



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Kurdish dissident groups say they are preparing to join the fight against Iran with US support

IRBIL. (Agency)
Kurdish Iranian dissident groups based in northern Iraq are preparing for a potential cross-border military operation in Iran, and the U.S. has asked Iraqi Kurds to support them, Kurdish officials told The Associated Press. The Kurdish groups are widely seen as the most well-organised segment of the fragmented Iranian opposition and are believed to have thousands of trained fighters. Their entry into the war could pose a significant challenge to the embattled authorities in Tehran and could also risk pulling Iraq further into the conflict. Khalil Nadiri, an official with the Kurdistan Freedom Party, or PAK, based in northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region said Wednesday that some of their forces had moved to areas near the Iranian border in Sulaymaniyah province and were on standby.

He said Kurdish opposition group leaders had been contacted by U.S. officials regarding a potential operation, without giving more details.

Asked about reports that the Trump administration was considering arming Iranian Kurdish groups, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters Wednesday: "None of our objectives are premised on the support or the arming of any particular force. So, what other entities may be doing, we're aware of, but our objectives aren't centered on that." Before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on Saturday, triggering a new war in the Middle East, the PAK had claimed attacks on the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard in retaliation for Tehran's violent crackdown on protests. But an official with the group said it had not sent forces from Iraq into Iran. If the Iranian and Iraqi Kurdish groups were to join the war, it would be the first entry of a significant ground force into the battle. The Kurdish groups have battle experience from the fight against the Islamic State group.

Ukraine Offers Help To Middle East To Stop Iranian Drones. But For A Price

Washington. (Agency)
Volodymyr Zelenskyy offered to send his best experts in shooting down Iranian drones to the Middle East if leaders there convince Vladimir Putin to agree to a month-long truce in Russia's war on Ukraine.

Four years of Russia's full-scale invasion has allowed Kyiv to develop unique expertise in intercepting drones, many of them Iranian-made Shaheds currently being deployed against countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, the Ukrainian president said on Monday.

"I would suggest the following: leaders of the Middle East have great relations with Russians," Zelenskyy told Bloomberg News by phone from Kyiv. "They can ask Russians to implement a month-long ceasefire. "Once a truce was in place "we will send our best operators of drone interceptors to the Middle East countries," he said. The ceasefire could also be called for two months or two weeks "so we can help the Middle East countries to protect civilians."

Zelenskyy made his long-shot offer after cities across the Middle East including Dubai became a target for Iranian drone and missile barrages at the weekend as Tehran retaliated for US and Israeli military strikes that killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other top officials. Russia has repeatedly rejected US President Donald Trump's calls for a ceasefire in Ukraine in the past as Washington has sought to broker a peace deal, and it's unclear why Putin would agree to one now.

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

world. (Agency)
Nepal kicks off its first general election since a Gen Z-led uprising that ousted the former government last year, with a new crop of young candidates emerging to challenge the old guard's grip on power in the Himalayan nation.

Balendra Shah, a 35-year-old former rapper-turned-politician who was previously the mayor of the capital Kathmandu, has emerged as a front-runner with backing from many of the young voters behind last year's revolt. His party, the three-year-old Rastriya Swatantra Party, is supporting a corruption-busting platform of economic reform, channeling the grievances that animated the youth movement. In an interview, RSP Co-General Secretary Bipin Acharya said the election was a turning point for the country to usher in change. "Our focus will primarily be on two elements - economic and changes to the bureaucratic system," Acharya said.

Shah's main opponents are leaders from a handful of older parties, including Gagan Kumar Thapa, president of the centrist Nepali Congress, and KP Sharma Oli, the 74-year-old ex-prime minister who was ousted during last year's upheaval. Thapa is campaigning on economic reform, becoming party leader after an internal fracture following the protests. Oli's Communist Party of Nepal is pushing a platform of expanded social welfare schemes to address the economic concerns that helped fuel the protests.

Thursday's election comes just six months after deadly protests swept the nation, prompted by a ban on social media sites that eventually snowballed into nationwide convulsions against unemployment, corruption and inequality. Police eventually opened fire on demonstrators in Kathmandu, leading protesters to torch government buildings, smash through police barricades and storm the country's parliament. Within days, Oli had resigned, at least 70 people were dead and an interim government took over to oversee rebuilding and fresh elections.

