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# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### Why Is China Silent On Iran An Expert Decodes Beijing's Hidden Play

**world. (Agency)**  
China's deep energy ties with Iran are suddenly under the harshest spotlight in years as US and Israeli strikes push Tehran into open confrontation and threaten the oil arteries that power the Chinese economy. Beijing has condemned the attacks and called for a ceasefire. But it has stopped short of any economic retaliation that could endanger the very energy flows it depends on. Before dawn on February 28, the United States and Israel launched coordinated strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, missile installations and leadership compounds across Tehran, Isfahan and Qom. President Donald Trump labeled the assault "Operation Epic Fury," framing it as a decisive blow after months of stalled nuclear negotiations and mounting regional tension. Israel's parallel campaign, "Roaring Lion," focused on degrading Iran's ballistic missile capabilities and senior command structure. For China, the crisis is not abstract.

Beijing buys more than 80 percent of Iran's oil exports. In 2025, that translated to roughly 1.38 million barrels per day, accounting for about 13 to 14 percent of China's total seaborne crude imports. The exposure is substantial but not singular. China's two biggest suppliers remain Russia and Saudi Arabia, and since the escalation Chinese refiners have quietly trimmed Iranian purchases and leaned more on discounted Russian barrels to keep overall supply stable. Balakrishnan, co founder of Avellon Intelligence, called Tehran's retaliation "a historic strategic blunder." In his view, Iran is not merely confronting a superior military coalition. It is "jeopardising its pivotal role as a linchpin in China's energy and geopolitical architecture in West Asia." Iran anchors a 25-year cooperation framework with Beijing covering energy, infrastructure and transport corridors tied to the Belt and Road Initiative. Discounted crude shipments, often routed through complex trading channels, have given China a steady supply cushion amid Western sanctions.

### US Officials Skeptical Of Regime Change In Iran After Khamenei Killing

**Washington. (Agency)**  
Following the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday, many senior US officials remain skeptical that the US and Israeli military operation against the Islamic Republic will lead to a regime change in the near term. Before and after the start of the attack, U.S. officials, including U.S. President Donald Trump, had suggested that toppling the nation's repressive governing system was one of several U.S. goals, in addition to crippling Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear programs. "I call upon all Iranian patriots who yearn for freedom to seize this moment ... and take back your country," Trump said on Sunday in a video posted on Truth Social. But three U.S. officials familiar with U.S. intelligence said there is serious skepticism that Iran's battered opposition can topple the theocratic, authoritarian governing system that has been in place since 1979. No officials consulted by Reuters completely ruled out the possibility of the fall of Iran's government, which currently is buffeted by key personnel losses from ongoing U.S. and Israeli air strikes and is deeply unpopular following a January round of extraordinarily violent repression. But it is far from likely or even probable in the near term, they said. Reuters reported earlier that Central Intelligence Agency assessments presented to the White House in the weeks before the Iran attack concluded that if Khamenei was killed, he could be replaced by hard-line figures from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or equally hard-line clerics, two sources said.

### "Reconsider Travel": US Raises Bahrain, Qatar Advisories Amid Iran Conflict

**world. (Agency)**  
The United States raised its travel advisories for Bahrain and Qatar to Level 3 in the aftermath of the launch of US combat operations in Iran, citing security risks and potential disruptions across the Middle East. The State Department said it updated its Travel Advisory for Bahrain on February 28 "to reflect that the Department authorized the departure of non-emergency US government personnel and family members of US government personnel to leave Bahrain due to security concerns." The advisory increased "from Level 2 to Level 3." The updated advisory states: "Reconsider Travel to Bahrain due to terrorism and armed conflict." It added that "Following the onset of hostilities between the United States and Iran on February 28, there has been an ongoing threat of drone and missile attacks from Iran and significant disruptions to commercial flights." The department also warned that "Terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Bahrain. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning." Separately, the State Department raised Qatar's Travel Advisory to Level 3 on March 1, up from Level 1, again authorising the departure of non-emergency personnel and family members due to security concerns. The updated notice states: "Reconsider Travel to Qatar due to the threat of armed conflict." It cited the same regional developments, noting that "Following the onset of hostilities between the United States and Iran on February 28, there has been an ongoing threat of drone and missile attacks from Iran and significant disruptions to commercial flights." The advisory further said, "The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) and/or a Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) for the region, including Qatar. This is due to risks to civil aviation from political and military tensions in the region."

## Trump says US, Israel prepared to sustain Iran strikes for 'four to five weeks'

**Trump tells The New York Times that US, Israel can sustain strikes for weeks; offers Venezuela-like model for Iran leadership transition while warning of possible casualties**

**world. (Agency)**  
In a telephone interview with The New York Times on Sunday, US President Donald Trump said the United States intends to maintain its military assault on Iran for "four to five weeks" if necessary, asserting that sustaining the intensity of the operation alongside Israel "won't be difficult," even as he acknowledged the likelihood of further American casualties. Trump suggested multiple, at times contradictory, scenarios for a transition of

power in Tehran following the killing of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a US-Israeli airstrike over the weekend. Among the options, he cited a model similar to the operation in Venezuela, in which only the top leader was removed while the rest of the government remained, newly willing to cooperate with the United States. "The country has been very substantially weakened, to put it mildly," Trump told The New York Times, adding that the Pentagon retained sufficient forces, missiles, and ammunition globally to continue the assault "if we have to. Trump also claimed that US and Israeli strikes had "knocked out a big portion" of Iran's navy, including nine ships and the navy headquarters. He indicated that the conflict could result in casualties, but expressed confidence that the military operations would ultimately pressure Iran into compliance. "Three is three too many as far as I'm concerned," he said, referring to projected American casualties. On the question of Iran's future leadership, Trump was vague. He said he had "three



very good choices" for who could lead the country, but did not name them. He also suggested that Iran's elite military forces, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, might voluntarily surrender their arms to the Iranian populace, a scenario experts have considered unlikely. Trump repeatedly referred to his experience in Venezuela as a model for Iran, though analysts note significant differences in population, military capability, and

political structure make a direct comparison challenging. "Everybody's kept their job except for two people," he said of the Venezuelan operation, emphasizing the U.S. goal of removing only the top leadership while keeping the rest of the government functional. He left open the possibility of the Iranian people overthrowing their government, saying, "That's going to be up to them about whether or not they do. They've been talking about it for years so now they'll obviously have an opportunity." Trump also indicated that he did not consider Gulf Arab states necessary for US strikes on Iran, despite Tehran targeting several regional countries with missile and drone attacks. The interview, conducted from Mar-a-Lago approximately 36 hours after Khamenei's killing, came shortly after Trump received news of American casualties. He said he was about to meet with military generals and insisted that the U.S.-Israeli campaign remained "ahead of schedule."

## Israel hits Lebanon after Hezbollah fire, expanding Iran war

**BEIRUT. (Agency)**  
Israeli forces launched strikes on Lebanon including the capital Beirut on Monday, the military said, after Tehran-backed militant group Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel in retaliation for the killing of Iran's supreme leader. An AFP journalist heard several loud explosions in Beirut early on Monday, as the Israeli military said it had "begun striking targets of the Hezbollah terrorist organisation across Lebanon". The Israeli strikes followed rocket and drone launches from Lebanon, the first attack on Israel claimed by Hezbollah since a November 2024 ceasefire agreement that followed more than a year of war between them. Hezbollah has been weakened from conflict with Israel, which it entered to support Hamas following the Palestinian militant group's deadly attack on Israel in October 2023 and the subsequent war in the Gaza strip. Israel has carried out regular strikes on Lebanon since

the ceasefire came into effect, usually saying it targets the militant group and accusing it of truce violations. On Monday, a military statement said Israeli forces "precisely struck" senior Hezbollah members in the Beirut area, and another in the south. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported Israeli strikes across the country, including in Beirut's southern suburbs where Hezbollah holds sway. Israel then issued a warning to residents of about 50 towns and villages in Lebanon's south and east -- both Hezbollah strongholds. "Hezbollah's actions force the IDF (army) to act against it... For your safety, evacuate your homes immediately and move at least 1,000 metres (0.6 miles) away from your village to open areas," army spokeswoman Ella Waweya said in a statement on X. Hezbollah earlier claimed responsibility for the rocket and drone attack on Israel, which it said was retaliation for the killing of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a wave of US-Israeli strikes on Tehran at the weekend. It was also "in defence of Lebanon and its people, and in response to the repeated Israeli attacks", Hezbollah said. An official from the group had told AFP last week that Hezbollah would not intervene militarily in the event of "limited" US strikes on its backer Iran, but would consider any attack against Khamenei a "red line".



## Last Total Lunar Eclipse Until 2029 Is Coming Today

**Melbourne. (Agency)**  
On Tuesday March 3, the Moon will pass directly through Earth's shadow, creating a total lunar eclipse. Best of all, Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand are in a prime position to watch the show. This time, the eclipse even occurs at a reasonable hour - no need to set an alarm and crawl out of bed at a ridiculous time. On Tuesday evening, a dark shadow will begin to sweep across the bright and round full Moon. Once the Moon becomes fully immersed in shadow, it will take on a reddish glow. Astronomers call this "totality". But with the ominous appearance of a red Moon hanging large in the sky, it's no wonder that throughout history and across cultures it was seen as a portent of evil. In today's world, the name "blood moon" has readily captured public imagination. Watching a lunar eclipse

is a reminder that we are part of a fascinating universe. No special equipment is needed and it's usually not hard to find the Moon in the sky. Tomorrow's eclipse will be our last chance to see a blood moon until 2029, when it will ring in the New Year in the early hours of January 1. In this case, it'll take 75 minutes for the Moon to enter Earth's shadow - what's known as the partial eclipse phase. This will be followed by an hour of totality when the Moon turns red, and then another 75 minutes as the Moon emerges out of the shadow and returns to full brightness. Since Earth's shadow is so large compared to the Moon, everyone on our planet's night side experiences a lunar eclipse at exactly the same time. To know when to see the totality, we only need to make adjustments for different time zones. **Total lunar eclipse on the night of 3-4**

**March 2026**  
Click on your state or country to learn when the eclipse will begin and when totality will be visible. For Western Australia, number of locations are given because the eclipse begins with the Moon below the horizon. The time of the eclipse depends only on time zone, but the time of moonrise is location specific. Across most of Western Australia the eclipse begins with the Moon below the horizon. As the Moon rises it will be partly in shadow, making it hard to spot, especially against the bright twilight sky (noting that the Moon is rising as the Sun is setting). However, just give it some time and the eclipsed Moon will become easier to see as it climbs higher in the east and twilight gives way to night. The eclipse will start later in the evening across the rest of Australia, with the Moon in the eastern sky.

## Blasts in Kabul as Afghan govt says responding to Pakistan attacks

**KABUL. (Agency)**  
Explosions were heard in the Afghan capital Kabul on Sunday, AFP journalists said, with the Taliban government saying they were responding to aerial attacks by Pakistan. A spokesman for Afghanistan's defence ministry said that "air defence strikes were carried out against Pakistani aircraft in Kabul". Months of cross-border clashes have flared again since Thursday, when Afghanistan launched an offensive along the border, with Pakistani forces hitting back on the border and on the skies. The renewed violence came after Afghan residents and officials said troops from both countries had been battling along the border, with the fighting coming alongside multiple strikes including the former US air base at Bagram. Earlier, residents in multiple areas bordering Pakistan told AFP of fighting, while the Afghan government said three people were killed overnight in drone strikes and shelling. North of the capital Kabul, air strikes "hit Bagram air base", according to a resident who AFP is not naming for security reasons. A second resident said "it was very strong, which shook the area. There was smoke and fire coming out north of the airport", describing the dawn raid as "very terrifying". The provincial spokesman, Fazl ul Rahim Maskin Yar, said Pakistani jets "attempted to bomb" the base, but there were no casualties or damage. Pakistan acknowledged bombing key cities Friday including Kabul and Kandahar, which is home to Afghanistan's supreme leader, but has not commented on Sunday's strikes. The presence of security forces was boosted in central Kabul on Sunday evening, with increased checks on cars, an AFP journalist said. Late Sunday evening, Afghan officials claimed to have retaliated with strikes on multiple bases in Pakistan that caused "significant damage", including in the major city of Rawalpindi, though there were no immediate Pakistani reports of such attacks. "Any further violations of our airspace or acts of aggression by hostile Pakistani elements will be met with a swift, decisive, and proportionate response," the Afghan Ministry of Defence posted on X, with a video of a drone flying into the distance. **Border clashes**  
Before dawn, AFP journalists in the capital heard an explosion followed by successive gunfire, with Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Zujahid saying anti-aircraft fire was being shot at Pakistani planes. Drones were also heard by an AFP journalist in the border province of Khost, while in Jalalabad city -- between Kabul and the border -- an AFP photographer saw a jet. The Afghan government's deputy spokesman, Hamdullah Fitrat, said Pakistani fire had killed 36 civilians across multiple provinces since Thursday, which Islamabad has not commented on.

## Oil prices rise sharply after attacks in West Asia disrupt global energy supply

**Crude surges over 7% amid attacks on vessels in Strait of Hormuz; OPEC+ plans modest output boost fail to ease market fears**

**NEW YORK. (Agency)**  
Oil prices rose sharply Monday as U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran and retaliatory strikes against Israel and U.S. military installations around the Gulf sent disruptions through the global energy supply chain. Traders were betting the supply of oil from Iran and elsewhere in the Middle East would slow or grind to a halt. Attacks throughout the region, including on two vessels travelling through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf, have restricted countries' ability to export oil to the rest of the world. Prolonged attacks would likely result in higher prices for crude oil and gasoline, according to

energy experts. West Texas Intermediate, the light, sweet crude oil produced in the United States, was selling for about \$72 a barrel early Monday, up around 7.3% from its trading price of about \$67 on Friday, according to data from CME group. A barrel of Brent crude, the international standard, was trading at \$78.55 per barrel early Monday, according to FactSet, up 7.8% from its trading price of \$72.87 on Friday, which had been a seven-month high at the time. Higher global energy prices could lead to consumers paying more for gasoline at the pump and shelling out more for groceries and other goods, at a time when many are already feeling the impacts of elevated inflation. Roughly 15 million barrels of crude oil per day, about 20% of the world's oil, are shipped through the Strait of Hormuz, making it the world's most critical oil chokepoint, according to Rystad Energy. Tankers traveling through the strait, which is bordered in the north by Iran, carry oil and gas from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, the UAE and Iran.

Iran had temporarily shut down parts of the strait in mid-February for what it said was a military drill, which led oil prices to jump about 6% higher in the days that followed. Against that backdrop, eight countries that



are part of the OPEC+ oil cartel announced they would boost production of crude Sunday. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, in a meeting planned before the war began, said it would increase production by 206,000 barrels per

day in April, which was more than analysts had been expecting. The countries boosting output include Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Oman. "Roughly one-fifth of global oil supply passes through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for world trade, meaning markets are more concerned with whether barrels can move than with spare capacity on paper," said Jorge León, Rystad's senior vice president and head of geopolitical analysis, in an email. "If flows through the Gulf are constrained, additional production will provide limited immediate relief, making access to export routes far more important than headline output targets." Iran exports roughly 1.6 million barrels of oil a day, mostly to China, which may need to look elsewhere for supply if Iran's exports are disrupted, another factor that could increase energy prices.

# Trump Warns 'Big Wave Yet to Come' as US Strikes Iran's Isfahan Nuclear Site

**Washington:** U.S. President Donald Trump has warned that the heaviest phase of America's military campaign against Iran is still to unfold, declaring that a "big wave" of action is yet to come even as fresh explosions were reported near Iran's nuclear complex in Isfahan. The warning comes amid confirmed American casualties in the widening conflict and mounting regional tension. Trump vowed retaliation for the deaths of U.S. service members, saying Iran would face consequences, but also hinted at the possibility of dialogue with Tehran's new leadership. The escalation follows a dramatic joint U.S.-Israel operation that reportedly killed several top Iranian figures, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, marking a watershed moment in Iran's political and military landscape.

**Operation Epic Fury Expands**  
Under the codename Operation Epic Fury, the United States has launched a broad, high-technology offensive targeting Iranian military infrastructure, missile sites and strategic assets. Stealth B-2 Spirit bombers carried out precision strikes on fortified underground facilities, deploying heavy bunker-busting munitions against hardened targets. The aircraft, designed for deep penetration missions, struck key installations believed to support Iran's missile capabilities. Simultaneously, U.S. Navy warships launched Tomahawk cruise missiles from regional waters, hitting high-value targets hundreds of kilometres inside Iranian territory. The long-range missiles formed part of a coordinated strike package aimed at crippling command-and-control centres and missile storage facilities.



Advanced fighter jets, including the F-35 Lightning II and F/A-18 Super Hornet, supported the assault by conducting precision air-to-ground missions and suppressing Iranian air defence systems. In a significant battlefield development, the Precision Strike Missile made its combat debut. Fired from the M142 HIMARS platform, the next-generation ballistic missile extends the U.S. Army's strike range and enhances long-distance precision capabilities. The United States also deployed armed MQ-9 Reaper drones for targeted operations, along with the low-cost LUCAS loitering munition system, marking its first operational use in combat. Military officials describe the drone as a cost-effective tool for modern asymmetric warfare.

**Regional Fallout**  
The scale and sophistication of the campaign signal a sharp escalation in West Asia, raising fears of a broader regional confrontation. Energy markets have reacted nervously, and diplomatic channels remain active as global powers call for restraint. Yet with Trump asserting that the "big wave" is still ahead, the conflict appears poised to intensify further, reshaping the strategic balance in the Middle East and deepening uncertainty across the region.

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## Gold, Silver Soar as Middle East Conflict Deepens



**RNS:** Precious metal prices surged sharply on Monday as escalating tensions in the Middle East triggered a rush toward safe-haven assets, lifting both gold and silver to record highs in domestic markets. Gold jumped to around ₹1.68 lakh per 10 grams, while silver rallied to nearly ₹2.93 lakh per kilogram, reflecting intense buying interest. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for April delivery climbed about 3.6%, while May silver contracts gained over 3.7%, underscoring strong investor demand amid heightened uncertainty. The spike follows a dramatic escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict. A joint military strike by the United States and Israel reportedly killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, triggering swift retaliation from Tehran. Iran launched ballistic missiles and drone attacks targeting Israeli cities and US military bases across the region. The conflict widened further as Hezbollah opened a front from Lebanon, claiming retaliation for senior Iranian casualties. Israel responded with airstrikes on Hezbollah positions in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Since February 28, multiple waves of strikes have reportedly targeted Iranian military, nuclear, and leadership infrastructure, significantly intensifying hostilities. Retaliatory attacks on US and allied bases in Gulf countries have deepened fears of a broader regional war, rattling global markets. With equity markets turning volatile and oil prices reacting to supply risks, investors have increasingly shifted funds into bullion as a hedge against geopolitical and economic instability. Market analysts say that if tensions continue to escalate, precious metals could remain elevated, with gold and silver likely to see sustained support from global safe-haven demand.

## Air Connectivity & Jobs Boost: Kumar Amit Urges State to Revive Bokaro Airport, Set Up Industrial Corridor



**Ranchi/Bokaro:** BJP State Working Committee member Kumar Amit on Monday met Jharkhand Chief Secretary Avinash Kumar at the state Secretariat, urging for the resumption of passenger flight services from Bokaro Airport and the establishment of an industrial corridor in the district. Submitting a memorandum, Kumar Amit urged the state government to take special initiative to operationalise the ₹100-crore Bokaro Airport, stating that regular air connectivity would fast-track regional development. He also called for setting up an industrial corridor in Bokaro to attract investment and generate employment for local youth. During the meeting, Amit felicitated the Chief Secretary with a shawl and memento, thanking him for initiating the stalled expansion process of Bokaro Steel Plant and expressing confidence that Bokaro would see accelerated growth under his leadership. Chief Secretary assured that the concerns raised would be taken seriously and necessary steps would be explored.

## BIT, Mesra Launches Jharkhand's First Interdisciplinary M.A. in Liberal Arts

**Ranchi:** In a significant academic expansion, the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at BIT Mesra has announced the launch of Jharkhand's first-of-its-kind two-year interdisciplinary M.A. in Liberal Arts programme. Structured across four semesters, the course blends humanities, social sciences, digital systems and emerging technologies into a unified postgraduate framework. The curriculum spans cultural studies, philosophy, sociology, psychology, sustainability studies, information science, media, digital humanities and AI-linked inquiry—aimed at equipping students to critically examine contemporary social and technological challenges. Open to graduates from any discipline with a minimum of 55% aggregate marks (or equivalent CGPA) as per UGC norms, the programme is designed to align academic depth with evolving industry expectations. Officials said the course will foster critical and creative thinking while grounding students in ethical and interdisciplinary perspectives. Detailed information on eligibility, curriculum and admission procedures is available on the institute's official website.

