robber barons came charging down the hill with hired blacklegs to beat the stuffing out of protesting workers.

All this has changed over time. The labouring class has grown tamer, but factory laws still have that old mindset. The number of strikes went down sharply by 75 per cent in the decade between 2003 and 2014. In 2019, there were just 59 strikes and only 30 were recorded in 2023. At one time, this figure was in hundreds. Yet, labour laws kept distrusting workers, making the staging of protests and strikes progressively more difficult.

As a result, we see a version of self-fulfilling prophecy at work. Workers and their unions suspect every move of the government, entrepreneurs and the management refusing to see the sweeteners that are introduced from time to time in the labour codes. There isn’t a strike on the horizon, yet labour unions worry that should they want to organise one, it will now get more difficult to do so.

Look at the number of wins the new codes give the worker. They can now get annual leave after 180 days of work and not 240, as was the case earlier. Paid maternity leave has been extended from 12 to 16 weeks. Gig workers are eligible, at long last, for retirement benefits. Men and women will get the same wages for the same work. Retrenched organised sector workers will receive 15 days’ wages for retraining.Labour representatives see these as sops because the new law allows the management to fire workers without informing the government if the enterprise employs less than 300 people, and not 100 as earlier. Alongside, the advance notice for strikes must now be of 60 days and not 14. These two together, labour unions believe, defang the working class. With their bite gone, their bark won’t matter either.The new law indeed allows factories with up to 299 workers to retrench employees without government notice, but this is hardly significant. Only about 4.5 per cent establishments employ between 100 and 199 workers. While the management fears more unrest though the number of strikes is decreasing, the workers fear more lockouts even as these figures are falling dramatically too. There were



only 34 lockouts in 2022; so why this fear? The principal reason the two sides have locked horns is because the good parts of the codes are not actionable as most workers are in the unorganised sector. Nearly 50 per cent of Indian factories employ less than 20 workers. In such units, even occupational health hazard rules do not apply. The workers will, therefore, remain vulnerable. It is hard to imagine these outfits scaling up to cross the 300-worker mark.In fact, Economic Surveys (2017-20) point out that the share of employment in the organised sector has actually gone down over time and it now hovers around a mere 17 per cent. What is really telling is that such jobs are decreasing in Central public sector enterprises too. Between 2016-17 and 2020-21, the number of organised workers in these units fell from 11.29 lakh to 8.61 lakh. If this is so in the state sector, can the private sector be any better?To add more pixel detail to this picture, the 2023-24 Economic Survey tells us that over 57 per cent of the total Indian workforce is self-

employed and, by definition, outside all labour laws. Thus, while the number of organised-sector workers is falling, the count of strikes too is declining. At the same time, lockouts are also dropping, even as unorganised-sector labour is growing. Between 2017 and 2022, their proportion edged up from 80.8 per cent to 82.6 per cent. To what extent then can the new labour codes make a difference? Much of its newness is notional and cannot be tested as even direct factory employment declined from 61 per cent to 47 per cent between 2011 and 2023. As the organised sector, too, is sourcing out its jobs to the informal sector, even high-end cars have parts produced in petty, informal workshopBusiness magnates and workers’ unions must know that the new labour codes are a dressing that won’t really count as long as informal workers dominate the Indian industry. Only elite “labour aristocrats” with signed contracts will benefit from them, but they are just a tiny fraction and unlikely to grow. Both lockouts, which labour fears, and strikes,

Robust fundamentals should trigger better business growth

The overcautious, risk-averse approach of businesses is probably hurting growth even though the fundamentals seem positive. The sharp uptake of the services sector shows there is strong domestic demand even though the export environment is cloudy

A year-end survey has shown that the Indian economy has stood fairly resilient in the face of headwinds, but the checklist is a mix of hits and misses. The all-important services sector accelerated in November this year on the back of robust domestic demand, thus recovering lost ground from the previous month. However, export growth slipped to an 8-month low in the face of high US tariffs and rising global competition. The India Services Purchasing Managers’ Index, compiled by S&P Global, inched up to 59.8 last month from October’s 58.9. This is well above the neutral mark of 50, which separates expansion from contraction, and reflects sustained resilience. However, the Composite Index, which combines manufacturing and services, eased slightly to 59.7 in November from 60.4 in October, primarily due to a slowdown in manufacturing activity.The worry is that even though the index remains comfortably above the 50-mark, a decline for three consecutive months suggests India’s economy may be losing momentum. The data



indicates despite a rise in company outputs, job growth remained muted. Around 95 percent of the firms surveyed reported no change in payroll numbers, indicating they did not face any pressure on existing capacity and that pending work was on a plateau. Simultaneously, business confidence for the 12 months ahead slipped to its lowest

since July 2022, as companies turned cautious in the face of turbulent geopolitics.The overcautious, risk-averse approach of businesses is probably hurting growth even though the fundamentals seem positive. The sharp uptake of the services sector shows there is strong domestic demand even though the export environment is cloudy. The PMI figures show input price inflation has reached its lowest rate in 5 years since August 2020, except for small increases in electricity, food, and software. This kept selling prices at an 8-month low, and in turn, stoked consumer demand. It is this trend that has encouraged the Reserve Bank to lower lending rates by 25 basis points. The various pointers should not be crimping business confidence; rather, with low inflation and high domestic demand, now is the time to boost investment and capacity in manufacturing, and generating more jobs. Businesses are built on informed risk-taking and it is time the government put its shoulders behind growth-focused entrepreneurship.

Perils of an unchecked narrative

The surge in women’s turnout share in Bihar may be attributable to the cleaning up of voter lists. If more states believe the narrative of cash-for-women as a winning formula, something that started in Karnataka, the states’ fiscal health will be strained

According to some scholars, the worst tragedy in human history was an outcome of a misleading media narrative. Responding to the Allied Forces’ terms of surrender in July 1945, Japan’s prime minister used the word ‘mokusatsu’ to mean ‘silence’. Western media mischievously interpreted it to mean ‘ignore’. Enraged, the US president decided to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki to devastation. It triggered a nuclear arms race that the world is still suffering from.Misleading narratives in quest for sensational headlines can wreak havoc. The 2025 Bihar election outcome is a case in point. Nearly every political leader and policymaker in the country believes that the cash scheme of ?10,000 to a woman in every family, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi just two months before the election, was the game-changer.As a result, this will further intensify the race among parties in other states to distribute ‘cash for women’ in the belief that it is the magic bullet. This competitive populism can send the entire nation spiralling down a path to eventual fiscal catastrophe, political emptiness, and social disorder. Worse, this is a false narrative much like the ‘mokusatsu’ misinterpretation.Contrary to the Election Commission’s boast that women’s turnout percentage in the 2025 election was the highest in 75 years, it was nothing extraordinary in number. About 1.4 crore women voted in the 2010 Bihar election, 1.9 crore in 2015, 2.1 crore in 2020 (Covid year), and 2.5 crore in 2025. If a student scores 75/100 (75 percent) one year and 77/90 (86 percent) the next, her score has only increased marginally; but her percentage increase looks much higher because the denominator is lower. This is exactly what happened with the EC’s women turnout

percentage. Due to the cleaning up of voter lists through the special intensive revision, the denominator of total women electors was smaller than it would have been otherwise and inflating the turnout percentage. Yes, for the first time, slightly more women than men voted, but that is as much a result of fewer-than-expected men voting due to male migration out of Bihar than any sudden increase in women voters. The women’s turnout in this election was merely a continuation of previous trends and was neither extraordinary nor sudden. It is not even the case that women voters, lured by the cash scheme, shifted their support en masse from the opposition Mahagathbandhan alliance to the ruling NDA. The percentage of women who voted for the opposition MGB in both the 2020 and 2025 election was the same at 37 percent. The NDA vote share increased by nearly 10 percentage points in 2025, driven by Chirag Paswan’s LJP party joining the alliance, and not by a shift of women’s votes. The increase in NDA vote share came equally from both men and women. This is clearly seen in districts such as Begusarai and Khagaria, where the NDA vote share increased by 18 percentage points; but the share of women voters remained the same as in 2020. So, neither was there a sudden sharp increase in women voters, nor was there a huge shift of them from the MGB to the NDA.The cash scheme for women in Bihar cost ?12,000 crore, which is the same as the annual health budget for the whole state for 2023-24. To put it simply, the amount of money needed to provide medical facilities for the entire population of Bihar for one year was given away as free cash in two months.

Bihar was the 12th state to indulge in such election throwaways in the last two years. It began with Karnataka in 2023, when the Congress party announced ?2,000 a month for women just before the election and won. Election consultants and the media painted a narrative of this scheme being the clincher, when in



reality the Congress would have won even without this scheme due to a heavy anti-incumbency then. But that false narrative set off a series of such pre-election announcements in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Delhi, and now Bihar. Six of these states do not even have enough money to pay salaries for government staff. Many have cut their development

expenditure on hospitals, schools, roads, water, and roads to fund their cash schemes. This misguided race has burnt a ?2-lakh-crore hole in state finances annually, about the amount the Union government spends on rural jobs, drinking water, and rural roads combined for the country. The total debt of these states has doubled in three years. When states cut back on development and borrow heavily, it is the same poor woman who received the cash that is impacted the most.Further, merely throwing cash before elections hollows out the essence of democratic politics. Such blind faith in a ‘cash for women’ magic wand to win elections breaks the connection between governance and elections, and renders leaders lazy and redundant. Why have an entire political party apparatus if all one needs to win is to throw money a few months before elections and have paid ‘jeevika didis’ go door-to-door to campaign? Such cash transfer schemes also hollow out the very essence of governance. After all, without adequate health infrastructure, well-paved roads, or high-quality public education, people cannot just wave a bunch of currency notes to improve their lives. Distributing free cash by reducing other development expenditure and letting people fend for themselves can turn societies chaotic. Misleading narratives of electoral outcomes, while seemingly innocuous, can be extremely dangerous. In the interest of the nation, it is time all political parties learned from the ‘mokusatsu’ mistake and stopped this race to the bottom.