U.S. looks to arm Kurdish militias to join conflict

Politically, the appetite in Washington for another major Middle Eastern ground war is extremely limited.

world. (Agency) . (Agency)
Reports from Washington indicate that American officials are discussing the possibility of supporting Kurdish militias and other Iranian opposition groups as tensions with Tehran intensify. According to reporting by CNN and The Wall Street Journal, US officials have explored contacts with Kurdish leaders operating near the Iranian border. The idea — reportedly under discussion within the CIA and the White House — would involve backing Kurdish forces along the mountainous frontier between Iraq and western Iran. The discussion points to a deer dilemma confronting American planners. Air strikes can damage nuclear facilities, but eliminating a nuclear

programme entirely is far more difficult. Iran's nuclear infrastructure was deliberately designed after the Iraq experience to be dispersed, hardened and difficult to destroy from the air. Facilities such as the Natanz Nuclear Facility and the deeply buried Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant form part of a network intended to survive aerial attack. Some enrichment facilities, including Fordow, were constructed deep inside mountains — estimates suggest roughly 80 to 90 metres beneath rock — precisely to withstand bombing campaigns. Iran has also accumulated significant stocks of enriched uranium. According to reporting by the International Atomic Energy Agency, some material has been enriched to levels approaching 60 per cent purity — still short of weapons-grade but far closer to it than ordinary civilian enrichment. Such material could potentially be enriched further if facilities survived or were rebuilt.

As former IAEA director general Mohamed ElBaradei once remarked when discussing nuclear proliferation, "you cannot bomb knowledge." History offers a revealing precedent. After the Gulf War, inspectors from the International Atomic Energy

Agency and the UN Special Commission began one of the most intrusive disarmament operations ever attempted. Teams spent years tracking down and dismantling Iraq's nuclear infrastructure. Facilities missed during the



bombing campaign were gradually uncovered through inspections, document seizures and interviews with Iraqi scientists. Boots on the ground in Tehran? Who will substitute for the US?

Diplomats and inspectors involved in the process recall that mapping Iraq's nuclear programme took more than two years despite the destruction caused by the

bombing campaign. Hidden centrifuge components, technical designs and research networks continued to surface long after the war had ended.

As former chief weapons inspector David Kay later observed, inspectors discovered far more of Iraq's programme than had initially been expected because large elements had been concealed from outside scrutiny. Diplomats involved in the inspections recall that dismantling Iraq's nuclear infrastructure became a painstaking process that continued for several years after the war. The lesson was clear: bombing destroyed buildings, but dismantling the programme required physical access on the ground. Military planners have long recognised the same challenge. As former CIA director Michael Hayden once put it, "air strikes can set a nuclear programme back, but they rarely eliminate it." And if nuclear materials or equipment must be secured, that task inevitably requires forces on the ground. As former US defence secretary James Mattis once remarked when discussing proliferation risks, "if there are weapons of mass destruction, you have to secure them on the ground."

After calling US-Israel strikes illegal, Canada's Carney won't rule out role in Iran war

CANBERRA. (Agency)
Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Thursday that he couldn't rule out his country's military participation in the escalating war in the Middle East.

Carney's visit to Australia this week has been overshadowed by expanding war in the Middle East, sparked by a massive US-Israeli strike on Iran that killed its supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Speaking alongside local counterpart Anthony Albanese in Canberra, Carney was asked whether there was a situation in which Canada would get involved. "One can never categorically rule out participation," he said, while stressing the question was a "hypothetical" one. "We will stand by our allies," said Carney, adding that "we will always defend Canadians." Carney had said the US-Israeli strikes on Iran were "inconsistent with international law".

However, he supports the efforts to stop Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon — a position that Canada takes "with regret" as it represented "another example of the failure of the international order". The Canadian leader reiterated on Thursday his call for a "de-escalation" of the conflict.



Carney's trip is part of a multi-country tour of the Asia-Pacific aimed at reducing reliance on the United States — a hedge against what he has described as a fading US-led global order. The Australia leg of the tour is aimed at bringing in investment and deepening ties with a like-minded "middle power" partner. Middle power rallying cry On Thursday morning he issued a rallying cry in Australia's parliament to "middle powers", urging them to work together in an increasingly hegemonic world order.