## 'Spoke to my great friend PM Modi,' Netanyahu Praises India's Stand as Iran Missiles Strike Israel

**RNS:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said he had a detailed conversation with his "great friend" Narendra Modi, thanking him for India's support as tensions between Israel and Iran continue to intensify. Speaking during a visit to Beit Shemesh — where an Iranian missile strike hit a synagogue and left nine people dead — Netanyahu said he personally expressed gratitude to Modi for standing firmly with Israel. "I spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at length and thanked him for his support, for standing with Israel and for the deep friendship shared between our peoples," Netanyahu said, adding that Indians are widely admired in Israel. He declined to disclose details of the conversation but confirmed he has also been in touch with several other global leaders. The Israeli Prime Minister was seen inspecting the debris at the strike site, flanked by security personnel, as Is-



rael remained on high alert amid continued missile threats from Iran. Netanyahu and Modi share a well-documented personal rapport, with India and Israel maintaining strong strategic ties spanning defence co-operation, trade, technology and robust people-to-people exchanges. Earlier, Netanyahu said the joint campaign launched by Israel and the United States against Iran was partly aimed at paving the way for political change within Iran.

"That moment is approaching," he said, suggesting that both Israel and the US would stand alongside the Iranian people if they chose to challenge their leadership. "It ultimately depends on them, but we will be there." Since hostilities escalated over the weekend, Netanyahu has repeatedly urged Iranians to "free themselves from tyranny," echoing remarks by US President Donald Trump, who has called on Iranians to reclaim their nation.

Meanwhile, the Israel Defense Forces confirmed that Iran launched multiple missiles toward Israeli territory on Monday evening. Air defence systems intercepted three missiles before they could cause damage. Authorities have advised civilians to immediately move to designated safe zones upon receiving mobile alerts and remain there until further instructions are issued, as the region braces for further escalation.

## Tiny Stars Shine Bright at KIDDEN Playgroup's Colourful Fancy Dress Show

**Bokaro:** The campus of KIDDEN Playgroup, Sector 4F, turned into a vibrant carnival of colours and creativity on Monday, March 2, as the school hosted a lively Fancy Dress Show filled with laughter and applause. Dressed as superheroes, freedom fighters, animals, and fairy-tale characters, the little participants stole the spotlight with their adorable confidence and imaginative costumes. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from parents, who joined their children on stage, adding warmth and charm to the celebration. The programme was graced by Chief Guest Shilpi Parashar, Incharge of the Primary Wing at GGPS, and Special Guest Sunil Modi, senior fine art teacher and noted artist. Both guests praised the young performers for their confidence and creativity, while appreciating the collective efforts of parents and teachers in nurturing talent at an early age. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates, leaving the tiny stars beaming with pride and the audience smiling all around.



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## Door-to-Door Push: Bokaro DC Leads Mass Drug Campaign Against Filariasis

**Bokaro:** Stepping up the fight against filariasis, Deputy Commissioner Ajay Nath Jha on Monday visited the Chandankiyari Community Health Center and personally consumed the MDA dose under the Mass Drug Administration (MDA-2026) campaign, urging residents to follow suit. "No individual or family should be left out," the DC said, stressing that filariasis is a serious but preventable disease and that timely medication is crucial for its elimination. Expressing concern over the district achieving only 89% of its target so far, Jha directed health workers to intensify door-to-door outreach and ensure full coverage. He set March 8 as the deadline to achieve 100% distribution and instructed all departments to coordinate closely to meet the goal.

## Raju Barnwal Re-Elected JDU Metropolitan President for Sixth Straight Term



**Gaya Ji:** In a show of unanimous support, Raju Barnwal was elected unopposed as JDU Metropolitan President for the sixth consecutive term at a peaceful organisational election held Sunday at Karpoori Auditorium, Gewal Bigha. The election took place in the presence of District Urban Election Observer Nand Kishore Kushwaha and Election Officer Pushendu Pushp. With all 90 delegates backing his nomination, Barnwal secured another term without contest. Observer Kushwaha said the sixth straight victory reflects the party's growing strength in Gaya and expressed confidence that the organisation would expand further under Barnwal's leadership. After his re-election, Barnwal thanked party leaders and workers, calling the victory a collective achievement. He pledged to ensure government welfare schemes reach every household and to further strengthen the party at the grassroots level. The programme concluded with Barnwal cutting a cake to mark the 75th birthday of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, praising his leadership and highlighting welfare initiatives focused on women, youth employment, pensions and self-reliance.

## ECR GM Chairs First 2026 PNM Meet, Assures Strong Push on Employee Welfare



**Gaya Ji/Hajipur:** The first 2026 meeting of the Permanent Negotiating Machinery (PNM) of East Central Railway was held on March 2 at the headquarters conference hall under the chairmanship of General Manager Chhatrasal Singh, with office-bearers of the East Central Railway Employees Union (ECREU). Before the formal discussions, officers and union representatives collectively recited the Seva Sankalp Proposal, reaffirming their commitment to dedicated service for railway and national development. The meeting focused on railway operations, infrastructure growth and employee welfare. Additional General Manager Amarendra Kumar, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Suresh Chandra Srivastava, department heads and senior officials were present. The General Manager emphasized that employee welfare remains a top priority, highlighting measures such as regular promotions, MACP benefits, financial aid for medical and educational needs, timely settlement dues and compassionate appointments. He thanked the union for its constructive cooperation and assured that suggestions raised during the meeting would be acted upon promptly. ECREU President Santosh Kumar Paswan, General Secretary Mrityunjay Kumar and other representatives raised key staff-related concerns during the discussions.

## Bokaro to Host Week-Long Mahila Mahotsav from March 8



**Bokaro:** To mark International Women's Day, Bokaro district will organise a week-long Mahila Mahotsav 2026 from March 8 to 15, focusing on women's rights, dignity and empowerment. Deputy Commissioner Ajay Nath Jha chaired a high-level virtual review meeting on Monday, assigning responsibilities to departments and stressing that the festival must become a platform for real social change, not just celebration. The programme will feature exhibitions by self-help groups and women entrepreneurs, essay competitions in schools and colleges, awareness drives, panel discussions and felicitation of women achievers. Special interactive sessions will address health, education, legal rights, cybersecurity and career guidance. A campaign titled "Congratulations, You've Got a Daughter" will promote positive attitudes toward the birth of girls, while a special drive will ensure pension benefits for eligible elderly women. Workshops on workplace safety and gender equality will be held in banks and industrial units. A social media push under #WomenOfBokaro and #BokaroKiBeti will amplify outreach. Aligned with the 2026 global theme — Rights, Justice, Action for All Women and Girls — officials said the festival aims to translate awareness into action.

## Tata Group Plans Major Tech-Driven Investments in Jharkhand



**Ranchi:** The Tata Group has unveiled fresh investment plans for Jharkhand, with a sharp focus on advanced technology, knowledge-based industries, CSR expansion and youth skill development. The announcement was made at the Chief Minister's residential office in the presence of Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran. **Tech Upgrade & Industrial Expansion** Chandrasekaran said Tata companies operating in the state, including Tata Steel and Tata Motors, will transition towards more technology-driven production systems. Plans include modernising industrial units, adopting cleaner and faster manufacturing processes, and exploring advanced projects such as hydrogen-based vehicle manufacturing—moves aimed at reinforcing Jharkhand's status as a key industrial hub. **Knowledge Industries & Joint Roadmap** In alignment with the state's industrial vision, a joint task force of government officials and Tata representatives will prepare a roadmap to establish knowledge-based industries in Jharkhand. The Group assured full cooperation for long-term economic growth. **CSR Boost & Youth Skilling** The conglomerate will also scale up its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, increasing funding and expanding outreach. Special emphasis will be placed on skill development programmes to equip youth with industry-relevant training and enhance employment prospects. **'Investment-Friendly' Climate** Praising the state's leadership, Chandrasekaran said Jharkhand is emerging as an investment-friendly destination with a clear industrial roadmap. Chief Minister Hemant Soren highlighted the Tata Group's historic ties with the state, expressing confidence that the renewed partnership will accelerate industrial growth, innovation and job creation.



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# PM chairs key security meet on Middle East chaos, orders aid for stranded Indians

**The Cabinet Committee on Security meeting, chaired by PM Modi, comes as the conflict in the Middle East intensifies, with the US and Israel carrying out strikes inside Iran and Tehran vowing retaliation, raising fears of a wider regional escalation.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday chaired a high-level meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to review the rapidly evolving global situation arising from the escalating Iran-Israel-US conflict and assess its potential impact on India. The meeting assumed significance amid concerns for the safety of nearly 9.7 million Indians living across the Middle East. The government has been closely monitoring developments and initiated contingency planning, including possible evacuation operations if the situation worsens. The meeting was held at 7, Lok



Kalyan Marg, the official residence of the Prime Minister. The committee was briefed on the February 28 air strikes in Iran and the escalation that

followed across Gulf countries, and voiced serious concern for the safety of the large Indian community in the Middle East.

It also reviewed problems faced by Indian travellers and students due to the crisis, along with wider risks to regional security and economic activity.

The CCS directed all departments to take necessary steps to assist affected Indian nationals and stressed the need for an early end to hostilities and a return to dialogue and diplomacy. The CCS review comes as the conflict in the Middle East intensifies, with the US and Israel carrying out strikes inside Iran and Tehran vowing retaliation, raising fears of a wider

regional escalation that could disrupt global oil supplies and regional stability.

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has already spoken with counterparts in Iran, Israel and Gulf nations, urging restraint and emphasising India's concerns. India has repeatedly urged dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the issue.

Indian missions in the region have issued advisories asking citizens to avoid non-essential travel, remain vigilant and stay in touch with embassies. The Indian diaspora in West Asia is substantial, including about 3.9 million in the UAE, 2.75 million in Saudi Arabia, over 1 million in Kuwait, 830,000 in Qatar, 662,000 in Oman and around 347,000 in Bahrain.

## Madhya Pradesh to hold first agriculture cabinet meet in tribal area, farmer sops on the anvil

**The entire council of ministers will spend the day in the village, holding talks with intellectuals and farmers, along with an exhibition on agriculture and tribal welfare.**

**Bhopal.(Agency)**  
A slew of key pro-farmer decisions will be taken at the agriculture cabinet meeting of the Dr Mohan Yadav government in the tribal-dominated Barwani district on Monday.

The meeting in the southwestern MP district's Nagalwadi village will be the first agriculture cabinet meeting of the state government this year. Importantly, the year 2026-27 has been dedicated by the government as 'Krishak Kalyan Varsh' (Farmer Welfare Year).

According to the state government's official statement, the entire council of ministers will spend the day in the same village, where a dialogue with intellectuals and farmers will also be held, besides an exhibition focused on

agriculture and tribal welfare. Following the agriculture cabinet meeting, the CM will interact with farmers and intellectuals.

During the dialogue, the government's

An exhibition showcasing tribal development and agriculture-based growth will be set up at the venue.

Housing a 6000-strong population, Nagalwadi is a predominantly tribal village, where the 800-year-old Bhilat Dev Temple is also located. The village holds a special significance in the faith and traditions of the tribal community.

After the meeting, the CM Dr Mohan Yadav, along with his council of ministers, will offer prayers at the ancient temple. Importantly, the state government is focussing on agriculture and allied activities in 2026-27. In the recent state budget, a massive 1.15 lakh crore-plus was allocated for the agriculture and farmers' welfare sector.

During the state cabinet meeting earlier this week, the government had allocated 10,500 crore for continuing five major agriculture and related schemes.



## CM Siddaramaiah using State intel to keep tabs on DCM camp

**Bengaluru.(Agency)**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is growing apprehensive about Deputy CM DK Shivakumar's camp trying to garner the support of more MLAs to give an impression that their numbers are increasing, appears to have decided to use the state's intelligence machinery to keep tabs on them.

After the DKS camp gathered for dinner at a hotel on the eve of Magadi MLA HC Balakrishna's birthday, Siddaramaiah has sought minutest details about the movements of the legislators, sources said. Now the state intelligence department, which is under the CM's control, has been asked to give him more updates every day than the routine briefing, they said.

The DKS camp had indirectly claimed that around 40 MLAs joined the dinner. However, only 32 of the 69 MLAs they had invited to the dinner turned up. The faction had also sent feelers that they would meet the Congress high command in Delhi after the budget session.

Some of the MLAs, who were neutral to both camps, told that they were in favour of a change of guard, but wished that the party high command took a decision that would neither dent the party's image, nor adversely impact its

**The DKS camp had indirectly claimed that around 40 MLAs joined the dinner.**

prospects in 2028 Assembly polls. Sources said Shivakumar's fate even upon becoming CM, will depend on the legal opinion the AICC has been seeking with regard to some pending cases against him, including a



disproportionate assets case which Supreme Court lawyer Kapil Sibal is handling. Fearing that the BJP would harp on it, the Congress high command is likely to make a cautious move. The SC dismissed the 2018 money laundering case against him in March, 2024, which boosted the morale of the Shivakumar camp.

## Kerala CM blasts US 'hooliganism' against Iran, slams 'rogue state' Israel

**Wayanad.(Agency)**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday alleged that the United States was displaying "hooliganism" against Iran and accused it of taking "irrational" actions that undermine the sovereignty of nations.

Inaugurating the first phase of a government-constructed township for landslide survivors here, the chief minister also criticised Israel, describing it as a "rogue nation" and a close ally of the US.

He alleged that the US was leading what he termed "imperialist aggression" against nations it considered hostile and claimed that such actions amounted to interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries.

Vijayan further alleged that attacks were being carried out against Iran without justifiable grounds and that even the country's supreme leader was being targeted. The left veteran also termed the US action against Iran as an example of its "hooliganism".

He said just as individuals are expected to show basic courtesy and respect toward one another, countries, too, are expected to conduct themselves with a sense of mutual respect.

Stating that no nation can reasonably demand that others adopt identical views or policies, he said, yet certain states, backed by American imperial power—with its vast flow of arms, financial backing and a persistent appetite for war—appear to expect this from the rest of the world.

He sought to know what the situation was that warranted an attack against Iran. "The stand being taken is that nations it (the US) opposes will not be tolerated. They killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whom that country regards as its sovereign leader, at his home along with his daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter," he said. "It is a mad act of American imperialism. Joining them in all this is Israel, another global rogue state," the CM said and urged everyone to express strong protest against such actions.

# 'Will ensure improvement of Delhi every year in air quality, transport, Yamuna': Delhi CM Rekha Gupta

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

In an interview on Sunday, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta told Gayathri Mani, Kaunain Sheriff M and Monojit Majumdar about her government's achievements over the past year, her priorities and plans for the nation's capital—to make it clean, beautiful, financially stronger, and more inviting for a range of businesses. She also strongly countered the claims and allegations of the opposition AAP, and its leader Arvind Kejriwal.

He knows that the Election Commission of India will not hold elections just because he says so. His statements are only to mislead

the public. The decision of the court is part of a judicial process, it is not the final decision; there is the High Court and Supreme Court... We have seen so many ups and downs in court cases in this country; the fight for justice cannot end.

I'd like to ask those who claim to be katta imaandaar (uncompromisingly honest), if your excise policy was so good, you should have stood by it; why did you withdraw it as soon as the investigation began? The commission of private vendors was increased by several times, the revenue that should have come to the government went to private parties... Why are there trails of



money laundering? Why did you try to destroy 170 mobiles, to delete the data? Did you want to generate revenue or to benefit someone? You will have to answer these

questions. Also, this is not the only case against Mr Kejriwal, there are many others—relating to classrooms, Delhi Transport Corporation, medicines, mohalla clinics... Has he got a clean chit in all of them? As we look at the accounts of the previous government, we see something every day, there are signs of corruption everywhere... You (Kejriwal) ran away from Delhi... Had you been honest, you would have stayed and worked for the people of Delhi. But you took your entire syndicate to Punjab and started working with the drugs and liquor mafia there... You sold the country.

# Excise policy case: What are the 5 key grounds CBI cited to challenge Kejriwal, Sisodia's discharge

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

In its plea before the Delhi High Court, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has termed the trial court order discharging AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia—along with 21 others—in its corruption case in the alleged Delhi excise policy scam "illegal on the face of it". The petition has sought setting aside of the order and is expected to be heard on March 9 by Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma.

Some of the key grounds the probe agency has cited while challenging the discharge order are:

### 1. Trial court conducted a "mini-trial"

The CBI argued that the court dealt with "separate limbs of conspiracy in isolation" by "selective reading of the prosecution

case, disregarding the material showing culpability of the accused".

According to the CBI, at the stage of framing of charges, the trial court has to take evidence provided by the prosecution at face value "based on broad probabilities".

Taking a cue from an oral remark made by the court during the pronouncement of the verdict on Friday, the CBI further pointed out to the HC that the trial court spent four months reading only the file of the case, which, it argued, "shows that the appreciation of the evidence, which otherwise is not permitted at this stage in such detail, is clearly not the exercise that needs to be undertaken at the stage of discharge."

### 2. Trial court wrongly evaluated facts and



### law in the case on a piecemeal-basis

As per the CBI, the trial court has "given its own interpretation to various factual aspects and statements recorded by (CBI) and to documents attached," while discarding "the approver statements on absolutely untenable grounds". This, it said, "further reflects the incorrect understanding of law" by the trial

court.

"The piecemeal reading of evidence to disregard the conspiracy herein ought to be set aside (by the Delhi HC) when the entire chain of conspiracy stands duly established," the CBI has submitted.

It also pointed out evidence that the trial court did not appreciate which, according to the prosecution, establishes a chain in the conspiracy: A GoM report, last in the custody of Sisodia, that went 'missing'; failure to consider evidence of the Excise department's senior officials attesting that no deliberation at all was conducted with regard to policy formulation; relaxation in turnover criteria for bidders from Rs 500 crore to Rs 150 crore to indicate the liquor importer and distributor M's Indospirits.

## Congress scores another own goal

DEMOCRACY is inconceivable without dissent and protests. These are not merely democracy's byproducts; they undergird the working of the system and maintain equilibrium between unchecked bedlam and authoritarian order. The challenges manifest in the form of debates or a forced entry into the Well of the House, the use of more robust instruments against the government such as a no-confidence vote, and demonstrations — perfunctory or spirited — in the public space. Parliament and state Assemblies are crowded with these manifestations that often test the mettle of a government. The uproarious scenes that inevitably erupted each time the Women's Reservation Bill was tabled are the stuff of parliamentary history and lore. The Bill was finally passed as the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in September 2023, but the prelude to its passage was often marked by violence.

In the December 1998 session of Parliament, when the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government made bold to bring in the Bill, Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Daroga Prasad Saroj tried to reach the Speaker's podium in the Lok Sabha and grab the papers, but Mamata Banerjee, the Trinamool Congress chief, caught him by the scruff of the neck.

In March 2010, when the Rajya Sabha passed the Bill (the Lok Sabha did not vote on it), every imaginable stalling tactic was deployed by leaders of the pro-Mandal parties: shattering glass tumblers, squatting and napping in the Well, pummelling and kicking the guards and even punching one in the stomach until the protesters were outnumbered by security reinforcements.

March 25, 1989, would be etched in Tamil Nadu's legislative history as the day when the roughnecks of the DMK government assaulted Jayalalithaa, then the Opposition leader, and pulled the end of her sari. A tearful Jayalalithaa left the Assembly, vowing that if she returned it would be as the chief minister. Two years down the line, she unseated M Karunanidhi and claimed the throne. In the civic arena, perhaps the best remembered protest was staged by the "Mothers of Manorama" in Imphal in July 2004. These women assembled outside the Assam Rifles' headquarters to dare the personnel to come out and assault them. They protested against the torture, rape and killing of a young woman, Thangiam Manorama Devi, an alleged insurgent.

The legitimacy — or lack of legitimacy — of these demonstrations can be interminably argued. However, the spectacle mounted by Indian Youth Congress (IYC) activists on February 20 at Delhi's Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the government's prestigious national and international events, signified a new low in the history of protests, although the last word has not yet been said on its justness by the political class. The India AI Impact summit, which drew world leaders and corporate giants, was in progress. From the Modi government's viewpoint, it was as high-powered as the 2023 G20 show, if not more, because the idea was to exhibit India's leadership at the helm of cutting-edge technology and innovation. Politically, its importance lay in the government's effort to deflect attention and discussions from a stormy start to the Budget session that was overshadowed by the tricky India-US interim trade agreement. Other factors were also at play. The Epstein files allegedly enmeshed a senior Cabinet minister. The summit began on a series of false notes, thanks to poor logistics and later a Chinese robotic dog that a private university close to the present regime tried to pass off as its own and was caught out. There was no way the PM could allow the event to be dragged to the rock bottom of history.