भोजपुरी गजल

तनहाई क जहर

- श्याम कुंवर भारती



नशा शराब के बेअसर हो जाला ।
तोहार हुस्न जब नजर हो जाला ।
डगमगाला पांव नशा के असर से,
नषा आंख दिल पर गदर हो जाला ।
झुके नजर त साझा उठे त भोर होला,
निकला रात में दिन ओहर हो जाला ।
दिन में काजर ना लगावा तू आंख में ।
उगल सूरज डूब के बेनजर हो जाला ।
करिया केस उड़ी त बादर कहा जाई ।
लहराई बरसी बरखा जबर होजाला ।
हंसला से तोहरे जईसे चमके बिजुरी ।
जुदाई में तोहरे तन्हाई जहर हो जाला ।
मुस्का के मत देखा तिरछी नजर से तू ।
तड़प के दिल भारती कहर हो जाला ।

দিত পর্বের অনুষ্ঠান: গয়া ফাল্গুন নদীতে
ব্যাপক উদ্‌যাপন আরাধনা

গয়া, বহিরা: আজ পড়ি পর ২০২৫-এর দ্বিতীয় দিনে
গয়ার পবিত্র ফাল্গুন নদীর তীরে ভক্তি ও ঐতহিয়ে এক
গজীর প্রদর্শনী অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। প্রায় ৫০,০০০ এরও বেশি
ভক্ত পি দান ও তরণ অনুষ্ঠানে অংশ নতি এখানে জড়িত
হন।
মহাপ্রাচীরে ছন্দ, ধ্বরে সুবাস এবং পূর্ণার্থীদের স্নানপ্রার্থী
প্রাণনার সঙ্গে পুরো পরবিশেষ মুখরতি ছিল।
আবেগজনক পরবিশেষ পুরণেরা তাদের মাতার জন্য পতিপণ
করলেন, কন্যারা কঁদতে কঁদতে তাদের পতিমাতার প্রতি
বদীয় জানালেন, আর এক শক্তি তার প্রয়াত মাযরে তরণ
অর্পণ করে উপস্জতি সবার মনকে স্পর্শ করে দিচ্ছে।
এই অনুষ্ঠান, যা হিন্দু ঐতহিয়ে গজীর অংশ, জীবতি
ও প্রয়াতের মধ্যে পবিত্র সম্পর্ককে প্রতীক, যা প্রজন্মের
আত্মার শক্তি ও মুকুরি আশ্রয় দিয়ে বলে বশিষ্ট করা হয়।
দীঘ স্মৃতি ও দাক্ষ আপ স্রবণেও ভক্তুরা তাদের আটল নক্তি
প্রদর্শন করলেন। বশিয়েভাবে নমিতি পমিক্ষে জল, তিল ও
পতিপণ করে নদীতে পবিত্র স্নান করলেন। পুরোহিতেরা
ভাগ্যস্বীয়পূর্ণ তথিয়ে সম্মত অনুষ্ঠান পরচিনাল করে
গজাধমের অধ্যায়ের পরবিশেষ আরও বহিষ্ট করলেন।
পূজা, যা গড়শংখ্যক-এর ভূমি হসিবে পরচিতি, পতি
পররে সময়ে বশিয়ে তর্পণ ধারণ করে। এ সময় দশেরে
কোণাকৃষ্ণি থেকে এবং বদিশে থেকেও হাজারো পূর্ণার্থী
এখানে আসে। স্জাতীয় কঁদুর জানযিচ্ছে, এই বছররে
উপস্জতি প্রত্যাপার অনেকে ওপরে গযিচ্ছে, যা প্রাচীন
ঐতহিয়ে প্রতি আট্টে শ্রদ্ধার পরচায়ক।
একজন ভক্ত বলেন, “এই রীতিনীতি স্বাধ্যমাত্র একটি
ঐতহি নয, এটি পতিপুরে যেরে প্রতি কৃতজ্ঞতা প্রকাশ এবং
আমাদের পবিত্র কঁতব্য পালনের মাধ্যম।” স্বধ্যার দিকে
যখন আকাশ ঘিরে বীরে অশ্বকারায়তি হতে লাগল, ফাল্গুন
পাড়ে প্রদীপের আলো নদীতে ভাসতে লাগল, যা চরিত্রের
তরি প্রতীক হসিবে বলমল করছিল।

सांताक्रूज़ इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एक्सपोर्ट प्रोसेसिंग ज़ोन में
नेस्ट-02 फेज 2 का गोयल ने किया उद्घाटन

एजेंसी
मुंबई। केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने मुंबई के सांताक्रूज इलेक्ट्रोनिक्स निर्यात प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र (एसईपीजेड) में सेन्टे-02 (न्यू एंटरप्राइजेज एंड सर्विसेज टावर - फेज 2) का उद्घाटन किया और उद्योगों से भारत की भविष्य की कार्यबल आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए कौशल विकास पहलों को अहत्वपूर्ण रूप से मजबूत करने का आग्रह किया।

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय की एक बैठक के अनुसार श्री गोयल ने इस अवसर पर जोर दिया कि विकास की नीति को एसईपीजेड में भी बरकरार रखा जाना चाहिए, और कहा कि

नाबार्ड के

एजेंसी
नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (नाबार्ड) के दो महीनों के सर्वे से पता चला है कि ग्रामीण हलाकों में आय बढ़ने से लोगों में जबदस्त उमीद जगी है। सर्वे में 80 फीसदी ग्रामीण परिवारों ने एक साल में लगातार ज्यादा खपत होने की बात कही है।

नाबार्ड के 8वें ग्रामीण आर्थिक स्थिति एवं सर्वेक्षण (एनआईएसएसएस) के मुताबिक पेछले एक वर्ष में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में आय में उल्लेखनीय सुधार, आय में

जोन को अपने कामकाज और प्रदर्शन को मोदी सरकार के नेतृत्व में प्राप्त व्यापक राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक गति के अनुरूप ढालना होगा। उन्होंने सक्षम युवाओं के लिए पहलों सहित प्रशिक्षण प्रयासों का विस्तार करने के लिए एसईसीजेड इकाइयों को प्रोत्साहित किया और कहा कि कोशल विकास भारत के भविष्य के विकास के लिए केंद्रीय महत्व रखता। उन्होंने इस क्षेत्र को इकाइयों को प्रशानन के साथ मिलकर एसईसीजेड के परिचालन के स्वच्छ, पारदर्शी और जवाबदेह बनाने का आह्वान किया और कहा कि कामकाज का अच्छा वातावरण बनाये रखना एक सच्चा जिम्मेदारी है। उन्होंने जगह का उचित उपयोग

बढ़ोतरी और जीवन स्तर में बेहतरारूप देखने में बदलाव को स्पष्ट संकेत मिले।
 एक वर्ष के दौरान ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था के आधारभूत ढांचे में उल्लेखनीय सुधार देखने को मिला। उपभोग में वृद्धि, आय में बढ़ोतरी, घटती महंगाई और वित्तीय सफरकत को बेहतर मानकों के साथ ग्रामीण भारत विकास की दिशा में कदम बढ़ रहा है। निरंतर कार्यक्रमकारी संयतता और मजबूत सार्वजनिक निवेश इस गति को और बल दे रहे हैं। सितंबर, 2024 से नवंबर 2025 के बीच ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था में उल्लेखनीय

इलेक्ट्रिक टू-व्हीलर बाजार में एथर एनर्जी ने बनाया रिकॉर्ड, 2 लाख की बिक्री पार

एनर्जी
नई दिल्ली। भारत के इलेक्ट्रिक टू-व्हीलर बाजार में एथर एनर्जी ने एक ऐसा रिकॉर्ड बनाया है जिसने पूरे उद्योग का ध्यान अपनी ओर खींच लिया है। कंपनी के फैमिली-फोकस्ड इलेक्ट्रिक स्मूथर Athar Rizza ने 2 लाख यूनिट बिक्री का आंकड़ा पार कर लिया है और यह उपलब्धि उसने बेहद कम समय-सिर्फ छह महीनों—में हासिल की है। मई 2025 में 1 लाख यूनिट सेल का पड़ाव पार करने के बाद दिसंबर तक यह संख्या सीधे दोगुनी हो गई, जिससे साफ दिखता है कि यह मॉडल देशभर के ग्राहकों की पहली पसंद बन चुका है। एथर एनर्जी ने बताया कि उसकी कुल बिक्री में से 70 फीसदी से अधिक हिस्सा सिर्फ Athar Rizza का है।

रिजर्व बैंक ने 50,000 करोड़ की सरकारी प्रतिभूतियां खरीदी

एनडीए
मुंबई। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई) ने बैंकिंग तंत्र में नकदी की उपलब्धता बढ़ाने के प्रयास के तहत खुले बाजार से 50,000 करोड़ रुपये की सरकारी प्रतिभूतियों की खरीद की। आरबीआई गवर्नर संजय मल्होत्रा ने 05 दिसंबर को मौद्रिक नीति संबंधी बयान जारी करने के अवसर पर बताया था कि केंद्रीय बैंक इस महीने एक लाख करोड़ रुपये की सरकारी प्रतिभूतियों की खरीद करेगा। इससे बैंकों के पास ज्यादा नकदी उपलब्ध होगी और वे ज्यादा ऋण दे सकेगे। पहले चरण के तहत आज 50,000 करोड़ रुपये की सरकारी प्रतिभूति खरीदी गयी है जबकि 18 दिसंबर को इतने ही मूल्य की प्रतिभूतियां खरीदी जाएंगी। ये प्रतिभूतियां चार से लेकर 25 साल तक की मियाद वाली हैं। रिजर्व बैंक की जारी प्रेस

विज्ञापि में बताया गया है कि उसने 6.75 प्रतिशत पर 2029 की 6,638 करोड़ रुपये की प्रतिभूतियां



खरीदी हैं। इसके अलावा 7.02 प्रतिशत की दर पर 2031 की 15,316 करोड़ रुपये की और 7.26 प्रतिशत पर 2032 की 21,189 करोड़ रुपये की प्रतिभूतियां खरीदी हैं। केंद्रीय बैंक ने 6.79 प्रतिशत की दर पर 2034 की

भारत का मैन्युफैक्चरिंग सेक्टर लंबी छलांग को तैयार, 204 तक जीडीपी में हिस्सेदारी 25 प्रतिशत तक पहुंचने का अनुमान

एजेंसी
नई दिल्ली। भारत 2047 तक वैश्विक औद्योगिक महाशक्ति बनने की राह पर है, जहाँ सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) में मैनुफैक्चरिंग सेक्टर की हिस्सेदारी वर्तमान के करीब 17 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर लगभग 25 प्रतिशत होने का लक्ष्य है। यह जानकारी जारी एक रिपोर्ट में दी गई।

बॉस्टन कंसल्टिंग ग्रुप (बीसीजी) और जेड47 द्वारा तैयार की गई रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, रक्षा, ऑटोमोटिव और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन, ऊर्जा और फार्मास्यूटिकल्स ऐसे 5 प्रमुख क्षेत्र हैं, जो 2047 तक 25 ट्रिलियन डॉलर के औद्योगिक अवसर का आधार बन सकते हैं। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सेमीकंडक्टर के क्षेत्र में तेजी से विस्तार हो रहा है। भारत की सेमीकंडक्टर मांग 2022 में 33 अरब डॉलर से बढ़कर 2030 तक 117 अरब डॉलर तक पहुंचने की

उम्मीद है। वहीं, अब भारत में बिकने वाले 99 प्रतिशत मोबाइल फोन देश में ही बनाए जाते हैं, वित्त वर्ष 2014-15 में यह आंकड़ा मात्र 26



प्रतिशत पर था। यह प्रोडक्शन लिंकड इंस्टिट्यूट (पोएलआई) योजनाओं के प्रभाव को दर्शाता है।

बीसीजी के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर और पार्टनर ईशांग जावा ने कहा,

बल्कि देश के मिड और नॉर्थ इंडिया में एयर की पहचान को और मजबूत करेगा।

5 लाख इलेक्ट्रिक स्कूटर बेचने का रिकॉर्ड भी किया हासिल

एथर एनर्जी ने हाल ही में भारत में अपने कुल इलेक्ट्रिक स्कूटरों की बिक्री का आंकड़ा 5 लाख के पार होते हुए देखा है। लॉन्च के बाद कंपनी ने अपनी रिटेल पहुंच को भी तेजी से बढ़ाया और सितंबर 2025 तक देशभर में 524 एक्सप्रेसीमेंट सेंटर शुरू कर चुकी। इससे ग्राहकों की पहुंच और भरोसे दोनों में बड़ोतरी देखने को मिली है।

रिज्दा की मांग बढ़ाने में नए करण ऑफ़ान और बैटरी वैरिएंट की भूमिका को महत्व रही। इसका टेराकोटा रेड विकल्प ग्राहकों के बीच तेजी से लोकप्रिय हुआ। इसमें 3.7

1,033 करोड़ रुपये की और 7.54 प्रतिशत पर 2036 की 3,942 करोड़ रुपये की सरकारी प्रतिभूतियां



खरीदी हैं। साल 2039 में मियाद पूरी करने वाली 657 करोड़ रुपये की प्रतिभूतियां 6.92 प्रतिशत पर और साल 2050 में मियाद पूरी करने वाली 1,225 करोड़ रुपये की प्रतिभूतियां 6.67 प्रतिशत की दर पर खरीदी गयी हैं।

र लंबी छलांग को तैयार, 204
तिशत तक पहुंचने का अनुमान

A group of people, including a woman in a white and blue uniform, standing in front of a building with large windows. The woman is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. Behind her are several men in white shirts and dark trousers. The building has large glass windows and a sign that says '15'.