Nations like Australia and Canada faced a stark choice — work together to help write the "new rules" of the global order or have great powers do it for them, he said. "In this brave new world, middle powers cannot simply build higher walls and retreat behind them. We must work together," he said.

"Great powers can compel, but compulsion comes with costs, both reputational and financial," the former central banker added. "Middle powers like Australia and Canada hold this rare convening power because others know we mean what we say and we will match our values with our actions." The Canadian leader also said the two countries would together as "strategic collaborators" to pool their vast combined rare earth mineral resources. And he detailed renewed cooperation in areas from defence to artificial intelligence. "We know we must work with others who share our values to build solid capabilities," he told parliament. Otherwise, he warned, they risked being "caught between the hyperscalers and the hegemonies". The Canadian leader has frequently clashed with US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly threatened to annex Canada and slapped swingeing tariffs on the country.

In a speech to political and financial elites at the World Economic Forum in January, Carney warned the US-led global system of governance was enduring "a rupture".

Pakistani man, accused of plotting terror attack in US, claims Iranian spies recruited him to kill Trump, Biden

world. (Agency)
The allegation sounded like the stuff of spy movies: A Pakistani businessman trying to hire hit men, even handing them \$5,000 in cash, to kill a US politician on behalf of Iran's powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

It was true, and potential targets of the 2024 scheme included now-President Donald Trump, then-President Joe Biden and former presidential candidate and ex-U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, the man told jurors at his attempted terrorism trial in New York on Wednesday. But he insisted his actions were driven by fear for loved ones in Iran, and he figured he'd be apprehended before anything came of the scheme. "My family was under threat, and I had to do this," the defendant, Asif Merchant, testified

through an Urdu interpreter. "I was not wanting to do this so willingly." Merchant said he had anticipated getting arrested before anyone was killed, intended to cooperate with the US government and had hoped that would help him get a green card. US authorities were, indeed, on to him — the supposed hit men he paid were actually undercover FBI agents — and he was arrested on July 12, 2024, a day before an unrelated attempt on Trump's life in Butler, Pennsylvania. Merchant did sit for voluntary FBI interviews, but he ultimately ended up with a trial, not a cooperation deal. "You traveled to the United States for the purpose of hiring Mafia members to kill a politician, correct?" Assistant US Attorney Nina Gupta asked during her turn

questioning Merchant Wednesday in a Brooklyn federal court. That's right," Merchant replied, his demeanor as matter-of-fact as his testimony was unusual. The trial is unfolding amid the less than week-old Iran war, which killed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a strike that Trump summed up as "I got him before he got me." Jurors are instructed to ignore news pertaining to the case.

The Iranian government has denied plotting to kill Trump or other US officials. Merchant, 47, had a roughly 20-year banking career in Pakistan before getting involved in an array of businesses: clothing, car sales, banana exports, insulation imports. He openly has two families, one in Pakistan and the other in Iran — where, he said, he was introduced around the end.

Turkey says missile launched from Iran destroyed by NATO

KABUL. (Agency)

A ballistic missile launched from Iran and heading towards Turkish airspace via Iraq and Syria was destroyed by NATO air defence systems, Turkish officials said Wednesday. The defence ministry said it had been "engaged and neutralised by NATO air-and-missile defence assets deployed in the eastern Mediterranean". It did not specify the missile's intended target. Iran has been hitting sites across the region in retaliation after the United States and Israel launched strikes against it on Saturday. A Turkish official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, said the missile had been "aimed at a base in Greek Cyprus but veered off course". Officials said fragments that fell in the Dorytol district in southern Turkey, near the Syrian border, had been identified as pieces of the interceptor used to neutralise "the threat in the air". No casualties were reported. Reacting to the incident, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a call with Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan "that attacks on Turkey's sovereign territory were unacceptable and pledged full support from the United States." State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said NATO stands firmly with all allies, including Turkey, as Iran continues its indiscriminate attacks across the region. "NATO spokeswoman Allison Hart said, using Turkey's official name. "Our deterrence and defence posture remains strong across all domains, including when it comes to air and missile defence."