The "banian" protest came at the most opportune moment for the government. A handful of IYC men in vests waved white tees with uncomplimentary slogans about Modi printed on them and alleged that the trade deal was compromised. This was enough of a spur for his supporters to launch a pro-PM campaign and an anti-Congress tirade

## Bookended by melas and fests

**A mela suggests not a trade fair for bookish audiences and writerly stars, but rural harvest festivals. In India, the traditions of the deadly-serious book fair and the entertaining festival have merged.**

William Dalrymple recently sputtered like a lit fuse on X at an "irritating and ignorant article" in The Guardian that had asked why India has over 100 literary festivals but low book sales and no culture of reading. Is it because entertainments like Bollywood are included in festivals? Why did Dalrymple feel irritated when the argument about poor sales and low readership has been around for decades? The article by Amrit Dhillon only added the contrast between the smallness of the publishing industry in India and the boom in literature festivals, led by the Jaipur Literature Festival that Dalrymple co-founded. She offered supporting quotes from authors, booksellers and publishers. All of them affirm that the book trade moves slowly, but Indians like a nice jamboree. This rather harmless allegation burst like an inflamed boil. Blame the name. The literature (or literary) festival is a British creature of post-war provenance — the oldest is at Cheltenham, an annual feature from 1949, and the best-known is at Hay-on-Wye, established in 1988, which exported the concept and the name overseas. In India, JLF adopted the format in 2006, grew exponentially and encouraged entrepreneurs with literary leanings — and organisations which understand that literariness works like angel dust — to get in on the game. Writing became performative. In the beginning, there were book fairs, not literary festivals. In medieval Europe, trade fairs at commercial centres like Leipzig attracted booksellers and printers, who then launched book fairs. The Frankfurt fair, the biggest business-to-business book expo, is purely a trade fair for the sale of international rights. It lets in retail buyers only as an afterthought. Interaction of readers with writers and publishers, a hallmark of literary festivals, is limited to the weekend.

In India, book fairs preceded literary festivals. The New Delhi World Book Fair opened in 1972 in conjunction with the Asia 72 trade show. Both were held at the Pragati Maidan exhibition complex, a classic design by architect Raj Rewal that the present government has demolished in a random act of vandalism to make room for Bharat Mandapam. India's biggest book event is the International Kolkata Book Fair, started in 1976, which draws over 20 lakh visitors. It's a very serious fair — rare titles like Revelations of Divine Love by the 13th century anchoress Julian of Norwich can be found there (I know, I bought a copy). The fair also features literary entertainments like readings and discussions by prominent writers and publishers, and Kolkata's significant set circulate freely. So do palanques of pamphleteers selling crank treatises proposing a geocentric universe or divination by observing crows



(Kak Charitra). It's a mixed bag, like a country mela, which is where it gets its Bengali name from — Boi Mela. A mela suggests not a trade fair for bookish audiences and writerly stars, but rural harvest festivals. There's the Poush Mela in nearby Santiniketan, for instance, where highbrow and lowbrow mingle in a strangely uplifting cloud of food, music, poetry, handicrafts, activism and pot. In India, the traditions of the deadly-serious book fair and the entertaining festival have merged. People who don't like this say it devalues books. The rest say that it brings more people into the fold of readers. These are opinions, not facts.

The older allegations which started this thread — books don't sell in India and there's hardly a culture of reading — must be inconclusive because, invariably, the discussion is about publishing in English, which is a fraction of the Indian publishing landscape. The whole vista is very varied, from risk-averse publishers who print textbooks to offset speculative losses in literary publishing, specialists like Amitav Ghosh's publisher Ravi Dayal and Vikram Seth's publisher P Lal, and idealists running small presses, usually into the ground. Besides, in Indian publishing, for every fact there's an alternative. The industry formalised only recently and it is still normal for writers to submit a manuscript without a contract and to hand over rights

during a casual phone call, with no written record. Frames of reference also matter. In response to the article in The Guardian, which stated that Indian print runs are low and that 10,000 copies make a bestseller (a fact in English publishing), HarperCollins India CEO Anantha Padmanabhan pointed out that the Malayalam novel Ram C/O Anandhi by Akhil P Dharmarajan and Too Good to be True by Prajakta Koli sold 3 lakh and 2 lakh copies in a year (an alternative fact). The context: both are young social media phenomenons and Koli works in OTT cinema. Of course they'd have the numbers. Amish pioneered that strategy when he embraced digital media promotion.

Beyond English, on which the spotlight is fixed, Indian publishing is a vast landscape. If you consider sellers of used books — who often participate in trade fairs — you'll find the numbers climbing fast. And if you look into the darker corners of this world where the pirates are silently at work, you'll find hoards that go uncounted. That's why, when no one's looking, many writers ask the bootleggers at traffic lights how their novels are doing. The pirate estimate can be more revealing than formal sales figures. A market with such varied cultures of reading, and so many languages, styles and niches, can't be treated as a single, orderly entity bound by universal rules.

## Breather for AAP: Trial court verdict vindicates Kejriwal's stand

**Meanwhile, the ED has stated that its "standalone" money-laundering probe linked to the excise policy case is on a firm footing**

FORMER Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and his ex-deputy Manish Sisodia can afford to claim the moral high ground — at least for the time being. The trial court has discharged the duo and 21 others in the Delhi excise policy case registered by the CBI, throwing a lifeline to the beleaguered Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). In a scathing judgment, the court observed that the probe agency's case was incapable of surviving judicial scrutiny, describing it as speculative, inferential and devoid of legally admissible evidence. Left red-faced, the CBI has approached the Delhi High Court against the discharge order. Indeed, the battle is only half won for Kejriwal & Co. Allegations of corruption against the AAP top brass were the BJP's central plank in the Delhi Assembly elections last year. The saffron party left no stone unturned to convince the national capital's voters that Kejriwal's anti-graft stand was just a sham. Promising clean



governance, the BJP regained power in Delhi after 26 long

years, while AAP finished a distant second. Subsequently, the young party has focused largely on Punjab, the only state where it is in power at present. The trial court's order has presented AAP with an opportunity to reconnect with Delhi's electorate and reaffirm its anti-corruption credentials. The judgment raises uncomfortable questions about investigative overreach. The court's observation that the probe appeared to follow a "predetermined trajectory" indicates that due process was given short shrift. Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has stated that its "standalone" money-laundering probe linked to the excise policy case is on a firm footing. However, the legal sustainability of the prosecution by the ED might face fresh scrutiny if the discharge in the CBI case is upheld by the high court. Amid all the ifs and buts, the onus is on Kejriwal and Sisodia to give AAP a new lease of life.

## Trade corridors can rebuild Punjab

**Punjab has been severed from the overland trade corridors that historically powered its prosperity.**

PUNJAB was once India's economic pacesetter. The Green Revolution secured national food supplies and built one of the country's most affluent rural economies. High farm incomes fuelled transport, small-scale manufacturing and commercial networks that rippled across north India, placing Punjab among the top states in per capita income. Today the state grapples with stagnation. Soil exhaustion, depleting water tables, subsidy distortions and double cropping dominate the diagnosis. These are genuine problems. But they do not fully explain why Punjab has fallen behind faster-growing coastal and southern states or why public debt has ballooned relative to output. The core issue is structural: Punjab has been severed from the overland trade corridors that historically powered its prosperity. For centuries, Punjab served as India's northwestern gateway to Central Asia and Europe. Caravans carried textiles, grains and other products across the region, sustaining vibrant trading towns. The Partition and subsequent border closures erased that advantage. The long-term economic cost has been profound but under-discussed. India's global trade footprint has shifted dramatically. The European Union is now its largest trading partner, with bilateral goods and services flows reaching roughly \$180 billion annually. The India-EU Free Trade Agreement, concluded in early 2026, promises to deepen ties further, with tariff cuts expected to double EU exports to India by the early 2030s and save European firms billions in duties. European buyers prize reliability, speed and cost efficiency in an era of global trade. North India ought to be ideally placed to capture more of this demand. Instead, exporters from Punjab and its neighbouring states face a built-in handicap. Goods must travel hundreds of additional kilometres to western seaports before

embarking on long maritime journeys. Perishables suffer the most: every added day in transit erodes quality and margins. Over time, this skews investment decisions towards coastal clusters with shorter, more predictable logistics. The impact is stark in agro-processing. Punjab ranks among India's top producers of wheat, rice and dairy, backed by skilled farmers and an established base. However, it has failed to build a world-class export-oriented processing sector. When raw or semi-processed output must endure lengthy domestic hauls before shipment, the economics of large-scale value addition near farms weaken. Processing hubs have proliferated, instead, in southern and western ports. A state with the raw material scale to lead India's branded food exports remains locked into low-value commodity production. Manufacturing tells a similar story. Clusters in Ludhiana (machinery and textiles), Jalandhar (sports goods) and Mohali (electronics) compete in global markets that reward precision and timelines. Overland routes to western markets, where feasible, routinely cut transit times compared with sea freight. Without them, northern producers absorb higher costs and greater uncertainty, while greenfield export investment flows elsewhere.

The result is a vicious cycle: poor connectivity deters industry; weak industry deepens agricultural dependence; skilled youth migrate abroad in search of opportunity; fiscal strains mount. Connectivity is not a side issue for Punjab — it is the linchpin of revival. Security imperatives along the western border remain non-negotiable. Modern trade corridors can incorporate safeguards: digital customs, non-intrusive scanning,

satellite tracking and restricted goods lists. Transit regimes for third-country trade function in other tense regions without compromising security.

Across successive governments, there has been periodic recognition that connectivity underpins national strength. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's outreach initiatives reflected an understanding that economic logic cannot indefinitely be subordinated to political tension. Manmohan Singh articulated a strategic sequence in which



reconnecting the subcontinent would precede wider regional integration. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised rebuilding regional linkages as a component of India's growth strategy. Across administrations, the underlying principle has remained consistent: economic integration strengthens strategic resilience. The cost of inaction is mounting. Northern manufacturing stays tethered to distant ports. Food-processing

investment clusters elsewhere. Punjab's economy leans ever more heavily on volatile agriculture. Outward migration continues. A practical path forward lies in an Amritsar-Rajpura economic corridor. Amritsar, India's closest major land gateway towards Europe, anchors one end; Rajpura, a logistics node at major highway and rail intersections, the other. This spine could host agro-processing zones, turning Punjab's produce into globally competitive brands; industrial parks feeding machinery and consumer goods toward continental markets and integrated hubs with dry ports, cold chains and warehousing to slash turnaround times.

Geopolitically, it would position Punjab as India's northwestern bridge to Central Asia and Europe, plugging northern industry into international supply chains. Think Singapore for maritime Asia or Rotterdam for Europe: a commercial gateway that lowers costs, widens access and generates cross-sector jobs.

Reopening regulated land routes is not wishful thinking; it is strategic pragmatism. As India's ambitions extend deeper into Europe and Central Asia, leaving its most direct western gateway dormant is an anomaly.

Punjab asks not for special favours but for policy alignment: match national trade goals with regional potential. Restore calibrated overland links, and a historically dynamic region can once again become a bridge linking northern India to continental markets and securing its own future in the process.



होली का नाम आते ही मन रंगों के बिछवन पर लोटने लगता है। रंगबिरंगे चेहरे भाभियों और देवों का मजाक मन में कुलांचे मारने लगता है। मानव मन के उत्कृष्ट उल्लास का नाम होली का त्योहार है। होली हमारे देश का एक विशिष्ट सांस्कृतिक एवं आध्यात्मिक त्योहार है। यह बहुत प्राचीन उत्सव है। जैमिनी के पूर्व मीमांसा सूत्र, जो लगभग 400-200 ईसा पूर्व का है, के अनुसार होली का प्रारंभिक शब्द रूप होलाका था। जैमिनी का कथन है कि इसे सभी आर्यों द्वारा संपादित किया जाना चाहिए। काठक गृह्य सूत्र के एक सूत्र की टीकाकार देवपाल ने इस प्रकार व्याख्या की है :- होला कर्म विशेष : सौभाग्याय स्त्रीणां प्रातरनुष्ठीयते। तत्र होलाके राका देवता

- होला एक कर्म विशेष है जो स्त्रियों के सौभाग्य के लिए संपादित होता है। इसमें राका (पूर्णचंद्र) देवता हैं। होलाका संपूर्ण भारत में प्रचलित 20 त्रीड़ाओं में एक है। वात्स्यायन के अनुसार लोग श्रृंग (गाय की सींग) से एक-दूसरे पर रंग डालते हैं और सुगंधित चूर्ण (अबीर-गुलाल) डालते हैं। लिंग पुराण में उल्लेख है कि फाल्गुन-पूर्णिमा को फाल्गुनिका कहा जाता है, यह बाल त्रीड़ाओं से पूर्ण है और लोगों को विभूति (ऐश्वर्य) देने वाली है।

वराह पुराण में इसे पटवास-विलासिनी (चूर्ण से युक्त त्रीड़ाओं वाली) कहा है। हिरण्यकश्यप का पुत्र प्रह्लाद विष्णु का भक्त था। उसने अपने पिता के बार-बार समझाने के बाद भी विष्णु की भक्ति नहीं छोड़ी। हिरण्यकश्यप ने प्रह्लाद को मारने के अनेक उपाय किए किन्तु वह सफल नहीं हुआ। अन्त में, उसने अपनी बहन होलिका से कहा कि वह प्रह्लाद को लेकर अग्नि में बैठे, क्योंकि होलिका एक चादर ओढ़ लेती थी जिससे अग्नि उसे नहीं जला पाती थी। होलिका जब प्रह्लाद को अपनी गोद में लेकर अग्नि में बैठे तो वह चादर प्रह्लाद के ऊपर आ गई और होलिका जलकर भस्म हो गई। तब से होलिका-दहन का प्रचलन हुआ।

**होली मुक्त स्वच्छंद ह्रास-परिहास का पर्व है।** यह सम्पूर्ण भारत का मंगलोत्सव है। फागुन शुक्ल पूर्णिमा को आर्य लोग जौ की बालियों की आहुति यज्ञ में देकर अग्निहोत्र का आरंभ करते हैं। कर्मकांड में इसे 'यवग्रयण' यज्ञ का नाम दिया गया है। बसंत में सूर्य दक्षिणायन से उत्तरायण में आ जाता है। इसलिए होली के पर्व को 'गवंतराम' भी कहा गया है। होली का आगमन इस बात का सूचक है कि अब चारों तरफ वसंत ऋतु का सुवास फैलने वाला है। रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर ने कहा है- सहस्र मधु मादक स्पर्शों से आलिंगित कर रही सूरज की इन रश्मियों ने फागुन के इस बसंत प्रातः को सुगन्धित स्वर्ण में आह्लादित कर दिया है। यह देश हंसते-हंसाते मुस्कुराते चेहरों का देश है। जिंदगी जब सारी खुशियों को स्वयं में समेटकर प्रस्तुति का बहाना मांगती है तब प्रकृति मनुष्य को होली जैसा त्योहार देती है। महाकवि वाणभट्ट ने कादंबरी में राजा तारापीड के फागुन खेलने का अनूठा वर्णन किया है। भवभूति के मालतीमाधव नाटक में पुरवासी मदनोत्सव मनाते हैं। यहां एक स्थल पर नायक माधव सुलोचना मालती के गुलाबी कपोलों पर लगे कुमकुम के फैल जाने से बने सौंदर्य पर मुग्ध हो जाता है। राजशेखर ने अपनी काव्य-मीमांसा में मदनोत्सव पर झूला झूलने का भी उल्लेख किया है। यद्यपि आज के समय की तथाकथित भौतिकवादी सोच एवं पाश्चात्य संस्कृति के प्रभाव, स्वार्थ एवं संकीर्णताभरे वातावरण से होली की परम्परा में बदलाव आया है। परिस्थितियों के थपेड़ों ने होली की खुशी और मस्ती को प्रभावित भी किया है, लेकिन आज भी वृजभूमि ने होली की प्राचीन परम्पराओं को सजोए रखा है। यह परम्परा

इतनी जीवन्त है कि इसके आकर्षण में देश-विदेश के लाखों पर्यटक ब्रज वृन्दावन की दिव्य होली के दर्शन करने और उसके रंगों में भीगने का आनंद लेने प्रतिवर्ष यहां आते हैं। होली नई फसलों का त्योहार है, प्रकृति के रंगों में सराबोर होने का त्योहार है। राधा-कृष्ण के जीवनकाल से ही अनुराग के इस त्योहार को ब्रज के गांव-गांव, घर-घर में लोग राग-रंग, मौज-मस्ती, ह्रास-परिहास, गीत-संगीत के साथ परंपरा से आज तक मनाते आ रहे हैं। ब्रज में ऐसा कोई हाथ नहीं होता जो गुलाल से न भरा हो, पिचकारियों के सुगंध भरे रंग से सराबोर न हो। मति मारी श्याम पिचकारी, अब देऊंगी गारी। भिजेगी लाल नई अंगिया, चूंदर बिगरीगी न्यारी। देखेंगी सास रिसाएगी मोपै, संग की ऐसी है दारी। हंसेगी दै-दै तारी। ब्रज की होली की रसधारा से जुड़ा एक तीर्थ है बरसाना। फागुन शुक्ला नवमी के दिन नंदगांव के हुरिहारे कृष्ण और उनके सखा बनकर राधा के गांव बरसाने जाते हैं। बरसाने की ललनाएं राधा और उसकी सखियों के धर्म का पालन कर नंदगांव के छैन छकनिया हुरिहारों पर रंग की बौछर करती हैं। फागुन खेलन बरसाने आए हैं नटवर नंद किशोर घेर लई सब गली रंगीली। छय रही छवि घटा रंगीली। ढप-ढोल मृदंग बजाए है।



बंशी की घनघोर। बुदेली फागों के एकछत्र सम्राट हैं लोककवि ईसुरी। ईसुरी ने अपनी प्रेमिका 'रज' को अपने कृत्व में अमर कर दिया। ईसुरी ने फागों की एक विशिष्ट शैली 'चौबड़िया फाग' को

# मानव मन का सर्वश्रेष्ठ उल्लास है

# होली

प्रकृति के इस रूप से आदमी जुड़े और उसके अमूल्य धरोहरों को समझे जिनसे ही आदमी का जीवन है। मनुष्य का जीवन अनेक कष्टों और विपदाओं से भरा हुआ है। वह दिन-रात अपने जीवन की पीड़ा का समाधान ढूँढने में जुटा रहता है। इसी आशा और निराशा के क्षणों में उसका मन व्याकुल बना रहता है। ऐसे ही क्षणों में होली जैसे पर्व उसके जीवन में आशा का संचार करते हैं। भारत के बढ़ते जलसंकट के मद्देनजर हमें पानी बचाने के लिए एकसाथ मिलकर काम करना चाहिए और होली जैसे अवसर पर पानी की बर्बादी रोकना चाहिए। होली खेलने वालों ने अगर प्राकृतिक रंग या गुलाल से होली खेले तो कुल 36 लाख 95 हजार 518 लीटर पानी की बचत होगी। धरती पर लगभग 6 अरब की आबादी में से एक अरब लोगों के पास पीने को भी पानी नहीं है। जब मनुष्य इतनी बड़ी आपदा से जूझ रहा हो ऐसे में हमें अपने त्योहारों को मनाते वक्त संवेदनशीलता दिखानी चाहिए। इस होली पर जितना संभव हो अधिक से अधिक पानी बचाने का संकल्प लें। सभी को प्यार के रंग में रंग देने वाले होली के त्योहार पर हर व्यक्ति अपने और दूसरों के जीवन में खुशियों के रंग भर देना चाहता है। कोई अबीर, गुलाल से तो कोई पकड़े रंग और पानी से होली खेलता है, लेकिन आज भी कुछ लोग हैं जो प्रकृति से प्राप्त फूल-पत्तियों व जड़ी-बूटियों से रंग बना कर होली खेलते हैं। उनके अनुसार इन रंगों में

सात्विकता होती है और ये किसी भी तरह से हानिकारक नहीं होते। होली के अवसर पर छेड़खानी, मारपीट, मादक पदार्थों का सेवन, उच्छृंखलता आदि के जरिए शालीनता की हदों को पार कर दिया जाता है। आवश्यकता है कि होली के वास्तविक उद्देश्य को आत्मसात किया जाए और उसी के आधार पर इसे मनाया जाए। होली का पर्व भेदभाव को भूलने का संदेश देता है, साथ ही यह मानवीय संबंधों में समरसता का विकास करता है।