फीसदी बैटरी वाला Rizta S
वैरिएंट मिलता है, जिसमें बड़ा
कम्पैटबल सीट, 56 लीटर का
स्मार्ट स्टोरेज, 34 लीटर अंडरसीट
और 22 लीटर फ्रैंक (ऑप्शनल)
मिलता है। बड़ा फ्लोबोर्डर इसे
खासतौर पर परिवार के उपयोग के
लिए और भी फ्रैंडली बनाता है।
एथर ने रिज्ता में कई ऐसे
फीचर्स दिए हैं जो सुरक्षा और
उपयोगिता को काफी बढ़ाते हैं। इसमें
Emergency Stop Signal,
Theft & Tow Alerts और Ping
My Scooter जैसे फीचर्स शामिल
हैं। After Community Days
2025 में Rizta Z वैरिएंट के लिए
टचस्क्रीन अपग्रेड की घोषणा भी की
गई। कंपनी ने इस मॉडल को नेपाल
और श्रीलंका जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय
बाजारों में भी लॉन्च किया है।

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। जियो देश में 5जी टेक्नोलॉजी का सबसे बड़ा खिलाड़ी बनकर उभरा है। CLSA की नई रिपोर्ट बताती है कि अब तक 23 करोड़ से ज्यादा ग्राहक जियो के 5जी नेटवर्क से जुड़ चुके हैं। कोई भी भारतीय ऑपरेटर इतनी बड़ी तादाद में 5जी यूजर नहीं जोड़ सका है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक जियो का 5ज स्टैंड-अलोन नेटवर्क पूरे देश में सबसे बड़ा और तकनीकी रूप से सबसे बेहतर है, और इसी नेटवर्क के दम पर जियो को 5जी की दौड़ में सबसे आगे खड़ा दिखाई दे रहा है। कंपनी के कुल 50 करोड़ से अधिक ग्राहकों में से करीब आधे अब 5जी सर्विस पर सिफ्ट हो चुके हैं।

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक जियो और एयरटेल मिलकर देश में 40 करोड़ से अधिक 5ज उपयोगकर्ता जोड़ा चुके हैं, और भारत के मोबाइल डेटा बाजार में इन दोनों कंपनियों की

दिया गया है, जो निर्माण में मदद कर रहे हैं। रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया है कि भारत ने पहली नॉन-फॉसिल-ऊर्जा क्षमता को लक्ष्य से 5 साल पहले 50 प्रतिशत तक पहुंचा लिया है। रिपोर्ट में अनुसंधान और विकास (आरएंडडी), डिजाइन को बढ़ाने, प्रतिभा को मजबूत करने, ब्रेन ड्रेन (विदेशों से भारत लौटकर आने वाले विशेषज्ञों) को बढ़ावा देने, वर्ल्ड-क्लास क्लस्टर इकोसिस्टम और निजी क्षेत्र और स्टार्टअप्स के योगदान को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता पर भी जोर दिया गया है, ताकि इस विकास को स्थिर किया जा सके और भारत को वैश्विक नेतृत्व में लाया जा सके। जेडप 7 के मैनिंगिंग डायरेक्टर सुदीपो सन्नीग्राही ने कहा, 'आधुनिक निर्माण और डीप-टेक (गहरे तकनीकी) में सफलता प्राप्त करना विकसित भारत 2047 के सपने को साकार करने के लिए जरूरी है।'

गोल्ड-सिल्वर रेट में जबरदस्त उछाल

एजेंसी
नई दिल्ली। 12 दिसंबर को भारतीय बाजारों में सोने और चांदी दोनों की कीमतों में जबरदस्त तेजी देखने को मिली है। अमेरिका के फेडरल रिजर्व द्वारा प्रमुख ब्याज दर घटाए जाने के फैसले के बाद सोने की सुरक्षित निवेश के तौर पर भारतीय मिली है। इस तेजी के कारण, राजधानी दिल्ली में 24 कैरेट गोल्ड का भाव 1,20,910 प्रति 10 ग्राम पर पहुँच गया है, जबकि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में सोना 1,32,113 प्रति औंस पर कारोबार कर रहा है। सोने की तरह, चांदी के भाव में भी 12 दिसंबर को भारी तेजी दर्ज हुई। चांदी का भाव 2,01,100 प्रति किलोग्राम पर पहुँच गया है। इस साल की शुरुआत से अब तक, चांदी की कीमतों में 116.72 प्रतिशत की भारी बढ़ोतरी देखी गई है, जो इसे रिकॉर्ड के मामले में सोने से भी बेहतर साबित करती है। विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि वैश्विक स्प्ललाई में कमी और चीन से बढ़ती मांग के कारण चांदी की चमक बढ़ेगी है। घरेलू बाजार में सोने की कीमतों में इस साल अब तक 67.91प्रशत की बड़ी बढ़ोतरी देखी गई है। विशेषज्ञों का अनुमान है कि अगर वैश्विक आर्थिक अनिश्चितताएं और रुपये-डॉलर की विनिमय दर लगभग समान रहने रहती है, तो 2026 में भी सोने की कीमत 5 प्रतिशत से 16 प्रतिशत तक और बढ़ सकती है। यह रूझान कीमती धातुओं के मजबूत भविष्य को दर्शाता है।

सम्मिलित राजस्व हिस्सेदारी 81फीसदी तक पहुंच गई है। 5जी शुरु होने के बाद से बाजार की अधिकतर वृद्धि इन्हीं दो कंपनियों के हिस्से में आई है। इसमें से भी जियो



ने 5जी के क्षेत्र में लीडर की भूमिका निभाई है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार देश भर में 5व स्मार्टफोन की लोकप्रियता भी तेजी से बढ़ी है। यह अब 91फीसदी का आंकड़ा छू चुकी है। 5जी के तेज नेटवर्क विस्तार को इसने और मजबूती दी है।

जियो केवल मोबाइल 5जी में ही नहीं, बल्कि घरों में इंटरनेट पहुंचाने की श्रेणी में भी सबसे आगे निकल गया है। कंपनी के पास 2.3 करोड़

होम ब्रॉडबैंड ग्राहक हैं, और इनमें से 95 लाख घर अब जियो के 5G FWA (Fixed Wireless Access) यानी जियोएयरफाइबर पर चल रहे हैं। कंपनी का लक्ष्य

जियोफाइबर व जियोएयरफाइबर से 10 करोड़ ग्राहकों को जोड़ने का है। जियो का 5G FWA देश में होम इंटरनेट की तस्वीर तेजी से बदल रहा है और नए उपयोगकर्ताओं को जोड़ने का सबसे बड़ा माध्यम बन रहा है। भारत के लगभग 30 करोड़ घरों में से वायरड ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्शन केवल 4.5 करोड़ घरों तक ही पहुंचा है। ऐसे में इस सेगमेंट में वृद्धि को बहुत बड़ी गुंजाइश है।

यूडीआईएन के इस्तेमाल से धोखाधड़ी रोकने में मिली मदद: आईसीएआई



है। यूडीआईएन की शुरुआत भारतीय सनदी लेखाकार संस्थान (आईसीएआर) ने 2019 में की थी। जब कोई चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट किसी भी दस्तावेज का सत्यापन करता है तो एक यूडीआईएन सृजित होता है। नंदा ने यूडीआईएन राजधानी में संवाददाताओं से बातचीत में कहा कि 2019 से अब तक 10 करोड़ से भी ज्यादा यूडीआईएन सृजित किए जा चुके हैं। उन्होंने कहा, “यूडीआईएन के इस्तेमाल में 70,000-80,000 करोड़ रुपये की संभावित बचतों/खोथाधन की रोकने में मदद मिली है।” यूडीआईएन की व्यवस्था शुरू होने से यूडीआईएन वेजों के सत्यापन और पहचान में मदद मिलती है।

का रिकॉर्ड टूटा

पर एक बड़ी उपलब्धि हासिल की, भारत अब दुनिया का चौथा सबसे



बन चुका है। विशेषज्ञों ने अनुमान है कि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था 4 ट्रिलियन और बढ़ेगी, निवेश के नए और बड़े

का दावा

महंगाई 5 फीसदी या उससे कम रहेगी और लगभग 90 फीसदी लोगों को उम्मीद है कि निकट भविष्य में महंगाई 5 फीसदी से नीचे ही रहेगी। महंगाई में कमी से वास्तविक आय में वृद्धि हुई है, क्रय शक्ति में सुधार हुआ है और समग्र कल्याण को बढ़ावा मिला है। कम महंगाई और ब्याज दरों में नरमी के साथ, ऋण चुकाने के लिए आबंटित आय का हिस्सा पहले के दौर की तुलना में कम हो गया है। 29.3 फीसदी ग्रामीण परिवारों में पिछले वर्ष के दौरान पूंजी निवेश में वृद्धि हुई है।

एजेंसी
नई दिल्ली। बाजार नियामक संघ ने प्रतिभूत बाजार के लिए नामांकन देने के तीसरे चरण को कार्यान्वयन को स्थगित कर दिया है। यह पहले 15 दिसंबर से प्रभावी होने वाला था। भारतीय प्रतिभूत एवं विनिमय बोर्ड (सेबी) ने कहा, नई तिथि की घोषणा बाद में होगी। यह स्थगन डिफॉजिटरी और अन्य हितधारकों की ओर से सामाना की जा रही परिचालन संबंधी चुनौतियों के जवाब में किया गया है। सेबी ने रीट और इन्वेंट्री की परिभाषा में भी बदलाव किया है।

एको व्यो संस्थागत खरीदार मानी जाने वाली संस्था रणनीतिक निवेशक के रूप में आवेदन कर सकती है। इसमें सकाराई वित्तीय संस्थानों, पेंशन वृद्ध भविष्य निधि, वैकल्पिक निवेश निधि, राज्य औद्योगिक विकास निगम, परिचारिक ट्रस्ट और 500 करोड़ से अधिक की कुल संपत्ति वाले पंजीकृत मध्यस्थों सहित अन्य संस्थानों का समूह शामिल है।