The United Arab Emirates "strongly condemned" the missile launch as a "serious escalation", the foreign ministry said in a statement. Ankara summoned the Iranian ambassador to convey its "reaction and concerns" over the incident while Fidan warned Tehran against steps that could widen the conflict, a diplomatic source said. Fidan told his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi in a phone call that "any steps that could lead to the spread of conflict should be avoided", the source added. Iranian news agency Tasnim said Araghchi told Fidan that Iran's retaliatory strikes were aimed at bases used to carry out operations against the Islamic republic. Turkey hosts a number of military facilities used by the United States and other NATO allies.

Wrong strategy
In an evening address, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey was "taking all the necessary precautions" in consultation with its NATO allies and was issuing "warnings in the clearest terms to prevent similar incidents from happening again".

"If we, as a nation, want to live in peace and tranquility... we must constantly increase our deterrent capabilities. In these difficult times... we are leaving absolutely nothing to chance regarding the security of our borders and airspace," he said. Turkey, a majority Sunni Muslim NATO member, shares a 500-kilometre (315-mile) border with Iran.

Senate Republicans vote down legislation to halt Iran war in Congress' first vote on the conflict

Sen. John Barrasso, second in Senate Republican leadership, said GOP senators would send a message that Democrats are "wrong" for forcing a vote on the war powers resolution.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
Senate Republicans voted down an effort to halt President Donald Trump's war against Iran on Wednesday, demonstrating early support for a conflict that has rapidly spread across the Middle East with no clear U.S. exit strategy. The legislation, known as a war powers resolution, failed on a 47-53 vote tally. It gave lawmakers an opportunity to demand congressional approval before any further attacks are carried out. The vote forced them to take a

stand on a war shaping the fate of U.S. military members, countless other lives and the future of the region. Underscoring the gravity of the moment, Democratic senators filled the Senate chamber and sat at their desks as the voting got underway. Typically, senators step into the chamber to cast their vote, then leave.

"Today every senator — every single one — will pick a side," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said before the vote. "Do you stand with the American people who are exhausted with forever wars in the Middle East or stand with Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth as they bumble us headfirst into another war?"

Sen. John Barrasso, second in Senate Republican leadership, said during the debate that GOP senators would send a message that Democrats are wrong for forcing a vote on the war powers resolution. "Democrats would rather obstruct Donald Trump than obliterate Iran's national nuclear program," he

added. Trump administration scrambles for congressional support after launching a surprise attack against Iran on Saturday, Trump has scrambled to win support for a



conflict that Americans of all political persuasions were already wary of entering. Trump administration officials have been a frequent presence on Capitol Hill this week as they try to reassure lawmakers that they have the situation under control. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Wednesday that the war could extend eight weeks, a

longer time frame than has previously been floated by the Trump administration. He also acknowledged that Iran is still able to carry out missile attacks even as the U.S. tries to control the country's airspace.

U.S. service members "remain in harm's way, and we must be clear-eyed that the risk is still high," Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at the same press conference. Six U.S. military members were killed over the weekend in a drone strike in Kuwait.

Republican Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa acknowledged the human costs of the war in her floor speech. One of the soldiers killed Sunday was from Iowa and a National Guard unit from her state was also attacked in Syria in December, resulting in the deaths of two other soldiers. "But now is our opportunity to bring an end to the decades of chaos," said Ernst, who herself served as an officer in the Iowa National Guard for two decades.

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 Aya-

tollah 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 Toma-



hawk 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.

US Trade Court Strikes Down Tariffs, Orders Billions in Refunds



RNS: In a major legal development, a U.S. trade court has ordered the federal government to begin processing refunds for billions of dollars collected through tariffs that were later declared unlawful.

The directive came from the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York, where a judge instructed authorities to start returning tariff payments to businesses that had paid the disputed duties on imported goods. The tariffs had been imposed under emergency powers, but the policy was subsequently struck down after courts ruled that the move exceeded the limits of presidential authority over trade policy. The ruling is expected to trigger one of the largest refund exercises in U.S. trade history. Estimates suggest that companies may be entitled to reclaim between \$130 billion and \$175 billion collected under the invalid tariff regime.

The court directed U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to recalculate import duties as if the disputed tariffs had never been applied and begin issuing refunds to eligible importers. Businesses that paid the duties when their goods entered the United States — known as "importers of record" — are likely to benefit from the order.