पांचवे दिन रंग-पंचमी के रूप में यह उत्सव मनाया जाता है। पूरे भारत में यह उत्सव विभिन्न तरीके से मनाया जाता है। उत्तर भारत में वृन्दावन, मथुरा, बरसाना आदि की होली बहुत प्रसिद्ध है। बरसाना में राधा-रानी मंदिर के प्रांगण में लड्डुमार होली होती है जिसमें स्त्रियां लाठियों से पुरुषों पर प्रहार करती हैं एवं होली गीत गाती हैं। वृन्दावन का रसिया गायन, वहां का होली नृत्य; जो कृष्ण और राधा की होली खेलने को दर्शाता है, बहुत प्रसिद्ध है। बिहार प्रांत में उत्तरप्रदेश की भाँति ही होली होती है। भोजपुरी भाषा में इस उत्सव में गाए गए फाग वहां की विशेषता है। अवध, मगध, मध्यप्रदेश, राजस्थान, मैसूर, गढ़वाल, कुमायूँ, ब्रज सभी क्षेत्रों में होली का अत्यंत उल्लास और उमंग देखने को मिलता है। बंगाल एवं बांग्लादेश में होलिका-दहन नहीं होता, वहां इसे दोल-यात्रा या वसंतोत्सव के रूप में मनाया जाता है। इसमें कृष्ण प्रतिमा का झूला प्रचलित है।

मूलतः होली का त्योहार प्रकृति का पर्व है। इस पर्व को भक्ति और भावना से इसीलिए जोड़ा जाता है कि ताकि



## कविता आई बसती होली...

ऊपर नीला-नीला आकाश,  
नीचे हरी-भरी धरती।  
लाल-लाल खिला पलाश  
सृष्टि की छवि मन हरती।  
फिर अपने आंगन में आई  
बसती होली।  
मन पुलकित, तन पुलकित  
पुलकित हर दिवस निशा।  
कण सुरभित, क्षण सुरभित,  
सुरभित दिशा-दिशा।  
फिर अपने आंगन में आई  
बसती होली।  
यत्र-तत्र रंग ही रंग,  
जीवन के रंग अपार।  
प्रीति-रीति संग हो संग,  
हुआ त्योहार साकार।  
फिर अपने आंगन में,  
आई बसती होली।  
मानो निकले पाथर के पर,  
आनंद का अनूठा लगन।  
उभर उठे सप्त स्वर,  
गायन में कोकिल मगन।  
फिर अपने आंगन में आई  
बसती होली।  
बजा मंजीरा, बजा ढोल,  
जग झूम-झूम उठ जागा,  
कैसे सजे सुंदर बोल,  
यह कैसा सुरीला फाग।  
फिर अपने आंगन में,  
आई बसती होली।

## रंग नहीं पसंद, तो इन 5 तरीकों से मनाएं होली



रंगों की बौछरों में ही होली का असली मजा है, और इनके बगैर होली सूनी सी लगती है। लेकिन कई लोगों को रंगों से सराबोर होना पसंद नहीं होता, लिहाजा वे होली की मस्ती में शामिल नहीं होते। अगर आप भी रंगों से दूर रहते हैं, तो घर पर ऐसे मनाएं होली का त्योहार -



1 होली का असली माहौल तो होली के गीतों से ही बनता है, यह आप भी जानते ही हैं। तो घर बैठे होली मनाने का बढ़िया तरीका है, होली के फिल्म गानों से घर और मोहल्ले

करें, और होली मनाएं।  
3 होली पर शुभकामना और मस्ती भरे संदेशों की भी कमी नहीं होती। आप यह काम भी बड़ी शिद्दत से कर सकते हैं। अपनों को ऑडियो, वीडियो या फोटोज के माध्यम से बढ़िया होली संदेश भेजें और शुभकामनाओं का आदान-प्रदान करें।

4 अपने घर के कम्प्यूटर पर होली वाला रंग-बिरंगा वॉलपेपर लगाएं और अपने लिए कपड़ों का चयन भी रंगबिरंगा सा करें। आप चाहें तो इस दिन घर के परदे और चादरें भी रंगबिरंगे लगा सकते हैं।

5 मिठाईयों के बगैर भी भला कोई होली मनाई जाती है...। घर पर आराम से बैठकर कोई फिल्म देखिए, या फिर घर पर कोई नाच-गाने, कविता या शेर-ओ-शायरी कार्यक्रम आयोजित करें और मिठाईयों का लुत्फ लीजिए। साथ में ठंडाई का स्वाद लेकर अपने आनंद में चार चांद लगाईए।



**सामग्री :**  
300 ग्राम मैदा, 1 बड़ी कटोरी बारीक मीठी बूंदी, 1 बड़ा चम्मच घी (मोयन के लिए), पाव कटोरी मिक्स मेवों की कतरन, 4-5 केसर के लच्छे, 1-1 बूंद हरा-लाल खाने वाला रंग, 2 तार की डेढ़ कप तैयार चाशनी, पाव कटोरी दूध, तलने के लिए पर्याप्त मात्रा में घी।

**विधि :**  
सबसे पहले केसर को थोड़े-से गुनगुन दूध में कुछ देर भिगो कर घोट लें। अब मैदे में मोयन मिलाकर उसके तीन हिस्से कर लें। एक में हरा, दूसरे में लाल रंग व तीसरे भाग में जरा-सी केसर मिला कर तीनों को अलग-अलग गूंध कर लंबे रोल बना लें। तीनों रोल को मिलाकर छोटी-



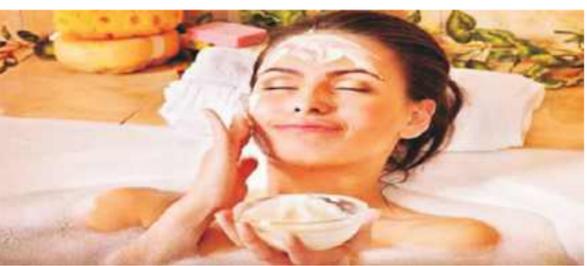
## होली स्पेशल गुड़िया रंगबिरंगी

छोटी लोई बना लें। अब बूंदी (लड्डु का चूरा भी ले सकते हैं) में केसर-मेवा और थोड़े-से दूध के छेंटे डालकर अच्छी तरह मिश्रण तैयार कर लें। मैदे की छोटी-छोटी पूरियां बेलें व थोड़ा बूंदी का मिश्रण भर कर उसकी गुड़िया बना लें। एक कड़ही में घी गर्म करें व धीमी आंच पर सुनहरी होने तक गुड़िया तल लें। थोड़ी ठंडी होने पर चाशनी में डालकर वापस निकाल लें। बनाने में आसान व दिखने में सुंदर रंगबिरंगी गुड़िया आपके घर आए मेहमानों को जरूर पसंद आएगी।

## होली : रंग छुड़ाते वक्त रखें 5 बातों का ध्यान

होली खेलने के बाद त्वचा पर जमा हुआ रंग छुड़ाना काफी मशकत भरा काम है। जैसे-तैसे रंग छुड़ाने के बजाए कुछ बातों का ध्यान रखकर आप त्वचा को सुरक्षित रख सकते हैं। जरूर जानिए, कौन-सी हैं वे 5 बातें -

1 होली का रंग निकालने का सबसे आसान और सुरक्षित तरीका है तेल का इस्तेमाल। नारियल के तेल में रुई के फाहे को डुबोकर इससे धीरे-धीरे रंग निकालें। इससे जलन नहीं होगी और रंग भी छूट जाएगा।  
2 ध्यान रहे रंग छुड़ाने के लिए कभी भी कपड़े धोने का साबुन, मिट्टी का तेल या चूने के पानी का प्रयोग ना करें। इससे आपकी त्वचा क्षतिग्रस्त हो सकती है और बाद में जलन पैदा हो सकती है।  
3 आटे में तेल, हल्दी मिलाकर उबटन तैयार करें। अब इसे लगाकर रखने के बजाए चेहरे और



त्वचा पर रगड़ते रहें जब तक मैल और रंग साफ न हो जाए। यह आपकी त्वचा को नुकसान नहीं पहुंचाएगा।  
4 त्वचा पर सीधे नींबू, सिरका या सिट्रिक चीजें लगाने से परहेज करें यह त्वचा में तेज जलन पैदा कर सकती है। यदि होली खेलने के पहले ही पूरे शरीर पर कोई भी ऑइल अच्छी तरह

लगा लिया जाए तो रंग निकालने में आसानी होती है।  
5 यदि शरीर पर ग्रीस, ऑइल पेंट या कोई ऐसा ही पदार्थ लगा हो तो सफेद तिल को पानी में भिगोकर उसका पेस्ट बना लें। शरीर पर 10 मिनट लगाकर रखें, रंग खुद-ब-खुद छूट जाएगा।

NEW

## Rulayega kya pagle? Sanju Samson's hilarious reaction to Surya's praises

New Delhi. (Agency)

Suryakumar Yadav's praise for Sanju Samson went to a point where the wicketkeeper hilariously asked his captain to stop or else he would start crying. Samson played an innings of a lifetime to help India get over the finish line and make their way into the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup 2026. The wicketkeeper-batter broke the record of Virat Kohli for the highest score in a successful run-chase for India in T20 World Cups, scoring 97 off 50 balls. He hit the winning runs and on his way back to the dugout, was greeted by Suryakumar, who took his cap off and bowed down to him. In a video released by the BCCI, Suryakumar was seen talking non-stop about Samson and the hilarious reply from the wicketkeeper can be seen towards the end of the clip. WHAT DID SURYA SAY ABOUT SAMSON?

Suryakumar reiterated his statement on



Samson from after the game to start the video and revealed how the wicketkeeper told the players to put the team ahead of everything else during the camp.

"I always say good things happen to good people and at the right time. No better time, no better stage for someone like him to step up and give the team what the team required. The moment he came into the side, I think the first thing that he said amongst the group when we sat together was, let's do something which the team wants, not what you want," said Suryakumar.

The Indian skipper refused to talk about the tough period Samson had as he was in and out of the side and was made to bat in the middle-order. However, he said that Samson played a courageous knock and deserves all the plaudits. "In life, we've seen so many things, so many ups and downs. I don't want to take you back to what happened in the whole year, losing his position, batting out of position, and then coming back batting at the same position."

"It's not easy to win the World Cup. The World Cups, the ICC tournaments, the games which you play in ICC tournaments are won by courageous people, and this was a courageous knock."

## Abhishek Sharma's lack of form: His head is muddled, says Anil Kumble

MEXICO CITY. (Agency)

Team India secured their passage into the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup 2026, but concerns remain over opener Abhishek Sharma's form, as the young batsman was dismissed for 10 off 11 balls, continuing a difficult run in the tournament.

India vs West Indies: Scorecard | Highlights  
Abhishek's struggles have become a focus of discussion as India prepares to face England in the second semifinal following their five-wicket win over the West Indies in Kolkata. The opener scored a fifty against Zimbabwe but once again failed to make the most of his chance in Kolkata. Abhishek has scored 80 runs in six matches with an average of 13.33 and a strike-rate of 131.14. Speaking on ESPNCricinfo, Kumble said that the opener's head seems to be a bit muddled at



the moment and there is a clear lack of confidence. "The head is a bit muddled. There is lack of confidence. You want others to take the pressure off and India have done well. Now that India have won, he'll say, I need to start contributing. England will pose a different challenge. They also have Jacks. I don't see Harry Brook holding back Jacks. He has bowled in the powerplay, so he bowls well," said Kumble.

NO FINGER POINTING FOR NOW

Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis commented on the situation and said that India's win will shield Abhishek for now. Du Plessis said that the conversation now will be if the opener can turn things around in the semi-final. The nice thing is that they won. When you are winning, the guy that is out of form gets carried by the team. If you lose, there is finger-pointing. A guy needs to take the brunt of the loss. So, if India would have lost tonight, there would have been a lot of finger-pointing at him. So now there is a hopeful outlook - can he do it in the semifinals or can he turn it around?" du Plessis said.

# Not built in a day: The making of Jammu & Kashmir's Ranji Trophy triumph

**For decades, Jammu & Kashmir flirted with promise without sustaining it. Their maiden Ranji Trophy title was no miracle, but the product of structural reform, cultural reset, and relentless discipline. It is proof that ambition, when engineered properly, can finally endure.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

The snow-clad peaks of the Pir Panjal range have long looked down upon a cricketing culture defined by what-ifs. On most winter mornings in Jammu, the outfield wears a thin veil of frost. Fast bowlers love it. Batters endure it. For decades, this was the rhythm of

cricket in Jammu & Kashmir: seam-friendly pitches, fleeting promise, and seasons that dissolved before spring. For over sixty years, J&K were the romantic underdogs of the Ranji Trophy. That changed on a sweltering afternoon in Hubballi, Karnataka. When J&K secured their maiden Ranji Trophy title after overcoming the eight-time champions Karnataka in the final, a watershed moment unfolded. A 291-run first-innings lead and a second-innings batting masterclass had turned the impossible into a foregone conclusion.

The trophy was lifted in 2026, but the first bricks had been laid years earlier, in a radical restructuring that moved J&K from a collection of isolated talents to a professional powerhouse.

For decades, J&K cricket oscillated between promise and frustration. Talent emerged - Parvez Rasool, Umran Malik, Vivrant Sharma - but the structure around it remained inconsistent. Infrastructure lagged. Preparation was regional. Ambition was cautious. The shift began with a sub-committee formed to rethink everything.

"The main reason I would say is the vision of Mithun Manhas," said Brigadier Anil Gupta, who was part of that restructuring body along with Manhas and then BCCI secretary Jay Shah. "He played cricket in J&K and he



wanted to make some drastic changes."

Those changes were both structural and cultural. "Among those drastic changes was that we selected a coach who was not from here. We selected a captain who was not from J&K. We selected a support staff team that was given continuity."

THE RED MITTI TRANSFORMATION

And then came the most literal transformation.

"The most significant change was that we created red-mitti wickets in Jammu. When our team used to go and play outside, they used to struggle because there was no practice on red-clay wickets. Once we made that change, the difference was what we saw last year - in Mumbai, we saw the result."

For years, J&K players had grown up on green surfaces that rewarded seam bowling. But championships in India are often decided on the grind of playing across different types of pitches. Exposure was no longer accidental; it was engineered. "We backed the talent," Gupta said. "We wanted the talents to apply themselves."

PROCESS OVER HYPE

When Ajay Sharma joined as head coach, the framework was in place. What remained was mindset. "I believe that behind everything there is a proper process," Sharma said.

From the beginning, expectations were explicit. "Mithun Manhas also had a vision when he brought me in as coach—he said, brother, we have to win the Ranji Trophy."

The ambition had evolved.

## Daniil Medvedev stranded in Dubai with his family due to Middle East conflict

**Former world No. 1 Daniil Medvedev, along with his family and team, was stranded in Dubai on Sunday, a day after winning the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships for his 23rd career ATP title.**

Bayamon. (Agency)

Former world No. 1 Daniil Medvedev's title-winning week in Dubai has taken an unexpected turn, with the Russian star, his family and his team stranded in the United Arab Emirates after regional airspace was shut down following escalating tensions in the Middle East. The disruption came a day after Medvedev clinched the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships title, his 23rd career ATP crown. The airspace closure followed the United States' airstrikes on Iran on Saturday, leaving several players unable to leave the country. Medvedev told Bolshe Tennis in Russian that there is no clarity on when flights will resume. "The situation is unusual, but basically, the only

thing is that the airspace is closed, naturally," Medvedev said. "So, no one knows when we'll be able to fly out. It's not clear whether this will last long or not." "We're just waiting to see what happens in the coming hours or days. They keep



gradually pushing back the airport reopening time."

The 2021 US Open champion said he has remained calm despite the uncertainty.

"As strange as that sounds, on the court, I'm very emotional, but in real life, it might actually help me to be more emotional at times - so, for me, everything is normal," Medvedev said. "Naturally, I've received a lot of messages from friends and family, and everyone is worried, but I can say for my part that everything is fine." "Several other players are also stranded in Dubai,

including fellow Russians Andrey Rublev and Mirra Andreeva, as well as Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor. Griekspoor withdrew from the Dubai final due to a left hamstring injury sustained during his semifinal win over Rublev. The players are scheduled to compete at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California, where main-draw action begins on Wednesday. Medvedev and Rublev are also slated to take part in The Eisenhower Cup mixed doubles exhibition on Tuesday. Medvedev's partner is Andreeva, while Rublev is set to team up with American Amanda Anisimova. Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime, who lost to Medvedev in the semifinals, managed to depart on one of the final flights out of Dubai on Saturday. According to reports, he has reached Indian Wells and was scheduled to practise on Sunday. Doubles players Harri Heliövaara, Mate Pavić, Henry Patten and Marcelo Arevalo are also reportedly stranded. Heliövaara and Patten had defeated Pavić and Arevalo in the Dubai doubles final.

With the Indian Wells tournament around the corner, players, coaches and officials now face a wait for further updates, hoping the airspace reopens in time to avoid disruption to the ATP calendar.

## T20 World Cup: Sunil Gavaskar, Ravi Shastri slam mid-match laser show in Kolkata

Kolkata. (Agency)

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri on Sunday questioned the need for a laser show during the drinks break of the T20 World Cup Super Eights clash between India and West Indies at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

India vs West Indies: Scorecard | Highlights  
India were 53 for two in pursuit of 196 when the powerplay ended and the scheduled break was taken. Truth be told, the hosts were in a spot of bother, having lost Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan without much contribution. It was a high-intensity contest where any lapse in concentration could have proved costly. Yet, during the three-minute interval, the stadium lights were dimmed and a laser show was conducted, briefly plunging the ground into darkness. The spectacle lasted close to three



minutes, leaving Sanju Samson and Suryakumar Yadav to readjust to the floodlights once play resumed.

Both Gavaskar and Shastri raised concerns that the sudden change in lighting conditions could disrupt the batters' focus and vision. "The laser show during the two-and-a-half or three minutes of the drinks break it's not easy on the batters, or anybody

for that matter," Gavaskar said on commentary. "To get your eyes used to the light, to get the bright lights again, you have darkness around you." Gavaskar questioned whether such entertainment was necessary during a global tournament.

"You have a laser thing going on. This is the World Cup. And for two and a half minutes, do you need this kind of entertainment? In the IPL, it's fine in the middle of the IPL. Not in the knockouts, but in the middle of the IPL, that is fine. But at the moment here, in the World Cup, do we need these laser shows in the middle of the drinks break, at the drinks interval?"

Shastri echoed the sentiment, emphasising the impact on players' concentration. "And from the players' point of view, to switch back on, is never easy. It's serious stuff."

## Iran conflict: Women wrestlers safe, accommodated in hotel near Tirana airport: Head coach

**Around Rs 4 lakh has been transferred to my bank account for hotel, food and other expenses during our stay here, says Dahiya**

New Delhi. (Agency)

"Women's wrestling team head coach Virender Dahiya said all his wards are safe and have been shifted to a hotel near Tirana airport in Albania. As many as 16 wrestlers along with the support staff including Dahiya reached the country to compete in the second Ranking Series that began on February 25.

They were scheduled to fly back to India on Sunday morning via Dubai but their flight got cancelled due to US-Israel attacks on Iran. The men's freestyle team returned to the

country as their competition got over a couple of days ago. The bouts for men's Greco-Roman wrestlers are underway and even they might have to change their itinerary given the global crisis.

"We are safe here and have been shifted to a good hotel near the airport," Dahiya told The New Indian Express from Tirana. The coach said the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Sanjay Kumar Singh, former chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and other office-bearers spoke to him and the wrestlers and assured them of every possible help.

"Brij Bhushan sir even transferred Rs 4 lakh to my account so that we can pay for accommodation, food and other necessary stuff here in Albania. All of them personally spoke to us and assured us all the help we needed. The federation is trying to arrange an alternative flight for us through a different route," the coach added. India women won three silver medals and two bronze in the competition. Priyanshi Prajapat (50kg), Meenakshi (53kg) and Neha (57kg) finished

second in their respective weight categories



while Muskan (50kg) and Savita (62kg) returned with a bronze each. Earlier, Sujat Kalkal clinched the gold medal in the 65kg weight category. The wrestlers were provided accommodation by the organisers but had to vacate their rooms by 11AM local

time on Sunday. The coach communicated the same to the WFI following which the federation arranged accommodation for them. The wrestlers are alone to get stranded due to the global crisis as two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu also got stuck at the Dubai International Airport since Saturday. She was supposed to board a flight for Birmingham to take part in the All England Championships scheduled from March 3 to 8 but has been stuck at the airport along with her team members — coach, training, physio et al, just waiting to get out of this tense situation. The closure of airspace over gulf has forced the Badminton Association of India (BAI) to change travel plans for other shuttlers as well. They were supposed to leave for England later than Sindhu. The BAI, along with the help of Sports Authority of India, has informed that some of the shuttlers are now leaving via airports in Africa and Singapore.