हाइड्रोजन निवेशकों का म्युचुअल फंड पसंदीदा निवेश का साधन बन चुका है। इसका उदाहरण यह है कि 10,000 करोड़ रुपये के आईसीआईसीआई प्रूड्रीशियल म्युचुअल फंड का आईपीओ खुलने से पहले ही 4,815 करोड़ का निवेश किया गया है। खुलने वाले इश्यू में झुनझुनवाला परिवार, मधुसूदन केला सहित 26 निवेशकों ने दावा लगाया है। सक्रिय म्युचुअल फंड के तिमाही औसत प्रबंधित परिसंपत्तियों के मामले में आईसीआईसीआई प्रूड्रीशियल देश की सबसे बड़ी परिसंपत्ति प्रबंधन कंपनी है।

बर्फबारी का मजा लूटना चाहते हैं तो, पटनीटॉप हैं आपके लिए पर्फेक्ट

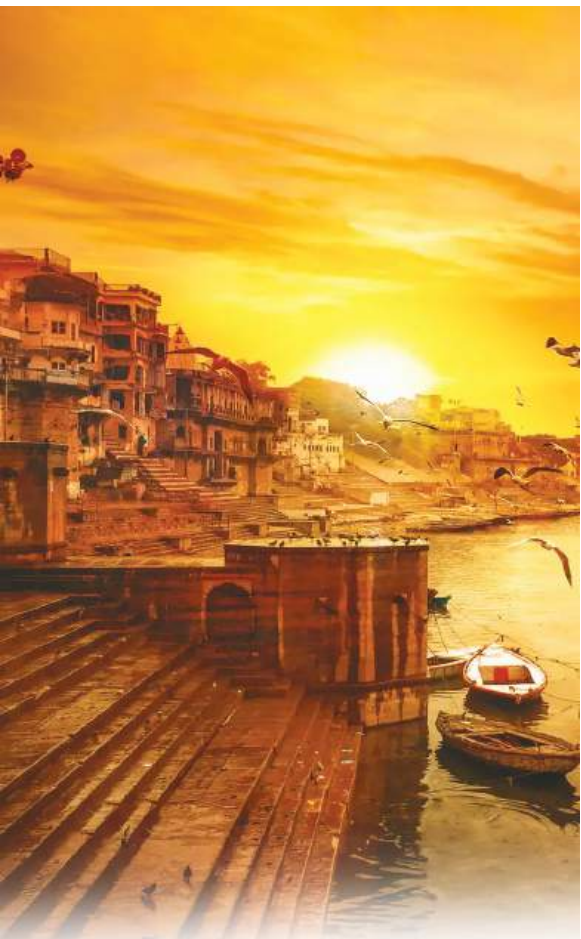


पटनीटॉप-सनासर (जम्मू कश्मीर)। चारों ओर बिछी हुई बर्फ की सफेद चादर, देवदार तथा चीड़ के पेड़ों से गिरते बर्फ के टुकड़े सच में यहां आने वालों को नई दुनिया का आभास देते हैं। जिधर नजर दौड़ाएं, बस बर्फ ही बर्फ दिखती है और उस पर दिखते हैं बर्फ के खेलों का आनंद उठाते हुए लोग, जो देश के विभिन्न भागों से आए थे। यह है पटनीटॉप का प्रसिद्ध और मनमोहक पर्यटन स्थल जहां सिर्फ गर्मियां ही नहीं बल्कि सदियों भी मनोहारी होती हैं। जम्मू से 108 किमी दूर पटनीटॉप का रमणीय और प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य से भरपूर स्थल समुद्रतल से 6400 फुट की ऊंचाई पर है। लंबे लंबे चीड़ और देवदार के पेड़ हर उस शख्स को अपनी ओर आकर्षित कर रहे हैं जो प्रकृतिप्रेमी हैं। साल भर इसकी खूबसूरत ढलानों पर जमी रहने वाली बर्फ भी पर्यटकों को अपनी ओर खींच लेने की शक्ति रखती है। जम्मू पर्यटन विभाग पटनीटॉप में बर्फ के खेलों का मजा आने वाले पर्यटकों को देने के लिए अगले कुछ दिनों में ‘स्कीइंग फेस्टिवल’

आयोजित करने जा रहा है। जम्मू क्षेत्र में यह अपने किस्म का वार्षिक स्कीइंग फेस्टिवल होता है जिसमें पर्यटकों को स्कीइंग तो सिखाई ही जाती है और साथ ही पर्यटक बर्फ के खेलों का आनंद भी लूटते हैं। जब कश्मीर में आतंकी घटनाओं ने देश-विदेश के पर्यटकों को गुलमर्ग के प्रसिद्ध पर्यटन स्थल से मुख मोड़ने पर विवश किया तो उत्तर प्रदेश व हिमाचल प्रदेश के बर्फीले क्षेत्र बर्फ के खेलों के विकल्प के रूप में उभर कर सामने आए थे। अब जम्मू क्षेत्र के ‘पहलगाम’ के रूप में जाने जाना वाला पटनीटॉप नए और महत्वपूर्ण बर्फ के पर्यटन स्थल के रूप में पूरी तरह से उभर चुका है। पहलगाम के उपरांत पटनीटॉप को स्कीइंग स्थल के रूप में ख्याति प्राप्त करवाने में पर्यटन विभाग के जम्मू विंग का अच्छा खासा सहयोग रहा है। विभाग की मेहनत ही है कि आज पटनीटॉप में स्कीइंग और पैराग्लाइडिंग करने वालों की भीड़ लगी रहती है। स्कीइंग के लिए तो पटनीटॉप की सबसे ऊंची पहाड़ी पर बनी

छोटी और बड़ी स्लोपों के साथ ही पटनीटॉप के साथ लगते नथाटाप क्षेत्र को भी इस्तेमाल में लाया जा रहा है। जो आप ही खूबसूरती की एक मिसाल है। पर्यटन विभाग की ओर से अन्य स्लोपों की तलाश तथा उनका विकास किया जा रहा है ताकि स्कीइंग के लिए आने वालों की भीड़ से निपटा जा सके। आने वाले सभी लोगों को बर्फ के खेलों का आनंद उठाने का अवसर उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाता क्योंकि स्कीइंग साल में सिर्फ सदियों के अढ़ाई महीनों में ही होती है। हिमाचल में यह सिर्फ दो महीने होती है पर पटनीटॉप व नथाटाप में यह कभी-कभी 3 महीनों तक होती रहती है क्योंकि बर्फ पिघलती नहीं है। ऐसा भी नहीं है कि स्कीइंग न कर पाने वालों को पटनीटॉप आकर निराश होना पड़ता हो बल्कि कई बार लोग बर्फ पर फिसलने वाली लकड़ी की स्लेज का मजा लूटते हैं। कुछ लोग बर्फ के पुतले बना बर्फ के अन्य खेलों में लिस होते हैं। यह सब कुछ साल के सिर्फ अढ़ाई महीनों के दौरान ही इसलिए होता है क्योंकि बर्फ इसी

दौरान रहती है और गर्मियों में पटनीटॉप आने वाले इन नजारों तथा अनुभवों से वंचित रहते हैं। गर्मियों में आने वालों को निराशा होती हो ऐसा भी नहीं है क्योंकि गर्मियों में पटनीटॉप आने का अपना ही अलग लुत्त है जो कश्मीर के मुकाबले का है। ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि समुद्रतल से जितनी ऊंचाई पर पटनीटॉप स्थित है उससे कम ऊंचाई पर श्रीनगर शहर है। कश्मीर का मुकाबला करने वाले इस अनछुए पर्यटनस्थल पटनीटॉप में बर्फ के खेलों का एक रोचक पहलू यह है कि इसका आनंद उठाने वालों में अधिकतर वे लोग हैं जो पटनीटॉप से करीब अढ़ाई घंटों की यात्रा की दूरी पर स्थित प्रसिद्ध तीर्थस्थल माता वैष्णो देवी की गुफा के दर्शनार्थ आते हैं। आधिकारिक रिकार्ड के अनुसार पटनीटॉप आने वाले पर्यटकों में 80 प्रतिशत वैष्णो देवी के तीर्थयात्री ही हैं।



सबसे आकर्षक और बेहद खूबसूरत होती हैं इन जगहों की शाम

सुबह और शाम दिन के दो ऐसे प्रहर होते हैं, जब हमें जिंदगी के प्रति एक अलग सा लगाव महसूस होता है। हम में से कई लोग अपनी शाम पहाड़ों के बीच तो कोई नदी किनारे बीताना पसंद करता हैं। हममें से ज्यादातर लोग इन पलों को सुकून से प्रकृति के बीच महसूस करना चाहते हैं। आइए, आज उन चुनिंदा जगहों के बारे में जानते हैं, जहां की शाम बेइतहा खूबसूरत होती है। हैं कुछ ऐसी जगहों के बारे में जहां पर आप अपनी शाम बीता सकते हैं और वाकई में इन जगहों की शाम का नाजारा काफी सुंदर और देखने लायक होता हैं। तो आई जानते हैं इन जगहों के बारे में – **बनारस** – वाराणसी शहर में लोग आध्यात्मिक उपचार की तलाश में आते हैं और गंगा यहां सबसे सुंदर अनुभव प्रदान करती है। गंगा नदी के किनारे बैठे उगते सूरज का नजारा आपको गदगद कर देगा। अगर आप सुबह जल्दी उठ सकते हैं तो नाव की सवारी भी कर सकते हैं। वैसे वाराणसी को महाकाल की नगरी भी कहा जाता है। यहां विश्व प्रसिद्ध काशी विश्वनाथ मंदिर स्थित है। **राधानगर बीच, अंडमान** – अंडमान में स्थित हैवलॉक द्वीप की शाम बहुत ही खूबसूरत होती है। यह सनसेट प्वाइंट प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य के कारण दुनियाभर में लोकप्रिय है। हैवलॉक द्वीप हनीमून के लिए बेस्ट डेस्टिनेशन है। पूरे एशिया में सबसे बेस्ट सनसेट प्वाइंट माना जाता है। यहां पर जाने का सही समय अक्टूबर से अप्रैल के बीच का है। **टाइगर हिल** – यह सूर्योदय देखने के लिए सबसे अच्छे स्थानों में से एक है। दार्जिलिंग आने वाले पर्यटकों के लिए सबसे बड़ा आकर्षण रहता है। टाइगर हिल राजसी माउंट कंचनजंगा, और प्रतिष्ठित माउंट एवरेस्ट के मनोहारी दृश्य भी दिखाती है। अपनी शाम को यादगार बनाने के लिए यहां से अच्छी जगह और कोई नहीं हैं। दार्जिलिंग जाने वाले पर्यटकों के लिए यह एक बहुत बड़ा आकर्षण है। **नंदि हिल्स** – यहां पर आप वादियों के बीच लाल रंग के आसमान का लुत्फ उठा सकते हैं। अगर आपको एकांत पसंद करने वाले व्यक्ति हैं तो यह जगह आपके लिए एकदम सही हैं। अगर आप यहां जाना चाहते हैं तो आप उसके लिए अक्टूबर से जून में जा सकते हैं। **उमियम लेक** – भारत के उत्तर पूर्व में स्थित यह झील सबसे शानदार स्थानों में से एक है। यह शिलांग से लगभग 15 किमी दूर स्थित है। जैसे ही सूरज उगता है और पहली किरणें झील के पानी को छूती हैं, आपको एहसास होगा कि आप किसी और दुनिया में आ गए हैं।