Thousands of companies have already challenged the tariffs in court, arguing that the levies imposed under emergency economic powers caused significant financial losses and disrupted international trade.

However, implementing the refund process could prove complex. Authorities may need to examine tens of millions of import records and reassess duty payments across a vast number of shipments before refunds can be issued.

Despite the logistical challenges, the court emphasized that the government must move forward with a structured refund mechanism rather than forcing businesses to pursue individual legal claims.

The decision marks a significant setback for the administration's trade policy and could influence how future governments use emergency powers to impose tariffs.

India Beat England in T20 World Cup 2026 Semi-Final, Storm Into Final



Mumbai: India booked their place in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 after defeating England in a thrilling second semi-final at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday.

Batting first, India produced a powerful batting display to post a massive 253 for 7 in 20 overs, one of the highest totals ever recorded in a T20 World Cup knockout match. The innings was anchored by Sanju Samson, who delivered a sensational knock of 89 runs off just 42 balls, smashing boundaries and sixes to put England's bowlers under immense pressure.

India's aggressive batting lineup maintained a high scoring rate throughout the innings, giving England a daunting target. Samson's explosive innings formed the backbone of the total, while other Indian batters provided crucial contributions to push the score past the 250 mark.

Chasing the steep target, England mounted a spirited fight-back. Their innings was powered by a stunning century from Jacob Bethell, who smashed 105 runs from 48 balls and kept England in the contest with aggressive stroke play. Despite his heroic effort, England fell just short of the target as India's bowlers held their nerve in the final overs.

India eventually secured a seven-run victory, sealing a dramatic win and advancing to the tournament final. With this victory, India now moves into the T20 World Cup 2026 final, where they will face New Zealand, who defeated South Africa in the first semi-final.

The much-anticipated title clash is scheduled to take place on March 8.

Bokaro Steel Plant Launches 'Sanjeevani' Health Insurance Scheme for 7000 Contract Workers



Bokaro: In a major welfare initiative aimed at strengthening healthcare security for its contract workforce, Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) has launched "Sanjeevani", a group health insurance scheme designed to provide medical protection to thousands of workers.

Under the scheme, nearly 7,000 contract workers at the plant will receive health insurance coverage, offering crucial financial support during medical emergencies. The initiative is expected to significantly enhance social security and improve the overall well-being of the plant's large contract workforce.

Medical Cover for Workers and Families

The Sanjeevani scheme will be implemented through the Bokaro Welfare Trust, with insurance services provided by Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.

Each insured worker will receive inpatient (IPD) medical coverage of up to ₹4 lakh, along with outpatient (OPD) assistance of up to ₹1,500 for one year. The coverage is intended to ease the financial burden of medical treatment and ensure timely healthcare support for workers and their families.

First-of-Its-Kind Initiative in SAIL

Officials said the Sanjeevani programme is the first initiative of its kind across units of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), making it a pioneering welfare measure within the organisation.

Apart from providing healthcare support, the scheme is also expected to boost morale among contract workers and reinforce the plant's commitment to building a safe, inclusive, and worker-friendly workplace.

Strengthening Worker Welfare

Officials noted that the launch of the scheme reflects BSL's ongoing efforts to strengthen worker welfare and ensure that every segment of its workforce is treated as a partner in the organisation's growth.

By extending structured health security to contract workers, the plant aims to set a benchmark for employee welfare in the industrial sector, while reaffirming its commitment to improving the quality of life and workplace dignity of contract workers.

Thailand Deputy Prime Minister Visits Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, Offers Prayers Under Sacred Bodhi Tree

by Suresh Pd Nikhar

Bodh Gaya: Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Bawornsak Uwanno led a high-level Royal Thai Government delegation on a spiritual visit to the Mahabodhi Mahavihara Temple Complex, the revered UNESCO World Heritage Site in Bodh Gaya, where Lord Buddha is believed to have attained enlightenment over 2,500 years ago.

The Thai delegation was warmly welcomed at the historic shrine by Bhikkhu Chalinda, Chief Monk, Bhikkhu Dr. Deenanand, Caretaker Monk, and Dr. Arvind Singh, a member of the Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC).