Sometimes to accommodate others. Sometimes because of his own failures. He was cast as a reserve in a squad that always had someone else ahead of him, a name on the fringes of selection meetings. He was a player perpetually described as gifted, as if the gift was a curse, a prophecy standing between him and his destiny. He entered this World Cup squad as the first-choice opener. Then two things happened: failure and Ishan Kishan. Soon he was the back-up opener, thrust into the XI only because oppositions had begun targeting India's left-hander heavy batting lineup with offspinners. Even his opportunity arrived through the back door. And yet, when the door opened, Samson walked through it as though he had always known it would.

THE LEGEND OF EDEN

There is something about the Eden Gardens that defies logic. On this ground, failure often begins with a celebration—almost like a cruel joke.

Virat Kohli And

# Anushka Sharma

## Return To Mumbai After Alibaug Trip

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma were seen at the Gateway of India ferry terminal in Mumbai as they returned from Alibaug. The couple had visited Vrindavan to seek blessings from Premanand Ji Maharaj and followed their usual tradition of heading to Alibaug afterward. In videos making the rounds online, Virat was seen wearing a relaxed brown t-shirt with black pants and sunglasses, while Anushka opted for a simple yet stylish white top and jeans. The couple walked towards their car after disembarking from the ferry.



**Virat Kohli's Performance in India vs New Zealand ODI Series**

Virat Kohli recently joined the Indian cricket team for the ODI series against New Zealand. He was in the starting eleven and delivered standout performances in two of the three matches, showcasing his form ahead of upcoming games.

**Anushka Sharma's Chakda 'Xpress Biopic Update**

On the work front, Anushka Sharma was last seen in 2018 film zero opposite Shah Rukh Khan in the lead. Now a producer, Anushka continues to make headlines due to her role in the upcoming biopic Chakda 'Xpress, where she plays former Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami. However,

there is still no official update on the film's release.

**Alibaug: Favourite Getaway of Virat and Anushka**

Over the years, Alibaug has become a preferred escape for the couple. The couple recently bought a 5-acre plot in Zirad village, Raigad, for Rs 37.86 crore, adding to their existing 8-acre farmhouse purchased in 2022. The coastal town is becoming popular among celebrities looking for a peaceful, scenic escape from Mumbai's busy streets.



**Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan And Taimur Celebrate Jeh's 5th Birthday By Planting Trees At Pataudi Palace**



Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan's younger son, Jeh Ali Khan, is celebrating his 5th birthday today, February 21. The couple welcomed their first son, Taimur, in 2016, while Jeh came to this world in 2021. Post the knife attack incident at the residence last year, Bebo and Saif chose to keep Jeh's birthday celebrations low-key. In pictures shared by the actress, the family can be seen spending time at the Pataudi Palace.

**Kareena Kapoor offers a peek into Jeh's low-key birthday celebration**

A while ago, Kareena took to Instagram and shared a bunch of pictures of her boys 'planting trees' for Jeh's birthday. Dressed in their casual outfits, Saif and his sons are seen gently doing their work with the help of the house staff. One of the pictures also features Kareena Kapoor. Along with the pictures, Bebo wished her son Jeh as she wrote, "Birthday's are all about planting trees and being free. Happy birthday Son... Jeh Baba."

Bebo's post was filled with several comments from friends and fans. Neha Dhupia commented, "Jeh baba. happy happy happy always." Jeh's maasi Riddhima Kapoor Sahni dropped red heart emojis. Fans also wished the star kid and showered him with love and good wishes.

Meanwhile, Saif's sister and actress Soha Ali Khan, earlier today, dropped pictures from Jeh's birthday bash.

The family hosted a Naruto-themed birthday party for him, and it looked like a private celebration for them. The party was attended by Neha Dhupia, and Karisma Kapoor. Along with the adorable pictures, Soha wrote, "Blink and he's five."

Cake cutting photos have to be chaos. Can see the cake - birthday boy, not so much! (But we could hear him) And through it all is Bebo looking as cool as a cucumber - how??!" Meanwhile, on the work front, Kareena will soon be seen in Meghna Gulzar's Daayra and Rohit Shetty's Golmaal 5. On the other hand, Saif has Haiwaan with Akshay Kumar.

**Mihir Ahuja Says Sharing Screen With Ibrahim Ali Khan Never Felt Competitive: 'He's A Great Friend'**



Not every actor measures success by screen time and Mihir Ahuja seems to be one of them. The young actor, who has steadily built a diverse body of work across films and web series, says sharing space with contemporaries has never been a concern for him. For Ahuja, the focus remains firmly on the story.

When asked whether playing a secondary character opposite a contemporary like Ibrahim came with hesitation, Mihir dismissed the idea. He told Hindustan Times, "I'm an actor first, so I look at the part, the story and the creator irrespective of who's opposite me. Even if it's a contemporary, that doesn't matter at all. I respect everyone as an actor if they've come to this profession, be it Ibrahim Ali Khan or anyone. He's anyway a great friend of mine and I respect him. If I'm telling a story and the director and the writer have chosen me for it, nothing else matters at all."

While he remains open to diverse roles, Mihir acknowledged that he is keen to take on more lead characters in the future. "Of course, I would love to play a leading man. I know that if you make a strong impact as an actor, you will get where you want to be in life, but when you play a leading role, there's a certain joy about it because you have this pressure on your shoulders. I love that pressure and I'm so ready for it. I'm exploring great parts and I know sooner or later it will happen. But I'm also not denying good roles in the meantime," he said.

One of his most high-profile projects so far has been The Archies, directed by Zoya Akhtar, in which he portrayed Jughead. Although the film did not meet box-office expectations, Mihir maintains that he does not attach expectations to outcomes.

"I never keep any expectations from any project. Having said that, we all believed that The Archies will do wonders. But I had nothing to lose. Where I was coming from, I had everything to gain. The film resonated with some people who liked it but some people didn't. Filmmaking is a gamble, everything is yin and yang. There are positives and negatives about everything. Everything we make is very subjective and everyone has a right and freedom of speech in this country," he asserted.

Over the years, Mihir has appeared in supporting roles in projects such as Made In Heaven, Vijay 69 and The Archies. More recently, he stepped into a leading role with the web series Shabad: Reet Aur Riwaaz. In 2024, he was also seen alongside Ibrahim Ali Khan in Sarzameen.

# Hrithik Roshan

## 'Can't Wait' To Watch Priyanka Chopra Jonas' The Bluff, Calls Her 'Beautiful' In New Post



Priyanka Chopra Jonas is currently busy promoting her upcoming film, The Bluff. On February 21, she took to social media and shared pictures of herself from the promotions. The global star looked all things gorgeous in both looks. Soon after she shared the pictures from the press tour, Hrithik Roshan dropped a comment and went on to call her 'beautiful'.

**Hrithik Roshan can't wait to watch Priyanka Chopra's The Bluff**

In the pictures, PeeCee struck a variety of poses in a chic brown outfit paired with a black headgear, even pulling a goofy face in one of the photos. She also shared moments with her co-stars from the film. In another look, the actor switched things up in a blue satin top and green skirt, accessorising with a pirate-style headgear. Along with the pictures, she wrote, "Press tour day two. A huge thank you to everyone who came out and showed up to show us support at the @agbofilms @primevideo screening #TheBluff."

Hrithik instantly dropped a comment on her post that read, "Beautiful. can't wait to watch this." Chitrangda Singh too couldn't hold herself back

from praising Priyanka. She wrote, "When are you NOT killing it!" Even the fans couldn't stop gushing over her.

Meanwhile, Hrithik and his ladylove, Saba Aza, met Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas in 2025 during their trip to the USA.

On the work front, Priyanka's The Bluff also stars Karl Urban. Directed by Frank E Flowers, the film will stream on Prime Video on February 25. She



will also make her comeback to Indian movies with SS Rajamouli's Varanasi alongside Mahesh Babu. Hrithik, on the other hand, will make his directorial debut with Krishi 4. He was last seen in YRF's War 2, which was helmed by Ayan Mukerji. It starred Kiara Advani and Jr NTR in key roles. Fans loved watching his face-off with Jr NTR, but the film couldn't perform at the box office.

## कॉलेज हॉस्टल में रसायन शास्त्र के शिक्षक की मौत, जांच में जुटी पुलिस

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के गालुडीह थाना क्षेत्र स्थित बीए कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग एंड टेक्नोलॉजी के छात्रावास में रविवार देर रात एक शिक्षक का शव मिलने से पूरे परिसर में हड़कंप मच गया। मृतक की पहचान 44 वर्षीय डॉ. अभिनंदन मखाल के रूप में हुई है, जो संस्थान में रसायन शास्त्र के प्राध्यापक के तौर पर कार्यरत थे।

घटना के बाद कॉलेज प्रबंधन, छात्र और स्थानीय लोग स्तब्ध हैं। जानकारी के अनुसार, देर रात तक कमरे से कोई हलचल नहीं होने पर सहकर्मियों को आशंका हुई। जब दरवाजा खोला गया तो डॉ. मखाल को अचेत अवस्था में पाया गया। तत्काल इसकी सूचना गालुडीह थाना पुलिस को दी गई। पुलिस टीम मौके पर पहुंची और जांच के बाद शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया। फिलहाल शव को जमशेदपुर स्थित एमजीएम अस्पताल के शीतगृह में सुरक्षित रखा गया है। थाना प्रभारी अंकु कुमार ने बताया कि प्रारंभिक जांच के दौरान मृतक के मुंह से ज्ञान निकलने के संकेत मिले हैं, जिससे किसी विषैले पदार्थ के सेवन की आशंका जताई जा रही है। हालांकि उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि मौत के वास्तविक कारणों की पुष्टि पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट आने के बाद ही की जा सकेगी। पुलिस सभी पहलुओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए जांच कर रही है।

बताया जा रहा है कि डॉ. मखाल मूल रूप से पश्चिम बंगाल के कोलकाता के रहने वाले थे और पिछले कई वर्षों से कॉलेज में अपनी सेवाएं दे रहे थे। उनकी अचानक हुई मृत्यु से शिक्षकों और छात्रों के बीच गहरा शोक व्याप्त है। कॉलेज प्रबंधन ने भी घटना पर दुःख व्यक्त करते हुए जांच में प्रशासन को हर संभव सहयोग देने की बात कही है।

सड़क हादसे में युवक की मौत



पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के चाकुलिया थाना क्षेत्र में रविवार को एक सड़क हादसे में युवक की जान चली गई। चाकुलिया-धालभूमगढ़ मुख्य सड़क पर मुदरखाम गांव के पास अज्ञात वाहन की टक्कर से बाइक सवार की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई, जिससे क्षेत्र में शोक की लहर फैल गई। मिली जानकारी के अनुसार बाइक (संख्या जेएच 05 बीटी 8580) से जा रहे मानिक मेहता को किसी अज्ञात तेज रफतार वाहन ने जोरदार टक्कर मार दी। टक्कर इतनी जबरदस्त थी कि युवक सड़क पर दूर जा गिरा और उसने घटनास्थल पर ही दम तोड़ दिया। आसपास के लोगों ने तुरंत पुलिस को सूचना दी। मृतक की पहचान पश्चिम बंगाल के झार्खण्ड जिले के जामबानी थाना क्षेत्र के केंदुआ गांव निवासी मानिक मेहता के रूप में की गई है। बताया जा रहा है कि वह अपने गांव से बाइक से जमशेदपुर स्थित ससुराल जा रहा था, तभी रास्ते में यह हादसा हो गया। सूचना मिलते ही थाना प्रभारी संतोष कुमार और एसआई अजीत कुमार पुलिस बल के साथ मौके पर पहुंचे। पुलिस ने युवक को तत्काल चाकुलिया सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र पहुंचाया, जहां चिकित्सकों ने जांच के बाद उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया। पुलिस ने शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेजते हुए परिजनों को घटना की सूचना दे दी है। फिलहाल पुलिस अज्ञात वाहन की पहचान और चालक की तलाश में जुट गई है।

फरार दो वारंटी गिरफ्तार

खूंटी, एजेंसी। जिले के अड़की थाना की पुलिस ने लंबे समय से फरार चल रहे दो स्थानीय वारंटियों को शनिवार को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। पुलिस ने गुप्त सूचना के आधारे पर छापेमारी अभियान चलाकर दोनों आरोपितों को धर दबोचा और आवश्यक कानूनी प्रक्रिया पूरी करने के बाद न्यायालय में प्रस्तुत किया, जहां से दोनों को जेल भेज दिया गया। पुलिस की ओर से रविवार को जारी प्रेस विज्ञापन के अनुसार, अड़की थाना कांड (संख्या-14/11, स्क्र-215/14, तक्र-153/11) के आरोपित राबर्ट मुंडा (32) को गिरफ्तार किया गया। वहीं अड़की थाना कांड (संख्या-21/11, स्क्र-61/12, तक्र-223/11) के आरोपित मनसिंद नाग उर्फ एसी मनसिंद (35) को भी पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार कर लिया। दोनों आरोपित 2011 से फरार चल रहे थे। इनके विरुद्ध अड़की थाना से स्थानीय वारंट निर्गत था।

## हॉस्टल में छात्र की सदिग्ध परिस्थितियों में मौत, जांच में जुटी पुलिस

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी।

गोलमुरी थाना क्षेत्र स्थित नेताजी सुभाष टैक्निकल ट्रेनिंग फाउंडेशन (एनटीटीएफ) के छात्रावास में रविवार देर रात एक छात्र के फंदे से लटक कर खुदकुशी करने का मामला प्रकाश में आया है। मृतक की पहचान आदित्य सिंह के रूप में हुई है। वह मेकअप शाखा का छात्र था और मूल रूप से बिहार के छपरा जिले का रहने वाला बताया जा रहा है। घटना की खबर मिलते ही संस्थान और छात्रावास परिसर में शोक की लहर दौड़ गई।

बताया जाता है कि आदित्य अपने कमरे में था। देर रात तक कमरे का दरवाजा नहीं खुलने और अंदर से कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं मिलने पर साथियों को आशंका हुई। मामले की सूचना हॉस्टल प्रबंधन को दी गई, जिसके बाद पुलिस को बुलाया गया। गोलमुरी थाना पुलिस



मौके पर पहुंची और आवश्यक प्रक्रिया के बाद कमरे का दरवाजा खुलवाया गया। अंदर छात्र का शव फंदे से लटक मिला। पुलिस ने घटनास्थल को सुरक्षित करते हुए कमरे को सील कर दिया और जांच शुरू कर दी है। फॉरेंसिक टीम को भी बुलाया गया,

ताकि मौके से वैज्ञानिक साक्ष्य जुटाए जा सकें। शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया गया है। पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट आने के बाद ही मौत के वास्तविक कारणों की आधिकारिक पुष्टि हो सकेगी। थाना प्रभारी ने बताया कि प्रारंभिक जांच में मामला खुदकुशी

का प्रतीत हो रहा है, हालांकि पुलिस किसी भी संभावना से इनकार नहीं कर रही है। छात्र के मोबाइल फोन और अन्य व्यक्तिगत वस्तुओं की जांच की जा रही है। सहपाठियों और हॉस्टल प्रबंधन से पूछताछ कर यह जानने की कोशिश की जा रही है कि कहीं वह मानसिक तनाव, शैक्षणिक दबाव या किसी

अन्य व्यक्तिगत कारण से परेशान तो नहीं था। पुलिस ने मृतक के परिजनों को सूचना दे दी है और उनके जमशेदपुर पहुंचने का इंतजार किया जा रहा है। परिजनों के बयान और पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट के आधार पर आगे की कानूनी कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

### आयरन एंड स्टील कंपनी में हादसे से मजदूर की मौत

हजारीबाग एजेंसी। हजारीबाग जिले के कटकमदाग थाना क्षेत्र के माहण्ड स्थित नर्सिंह आयरन एंड स्टील कंपनी में सोमवार देर रात एक मजदूर की मौत हो गई। रात्रि पाली में काम के दौरान लोडर मशीन की चपेट में आने से मजदूर जितेंद्र राम गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए थे। उन्हें तत्काल इलाज के लिए सदर अस्पताल ले जाया गया, जहां चिकित्सकों ने मृत घोषित कर दिया। बताया गया कि बेहतर इलाज के लिए रांची रेफर करने की तैयारी की जा रही थी, लेकिन उससे पहले ही उनकी मृत्यु हो गई। परिवार का इकलौता कमाऊ सदस्य मृतक जितेंद्र राम मूल रूप से बड़कागांव के अंबेडकर नगर के निवासी हैं। पिछले दो वर्षों से वे कटकमदाग की बेस चपरायत में घर बनाकर रह रहे थे। वे अपने परिवार के इकलौते कमाऊ सदस्य थे और कंपनी में काम कर भरण-पोषण करते थे।

# झारखंड के चतरा में टायर फटने से स्लीपर बस पलटी, 12 यात्री घायल, पांच की हालत गंभीर

चतरा, एजेंसी। बिहार के गयाजी जिले के दुमरिया से छत्तीसगढ़ की राजधानी रायपुर जा रही एक स्लीपर बस झारखंड के चतरा जिले में अनियंत्रित होकर पलट गई। यह हादसा चतरा-डोभी मुख्य मार्ग पर मोरैवा टोल प्लाजा से करीब एक किलोमीटर पहले एनएच-22 पर हुआ। बस (सजी 13 व्यू 0805) का अगला टायर अचानक फटने से दुर्घटना हुई।

प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों के अनुसार, बस तेज रफ्तार में थी। बस में सफर कर रहे यात्री अनुज कुमार ने बताया कि घाटी क्षेत्र में पहुंचते ही बस का अगला टायर ब्लास्ट कर गया, जिसके बाद चालक बस पर नियंत्रण नहीं रख सका और बस सड़क किनारे पलट गई। हादसे में करीब 12 यात्री घायल हो गए। कई यात्रियों के हाथ-पैर में फ्रैक्चर की आशंका जताई जा रही है।

प्रशासन की ओर से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार, इस हादसे में किसी यात्री की मौत नहीं हुई है। गंभीर रूप से घायल पांच यात्रियों को चतरा सदर अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया



गया है, जबकि एक घायल को बेहतर इलाज के लिए हजारीबाग मेडिकल अस्पताल रेफर किया गया है।

घायलों की पहचान जहानाबाद निवासी राकेश कुमार, गयाजी जिले के वजीरगंज निवासी रंधीर कुमार, दुमरिया के संजीत

कुमार, चतरा के सुजीत कुमार, बगरा के कमलेश कुमार और जोरी के अमृत कुमार के रूप में हुई है।

हादसे की सूचना मिलते ही पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और राहत-बचाव कार्य शुरू कराया। स्थानीय लोगों की मदद से घायलों

को एंबुलेंस के जरिए चतरा सदर अस्पताल भेजा गया। घटना की जानकारी मिलते ही पूर्व मंत्री सत्यानंद भोक्ता अस्पताल पहुंचे और घायलों का हालचाल जाना।

बताया गया कि उक्त बस दुमरिया से दोपहर 1:30 बजे रायपुर के लिए रवाना होती है और रानीगंज, शेरघाटी, डोभी व चतरा होते हुए अपने निर्धारित मार्ग पर

चलती है। हादसे के समय भी बस अपने तय रूट पर ही थी। चतरा थाना प्रभारी अवधेश सिंह ने बताया कि क्रैन की मदद से पलटी बस को सीधा करने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है, ताकि मार्ग पर यातायात सामान्य किया जा सके। पुलिस दुर्घटना के कारणों की विस्तृत जांच में जुटी है। प्रशासन ने घायलों के परिजनों को घटना की सूचना दे दी है।

## जमशेदपुर में शॉर्ट सर्किट से लगी आग

जमशेदपुर (पूर्वी सिंहभूम) एजेंसी। एमजीएम थाना क्षेत्र के बालीगुमा तुरियाबेड़ा में एक रिहायशी मकान में अचानक आग लग गई। प्रारंभिक जानकारी के अनुसार आग शॉर्ट सर्किट के कारण भड़की और देखते ही देखते पूरे घर में फैल गई। आग की लपटें इतनी तेज थीं कि कुछ ही मिनटों में घर का अधिकांश हिस्सा इसकी चपेट में आ गया। घटना के समय घर के पुरुष सदस्य काम पर गए हुए थे, जबकि महिलाएं और बच्चे अंदर मौजूद थे। अचानक कमरे से धुआं उठता देख परिवार में अफरा-तफरी मच गई और सभी किसी तरह बाहर निकलकर जान बचाने में सफल रहे। शायद में मिले सामान सहित फर्नीचर और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स जलकर राख आग की भयावहता का अंदाजा इसी से लगाया जा सकता है कि घर में रखा लगभग सारा सामान जलकर खाक हो गया। पिछले महीने हुई शायद में मिले कपड़े, फर्नीचर, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरण और अन्य कीमती वस्तुएं आग की भेंट चढ़ गईं।