कैलिफोर्निया-योसेमाइट नेशनल पार्क-वैसे तो कैलिफोर्निया में घूमने के लिए कई सारे नेशनल पार्क हैं लेकिन यह पार्क कैलिफोर्निया का सबसे मशहूर पीक हैं। बता दें कि इस पार्क को यूनेस्को की सूची में भी शामिल किया गया हैं। यहां पर आपको सिकोइया के पेड़ और झरनों के बीच अपना समय बीताने का मौका मिलेगा। आपको यहां पर कैपिंग करने के लिए पहले से ही रिसर्वेशन करना होगा। अगर आप यहां पर कैपिंग करने जाना चाहते हैं तो आपको मई से अक्टूबर और नवंबर से दिसंबर के बीच जाना चाहिए। **मिनेसोटा-स्प्लिट रॉक लाइटहाउस स्टेट पार्क**-यहां पर आपको काफी सारे पर्यटक मिल जाएंगे यह कैपिंग करने वाले पर्यटकों के लिए एक बहुत ही पसंदीदा स्थल हैं। इसलिए अगर आप यहां पर कैपिंग के लिए जाना चाहते हैं तो आप अपने लिए पहले से ही रिसर्वेशन कर लें। यहां कई पर्यटक कैपिंग के साथ साथ हाइकिंग और फिशिंग भी करने आते हैं। यहां पर जाने का सही समय जून से अगस्त के बीच का है।

आप भी हैं कैपिंग के शौकीन तो जरूर जाएं इन बेहतरीन जगहों पर

क्या आपको हैं कैपिंग करने का शौक और आप खोज रहे हैं कोई ऐसी जगह जहां पर आप आराम से और शांत वातावरण में कैपिंग कर पाएं तो आज हम आपके लिए लाएं है कुछ ऐसी जगहों के बारे में जहां पर आप आराम से और शांत वातावरण में कैपिंग कर सकते हैं। नेशनल पार्क से प्राइवेट ग्राउंड तक यह हैं कुछ बहुत ही बेहतर जगह कैपिंग करने के लिए। तो आईए जानते हैं इन जगहों के बारे में – **अलास्का**-यह सबसे मशहूर और सबसे बेहतरीन कैपिंग ग्राउंड्स में से एक हैं। यह जगह अलास्का के कूपर लैंडिंग में स्थित हैं। यह तीन कैंपसाइट लूप प्रदान करता है, जिनमें से एक झील पर है। यह वन्यजीवी के अवलोकन के लिए एक आदर्श स्थल है, जिसमें लायनक्स, भालू, गिलहरी और लॉन शामिल हैं। यहां पर जाने का सही समय मई से सितंबर का हैं। **अरिजोना-गैंड कैन्यन**-यह एक ऐसी कैपिंग साइट हैं जो कि यहां के पर्यटकों के बीच काफी मशहूर हैं। यहां पर हर साल कई पर्यटक कैपिंग करने आते हैं। रात के समय यहां का नजारा देखने लायक होता हैं। अगर आप यहां पर कैपिंग का लुत्फ उठाना चाहते हैं तो मार्च से मई और सितंबर से नवंबर आपके लिए एकदम सही समय हैं। **अर्कासस-पेटिट जीन स्टेट पार्क**-यह पार्क अर्कासस का पहला स्टेट पार्क हैं। यह जगह अपने पर्यटकों के 125 कैपिंग साइट्स प्रदान करती हैं। यह जगह परिवार के साथ जाने के लिए काफी अच्छी हैं। यहां पर आपको मछली पकड़ना, स्विमिंग पूल, प्लेग्राउंड, टेनिस और बास्केटबॉल कोर्ट और वॉटर स्पोर्ट्स जैसी गतिविधियां उपलब्ध कराई जाती हैं। यहां पर और भी कई खूबसूरत जगह भी हैं। यहां पर जाने का सही समय अक्टूबर से नवंबर के बीच का हैं।



नए साल पर इन जगहों पर घूमें, बजट भी नहीं बिगड़ेगा

नए साल का स्वागत करने के लिए अधिकतर लोग घूमने का प्लान बनाते हैं। लेकिन साथ ही उनके मन में यह भी होता है कि नए साल का स्वागत करने के चक्कर में कहीं उनका बजट ना बिगड़ जाए। कई बार तो लोग इस वजह से अपने घूमने का प्लान भी कैसिल कर देते हैं। अगर आपको भी लगता है कि नए साल में घूमने पर आपका बजट बिगड़ जाएगा तो अब आपको परेशान होने की जरूरत नहीं है। आज हम आपको ऐसी कुछ जगहों के बारे में बता रहे हैं, जहां आप बजट में रहते हुए नए साल का स्वागत कर सकते हैं...

गोवा
नए साल पर घूमने की बात हो और गोवा का नाम ना आए, ऐसा तो हो ही नहीं सकता। वैसे तो आप गोवा कभी भी घूमने जा सकते हैं, लेकिन नए साल का जश्न गोवा में एक बेहद ही अलग तरह से मनाया जाता है। अगर आप यहां गए हैं तो बोहेमियन बीच पार्टी से लेकर नाइट क्लब इवेंट्स में जाएं। दिसंबर के आखिरी दिनों में गोवा में पार्टी का दौर चालू रहता है, ऐसे में आप यहां जमकर मस्ती कर सकते हैं। अगर आप गोवा में न्यू ईयर सेलिब्रेशन करने का मन बना रहे हैं, तो टीटो क्लब, मेम्बो कैफे व बोट क्रूज पार्टी को एन्जॉय करें। अगर आप पहले से ही पैकेज बुक करवाते हैं तो आपको हर व्यक्ति का लगभग पांच से सात हजार रूपए खर्च आएगा।

ऊटी
अगर आप शोर-शराबे से दूर एक शांत जगह पर रहकर नए साल का स्वागत करना चाहते हैं तो आपको ऊटी जाना चाहिए। आप यहां पर आकर टी फेवटी और म्यूजियम, बोटिंग, बोटनिकल गार्डन में जाएं। साथ ही नए साल की फील लेने के लिए आप सड़कों पर निकल जाएं। वहां पर

आतिशबाजी का माहौल देखकर आपके मन को यकीनन काफी अच्छे लगेगा। अगर आप यहां जा रहे हैं तो आपका खर्च सात से आठ हजार रूपए प्रति व्यक्ति आएगा।

पांडिचेरी
समुद्र तटों पर बाइक चलाने से लेकर छत पर बने कैफे में घूमने तक पांडिचेरी आपको नए साल में एक अलग ही अनुभव महसूस कराएगा। खासतौर से, अगर आपका बजट काफी कम है और आप किसी बेहतरीन जगह पर घूमना चाहते हैं तो पांडिचेरी यकीनन आपकी जरूरत को पूरा करेगा। अगर आप वहां जा रहे हैं तो श्री अरविंदो आश्रम, प्रोमेनेड बीच, हेरिटेज वॉक, विडट फेंच कॉलोनी जाएं। यहां पर आपका प्रति व्यक्ति खर्च लगभग चार से पांच हजार आएगा।



NEWS BOX

Idolising Virat Kohli, Nikhil Chaudhary dreams IPL stint with RCB legend

NEW DELHI . (Agency)

When Nikhil Chaudhary walked onto the field for Punjab in 2017, Virat Kohli was at the height of his powers, dominating cricket across all formats. Nine years on, while Kohli approaches the twilight of his illustrious career, Chaudhary’s journey has taken a very different trajectory—one that has led him far from India, to a new life in Australia.

For Chaudhary, Kohli has always been more than just a cricketer—he’s an idol. And now, in a twist of fate, there’s a chance he could line up alongside him in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL). Registered as a local player in the mini-auction, the 29-year-old dreams not just of an IPL contract but of sharing a dressing room with his childhood hero. The story of how Chaudhary landed in Australia is almost cinematic. In 2020, a simple visit to relatives became an unexpected turning point. Stranded due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he found himself staying longer than planned—and gradually, he made Australia his home. From representing Tasmania to pulling on the



jersey of the Hobart Hurricanes in the Big Bash League, Chaudhary has carved a niche for himself far from the land of his birth. But success didn’t come overnight. Chaudhary’s early days in Australia were a grind. He delivered letters for Australia Post, drove for Uber, and even chopped vegetables in a Brisbane restaurant before his cricketing break arrived. The contrast with his early career in Punjab—sharing dressing rooms with Abhishek Sharma and Arshdeep Singh—couldn’t have been starker. Now, with 20 BBL matches and stints in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy to his name, Chaudhary is ready for the next step. The 2025-26 season could be the one where he stakes a claim in first-class cricket. In the ongoing Sheffield Shield, he has already amassed 367 runs at an average of 45.87, including a stunning 163 against New South Wales that has caught the eyes of selectors. And he’s more than just a batter—his leg-spin has yielded a first-class five-wicket haul, adding another dimension to his game. India Today Digital caught up with Chaudhary recently.

Is Gautam Gambhir's fixation on Shubman Gill threatening India's T20 World Cup defence

New Delhi. (Agency)

For months now, the most animated debate around India’s T20I setup has centered on one deceptively simple question: who should open with Abhishek Sharma? The left-hander has sealed his spot with commanding form and unwavering intent, yet the identity of his partner remains a point of national contention. As things stand, vice-captain Shubman Gill continues to be the preferred choice, even as Sanju Samson, the man with three T20I hundreds in 2024, watches from the periphery. To understand how head coach Gautam Gambhir has arrived at this decision, one might need more than selectorial instinct; perhaps an algebraic equation would explain why he remains wedded to an out-



of-form opener less than two months before a World Cup. The Gill question has loomed large over Indian cricket since the summer, yet Gambhir has shown little inclination to entertain the logic or statistics that stand firmly against his chosen man. Samson’s case is straightforward and compelling. Not many players produce three T20I centuries across an entire career, and Samson did it in a single year. His synergy with Abhishek at the top was one of India’s most exciting developments in 2024. But come the 2025 Asia Cup, he found himself displaced, pushed down to the lower middle order, and eventually benched. None of those roles suits his game or reflects the kind of form he has shown.

Gill’s slump raises hard questions

Gill, meanwhile, has retained his place without producing the returns that justify such unwavering support. Thursday’s golden duck against South Africa in Mullanpur was the latest addition to an uncomfortable pattern. He now has no fifty in his last 17 T20I innings. His struggles against Lungi Ngidi only deepened the sense of concern, as he has now been dismissed twice in three balls across the series.

Bazball is great, but England go too far with it sometimes: David Willey

David Willey believes England's Bazball approach is innovative but warns that players must adapt to situations, especially as England trail Australia 0-2 in the Ashes. Willey highlights missed opportunities and calls for accountability and refinement in England's strategy.