As part of the traditional reception, the visiting dignitaries were honoured with ceremonial khadas, symbolising respect and goodwill.

During the visit, Uwanno and members of his delegation offered prayers at the temple's main shrine and meditated beneath the sacred Bodhi Tree, believed to be a direct descendant of the tree under which Prince Siddhartha Gau-



tama attained enlightenment and became the Buddha. The atmosphere turned deeply spiritual as monks chanted sacred mantras, creating a serene and contemplative environment.

To mark the occasion, the temple authorities presented the Thai Deputy Prime Minister with special mementos on behalf of the BTMC, including a replica of the Mahabodhi Temple and a sacred Bodhi leaf. Uwanno also signed the temple's Visitors' Book, expressing profound admiration

for the Mahabodhi Mahavihara and describing it as a timeless symbol of peace, compassion, and enlightenment for people across the world. Members of the Thai delegation also interacted briefly with the temple monks and officials, discussing the deep historical and spiritual ties between India and Thailand through Buddhism. The visit highlighted the enduring cultural and religious connections shared by the two nations. Officials of the BTMC said such visits by international digni-

ties further strengthen Bodh Gaya's status as one of the world's most important Buddhist pilgrimage centres. The presence of the Thai delegation also drew attention from pilgrims and visitors present at the temple complex. Managed by the Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee, the Mahabodhi Mahavihara continues to draw pilgrims, scholars, and global leaders who come to connect with the spiritual legacy of Lord Buddha and the message of universal harmony.

Hemant Soren Joins Baha Parv Celebrations in Ancestral Village Nemra

by Apurva

Ramgarh: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren participated in the traditional Baha Parv celebrations at his ancestral village Nemra in Ramgarh district, joining villagers in age-old tribal rituals and festivities.

Accompanied by his family, the Chief Minister walked from his residence to the sacred Jaher Than, the tribal holy grove, where he offered prayers for the happiness, prosperity, and progress of the people of Jharkhand. The traditional rituals



were performed by village priests Naik Baba (Pahan) Chaitan Tudu and Kudam Naik Baba (Deputy Pahan) Chhotu Besra, following customary tribal practices.

Large numbers of villagers from Nemra and nearby areas gathered to welcome the Chief Minister and accompanied him to Jaher Than amid the beats of traditional Man-

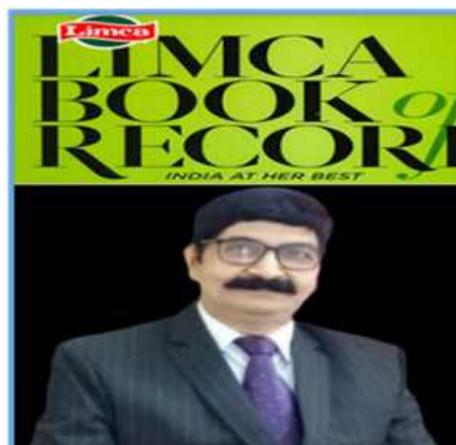
dar drums, creating a vibrant festive atmosphere.

Soren also joined the celebrations by playing the Mandar, sharing the festive spirit with villagers and encouraging community participation. The Chief Minister arrived in Nemra on a two-day visit along with his wife Kalpana Soren, MLA, and other family members. During the visit, he interacted with people from nearby villages, listened to their concerns, and extended warm greetings to the people of the state on the occasion of Baha Parv.

The Record-Breaking Writer: Dr. Vinod Dixit's Literary Legacy

In the realm of Indian literature, Dr. Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit stands as a towering figure, his pen weaving tales, poems, and articles that captivate readers across the nation. A man of many letters, Dr. Dixit's literary prowess has earned him a place in the prestigious Limca Book of Records not once, not twice, but seven times! His achievements extend beyond national borders, with a world record that cements his status as one of the most prolific writers from India. Dr. Dixit's writing career spans multiple genres, from fiction to non-fiction, poetry to prose. His articles in India's leading papers have garnered widespread acclaim, showcasing his versatility and depth of knowledge. Whether it's a thought-provoking editorial or a captivating short story, Dixit's words have the power to inspire, educate, and entertain.