## जंगली हाथी कुएं में गिरा



खूंटी, एजेंसी। आम तौर पर जंगली हाथी का आतंक गांव देहात और खेत खलिहानों में ही देखने सुनने को मिलता रहा है, पर अब हाथी की इंट्री शहरों में हो गई। एक जंगली हाथी सोमवार को खूंटी शहरी क्षेत्र में घुस गया, पर गनीमत रही कि गजराज ने कोई नुकसान नहीं पहुंचाया। लोगों और वन विभाग की ओर से खदेड़े जाने पर हाथी सेरेंग डीह के एक कुंआ में गिर गया। प्रशासन और वन विभाग की टीम हाथी को सुरक्षित बाहर निकालने का प्रयास में जुट गई है। सोमवार को सुबह लगभग पौने दस बजे एक जंगली हाथी को दतिया गांव से खूंटी के नेताजी चौक की ओर आता देख लोगों ने अफरातफरी मच गई। हाथी को देखकर लोग हाथी के पीछे हल्ला मचाते हुए दौड़ने लगे। इस स्थिति में हाथी नेताजी चौक के समीप महात्मा गांधी धर्मशाला परिसर में घुस गया। इसके बाद धर्मशाला के बगल में स्थित अधिवक्ता प्रदीप गौड़ के आवास परिसर से होता हुआ नगर भवन परिसर में जा घुसा। शहर में जंगली हाथी के प्रवेश करने की सूचना मिलते ही वन विभाग और पुलिस की टीम मौके पर पहुंची और लोगों को हाथी से दूर रहने की अपील करने लगे। थोड़ी देर बाद नगर भवन परिसर से हाथी बाहर निकला फिर उसे सुरक्षित मार्गहदा की ओर जंगली क्षेत्र में खदेड़ने लगी। उसी दौरान हाथी कुंआ में गिर गया।

## पाकुड़ में युवक ने की आत्महत्या, हैदराबाद की कंपनी में कार्यरत

सुरासिड नोट में लिखा-मैं इस जिंदगी से बहुत परेशान हो चुका हूँ

पाकुड़, एजेंसी। पाकुड़ जिले के हिरणपुर थाना क्षेत्र के हाथकाठी गांव में 28 वर्षीय शुभंकर दास ने कथित तौर पर आत्महत्या कर ली। उनका शव घर के पास एक कुएं में रस्सी के सहारे लटक हुआ मिला। पुलिस ने मौके से एक सुरासिड नोट भी बरामद किया है।

पुलिस को कुएं के पास से एक सुरासिड नोट मिला। इसमें शुभंकर दास ने लिखा है कि वह 2 मार्च 2026 को अपना जीवन त्याग रहा है। इस कदम के लिए कोई जिम्मेदार नहीं है, और वह जिंदगी से बहुत परेशान हो चुका था, जिसके कारण उसने यह निश्चय किया।

पिता ने की थी दो शादी शुभंकर का शव सबसे पहले



उनकी बहन ने देखा, जिसके बाद उसने घबराकर परिजनों को सूचना दी। परिजनों के शोर मचाने पर आसपास के लोग मौके पर जमा हो गए और हिरणपुर थाना को सूचित किया। आसपास के लोगों ने बताया कि शुभंकर दास के पिता सुमन दास की दो शादियां हुई थीं और

हाल ही में अपने पैतृक गांव हाथकाठी आया हुआ था। हिरणपुर थाना प्रभारी विनय कुमार ने बताया कि युवक का शव बरामद कर लिया गया है और मामले की गहन छानबीन की जा रही है।

## बच्चा चोर के शक में ग्रामीणों ने कर दी युवक की पिटाई

कोडरमा, एजेंसी। जिले में इन दिनों बच्चा चोर की शक में अज्ञात लोगों को पड़कर पिटाई करने के कई मामले सामने आ चुके हैं। ऐसा ही एक मामला सोमवार की तड़के सुबह तिलैया थाना क्षेत्र के मोरियावा गांव से सामने आया है।

जहां ग्रामीणों ने बच्चा चोर समझकर एक युवक को बांधकर उसकी पिटाई कर दी। घटना की जानकारी देते हुए मोरियावा के पूर्व वार्ड पार्षद बलराम यादव ने बताया कि सोमवार की सुबह जब गांव के लोग टहलने निकले थे, तो देखा कि एक अज्ञात युवक अलग-अलग घरों में ताक झांक कर रहा है। जिस पर उन्हें संदेह हुआ और उन्होंने शोर मचाकर ग्रामीणों को वहां इकट्ठा कर लिया।



इसके बाद ग्रामीण उस अज्ञात युवक को पकड़ पूछताछ करने लगे।

युवक ने कुछ भी साफ-साफ नहीं बताया। जिस पर ग्रामीण उग्र हो गए। ग्रामीणों ने जब उनसे कठोरता से पूछताछ की तो उक्त

युवक ने बताया कि वह झुमरीतिलैया के वार्ड 1 स्थित नरेश नगर का रहने वाला है। हालांकि उसने अपना नाम नहीं बताया। इसके बाद ग्रामीणों द्वारा इस मामले की जानकारी तिलैया पुलिस को दी गई। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और उस अज्ञात युवक को पकड़ कर अपने साथ थाना ले आई।

इधर थाना प्रभारी विनय कुमार ने बताया कि जांच में पता चला कि वह मानसिक रूप से विशिष्ट है। उसे इलाज के लिए अस्पताल भेज दिया गया है। उन्होंने लोगों से अपील की है कि किसी भी अज्ञात व्यक्ति को देखने पर तुरंत थाना को सूचना दें। कोई भी व्यक्ति किसी के साथ मारपीट न करें, यह कानूनन अपराध है।

## धनबाद के तोपचांची में सड़क निर्माण पर खूनी झड़प

मुखिया समेत छह लोग गंभीर रूप से जख्मी, घायलों को अस्पताल में कराया गया भर्ती

धनबाद, एजेंसी। धनबाद जिले के तोपचांची थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत सिंघदाह दास टोला में पीसीसी सड़क निर्माण को लेकर हुए विवाद ने खूनी झड़प का रूप ले लिया। इस घटना में मुखिया समेत कुल छह लोग घायल हो गए, जिन्हें इलाज के लिए अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया है।

यह घटना श्मशान घाट जाने वाले रास्ते पर हुई, जहां विधायक फंड से सड़क निर्माण कार्य चल रहा था। इसी दौरान जमीन को लेकर दो पक्षों के बीच तनाव बढ़ गया, जो जल्द ही मारपीट में बदल गया। आरोप है कि सुनील दास कहीं जा रहे थे, तभी बस्ती के अशोक दास, देवाशोक दास, धनकेश्वर दास और कुछ अन्य लोगों ने उन्हें रास्ते में रोक लिया। हमलावरों ने लोहे की रॉड और चाकू से उन पर हमला कर दिया, जिससे वे गंभीर रूप से



घायल हो गए। शोरगुल सुनकर जब सुनील दास के परिजन और अन्य लोग मौके पर पहुंचे, तो उन पर भी हमला किया गया। इस झड़प में गांव के मुखिया हरिचरण दास के चेहरे पर रॉड और चाकू से वार किया गया, जिससे वे बुरी तरह जख्मी हो गए। उनके पुत्र अनुज कुमार दास के गले में चाकू से वार किया गया। हमले में

दो महिलाओं सहित कुल छह लोग घायल हुए हैं। सभी घायलों को इलाज के लिए धनबाद स्थित शहीद निर्मल महतो मेडिकल कॉलेज एंड हॉस्पिटल में भर्ती कराया गया है। मुखिया हरिचरण दास की गंभीर स्थिति को देखते हुए उन्हें आगे के इलाज के लिए रेफर करने की तैयारी चल रही है।

## लदाख के छात्रों से मुख्यमंत्री ने किया संवाद

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** के प्रकल्प क्षेत्रीय समझ में छात्र अनुभव (एसईआरयू) के आयोजित राष्ट्रीय एकात्मता यात्रा के अंतर्गत लदाख से आने हुए प्रतिनिधियों को अभाविव दिल्ली के कार्यकर्ताओं ने हरियाणा के लिए रवाना किया। 26 फरवरी को शुरू हुई इस यात्रा का समापन 10 मार्च को लोह में होगा। इस दौरान वे दिल्ली, हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू के शहरों में स्थानीय परिवारों के साथ रहेंगे ताकि संस्कृतियों का आदान-प्रदान हो सके। अभाविव दिल्ली प्रदेश मंत्री सार्थक शर्मा ने कहा कि अखिल भारतीय विद्यार्थी परिषद को वे राष्ट्रीय एकात्मता यात्रा जिस उद्देश्य के साथ शुरू की गई उसको पूरा करने में सफल रहा मात्र तीन दिनों में ही प्रतिनिधियों का भावनात्मक लगाव मजबूत परिवारों से हो गया। छात्रों ने कहा कि अब हमारा एक घर दिल्ली में भी है जहां हम बेझिझक आकर रह सकते हैं। राष्ट्रीय एकता की दिशा में ये यात्रा काफी अहम कदम है। तीन दिन एकसम्यक बिताने के बाद अभाविव दिल्ली के कार्यकर्ताओं के साथ भी वे काफी घुल मिल गए हैं। सार्थक शर्मा ने कहा कि पिछले तीन दिनों से 30 प्रतिनिधियों का समूह दिल्ली में था। इस दौरान उन्होंने दिल्ली के विभिन्न ऐतिहासिक स्थलों पर भ्रमण करते हुए उन स्थलों के महत्व को समझा।

## दिल्ली में एआई आधारित फेशियल रिगनिशन सॉफ्टवेयर के आधार पर तीन आरोपी गिरफ्तार

**नई दिल्ली।** राष्ट्रीय राजधानी के द्वारका जिले की एंटी-बगलरी सेल ने एक विशेष ऑपरेशन में तीन सक्रिय चोरों को गिरफ्तार किया है। इन्होंने चोरों की कई वारदातों का खुलासा किया है। दिल्ली पुलिस के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि पिछले कई दिनों से चोरों की सूचना मिल रही थी, जिसके बाद एंटी-बगलरी सेल को मामले को जांच सौंपी गई। डीसीपी द्वारा कांस्टेबल सिंघ के निर्देश पर एंटी-बगलरी सेल ने जांच तेज की। इस्पेक्टर विवेक मैदोला के नेतृत्व में गठित टीम ने चोरों की तीन घटनास्थलों का दौरा कर सीसीटीवी फुटेज खंगाली। तीनों घटनाओं में एक ही संदिग्ध दिखाई दिए लेकिन स्पष्ट तस्वीर उपलब्ध नहीं हो पा रही थी। तीसरी घटना की फुटेज से एक आरोपी को साफ तस्वीर मिली। पुलिस ने लेटेस्ट एआई-आधारित फेशियल रिगनिशन सॉफ्टवेयर की मदद से संदिग्ध की पहचान अमन कुमार के रूप में की। इसके बाद उसकी गतिविधियों पर तकनीकी और मुखबिार के आधार पर निगरानी रखी गई। सूचना मिली कि अमन अपने साथियों के साथ अंबेडकर पार्क, उत्तम नगर आया।

## प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की इजरायल के पीएम नेतन्याहू से हुई बात, भारत की चिंताओं से अवगत कराया

**नई दिल्ली।** अमेरिका-इजरायल और ईरान के बीच जारी संघर्ष को लेकर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की इजरायल के प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू से टेलीफोन पर बात हुई है। सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर एक पोस्ट कर पीएम मोदी ने इसकी जानकारी दी है। पीएम मोदी ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर पोस्ट कर कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू से क्षेत्रीय स्थिति पर चर्चा करने के लिए टेलीफोन पर बात हुई। हाल के घटनाक्रमों पर भारत की चिंताओं से अवगत कराया और नागरिकों की सुरक्षा को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता बताया। भारत ने संघर्ष को जल्द समाप्त करने की आवश्यकता को दोहराया। इससे पहले एक मार्च, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) के राष्ट्रपति मोहम्मद बिन जायद अल नाहयान से फोन पर बातचीत की और खाड़ी देश पर हुए हलिया हमलों की कड़ी निंदा की। उन्होंने इस कठिन समय में यूएई के साथ भारत की एकजुटता भी व्यक्त की थी। पीएम मोदी ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स लिखा था कि मैंने यूएई के राष्ट्रपति और मेरे भाई शेख मोहम्मद बिन जायद अल नाहयान से बात की। मैंने यूएई पर हुए हमलों की कड़ी निंदा की और इन हमलों में हुई जनहानि पर शोक व्यक्त किया। इन कठिन समय में भारत यूएई के साथ एकजुटता से खड़ा है। पीएम मोदी ने यूएई में रह रहे बड़े भारतीय समुदाय की देखभाल के लिए वहां के नेतृत्व का आभार भी जताया था।

## पीएम मोदी ने यूएई के राष्ट्रपति से की बात, हमलों की निंदा की, भारत ने जताई एकजुटता

**नई दिल्ली।** प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) के राष्ट्रपति मोहम्मद बिन जायद अल नाहयान से फोन पर बातचीत की और खाड़ी देश पर हुए हालिया हमलों की कड़ी निंदा की। उन्होंने इस कठिन समय में यूएई के साथ भारत की एकजुटता भी व्यक्त की। प्रधानमंत्री ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर लिखा, 'मैंने यूएई के राष्ट्रपति और मेरे भाई शेख मोहम्मद बिन जायद अल नाहयान से बात की। मैंने यूएई पर हुए हमलों की कड़ी निंदा की और इन हमलों में हुई जनहानि पर शोक व्यक्त किया। इन कठिन समय में भारत यूएई के साथ एकजुटता से खड़ा है।' उन्होंने यूएई में रह रहे बड़े भारतीय समुदाय की देखभाल के लिए वहां के नेतृत्व का आभार भी जताया। पीएम मोदी ने कहा, 'यूएई में रहने वाले भारतीय समुदाय का ख्याल रखने के लिए उनका ध्यानवाद किया। हम तनाव कम करने, क्षेत्रीय शांति, सुरक्षा और स्थिरता का समर्थन करते हैं।' भारत और यूएई के बीच मजबूत रणनीतिक और आर्थिक संबंध हैं। दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार, ऊर्जा, रक्षा, आतंकवाद-रोधी सहयोग और प्रवासी भारतीयों से जुड़े मुद्दों पर धनित साझेदारी है। यूएई दुनिया के सबसे बड़े भारतीय प्रवासी समुदायों में से एक का घर है, जो दोनों देशों के बीच लोगों से लोगों के रिश्तों को मजबूत करता है। इसी बीच, प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने रिविचर देर शाम राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में कैबिनेट केमटी और सिव्क्योरिटी (सीसीएस) की उच्चस्तरीय बैठक की अध्यक्षता की। सरकारी सूत्रों के अनुसार, यह बैठक पश्चिम एशिया में तेजी से बिगड़ते भू-राजनीतिक हालात के मद्देनजर बुलाई गई। यह बैठक अमेरिका-इजरायल द्वारा ईरान पर किए गए हवाई हमलों और उसके बाद बड़े क्षेत्रीय तनाव की पृष्ठभूमि में हुई।

## हर रीडिंग रूम और हर कंप्यूटर सेंटर 'विकसित भारत' की ओर एक सशक्त कदम : विजेंद्र गुप्ता

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** दिल्ली विधानसभा अध्यक्ष विजेंद्र गुप्ता ने कहा कि आज के समय में कंप्यूटर शिक्षा कोई सुविधा नहीं बल्कि समय की अनिवार्य आवश्यकता है। डिजिटल युग में साक्षरता का अर्थ केवल पढ़ना-लिखना नहीं, बल्कि डिजिटल साक्षरता भी है। यह बात उन्होंने नागलोंई स्थित रघुनाथ धर्मशाला में सेवा भारती द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम में सावित्री देवी गोयल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ कंप्यूटर एजुकेशन एवं रीडिंग रूम के उद्घाटन अवसर पर कही। यह पहल विशेष रूप से आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग के बच्चों और युवाओं को डिजिटल शिक्षा तथा अध्ययन के लिए अनुकूल वातावरण उपलब्ध कराने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। इस अवसर पर राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ के प्रांत प्रचारक विशाल भी उपस्थित थे, जिन्होंने शिक्षा, सामाजिक उत्थान और डिजिटल सशक्तिकरण के प्रति सामूहिक संकल्प को रेखांकित किया। सभा को संबोधित करते हुए विजेंद्र गुप्ता ने कहा कि इस केंद्र की

स्थापना केवल किसी भवन या कक्ष का उद्घाटन भर नहीं है, बल्कि उन प्रतिभाशाली युवाओं के लिए नए अवसर मिलेंगे तथा वे आवश्यक डिजिटल कौशल प्राप्त कर अपने शैक्षिक और व्यावसायिक लक्ष्यों की दिशा में आगे बढ़ सकेंगे। विजेंद्र गुप्ता अत्यंत नाममात्र शुल्क पर कंप्यूटर शिक्षा और अध्ययन सुविधाएं उपलब्ध होने से प्रतिभाशाली विद्यार्थियों को नए अवसर मिलेंगे तथा वे आवश्यक डिजिटल कौशल प्राप्त कर अपने शैक्षिक और व्यावसायिक लक्ष्यों की दिशा में आगे बढ़ सकेंगे। विजेंद्र गुप्ता ने कहा कि वर्तमान समय में साक्षरता का अर्थ केवल पढ़ना-लिखना नहीं रह गया है, बल्कि डिजिटल ज्ञान भी जतना ही आवश्यक हो गया है। आज लगाभर हर पेशे और सरकारी सेवा में कंप्यूटर का बुनियादी ज्ञान अनिवार्य हो चुका है। ऐसे में समुदाय के बीच नाममात्र शुल्क पर उपलब्ध यह सुविधा उन विद्यार्थियों के लिए अत्यंत लाभकारी सिद्ध होगी जो महंगे प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों का खर्च वहन नहीं कर सकते।



कंप्यूटरों तथा विद्यार्थियों के लिए समर्पित रीडिंग रूम की व्यवस्था की सराहना की, जो स्थानीय युवाओं की शैक्षिक आकांक्षाओं को नई दिशा देगा। राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ के प्रांत प्रचारक विशाल ने सेवा भारती के इस सराहनीय प्रयास की प्रशंसा करते हुए कहा कि यह संस्थान उन विद्यार्थियों को विशेष रूप से लाभान्वित करेगा जो महंगे शिक्षा प्राप्त करने में सक्षम नहीं हैं। उन्होंने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि

## उत्तरी तमिलनाडु में तीन महीने की भीषण गर्मी की चेतावनी, पश्चिमी घाट में मध्यम बारिश की संभावना

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** भारतीय मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी) ने अगले दो दिनों में पश्चिमी घाट के जिलों में मध्यम वर्षा का पूर्वानुमान लगाया है, साथ ही उत्तरी तमिलनाडु में अगले तीन महीनों तक चलने वाली भीषण गर्मी की चेतावनी भी जारी की है। मौसम विभाग के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, हालांकि इस वर्ष तमिलनाडु में शीत ऋतु सामान्य से अधिक समय तक चली, लेकिन आगामी ग्रीष्म ऋतु में काफी अधिक गर्मी पड़ने की संभावना है। मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी) ने चेतावनी दी है कि राज्य के उत्तरी जिलों में तापमान में लगातार वृद्धि होने की संभावना है और इस महीने से लेकर मई तक लू की स्थिति बनी रहने का



बताया कि इस अवधि के दौरान तमिलनाडु में अधिकतम तापमान सामान्य स्तर से 2 से 3 डिग्री सेल्सियस अधिक रह सकता है।