BRISBANE. (Agency)

Former England international and current Dubai Capitals all rounder David Willey has called for a more measured approach to England’s Bazball style, warning that while the aggressive brand of cricket has been transformative, it can overshadow crucial match situations if not tempered. England currently trail Australia 0-2 in the five-match Ashes Test series, with both defeats exposing moments where game management may



have faltered. Willey acknowledged the excitement Bazball has brought to English cricket but stressed the need for players to adapt to the flow of the match. He noted that Ben Stokes has recognised this and expects the team to refine their approach for the rest of the series. "I think the term 'Bazball' is something that's been used more by the media than the players themselves. They're trying to impact the game, but I have my reservations about maybe going too far that way and not taking accountability for when the game dictates something else. The way Stokes talked about it, he's really highlighted

that. I've no doubt they'll be trying to refine that and put that right for the remainder of the series," Willey was quoted as saying by ANI. England’s aggressive intent was evident during the Ashes, where they suffered consecutive eight-wicket defeats. In the first Test at Perth, England appeared steady at 76-3, only to lose seven wickets for 88 runs and be dismissed for 164. Willey said England missed crucial moments in both Tests, and better batting in key situations could have changed the outcomes. He believes the team needs to recognise when to absorb pressure instead of always playing aggressively.

"If you look back to Perth, if they'd have batted better in that third innings, there's every chance they could have won that test match and everyone would be sat having different conversations now. And the same again in the second test, there are just key moments where England let them slip and that's ultimately cost them. So I think they'll be really trying to identify those moments and know when to potentially absorb a little pressure and just dig in a little bit rather than play the expansive style of cricket they want," Willey said.

The defeats highlighted the fine line between positive play and recklessness, with England’s aggressive philosophy drawing massive scrutiny from the cricketing fraternity. Willey suggested that being able to "absorb a little pressure and just dig in" might be key to success in tighter contests. As England prepare for the remaining Ashes matches, Willey expressed confidence in the team’s leadership under Ben Stokes to make necessary adjustments. He expects England to assess their approach and strike a better balance between aggression and situational awareness as they head into third Test scheduled to be played in Adelaide beginning on December 17.

Teenagers set Finnish football stadium ablaze after club suffers relegation

New Delhi. (Agency)

A shocking fire at FC Haka’s historic Tehtaan kenttä stadium has left one of Finland’s oldest football venues severely damaged, just weeks after the club was relegated from the country’s top league, Veikkausliiga. The blaze erupted on December 7, Sunday evening in Valkeakoski and completely destroyed a 400-seat wooden stand, sending ripples through a community already reeling from sporting disappointment. Police later confirmed that three minors were present at the scene when the fire began, all of them under the age of 15. One teenager has admitted to igniting an object that sparked the inferno, though Finnish law prevents anyone under 15 from facing criminal charges. Speaking in a statement, Detective Inspector Majjastina Tammisto said the case is being investigated as arson but clarified that legal consequences differ for minors. While criminal prosecution is off the table due to age, she noted that compensation liability can still apply to



children in Finland. "The police hope that discussion about the matter remains appropriate and reminds people that inappropriate and personal communications can themselves lead to a

criminal investigation," Tammisto said. Tammisto also urged restraint as the incident triggered angry reactions online. She reminded the public that hostile or personal comments on social media could themselves become subject to criminal investigation, particularly if they target identifiable minors.

The fire broke out around 8 PM and rapidly spread through the wooden structure of the nearly century-old stand. Built in 1934, Tehtaan kenttä—known in English as Factory Field—has long been considered one of Finnish football’s most traditional grounds. FC Haka chairman Marko Laaksonen said the extent of the damage has not yet been calculated but is expected to be substantial. With the club already coping with the financial and emotional fallout of relegation, the timing of the incident has made the setback even heavier. "We certainly didn’t need this... We have already received a lot of support from people and we will continue to need it in the future," Laaksonen told Finnish media.

The stadium is owned by the city of Valkeakoski, whose council chairman Joni Kuulander expressed sadness at the destruction and pledged swift action to restore the pitch and facilities. Preparations are now underway to assess what it will take to make the venue playable again.

Pep Guardiola praises Real Madrid's Rodrygo amid rising Manchester City transfer buzz

Madrid. (Agency)

Pep Guardiola has coached against some of the world’s finest attackers, but even he couldn’t hide his admiration for Rodrygo Goes after Manchester City’s 2–1 win over Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu. On a night shaped by City’s resilience, Madrid’s mounting problems, and Rodrygo’s reminder of his brilliance, it was Guardiola’s reaction to the Brazilian that sparked renewed chatter in the transfer market. City’s victory, secured through goals from O’Reilly and Erling Haaland, overshadowed Rodrygo’s sharp finish — a moment of individual quality that immediately caught Guardiola’s eye. And with Rodrygo having been linked heavily with Manchester City in the previous transfer window, his standout performance came with extra intrigue. Speaking to Movistar+ after the match, Guardiola delivered unusually glowing praise, moments after sharing a brief on-field

exchange with the winger.

"I told Rodrygo how good he is. He’s a player from another level this kid is a player on



another level. I’m glad he’s back from injury. He’s very, very good." Rodrygo’s goal ended a 281-day drought, his last coming on March 4, 2025, and it arrived at a time when Madrid desperately needed a spark. Instead, the night concluded with another setback for Xabi Alonso’s side,

who remain five points behind Barcelona in LaLiga and continue to slide in Europe. Amid the on-field drama,

Rodrygo’s future remains a talking point. Manchester City were the last club to formally pursue the Brazilian, and the transfer talks have heated up during Rodrygo’s limited involvement in Xabi’s Real Madrid plans this season. Their approach last summer stalled only because Rodrygo opted to stay in Madrid, believing it was not the right moment to move. Guardiola’s praise, however, has naturally reignited speculation about whether City might revisit that interest.

Madrid’s current struggles have put Alonso under increasing scrutiny, though senior players including Rodrygo, Thibaut Courtois and Jude Bellingham have publicly backed him. Still, the noise surrounding Rodrygo’s role and future refuses to quieten.

Shubman, Suryakumar's form not a concern, they'll come good soon: Assistant coach

New Delhi. (Agency)

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has defended T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav and vice-captain Shubman Gill amid their poor form in the format. Both Gill and Suryakumar continued their dry patch in the second T20I against South Africa in Mullanpur, getting dismissed for 0 and 5 respectively as India failed to chase down the massive target of 214 and lost by 51 runs. The duo has had a long run of low scores in the format, which is an alarming sign for the Men in Blue heading into the T20 World Cup 2026, scheduled to be held in India from February 7 to March 8. Despite their poor run, ten Doeschate feels the lack of runs from



their bats is not a huge concern and backed the batting stalwarts to come good soon. He defended Shubman mentioning that he got a great delivery from Lungi Ngidi in Mullanpur and had been dismissed while attacking in the first T20I in Cuttack. "Shubman, I saw some good signs of a change in mentality on the back end of that Australian tour. I wouldn’t read too much into these two dismissals in this series. In the first game, we asked the guys to go out there and attack the powerplay, and it wasn’t a great wicket at Cuttack, so I’ll let him off for that one. Today, I thought he got a good ball that can happen when you’re short on form," said ten Doeschate in the post-match press conference. Ten Doeschate also said that both Suryakumar and Gill deserve strong backing from the team management given their class, and he brushed off any concerns regarding their form. "But we also know his class. You look at his IPL record, he stacks up 700–800 runs. We believe in his class, and we believe he will come good. It’s exactly the same with Suryakumar.

What wrong has Sanju Samson done Uthappa wants Shubman Gill replaced as T20I opener

Robin Uthappa called out India's decision to drop Sanju Samson from the opening slot in T20Is. With Shubman Gill struggling, his criticism has put fresh spotlight on India's T20I selection.

WELLINGTON. (Agency)

Shubman Gill’s ongoing struggles in T20Is have intensified scrutiny on India’s selection calls, especially after his golden duck in the second T20I against South Africa in Mullanpur. Chasing a daunting 214, Gill lasted just one ball, beaten by Lungi Ngidi’s movement and dismissed at first slip. The moment not only jolted India early in the chase but reopened a debate that has dominated discussions for months: why does Gill continue to open despite a prolonged

slump, while Sanju Samson remains sidelined? The frustration stems from the stark contrast in form and opportunity. Samson, who smashed three T20I hundreds in 2024 and developed a potent partnership with Abhishek Sharma, now finds himself pushed out of the XI. Meanwhile, Gill has been repeatedly backed, even as his returns at the top have dipped steadily. With the T20 World Cup inching closer, the decision to persist with Gill has raised questions about whether India are prioritising hierarchy over performance. Speaking on Star Sports after India’s crushing defeat in the Mullanpur T20I on December 11, Robin Uthappa voiced what many Indian fans have wondered: what wrong has Sanju Samson done to deserve this treatment? He questioned why a successful opening pair was dismantled without a convincing explanation from the team management. "I beg the question: what did the partnership of Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson do so grossly wrong that they



had to be replaced? I understand Surya in the pre-series conference where he said Shubman has actually been in the T20 squad before Sanju got his opportunity. But when Sanju did get his opportunity, he got three hundreds. He was the first guy among the youngsters here to get hundreds in T20 cricket. It was after that when Abhishek got it, and after that when Tilak actually got it. So he perhaps even inspired the guys and challenged them, because at that point, they were figuring out who was going to be the next opener for India in T20 cricket,"

Uthappa said. "So you have a proven opener, who’s averaging just below Abhishek Sharma at this point, and you decided to move him to the middle order and then slowly leave him out. What wrong has he done? is my question. He deserves to have that opportunity," he added.

He was equally blunt in his assessment of Gill’s current approach, and emphasised and on what is going wrong for the Test and ODI skipper in T20Is. "It’s not working for Shubman at this point, because I also think he’s trying different things. I think he’s trying initially to go toe-to-toe at the same pace that Abhishek is going — that is not how he bats. That is not how he’s been successful in T20 cricket. How he has been successful is by taking that time, those first 10 balls, absorbing the pressure, getting in, and then once he reaches 15–20 balls, I don’t think there is a batter like Shubman Gill until he gets himself out. That’s the kind of batter he is. And I think that’s what works for him in T20 cricket," Uthappa said.

Priyanka Chopra

Reveals She ‘Felt Really Lost’ In Bollywood During Her Early Days

Priyanka Chopra is now a global star and one of the biggest names in the industry. The actress, who turned producer just a few years ago, has backed mostly independent and documentary films, and this was a conscious decision taken by her. The reason lies in her early experience in Bollywood. In a recent interview with PTL, Priyanka Chopra spoke about why she chose to produce the kind of films that she has. While talking about her choices, she shared, “As a producer, I’m empathetic, and our ethos is a lot around wanting to give opportunities to newer filmmakers or filmmakers that want to achieve something that they haven’t been able to or are kind of hitting a wall somewhere. My production side kind of comes from what personally moves me.”

The actress continued and shared that she often felt lost in her early days and said, “I didn’t know why I was gravitating towards filmmakers and stories that were maybe marginalised or told that they’re not what is expected... As I’m talking about it, I think it does come from the fact that when I joined the industry, I didn’t have it. I was trying to navigate this crazy movie industry by myself with my parents, who were doctors and who also had no idea about the business. And I kind of felt really lost.”

Priyanka Chopra on Workfront

Now, one of the biggest actresses, Priyanka, started her career at the age of 18 after winning Miss World 2000. In her decades-long career, Priyanka has given some of the finest films to Hindi cinema, including Fashion, for which she won the National Film Award for



Best Actress for her role as a struggling model.

About Priyanka Chopra’s Upcoming Project

Priyanka will soon make an appearance in Varanasi with Prithviraj Sukumaran and Mahesh Babu. The movie, directed by SS Rajamouli, will be released in two parts: the first in 2027 and the second in 2029. For the Varanasi title reveal event, Priyanka wore a traditional lehenga choli and accessorized it with golden and white jewels, flawless makeup, and a stylish hairstyle. Her spouse and her admirers went crazy when they saw how stunning she looked in the outfit.



Rashmika Mandanna

Picks Black Tee And Baggy Jeans For Airport Outing

Rashmika Mandanna has been dominating headlines recently, thanks to her continuous streak of film releases and a tightly packed schedule. Beyond her professional commitments, Rashmika has also attracted attention due to persistent rumours regarding her personal life, particularly her rumoured wedding with actor Vijay Deverakonda. According to reports by India Today, Rashmika and Vijay are said to have gotten engaged privately on October 3, 2025, at Vijay’s residence in Hyderabad. The intimate ceremony reportedly included only close family members and friends, keeping the occasion discreet and away from media attention.

This revelation sparked a wave of excitement among fans, many of whom have been eagerly following the couple’s relationship since their first collaboration on screen.

Rashmika’s Casual and Stylish Airport Look

Despite all the buzz surrounding her personal life, Rashmika was spotted recently at the airport in Hyderabad, looking effortlessly stylish yet low-key. She appeared occupied on her phone but couldn’t hide her signature million-dollar smile. Opting to skip the usual photo op, Rashmika walked with her head slightly down, keeping the moment subtle.

She wore a casual ensemble of baggy blue jeans paired with a black shirt, complemented by sleek black sunglasses. Her hair was tied in a neat ponytail, and she completed the look with elegant heels.

Rashmika Mandanna’s Career Highs in 2025

2025 has undoubtedly been a milestone year for Rashmika Mandanna. She has delivered multiple box-office hits, including Chhaava, Sikandar, Thamma, and the widely discussed The Girlfriend. These films have not only showcased her versatility as an actress but have also strengthened her position as a leading figure in both South Indian and Hindi cinema.

Upcoming Projects: Mysaa and Cocktail 2

Building on the success of The Girlfriend, Rashmika has already teased her upcoming project, Mysaa. The first-look poster reveals her in a fierce and intense avatar, promising a character that contrasts sharply with her recent roles. Additionally, she is set to appear in Cocktail 2, where she will share the screen with Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon.



Shehbaz Badesha Admits Being Unhappy When His Father Graced Bigg Boss 19: ‘I Wish Shehnaaz Had Come’



Bigg Boss season 19 saw contestant Shehbaz Badesha get evicted during the previous weekend ka vaar. Shehbaz Badesha, in a conversation with IANS, reacted to being unhappy with his father coming over for the family week instead of his sister, Shehnaaz Gill. He was seen visibly upset upon seeing his father instead of Shehnaaz. “I wanted Shehnaaz to come and guide me about the game. I love Shehnaaz a lot,” said Shehbaz. “I felt that if my father came, it might affect my game because he didn’t know much about what was happening inside, and he might say something unknowingly that would weaken my game. So I really wished Shehnaaz had come.”

Shehbaz’s father, during his stay in the BB 19 house for the family week episode, was seen having a gala time with all the contestants, especially the female ones – for which he was massively trolled over social media. Reacting to the same, Shehbaz told IANS, “It wasn’t just him. The other side was responding in a similar way too, so why blame only him? If he’s getting trolled, let people troll. People will say whatever they want. It doesn’t affect us.”

Meanwhile, Shehnaaz Gill was seen rooting for her brother while promoting her movie Ikk Kudi. She had even spotted a T-shirt that had Shehbaz’s photo imprinted on it during her movie promotions. The actress was also seen expressing that she is extremely proud of her brother and his game. Shehbaz got evicted right before the show’s grand finale, set for the coming week.

Talking about the same, the former BB 19 contestant told IANS, “I have no regrets. I had a wonderful time inside the Bigg Boss house. I am thankful to Bigg Boss for giving me that experience.”

Jannat Zubair Calls Her Bond With Aly Goni ‘Tom & Jerry’



When there is a conversation about food and fun, there’s no doubt that Colors TV’s popular show Laughter Chef comes to mind. Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment is back with a brand new season. Season 3 of this cooking show brings back the fan-favourite mix of madness, entertainment, and kitchen chaos.

While mom-to-be Bharti Singh, often regarded as the “Laughter Queen,” has returned as the host, celebrity chef Harpal Singh Sokhi once again takes charge as the judge. The season opens the kitchen to both old and new celebrity contestants. The star lineup includes Karan Kundra, Tejasswi Prakash, Debina Bonnerjee, Gurmeet Choudhary, Eisha Singh, Vivian Dsena, Abhishek Kumar, Samarth Jurel, Elvish Yadav, Isha Malviya, Kashmera Shah, Krushna Abhishek, Aly Goni, and Jannat Zubair.

Now, Jannat Zubair has opened up about the vibe of the new season and expressed her excitement to complete tasks with her cooking partner, Aly Goni. She also shared how much she is missing some fellow contestants from the previous season.

Jannat Zubair on What Makes Laughter Chefs Season 3 Bigger and More Exciting

During an interview with Times of India, she discussed the factors that set the new season of Laughter Chefs apart from the previous one. She said, “This season is honestly on another level! The kitchen has always been chaotic, but this time it feels like the flame has been turned all the way up. After two superhit seasons, the show is back and its bigger, crazier, and spicier. We have new jodis and new teams, including our very own team Kaanta and team Churri, who are ready to bring their spark, speed, and full-on fun to the kitchen.”

She added, “You’ll see lovebirds, best friends, frenemies, reality-show rivals, and complete first-time cooks all trying to survive the same rasoi. Trust me, the kitchen has never seen this much teasing, tasting, tantrums, teamwork, and glamour. What I truly love is that it’s still not about being the best chef, it’s about chemistry, confusion, last-minute disasters, and those moments where the dish might fail but the laughter always wins.”

Jannat Zubair Is Excited To Cook Food With Aly Goni

When asked how excited she is to cook food with Aly Goni, she shared, “I’m genuinely thrilled! Cooking with Aly is a challenge – for him! He’s focused, steady, and really serious about getting things right. And now that we’re partners, I feel like I genuinely have a shot at winning the most stars this season because Aly cooks well. We have this Tom-and-Jerry style comfort where we’ll argue over something silly and then laugh the very next minute.”

Jannat Zubair Misses These Contestants From Previous Seasons

The Phulwa actress also revealed the names of her fellow contestants from the previous season. She said, “I’m missing a lot of people this season such as Ankita di, Vicky bhaiya, and Nia. We’ve made some incredible memories together. But the person I miss the most is Reem. She’s not just a friend; she’s like my sister, and she was my partner in Season 1. We understood each other without even speaking.”

56 former SC/HC judges come out against attempt to remove Madras HC judge

New Delhi, Agency: Taking strong exception to opposition MPs’ notice for a motion to remove Justice GR Swaminathan for his judgment in the Tirupparankundram Deepam case, a group of 56 former judges of the Supreme Court and 14 high courts on Friday urged MPs to ensure that it’s nipped in the bud.

In a ‘Statement of Solidarity and Call to Protect Independence of Judiciary’, the former judges, including former SC judges — Justice Adarsh Goel and Justice

Hemant Gupta — called upon MPs across party lines, members of the Bar, civil society, and citizens at large — to unequivocally denounce the move. This is a brazen attempt to browbeat judges who do not fall in line with the ideological and political expectations of a particular section of society. If such an attempt is permitted to proceed, it would cut at the very roots of our democracy and the independence of the judiciary,” the statement read.

More than 100 opposition MPs from Lok Sabha on Tuesday submitted to Speaker



Om Birla a notice to move a motion for removal of Justice Swaminathan, who has been criticised by the DMK-led

hillock in the state.

“Judges must remain answerable to their oath and to the Constitution of India, not to partisan political pressures or ideological intimidation,” the former judges, including five former high court chief justices, said.

Even if the reasons mentioned by the signatory Member(s) of Parliament are taken at face value, they are wholly inadequate to justify resorting to such a rare, exceptional and serious constitutional measure as impeachment,” they said.

“It may be recalled that even during the dark period of the Emergency, the then government adopted various mechanisms including supersessions to penalise judges who refused to “toe the line”. The supersession of three senior-most judges of the Supreme Court after the decision in Kesavananda Bharati, the sidelining of Justice HR Khanna after his famous dissent in ADM Jabalpur, are sobering reminders of how political overreach can damage judicial independence.

ED raids 25 locations across 3 states in illegal codeine-based cough syrup case

Lucknow, Agency: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided 25 locations simultaneously across six cities in three states — Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat — on Friday morning in connection with a major illegal network dealing in codeine-based cough syrup, ED officials said.

In Lucknow, raids were conducted at five locations, including the residences of suspended Uttar Pradesh police constable Alok Pratap Singh, Jaunpur businessman Amit Kumar Singh, alias Amit Tata, and three others.



in February 2024, when a large consignment of illicit Phensedyl cough syrup was seized in the Sushant Golf City area of Lucknow.

Subsequent investigations by the UP Special Task Force (STF) led to the arrest of Vibhor Rana and Vishal, who disclosed the existence of a much larger network. It was during this interrogation that the name of Varanasi resident Shubham Jaiswal surfaced for the first time.

Continued probe and the arrests of Amit ‘Tata’ and dismissed police constable Alok Singh on November 27 and December 2, respectively, revealed the full scale of the illegal trade.

The ED subsequently registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on December 1 and began tracing financial links.

For the past five days, the ED had been scrutinising details of more than 80 firms allegedly linked to over 20 accused, including Shubham Jaiswal, Alok Pratap Singh, Amit Singh Tata, Vibhor Rana and Vishala Rana.

On December 8, the ED past-

ed a notice at Jaiswal’s Varanasi residence, summoning him despite his suspected presence in Dubai. Once the financial trail and property details were consolidated, Friday’s coordinated raids were launched.

Delhi court allows interim bail to Umar Khalid for sister’s wedding

New Delhi, Agency: A Delhi court on Thursday granted interim bail to former JNU scholar and Delhi riots conspiracy accused Umar Khalid, permitting him to attend his sister’s wedding later this month.

Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai allowed Khalid to remain out on bail from December 16 to December 29. The judge noted that the request was for the wedding of Khalid’s sister and approved



his plea on a personal bond of Rs 20,000 with two sureties of the same amount.

The court imposed strict conditions while granting the

bail. Khalid has been barred from using social media during this period and is allowed to meet only his family members, relatives and friends.

He must remain at his home or at the venues where the wedding ceremonies, as listed in his application, will be held.

Khalid had originally sought bail from December 14 to December 29. His sister’s wedding is scheduled for December 27.

“Further, the applicant’s father is 71 years old and mother is 62 years and during the period of interim bail, the applicant will spend some time with his parents.

Be ready with ‘kitchen tools’, Mamata urges women amid SIR row

New Delhi, Agency: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has triggered a fresh political storm after urging women to “be ready with kitchen tools” if their names were deleted from the electoral rolls, sharpening her attack on the Centre and the Election Commission during a rally in Krishnanagar.