राज्य के उत्तरी भागों में भीषण गर्मी पड़ने की आशंका है, जिसके चलते अधिकारियों ने निवासीयों को गर्मी से संबंधित बीमारियों से बचाव के लिए आवश्यक सावधानियां बरतने की सलाह दी है। भीषण गर्मी की आशंका के बावजूद, राज्य के कुछ हिस्सों में बारिश के रूप में राहत मिल सकती है। कोर्मीरान सागर और आसपास के क्षेत्रों में बने निम्न दबाव के तंत्र के कारण अगले पांच दिनों तक पश्चिमी घाट के जिलों में हल्की से मध्यम बारिश होने की संभावना है। मौसम विभाग के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि इन जिलों में रुक-रुक कर बारिश हो सकती है, जिससे मौसम अपेक्षाकृत ठंडा रहेगा। इसके अलावा बुधवार को दक्षिणी तमिलनाडु के तटीय

जिलों में हल्की बारिश की संभावना है। हालांकि, राज्य के अधिकांश अन्य जिलों में आने वाले दिनों में शुष्क मौसम रहने की आशंका है। आईएमडी ने यह भी बताया कि पश्चिमी घाट के जिलों के साथ-साथ चेन्नई सहित तटीय क्षेत्रों में सुबह के शुरुआती घंटों में हल्की धुंध या कोहरा देखा जा सकता है। मौसम में बदलाव के दौरान ऐसी स्थितियां आम होती हैं, लेकिन इससे सुबह के समय दृश्यता थोड़ी कम हो सकती है। अधिकारियों ने विशेष रूप से बुजुर्गों और बच्चों जैसे कमजोर समूहों से पर्याप्त मात्रा में पानी पीने और लंबे समय तक धूप में रहने से बचने का आग्रह किया है क्योंकि तमिलनाडु भीषण गर्मी के मौसम के लिए तैयार हो रहा है।

## दिल्ली के स्कूलों में फिर बम धमकी, पुलिस और दमकल अलर्ट पर

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** दिल्ली के स्कूलों को बम धमकी के मामले थमने का नाम नहीं ले रहे हैं। सोमवार सुबह एक बार फिर कुछ स्कूलों को ईमेल के जरिए धमकी मिली है। दिल्ली पुलिस और सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने इसे गंभीरता से लेते हुए जांच शुरू कर दी है। जानकारी के अनुसार, सुबह 8 बजे के बाद स्कूलों के स्टाफ ने ईमेल देखा और तुरंत दमकल और पुलिस को सूचित किया। इस बार आर्मी पब्लिक स्कूल दिल्ली कैंट, सलवान पब्लिक स्कूल और मीरा पब्लिक स्कूल जनकपुरी को धमकी मिली है। सूचना मिलते ही दिल्ली पुलिस, बम निरोधक दस्ते और स्निफर डॉग्स मौके पर पहुंच गए। दमकल की टीम ने भी स्कूलों में चेकिंग शुरू कर दी। स्कूल के आसपास के इलाकों को सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से सील कर दिया गया ताकि बच्चों और स्टाफ की सुरक्षा

सुनिश्चित की जा सके। हालांकि, अभी तक किसी भी तरह का संदिग्ध सामान नहीं मिला है। वहीं, किसने



यह धमकी भरा ईमेल भेजा है, पुलिस इसका भी पता लगाने में जुटी है। साथ ही सभी लोगों को सतर्क रहने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं। दिल्ली में यह धमकियां नई नहीं हैं। पिछले सोमवार को धोला कुआं स्थित आर्मी पब्लिक स्कूल और लोधी रोड स्थित एयर फोर्स बाल भारती स्कूल को भी बम धमकी मिली थी। उस समय भी तुरंत कार्रवाई की गई थी। पुलिस और सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने गहनता से जांच

की, लेकिन किसी तरह की कोई संदिग्ध सामग्री नहीं बरामद की गई। इससे पहले, दिल्ली की स्कूलों

के अलावा दिल्ली सचिवालय, दिल्ली विधानसभा और लाल किला को भी धमकी मिल चुकी है। इस तरह की धमकियां आम लोगों और खासकर छात्रों के लिए चिंता का कारण बनती जा रही हैं। हालांकि पुलिस और सुरक्षा एजेंसियां हर बार पूरी सतर्कता के साथ कार्रवाई करती हैं और लोगों को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए आसपास के इलाकों को तुरंत सील कर देती हैं।

## बंगाल में एसआईआर को लेकर दो दिवसीय बैठक, सुरक्षा के पुरख्ता इंतजामों में जुटा आयोग

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** भारत निर्वाचन आयोग (ईसीआई) पश्चिम बंगाल में आगामी विधानसभा चुनावों की तैयारियों को लेकर सोमवार और मंगलवार को महत्वपूर्ण समीक्षा बैठकें आयोजित करेगा। ये बैठकें राज्य में विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (एसआईआर) की प्रक्रिया और अंतिम मतदाता सूची के प्रकाशन के बाद की स्थिति का आकलन करने के उद्देश्य से बुलाई गई हैं। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देशानुसार न्यायिक निर्णय के लिए भेजे गए नामों को छोड़कर अंतिम मतदाता सूची प्रकाशित की जा चुकी है, जिसके बाद चुनावी गतिविधियां तेज हो गई हैं। ये बैठकें दो चरणों में आयोजित की जाएंगी, जो सोमवार को सुबह 11 बजे से शुरू होंगी, जहां इसके शीर्ष

अधिकारी पश्चिम बंगाल के मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी (सीईओ) मनोज कुमार अग्रवाल, अतिरिक्त सीईओ, संयुक्त सीईओ, उप सीईओ, जिला मजिस्ट्रेट (जो जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी के महत्वपूर्ण समीक्षा बैठकें आयोजित करेगा)। ये बैठकें राज्य में विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (एसआईआर) की प्रक्रिया और अंतिम मतदाता सूची के प्रकाशन के बाद की स्थिति का आकलन करने के उद्देश्य से बुलाई गई हैं। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देशानुसार न्यायिक निर्णय के लिए भेजे गए नामों को छोड़कर अंतिम मतदाता सूची प्रकाशित की जा चुकी है, जिसके बाद चुनावी गतिविधियां तेज हो गई हैं। ये बैठकें दो चरणों में आयोजित की जाएंगी, जो सोमवार को सुबह 11 बजे से शुरू होंगी, जहां इसके शीर्ष



अधिकारी भी हैं) और जिला पुलिस अधीक्षकों के साथ एक वर्चुअल बैठक करेंगे। मंगलवार को बैठकों का दूसरा चरण होगा, जिसमें नई दिल्ली में चुनाव आयोग के शीर्ष अधिकारी, सीईओ, राज्य के नोडल पुलिस अधिकारी (एसएनपीओ)

और राज्य में चुनावों के लिए विभिन्न केंद्रीय सुरक्षा और जांच एजेंसियों के समन्वय अधिकारी वर्चुअल रूप से भाग लेंगे। सोमवार को होने वाली बैठक में, चुनाव आयोग के शीर्ष अधिकारी केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों (सीपीएफ) की 240 कंपनियों की वर्तमान तैनाती की समीक्षा कर सकते हैं, जिन्हें रविवार से हो राज्य में तैनात किया जा चुका है। सीईओ के कार्यालय के सूत्र ने बताया, 'ईसीआई के अधिकारी संभवतः इस बात की जानकारी मांगेंगे कि तैनात की गई सीपीएफ की ये 240 कंपनियां क्षेत्र पर प्रभुत्व स्थापित करने और उन क्षेत्रों की भौगोलिक स्थिति से परिचित होने के लिए किस प्रकार उपयोग की जा रही हैं।' इसके साथ ही, उन्होंने कहा कि सोमवार की बैठक में 10 मार्च को दूसरे चरण में

240 अतिरिक्त कंपनियों को तैनाती के मुद्दे पर भी चर्चा हो सकती है। इसके साथ ही, आयोग की ओर से चुनाव आयोग द्वारा नियुक्त न्यायिक अधिकारियों द्वारा लगभग 60 लाख मतदाताओं के दस्तावेजों के न्यायिक निपटारे की प्रगति की समीक्षा किए जाने की भी उम्मीद है। मंगलवार को होने वाली बैठक में मुख्य एजेंडा सीपीएफ के सबसे प्रभावी उपयोग के लिए राज्य और केंद्रीय एजेंसियों के बीच बेहतर समन्वय स्थापित करने के तरीकों पर चर्चा करना, धन, शरण और नशीली दवाओं के उपयोग को रोकने के लिए विभिन्न राज्य और केंद्रीय खुफिया-सह-प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों के बीच बेहतर समन्वय स्थापित करना और अंतरराष्ट्रीय और अंतर-राज्यीय सीमाओं के निकटवर्ती क्षेत्रों में सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करना होगा।

## मुख्यमंत्री ने 59वें फल, सब्जी और फूल प्रदर्शनी का किया उद्घाटन

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने गुलमोहर पार्क क्लब ग्राउंड्स में आयोजित 59वें फल, सब्जी और फूल प्रदर्शनी उद्घाटन किया। उन्होंने यहां प्रदर्शनी में शामिल प्रतिभागियों को सम्मानित भी किया। इस प्रदर्शन का आयोजन ऑल इंडिया किचन गार्डन एसोसिएशन के जरिए किया गया है। मुख्यमंत्री ने सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट एक्स पर पोस्ट करते हुए कहा कि किचन गार्डनिंग को बढ़ावा देती यह प्रदर्शनी इसके लाभों को जन-जन तक पहुंचाने का सार्थक प्रयास है। किचन गार्डनिंग केवल शौक नहीं, बल्कि स्वस्थ परिवार, शुद्ध भोजन और हरित जीवनशैली का सशक्त माध्यम है। उन्होंने सभी आयोजकों और प्रतिभागियों को इस पहल के लिए हार्दिक बधाई दी। इस अवसर पर पूरे भारतीय जनता प्रदेश (भाजपा) प्रदेश अध्यक्ष एवं विधायक सतीश उपाध्याय उपस्थित रहे। सतीश उपाध्याय ने कहा कि किचन गार्डनिंग, सतत विकास और हरित जीवन शैली के प्रति इतना उत्साह देखकर अत्यंत प्रसन्नता हुई।



## बिहार संग्रहालय में कला एवं संस्कृति के संरक्षण में संग्रहालयों की भूमिका पर संगोष्ठी आयोजित

प्रासंगिकता को रेखांकित किया। उन्होंने कहा, 'संग्रहालय इन धरोहरों को समय की क्षति से सुरक्षित रखते हैं। वे सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि संस्कृति की ज्योंत कभी बुझने न पाए। वे हमें स्मरण कराते हैं कि सभ्यता एक दिन

5वीं शताब्दी के राजा एवं कवि भर्तृहरि की रचित अमर कृति नीति शतक में उद्भूत प्रस्तुत किया, 'जिस मनुष्य से साहित्य, संगीत और कला का आभाव है, वह केवल पृच्छ और सींग के बिना पशु के समान है। यह वास्तविक



में निर्मित नहीं होती; उसे सदियों में गढ़ा जाता है।' संग्रहालयों को 'सांस्कृतिक दूर' बताते हुए डॉ. झा ने कहा, 'वे विषय से यह उद्घोष करते हैं, यह हमारी पहचान है, उन्होंने कहा कि यह हमारी ज्ञान-परंपरा की गहराई है।' डॉ. बोरबल झा ने अपने वक्तव्य में

पशुओं का सौभाग्य है कि ऐसा मनुष्य घास नहीं खाता, फिर भी जीवित रहता है।' डॉ. झा ने इस गहन उद्घरण के माध्यम से मानव चरित्र के परिष्कार और सभ्यता के संरक्षण में कला एवं संस्कृति की अनिवार्य भूमिका को पुनः रेखांकित किया।

## दोस्ती, धोखा और कत्ल, दिल्ली की दारका पुलिस ने सुलझाई हत्या की गुत्थी

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** दिल्ली की दारका पुलिस ने छत्तीसगढ़ भवन के 48 साल के कैप्टन ऑपरटर अनुरूप गुप्ता की हत्याकांड की गुत्थी को सुलझा लिया है। लालच और लूट में इस हत्याकांड को अंजाम दिया गया था। मामले में दारका पुलिस ने मुख्य आरोपी समेत 4 आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया है। दिल्ली पुलिस के अनुसार, 23 फरवरी को दारका नाथ पुलिस थाने में कैप्टन ऑपरटर अनुरूप गुप्ता के लापता होने की सूचना दर्ज कराई गई थी, जिसमें रैपिडो राइडर को बताया था कि उसका भाई अनुरूप गुप्ता 18 फरवरी से लापता है और उसकी कार का भी पता नहीं चल रहा है। परिवार ने भी किसी पिछली दुश्मनी या झगड़े से इनकार किया और कहा कि अनुरूप गुप्ता शांति से अपनी जिंदगी जी रहा है। दारका जिले के डीसीपी अंकित सिंह ने

अनुरूप गुप्ता की तलाश के लिए टीम का गठन किया। शुरुआत में एनएचआई अधिकारियों से कार का विवरण प्राप्त किया गया था और पाया गया कि कार को आखिरी बार 19-20 फरवरी की रात को यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे पर देखा गया था। इसके बाद टीम ने टोल प्लाजा पर वाहनों के सीसीटीवी फुटेज की जांच की। दारका में भी मामले की जांच की गई और पता चला कि 18 फरवरी को अनुरूप गुप्ता ने एक कार छत्तीसगढ़ सड़क में ही छोड़ दी थी। सीडीआर एनालिसिस की मदद से रैपिडो राइडर का पता लगाया गया और रैपिडो राइडर के कब्जे पर मटियाला एक्सप्रेसवे में एक घर की पहचान की गई, जहां रैपिडो राइडर ने लापता व्यक्ति को छोड़ा था। डॉ. पॉस्ट के आसपास के सीसीटीवी फुटेज की जांच की गई और लापता व्यक्ति को बिल्डिंग में घुसते हुए देखा गया।

## हर शंकर ने कनाडा के पीएम मार्क कार्नी से की मुलाकात, संबंधों को मजबूत करने पर जोर

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री मार्क कार्नी ने नई दिल्ली में भारत के विदेश मंत्री (ईएम्ए) डॉ. एस जयशंकर से मुलाकात की। पीएम कार्नी से मुलाकात के बाद जयशंकर ने कहा, 'आज सुबह नई दिल्ली में कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री मार्क कार्नी से मिलकर बहुत खुशी हुई। आगे की साझेदारी बनाने के उनकी प्रतिबद्धता की सराहना करता हूँ।' बता दें, कनाडाई पीएम कार्नी पत्नी डायना फॉक्स कार्नी के साथ 27 फरवरी से 2 मार्च तक भारत के अपने पहले आधिकारिक दौर पर शुरूवार को मुंबई पहुंचे। मुंबई में कार्यक्रमों में शामिल होने के बाद वह सोमवार को नई दिल्ली पहुंचे।

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी पहुंचने के बाद उन्होंने एक्स पर किया, 'प्रधानमंत्री मोदी से मिलने नई दिल्ली पहुंचा। कनाडा और भारत दो आत्मनिर्भरता और महत्वाकांक्षी देश हैं जो एक साथ हिममत से आगे बढ़ना चाहते हैं। हम एनजी, टैलेंट और इनोवेशन और

डेलीगेशन-लेवल की बातचीत करेंगे। विदेश मंत्रालय (एम्ए) ने पहले कहा था, 'दोनों नेता भारत-कनाडा रणनीतिक साझेदारी के अलावा क्षेत्रीय और ग्लोबल डेवलपमेंट में भी अपने विचार शेर करेंगे। एम्ए ने कहा, 'यह दौरा भारत-कनाडा के आपसी संबंधों के नॉर्मल होने के एक अहम मोड़ पर हो

रहा है। दोनों प्रधानमंत्री पहले एक-दूसरे की चिंताओं और संवेदनशीलता के लिए आपसी सम्मान, लोगों के बीच मजबूत संबंध और बढ़ती आर्थिक गतिविधियों, एक-दूसरे को पूरा करने वाली चीजों पर आधारित एक कस्टमिज्ड और बैलेंस्ड पार्टनरशिप को आगे बढ़ाने पर सहमत हुए हैं। नेताओं के बीच होने वाली आने वाली मीटिंग आगे की सोच वाली साझेदारी बनाने में भारत और कनाडा के सकारात्मक मोमेंटम और साझा विजन को फिर से पक्का करने का मौका देगी।' पीएम कार्नी ने मुंबई में बिजनेस से जुड़े कार्यक्रमों में हिस्सा लिया और भारतीय व कनाडाई सीईओ, औद्योगिक और वित्तीय विशेषज्ञों, इन्वेस्टर्स, एजुकटेड्स, साथ ही भारत में मौजूद कनाडाई पैपन फंड्स के लोगों से बातचीत की। शुक्रवार को मुंबई पहुंचने के तुरंत बाद पीएम कार्नी ने भारत को 'दुनिया की सबसे तेजी से बढ़ती बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था' कहा और ऐसी साझेदारी बनाने की तैयारी पर बात की।

एआई में नई साझेदारी बना रहे हैं, ताकि हमारे लोगों के लिए ज्यादा सुरक्षा और खुशहाली आए।' बाद में, पीएम कार्नी हैदराबाद हाउस में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के साथ

उनकी पिछली मीटिंग्स पर आधारित होगी। वे ट्रेड और निवेश, एनजी, जरूरी मिनरल्स, खेती, शिक्षा, रिसर्च और नवाचार, और लोगों के बीच संबंधों जैसे खास क्षेत्रों में चल रहे

एआई में नई साझेदारी बना रहे हैं, ताकि हमारे लोगों के लिए ज्यादा सुरक्षा और खुशहाली आए।' बाद में, पीएम कार्नी हैदराबाद हाउस में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के साथ



डेलीगेशन-लेवल की बातचीत करेंगे। विदेश मंत्रालय (एम्ए) ने पहले कहा था, 'दोनों नेता भारत-कनाडा रणनीतिक साझेदारी के अलावा क्षेत्रीय और ग्लोबल डेवलपमेंट में भी अपने विचार शेर करेंगे। एम्ए ने कहा, 'यह दौरा भारत-कनाडा के आपसी संबंधों के नॉर्मल होने के एक अहम मोड़ पर हो

## मुख्यमंत्री ने जीटीबी अस्पताल में नए आईसीयू वार्ड का किया उद्घाटन

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने राजधानी के स्वास्थ्य ढांचे को मजबूत बनाने की दिशा में कई महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए। उन्होंने गुरु तेग बहादुर (जीटीबी) अस्पताल में 10 बेड के नए मेडिकल

आईसीयू वार्ड का उद्घाटन किया, आधुनिक जीआई एचडी वीडियो एंडोस्कोपी सुइट की शुरुआत की और एकीकृत आयुष स्टेस मैनेजमेंट प्रोग्राम का शुभारंभ भी किया। इसी क्रम में मुख्यमंत्री ने इंटीटीयूटी ऑफ़ ब्लूम बिहेवियर एंड एलाइड साइंसेज

(इहबास) में अत्याधुनिक ओपीडी भवन का शिलान्यास भी किया। इस नए ओपीडी भवन के निर्माण से प्रतिदिन इलाज के लिए आने वाले हजारों मरीजों को अधिक सुव्यवस्था, बेहतर और त्वरित चिकित्सा सुविधाएं मिल सकेंगी। इस अवसर पर मुख्यमंत्री

ने कहा कि दिल्ली में स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा और व्यापार सहित हर क्षेत्र में तेजी से विकास हो रहा है। सरकार स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को बेहतर और विभवस्तरीय बनाने के लिए पूरी गंभीरता से मिशन मोड में काम कर रही है। इस अवसर पर उत्तर-पूर्वी दिल्ली के सांसद मनोज

तिवारी, दिल्ली के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डॉ. पंकज कुमार सिंह, शाहदरा के विधायक संजय गोयल और स्वास्थ्य विभाग के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी विशेष रूप से उपस्थित रहे। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि जीटीबी अस्पताल में शुरू की गई नई मेडिकल आईसीयू अत्याधुनिक मरीजों

और उन्नत सुविधाओं से सुसज्जित है, जिससे गंभीर मरीजों को समय पर बेहतर इलाज मिल सकेगा। वहीं जीआई एचडी वीडियो एंडोस्कोपी सुइट के माध्यम से पेट और पाचन तंत्र से जुड़ी बीमारियों की जांच अब अधिक सटीक और तेजी से हो सकेगी, जिससे

शुभआती चरण में ही बीमारी की पहचान कर उपचार संभव होगा। उन्होंने अस्पताल प्रबंधन और चिकित्सकों की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि सरकारी अस्पतालों में उपलब्ध संसाधनों का सही उपयोग हजारों मरीजों का जीवन बचा सकता है। उन्होंने बताया कि

आज की भागदौड़ भरी जीवनशैली में जिनसे साइलेंट एपिडेमिक बन चुका है, जिससे विद्यार्थी, कामकाजी वर्ग, बुजुर्ग और प्रोफेशनल सभी प्रभावित हैं। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए दिल्ली सरकार ने एकीकृत आयुष स्टेस मैनेजमेंट ओपीडी शुरू करने का निर्णय लिया है।

### GST collection grows 8.1% to over Rs 1.83 lakh cr in Feb

**New Delhi, Agency:** Gross GST collection increased by 8.1 per cent to over Rs 1.83 lakh crore in February, led by higher growth in revenues from imports and improved domestic sales. Gross domestic revenue rose 5.3 per cent to about Rs 1.36 lakh crore, while gross import revenue climbed 17.2 per cent to Rs 47,837 crore. Total refunds were up 10.2 per cent at Rs 22,595 crore. Total net Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection stood at over Rs 1.61 lakh crore, up 7.9 per cent year-on-year. Net cess revenue was Rs 5,063 crore, down from Rs 13,481 crore in February last year. GST rates on about 375 items were slashed, making goods cheaper, effective September 2025.