Mamata, addressing a Trinamool Congress gathering, alleged that the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of voter lists was being misused to disenfranchise electorate in Opposition strongholds ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

Mothers and sisters, if your names are struck off, you have the tools at



home. You won’t let it pass if your names are cut, right? The women will

fight from the front and the men will stand behind them,” she said.

Her remarks, widely circulated on social media and reported by regional outlets, came alongside a broader accusation that the SIR was a “political weapon” deployed to benefit the BJP. She claimed Central agencies and police teams from Delhi would be used to intimidate voters during the revision exercise.

She also escalated her attack on Home Minister Amit Shah, calling him “dangerous” and accusing the BJP of attempting to brand Bengalis as outsiders and push them to detention centres, a charge the party has rejected.

‘Follow strict regime’: Doctor’s word of caution as Ozempic launches in India

New Delhi, Agency: Novo Nordisk on Friday launched Ozempic in India at 2,200 for the 0.25 mg weekly dose, tapping into the country’s fast-growing diabetes and obesity market. The drug, however, is not a quick fix.

Experts say it works for both diabetes and weight management but needs a strict routine for better health support.

‘Follow strict regime’

“It is a medicine used for both diabetes and weight treatment. While undergoing the course, one should follow a strict regime and engage in regular exercise,” Dr Unnikrishnan of Chellaram Diabetes Institute told news agency.

He also discussed how with the correct routine, it could facilitate better health



for diabetes patients.

“This medicine is not just for weight loss but for overall health, as it can also help prevent heart and kidney-related problems in diabetes patients,” he added.

Ozempic launch in India

India’s drug regulator, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), approved Ozempic (semaglutide) for use in October this year for adults with type 2 diabetes.

The company will sell the injectable drug in the country in 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg and 1 mg strengths, Reuters reported.

India, home to the world’s second-largest population of type 2 diabetes patients after China and facing steadily rising obesity rates, has become a crucial market for weight-loss and metabolic drugs.

Analysts expect the segment to expand to about \$150 billion annually by the

end of the decade, the report added.

Ozempic, approved in the US in 2017 for type 2 diabetes, is now a global bestseller and commonly used off-label for weight loss.

Novo Nordisk says the drug also lowers the risk of cardiovascular events and kidney issues.

“Ozempic also helps people with weight loss of up to 8 kilograms in people with diabetes... So, this medication has benefits beyond glycemic control,” Novo Nordisk India head Vikrant Shrotriya told Reuters.

In India, it can be prescribed only by endocrinologists or internal medicine specialists and is not meant for cosmetic use, according to the report.

Nagaland CM urges police to work with renewed vigour, discipline

Kohima, Agency: Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Friday urged the state police to continue serving with “renewed vigour, discipline and determination”, reminding officers that the trust placed upon them must inspire excellence in every duty they undertake.

Addressing the force during the inauguration of the upgraded Police Officers’ Mess at New Police Reserve Phesama, about 8 km South of Kohima, Rio said the state’s consistently low crime rate reflects the efficiency, preparedness, and preventive intelligence of the police.

Rio underscored that the new facility should not only serve as an officers’ mess but also as a space that strengthens camaraderie, improves well-being, and hosts official and social programmes.

“Let this building be a reminder of the responsibility on your shoulders and a symbol of the pride our people place in the police,” he said.

Calling the upgraded Officers’

Mess a “proud symbol of progress, vision and commitment”, Rio noted that the project was completed on time under SASCI Part I, where timely completion is crucial to avoid financial penalties.

During the programme, Rio handed over the Pension Payment Orders to retired personnel and group term life insurance benefits of ₹10 lakh each to four nominees under the Police Salary Scheme scheme.

The chief minister emphasised building a strong banking culture, digital transactions, and streamlining pension systems to eliminate ghost employees and ensure transparency. He urged other departments to adopt similar best practices.

He encouraged all officers to use the new facility meaningfully and continue contributing to the state’s safety with integrity. “Together, let us move forward with unity and unwavering dedication in the service of our people,” he said.

The Sweet Mistake That Created Chocolate Chip Cookies



New Delhi:Sometimes the greatest delights in life come from unexpected mistakes, and the story of chocolate chip cookies perfectly proves that. Today, this cookie is one of the most loved treats in the world, but very few know that it was invented completely by accident in the 1930s.The invention traces back to **Ruth Wakefield**, the owner of the Toll House Inn in Massachusetts, USA. Ruth was a talented cook known for her creativity. One day, while preparing a batch of her famous butter cookies, she ran out of baker's chocolate, which was normally used to give flavor to the dough. Instead of stopping or changing her plan, she picked up a bar of Nestlé semisweet chocolate and chopped it into small pieces. She expected the chocolate to melt and spread evenly throughout the dough during baking.

But the opposite happened.
The chocolate chunks didn't melt com-

pletely. Instead, they held their shape and softened, creating gooey pockets of chocolate inside the cookie. What Ruth thought was a mistake turned out to be a delightful discovery. When she served the cookies to her guests, the response was extraordinary. People loved the combination of crispy cookie and melted chocolate pieces, and soon the "Toll House Chocolate Crunch Cookie" became a sensation.

The story doesn't end there. The popularity of the cookie skyrocketed, and consumers began asking Nestlé for chocolate specifically made for baking. Seeing the opportunity, Nestlé struck a deal with Ruth Wakefield. In exchange for her recipe, Ruth was given a lifetime supply of Nestlé chocolate. The company printed Ruth's recipe on every chocolate package and even introduced **chocolate chips**, which were created especially for baking cookies.

The Surprising Discovery Behind Penicillin

New Delhi:The invention of penicillin, the world's first antibiotic, was not the result of a planned medical breakthrough. Instead, it was a remarkable accident that changed the course of medicine and saved millions of lives. In 1928, British bacteriologist Alexander Fleming made this groundbreaking discovery while studying bacteria in his laboratory.

Fleming was researching *Staphylococcus* bacteria, which cause many infections. One day, after returning from a two-week vacation, he noticed something unusual on one of his petri dishes. A patch of mold had grown on the dish, and around this mold, the bacteria had disappeared. This wasn't normal-in fact, it was the exact opposite of what should have happened. Instead of ruining the experiment, the mold seemed to be killing the bacteria.

Fleming observed the mold carefully and identified it as *Penicillium notatum*. He hypothesized that the mold released a substance that prevented bacterial growth. After conducting more tests, he confirmed his suspicion. The mold extract was pow-



erful enough to kill harmful bacteria like streptococcus and staphylococcus. Fleming named this antibacterial substance penicillin.

However, Fleming's discovery did not immediately lead to a medical revolution. The challenge was producing penicillin in large quantities. The mold grew slowly and was difficult to cultivate. It wasn't until the 1940s, during World War II, that scientists Howard Florey, Ernst Chain, and their teams developed methods to mass-produce penicillin. Their efforts transformed Fleming's accidental discovery into a global med-

ical solution.

Penicillin went on to treat countless infections that were once deadly-such as pneumonia, scarlet fever, and wound infections. Soldiers wounded in combat were saved, and the mortality rate from infections dropped dramatically. The success of penicillin also inspired the discovery of many new antibiotics, revolutionizing modern medicine.Fleming's accidental discovery teaches us that scientific breakthroughs often depend on careful observation, curiosity, and the ability to notice the extraordinary in the ordinary. While

many would have thrown away the contaminated dish, Fleming's open mind allowed him to recognize the potential in something that looked like a spoiled experiment.

Penicillin continues to be one of the most important medical discoveries in human history. What started as a small patch of mold on a forgotten petri dish became a life-saving drug that changed healthcare forever. Fleming once said, "Nature makes penicillin; I only discovered it." His humility reflects how accidental discoveries often rely on both luck and the skill to understand what that luck means.



The Microwave Oven-A Kitchen Miracle Born from Serendipity

New Delhi:Today, microwave ovens are found in nearly every household, making cooking and reheating food quick and convenient. But few know that this revolutionary appliance was invented entirely by accident. The microwave oven traces its surprising origin to 1945 and a curious engineer named **Percy Spencer**.

Spencer was working for the Raytheon Corporation, a company focused on radar technology. During World War II, radar systems used something called magnetrons, devices that generated microwave radiation. Spencer, known for his natural curiosity and problem-solving skills, was testing a magnetron one day when something unexpected happened.

He had a chocolate bar in his pocket, and while standing close to the active magnetron, he felt the chocolate melting. At first, he thought it was simply body heat, but he soon realized it melted much faster and more unevenly than normal. Intrigued, Spencer

decided to investigate further.

He placed popcorn kernels near the magnetron, and they started popping instantly. This was a clear indication that microwaves were causing food to heat rapidly. To test even more, Spencer tried placing an egg near the device; the egg exploded due to the rapid buildup of steam inside it. These surprising results convinced him that microwave energy could be harnessed to cook food efficiently.

Spencer and his team quickly began developing a cooking device using this technology. In 1947, Raytheon introduced the first microwave oven, known as the "Radarange." However, it was huge-over six feet tall-and extremely expensive, so it was mostly used in restaurants and industrial kitchens.

As technology improved, microwaves became smaller, more affordable, and suitable for home use. By the 1970s, microwave ovens had entered millions of households, revolutionizing cooking methods.

The Sticky Accident That Created Post-it Notes

New Delhi:Sometimes an invention that seems small can change everyday life in big ways. Post-it Notes-those colorful sticky pieces of paper used everywhere from offices to classrooms-were also an accidental invention. Their creation is a story of failure transformed into a useful innovation.

The journey started in 1968 with Dr. Spencer Silver, a scientist at the company 3M. Silver was attempting to develop a super-strong adhesive for aircraft construction. Instead, he accidentally created a weak, pressure-sensitive adhesive that stuck lightly to surfaces but could be easily removed without damage. He called it a "low-tack adhesive." While interesting, it did not fit the purpose of strong bonding. Many of his colleagues at 3M didn't see

any real use for it.

For years, Silver tried to convince others that his adhesive could be useful, but no one could imagine a product that required something "weak" instead of something strong. The idea remained undeveloped until 1974, when another 3M scientist, Art Fry, figured out a practical application.

Fry sang in a church choir and often used paper bookmarks to mark pages in his hymn book. However, the bookmarks kept falling out. One day, he remembered Silver's low-tack adhesive and realized it could solve his problem. He applied the adhesive to small slips of paper, which stuck perfectly to the book pages without damaging them. This was the beginning of what we now know as Post-it Notes.

Fry refined the idea and worked with Silver to develop a prototype. After initial skepticism within the company, 3M finally launched the product. Post-it Notes were first introduced in select markets, and the response was overwhelming. People loved the convenience of a note that could stick, be removed, and re-stick without leaving marks.

By 1980, Post-it Notes were officially rolled out nationwide in the United States.They quickly became a global phenomenon. Today, they come in countless colors, sizes, and designs and are used in offices, schools, homes, and creative industries. Their simplicity and versatility make them an essential tool for organization and productivity.

The invention of Post-it



Notes shows how innovation can come from unexpected results. Silver's failure to create a strong adhesive wasn't truly a failure-it just wasn't the right discovery for its time. Art Fry's creativity

turned that "failed" adhesive into a revolutionary product. Their combined efforts demonstrate an important lesson: sometimes the value of an idea is hidden until someone imagines its poten-

tial differently.

From a failed experiment to a worldwide office essential, Post-it Notes remind us that accidents can lead to powerful innovations when curiosity meets opportunity.