### 18 killed, 24 injured in blast at explosives factory in Nagpur

**New Delhi, Agency:** At least 18 workers were charred to death and 24 others were injured, most of them critically, in a powerful blast that tore through an explosives manufacturing factory in Maharashtra's Nagpur district on Sunday morning, the police said. The incident comes a day after a blast at a cracker unit in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district claimed 21 lives. The blast took place at the SBL Energy Limited factory, a mining and industrial explosives manufacturer, at Raulgaon in Katol tehsil of Nagpur district, a senior police official said.

The bodies were charred beyond recognition and samples of the family members were being taken for DNA testing to ascertain the identities of the deceased.

Inconsolable family members of the victims thronged the factory compound, located about 50 km from the district headquarters, for some news about their loved ones.

### Such language doesn't befit PM office: Pilot on Modi's 'MMC' jibe

**New Delhi, Agency:** Congress leader Sachin Pilot said on Sunday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks, describing the opposition party as "MMC or the Muslim League-Maoist Congress", were unfortunate, stressing that such language does not befit the top office he holds.

Talking to mediapersons here, Pilot said Modi's remarks, made at a rally in Ajmer on Saturday, were far removed from the truth and amounted to levelling "unparliamentary" allegations against a political party. "The remarks appeared to be made keeping in view (upcoming) elections in states like West Bengal and Kerala. The PM is not talking about his 11-year report card from any platform and avoiding important issues like unemployment and farmers' concerns," he said.

Slamming the Opposition party at the Ajmer rally, Modi said there was a time when INC stood for the Indian National Congress. "The Indian National Congress no longer exists in that form. Today, it has become MMC - the Muslim League-Maoist Congress," he said.

### NCLAT dismisses Dhoot brothers' plea in Videocon case

**New Delhi, Agency:** The appellate tribunal NCLAT has dismissed petitions filed by two Dhoot brothers - Rajkumar Nandlal Dhoot and Pradeep Nandlal Dhoot - challenging the initiation of personal insolvency against them over a default committed by debt-ridden Videocon Industries.

Personal Insolvency against the Dhoot brothers was initiated after SBI had issued a demand notice of Rs 5,353.78 crore over defaults by Videocon Industries, the principal borrower, for which they were the personal guarantors.

A two-member Bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has upheld the two orders passed by the Mumbai bench of NCLT in June last year, in which it had directed the initiation of insolvency against the duo, brothers of Videocon founder Venugopal Dhoot. The appellate tribunal also rejected their plea that petitions filed by leading public sector SBI, on which the National Company Law Tribunal has directed to initiate insolvency proceedings in their personal capacity, were barred under limitations.

## 3 more semiconductor plants to start ops this year: Vaishnaw

**New Delhi, Agency:** Three more semiconductor plants will start their commercial operations in the country this year, signifying a historic milestone in India's journey towards global technology leadership, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Sunday.

"The promise he (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) made to the country - that the semiconductor industry had to be brought to India - has been fulfilled. This is the first step," he said at the Gujarat Semiconnect Conference 2026 in Gandhinagar. "Very soon, the second plant will also go into commercial production, and after that, two more plants will begin commercial production this year. In other words, four of the 10 approved plants will be inaugurated in 2026," he added.

Vaishnaw also reviewed the under-construction Tata fab in Dholera. Tata Electronics is constructing India's first AI-enabled commercial semiconductor fabrication facility (Fab) in the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), Gujarat, with an investment of Rs 91,000 crore.



India's semiconductor journey began in 2021 with the launch of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM). To support this vision, the government had announced a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme. The country has 10 approved semiconductor projects across six states. Together, these projects represent an investment of about Rs 1.6 lakh crore.

Time has come to 'learn to run' at a good pace, so that Bharat can continue

its semicon journey for many years to come," Vaishnaw said in a post on X.

Semiconductors are at the heart of modern technology. They power essential systems in healthcare, transport, communication, defence and space. As the world moves toward greater digitalisation and automation, semiconductors have become integral to economic security and strategic independence.

The IT minister added that the Mumbai-Ahmedabad ambitious bullet train project is expected to be inaugurated next year.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project (508 km) is under execution with technical and financial assistance from Japan. The project is passing through the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, with 12 stations planned at Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Billimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad and Sabarmati.

The travel time between the two major cities would be a little less than 2 hours, the minister added.

### IAF starts process to acquire 4-6 long-range biz jets for military leadership, ministers

**NEW DELHI, Agency:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) has formally started the process to replace its old fleet of VIP transport aircraft by issuing a 'request for information' (RFI) for 4-6 new Long Range Business Jets (LRBJs) that are meant for secure, rapid and reliable transportation of the military leadership and govt dignitaries.

The RFI, which is the first stage to identify potential vendors and understand available technology before initiating a formal purchase, aims at modernising the Air Headquarters Communication Squadron based at Palam, Delhi. The current fleet of four Embraer Legacy 600 jets have already served for over 20 years and are slated for a phased replacement. "IAF is planning to procure approximately four/six Long Range Business Jets.

### Oil tanker carrying 15 Indian nationals, 5 Iranians attacked near Oman coast, 4 crew injured

**New Delhi, Agency:** Amid the US-Iran conflict, an oil tanker, reportedly having 15 Indians among its 20 crew members, came under attack near the Strait of Hormuz. Four mariners were injured.

Oman's Maritime Security Centre confirmed that oil tanker Skylight - flying the flag of Palau - was targeted about 5 nautical miles north of Khasab Port. It wasn't clear who attacked the tanker in the strait, which accounts for about one-fifth of the world's oil flow.

There were 20 crew members, including five Iranians, on the ship. According to initial information reported by the Times of Oman, four crew members suffered injuries of varying severity and were transferred to medical facilities. No death was reported. "All 20 crew members, including 15 Indian nationals and five Iranian nationals, were



evacuated," the centre said in a statement.

In Dec 2025, the US Treasury sanctioned Red Sea Ship Management and Skylight, among other vessels, accusing the management company and its owner of operating a "shadow fleet" to transport Iranian petroleum products in the Gulf. Ship monitoring service Tankertrackers.com described Skylight as a small tanker that was mostly used for fuelling other vessels and had been anchored in Oman's Musandam

Governorate since Feb 22.

Two ships, including Skylight, were attacked in the strait on Sunday, maritime security agencies said. A projectile hit the Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker MKD VYOM killing a crew member on board as the vessel sailed off the coast of Oman, manager V.Ships said on Sunday.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has stated that the strait is effectively closed to international navigation and warned vessels to stay away.

### Railways plans 5th, 6th lines on high-density corridors to boost capacity

**NEW DELHI, Agency:** For the next phase of network expansion, the railway ministry has started preparation for laying 5th and 6th lines on the High Density Network (HDN) corridors connecting the four major metro cities - Delhi, Howrah, Mumbai and Chennai - so that more passenger and freight trains can run on these corridors.

This is significant considering that the 11,051-km HDN forms the backbone of railways, accounting for 16% of the total network, but handling 41% of total rail traffic. Around 8,400-km of this, over 60% of the HDN network operate at 100-150% more than the line capacity.

The seven HDN corridors are - Delhi-Howrah (1,422 km), Howrah-Mumbai (2,039 km), Delhi-Mumbai (1,321 km), Delhi-Guwahati (1,875 km), Delhi-Chennai (2,041 km), Howrah-Chennai (1,117 km) and Mumbai-



Chennai (1,238 km).

Media has learnt that recently the railway board called a meeting of senior officials from all zones to finalise the planning of doubling, multitracking and 5th and 6th line requirement on HDN routes. The zones have been asked to prepare proposals for their respective sections based on line capacity, traffic requirements and future planning. Responding to questions on the proposed augmentation plan, a senior railway official said, "Based on traffic projections, 5th and 6th lines may be required in some of the HDN corridors. Railways is examining this.

### Counting pills, fearing blasts: Indians stranded in West Asia

**NEW DELHI, Agency:** Neeru Garg and her husband counted pills and hours. Their Sharjah return flight vanished. A taxi ride brought them to Dubai - and into a city under missile fire. "We have no money left and are running low on essential medicines," Garg, a college principal from Punjab's Bathinda, said Sunday from the home of an Indian doctor where they found shelter. "We don't know where to go." Across west Asia, thousands of Indians - tourists, expatriates, pilgrims, politicians and families with children - have been left stranded after US-Israel strikes on Iran triggered Iranian retaliation. This in turn forced mass air-space closures and shutting down Dubai, the world's

busiest transit hub. "We were asked to leave the airport without any help," Garg said.

Air travel disruptions deepened the crisis. Indian carriers cancelled about 350 flights Sunday alone, while west Asia-based airlines scrubbed more than 1,600 services across their networks. Airports from Chennai and Jaipur to Mangaluru and Amritsar reported mass cancellations to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Doha and Jeddah.

In Karnataka, dozens of Kannadigas were marooned across Dubai after flights were grounded mid-journey. Among them were Congress MLAs NR Bharath Reddy and SR Srinivas, and JD(S) MLC SL Bhojgowda. Bhojgowda, travelling



and earlier-than-usual flu activity in many regions.

"The updated recommendations are timely, given the rapid global spread of the new A(H3N2) variant," said Dr Rommel Tickoo, Director of Internal Medicine at Max Hospital, Saket. "H3N2 strains are often linked to more severe illness, especially in the elderly and those with other medical conditions. Since influenza viruses keep changing, updating the vaccine each year is critical. Early vaccination of high-risk groups can reduce complications and hospital admissions."

### MHA alerts states as Middle East tensions soar; internet curbs, security tightened in Kashmir

**NEW DELHI, Agency:** The ministry of home affairs has cautioned states about the possibility of communal tensions in the wake of the ongoing conflict involving Iran, asking authorities to stay alert and take preventive steps.

In a letter circulated on February 28, the ministry warned that recent military developments in West Asia could have "ripple effects" within India, particularly if overseas events are invoked during religious gatherings or public meetings, news agency Media reported.

States have been asked to keep a close watch on individuals and groups that could provoke unrest.

The advisory specifically called for monitoring "pro-Iran radical preachers giving inflammatory sermons" that



may inflame communal sentiments.

The ministry also emphasised the need for closer intelligence coordination and timely intervention to prevent any deterioration in the law-and-order situation.

The alert comes against the backdrop of a sharp escalation in the Middle East following reported joint US-Israel mili-

tional developments could be used by extremist elements to trigger tensions at home.

Precautionary measures have already been taken in parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Mobile internet speeds were reduced across the Valley on Monday following spontaneous protests over the killing of Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, officials said, adding that the step was taken to maintain law and order.

Security has been tightened in Srinagar, with the Ghanta Ghar at Lal Chowk sealed off using barricades. Additional police and CRPF personnel were deployed across the city to prevent large gatherings.

Khamenei was killed in an airstrike in Tehran during a joint US-Israel operation. The development triggered protests

and mourning in several places, including parts of India.

Officials said demonstrations were reported from Lal Chowk, Saida Kadal, Budgam, Bandipora, Anantnag and Pulwama. Kashmir, which has an estimated Shia population of around 15 lakh, saw some of the largest gatherings.

Meanwhile, the conflict in West Asia continues to intensify. The United States and Israel have carried out sustained strikes on Iranian targets, focusing on ballistic missile infrastructure and naval assets in the days following Khamenei's killing. Iranian officials say more than 200 people have been killed since the campaign began.

Iran has retaliated with missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and US military facilities in the Gulf.

# Holi and the Eclipse – Tradition vs Science



Holi, one of India's most cherished festivals, is a celebration of joy, unity, and the vibrant spirit of life. Marked by the playful use of colors, festive foods, and social bonding, the festival symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and the arrival of spring. However, in 2026, Holi arrives with a unique celestial overlap—a Chandra Grahan. This coincidence has sparked widespread curiosity, debate, and even confusion among people across the country.

The central question being asked is simple yet significant: Should Holi be celebrated during a lunar eclipse, or should the celebrations be postponed in accordance with traditional beliefs?

## Cultural Beliefs and Religious Significance

In Indian tradition, eclipses—both solar and lunar—are often regarded as inauspicious periods.

Rooted in ancient scriptures and mythological interpretations, the occurrence of an eclipse is associated with negative cosmic energies. Many people believe that during this time, the environment becomes spiritually impure, making it unsuitable for any auspicious or celebratory activities.

According to these beliefs, people are advised to stay indoors, avoid cooking or eating, and refrain from participating in rituals or festivities. Temples are often closed, and religious practices are temporarily paused. These customs have been followed for generations and continue to hold significance for many families, especially in rural and traditionally inclined communities.

As a result, the overlap of Holi—a festival symbolizing joy and positivity—with an eclipse has created a dilemma. In several regions, communities have decided to postpone the playing of colors to the following day, ensuring that the celebrations

do not coincide with the eclipse period.

## Scientific Perspective on Eclipses

While tradition views eclipses through a spiritual lens, science offers a completely different explanation. A lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth passes directly between the Sun and the Moon, casting a shadow on the Moon. It is a predictable astronomical event that has no direct impact on human behavior, health, or daily activities.

From a scientific standpoint, there is no evidence to suggest that eclipses are harmful or that they influence events on Earth in any negative way. Scientists encourage people to view eclipses as fascinating natural phenomena—opportunities to observe and understand the workings of the universe.

This difference in interpretation highlights the broader contrast

between traditional beliefs and scientific reasoning. For many, the eclipse is a moment of curiosity and learning rather than caution.

## The Generational Divide

The debate surrounding Holi and the eclipse also reflects a generational shift in thinking. Older generations, who have grown up following customs and religious practices, tend to adhere strictly to traditional guidelines. For them, respecting these beliefs is a way of preserving cultural identity and honoring ancestral wisdom.

On the other hand, younger individuals—especially those exposed to modern education and global perspectives—are more likely to question these traditions. They often prioritize scientific explanations and may choose to celebrate Holi regardless of the eclipse.

This difference does not necessarily indicate conflict but rather a transition in societal thinking. It represents a dialogue between preserving heritage and embracing modernity.

## Social and Practical Considerations

Beyond beliefs and science, practical factors also influence how people choose to celebrate Holi during an eclipse year. Safety, convenience, and community consensus play important roles.

For instance, many schools, offices, and local authorities align their schedules with widely accepted practices to avoid confusion. Public celebrations are often planned based on majority sentiment, ensuring that participation remains high and inclusive.

In urban areas, where lifestyles are fast-paced and diverse, people

may adopt flexible approaches—celebrating privately or adjusting timings. In contrast, rural communities often follow collective decisions rooted in tradition.

## Respecting Diversity of Thought

One of the most important lessons from this unique situation is the need to respect differing viewpoints. India's strength lies in its diversity—not just in culture and language, but also in beliefs and perspectives.

For some, postponing Holi is an act of faith and respect for tradition. For others, celebrating as usual reflects trust in science and rational thinking. Neither approach is inherently right or wrong; both are expressions of personal and cultural identity.

What matters most is mutual understanding and respect. Festivals like Holi are meant to bring people together, not create divisions. By acknowledging different viewpoints, society can maintain harmony while embracing change.

## The True Spirit of Holi

At its core, Holi is about joy, unity, and the celebration of life. It is a festival that encourages people to let go of negativity, forgive past grievances, and reconnect with others.

Whether celebrated during an eclipse or a day later, the essence of Holi remains unchanged. The colors, laughter, and shared moments continue to symbolize happiness and togetherness.

In fact, this year's unique alignment offers an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the meaning of traditions and the role of science in our lives. It invites us to strike a balance—to honor our roots while staying open to knowledge and progress.

## The Changing Face of Holi

### From Tradition to Modern Celebration



Holi has always been a festival of joy, unity, and cultural richness. Traditionally celebrated with natural colors, folk songs, and community bonding, Holi represented the essence of Indian heritage. However, over the years, the way people celebrate Holi has undergone a significant transformation, reflecting broader social, cultural, and technological changes.

In earlier times, Holi celebrations were deeply rooted in simplicity and togetherness. People would gather in their neighborhoods, singing traditional songs and applying colors made from natural ingredients such as turmeric, sandalwood, and flower extracts. Homemade sweets like gujiya and malpua were prepared with care, and families visited one another to exchange greetings and strengthen relationships.

The festival was not just about playing with colors—it was about community participation. Villages and small towns would come alive with

collective celebrations, where everyone, regardless of age or social status, joined in the festivities. The sense of belonging and unity was at the heart of the celebration.

However, with rapid urbanization and changing lifestyles, Holi has evolved. In modern cities, the festival has taken on a more commercial and entertainment-driven form. DJ parties, rain dances, and themed events have become popular, especially among the youth. Instead of traditional gatherings, many people now prefer celebrating in clubs, resorts, or organized events.

Social media has also played a crucial role in reshaping Holi celebrations. Platforms like Instagram and YouTube have turned the festival into a visual spectacle. People focus on capturing perfect moments, creating reels, and sharing their celebrations online. This has added a new dimension to the festival, making it more global and connected.

Another notable change is the growing awareness about health and the environment. Earlier, chemical-based colors were widely used without much concern. Today, there is a conscious shift toward organic and eco-friendly colors. People are becoming more mindful of the harmful effects of synthetic dyes on the skin and the environment.

Despite these modern influences, traditional Holi celebrations continue to thrive, especially in rural areas and culturally rich regions.

Here, the festival still retains its original charm, with folk music, community bonding, and age-old rituals.

This coexistence of tradition and modernity makes Holi a dynamic festival. It adapts to changing times while preserving its core values. Whether celebrated with traditional simplicity or modern extravagance, the spirit of Holi remains the same—spreading joy, love, and togetherness.

## The Psychology of Colors

### Emotional Impact of Holi

Colors are not just visual elements; they are powerful tools that influence human emotions, behavior, and mental well-being. Holi, often referred to as the festival of colors, provides a unique opportunity to understand the psychological impact of colors in a social and cultural context.

Each color used during Holi carries a symbolic meaning and emotional effect. Red, for instance, is associated with energy, passion, and excitement. It stimulates the senses and creates a sense of enthusiasm. Yellow, often linked with sunshine and warmth, represents happiness, positivity, and optimism. Green symbolizes growth, harmony, and renewal, while blue conveys calmness and stability.

When people engage in the playful act of applying colors to one another, they are not just participating in a tradition—they are engaging in a form of emotional expression. The exchange of colors breaks



down social barriers and encourages interaction among individuals who may not otherwise connect.

Holi also plays a significant role in reducing stress and promoting mental health. The festival encourages people to step away from their daily routines and immerse themselves in joy and celebration. The laughter, music, and physical activity involved in

playing Holi release endorphins, often referred to as "happy hormones."

Moreover, Holi fosters a sense of belonging and community. In a world where people are increasingly isolated due to digital lifestyles, the festival provides an opportunity for real human interaction. It encourages people to reconnect with friends, family, and neighbors.

## Holi and Society – A Festival that Strengthens Bonds



Families play a central role in Holi celebrations. It is a time when relatives gather, share meals, and create lasting memories. Traditional dishes and sweets add to the festive atmosphere, strengthening familial bonds. In rural areas, Holi is often celebrated as a community event. Villages come together to organize cultural programs, music, and dance. These collective celebrations foster a sense of unity and belonging. In urban settings, despite busy lifestyles, people make an effort to celebrate Holi within residential societies and neighborhoods. Group events, music, and shared activities help build connections among residents.

Holi is more than just a festival of colors—it is a celebration of human connections, relationships, and social harmony. In a diverse country like India, where people come from different backgrounds, languages, and cultures, Holi acts as a unifying force.

One of the most beautiful aspects of Holi is its ability to bring people together. On this day, social barriers are temporarily dissolved, and individuals interact freely with one another. The act of applying colors becomes a gesture of friendship, acceptance, and goodwill.