Dr. Vinod Chandrashekar Dixit a Free-lance Journalist, Writer & Cartoonist is India's most prolific writer to Press. He began writing letters to newspapers in 1984 to voice his anger against social evils. Dr. Dixit is known for his 'Letters to Editors' and for writing articles taking up causes of national and public interest by writing to newspapers and concerned authorities. He wrote his first letter to the editor in 1984 in The Indian Express as a hobby and to date, He has continued his journey to write to Press, and this eventually earned him a Limca Book of Record for the 8th time in 2026. The latest feat is that he has entered Limca book of records for the eight time for his longest letter to the editor word count of 3973 after breaking his previous record of long-est letter to the editor of word count 3646. He wrote the longest letter to the editor on



the topic "Sant Mavji Maharaj - an incarnation of Lord Krishna." and Most number of articles 450 published in a single daily. He is 'PATRA SHREE' from All India (Press) letter Writers' Association. By his count, the Retired Senior Manager

from Bank of India and Chief Editor of SVARG Magazine of bank of India Officers' Association has more than 13000 letters and 7000 articles published in more than 350 newspapers and magazines over the last 40 years. Creating records and Break-

ing records is not new to Dr. Dixit. With the entry in LBR for the eighth time, Dr. Dixit has broken his own that figure in the Limca Book of Records — the highest number of records totted by any individual. Dr. Dixit has the maximum 16 Entries in Limca Book of Records. Dr. Dixit is seen as a prolific man, who wants to change the world through his letters to the editors and articles to print media over a period of four decades. The All India Press Writers Association had honoured him with the 'Patra Shree' award in 1999. He is a recipient of Brahma Gaurav Award, Gujarat Gaurav Award, Indian literature Award

the Limca Book of Records is a testament to his unwavering dedication to his craft. With seven record-breaking achievements, he has proven himself to be a force to be reckoned with in the literary world. His world record further solidifies his position as a trailblazer, pushing the boundaries of what is possible with the written word. As one of India's most prolific writers, Dr. Dixit's contributions to literature are undeniable. His work has not only enriched the literary landscape but also inspired a new generation of writers. Dixit says that just a match box albeit small in size, contains enough match sticks to start a blaze, similarly, this column, though it occupies a small space or an issue, it plays a vital role. He is an achiever because of his passion to write and write. Dr. Dixit says, he gives social service because he believes that life is incomplete

unless we donate something for the welfare of our society. Through his letters to the editor and articles, he tries to inspire people, and make their day happier, and give them some food for thought on what is going in society. He gets immense satisfaction of penning down a pen each time he feels strong on some social issues. Writers like Dr. Dixit cherish the values of life & give free speech by way of writing to press & encourages the other writers to pen down their voice to press. Dr. Dixit's remarkable journey is a shining example of the power of passion, dedication, and creativity. As a Limca Book of Record holder and world record achiever, he has proven himself to be a true literary giant. His contributions to Indian literature will undoubtedly continue to inspire and captivate readers for generations to come.

IAF Su-30MKI Fighter Jet Missing After Take-off from Assam's Jorhat

Guwahati: An Indian Air Force (IAF) Su-30MKI fighter aircraft was reported missing shortly after taking off from Jorhat airbase in Assam, officials said on Thursday. According to the Air Force, the aircraft lost contact with ground control at around 7:42 pm after departing from Jorhat. The fighter jet has since been reported overdue, raising concerns about its status. In a brief statement posted on social media, the IAF confirmed the development and said efforts are underway to trace the aircraft. Authorities have initiated a Search and Rescue (SAR) mission to locate the jet and determine the circumstances behind the loss of contact. Defence PRO Lt Col Mahender Rawat said all available resources have been mobilised to track the aircraft. "We are deploying every possible asset to locate the Su-30MKI and ascertain the situation," he said. As of now, there is no confirmed information about the pilot's condition.

Nitish Kumar's exit sparks power tussle Samrat Chaudhary ahead in Bihar CM race

Nitish Kumar, who has dominated Bihar's political landscape for more than two decades, filed his nomination for the Rajya Sabha elections on Thursday, paving the way for his exit from the top post just four months after being sworn in for a record 10th term as Chief Minister.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Nitish Kumar's bid for the Rajya Sabha has triggered intense speculation in Bihar over who could succeed him as Chief Minister. The Janata Dal (United) supremo, who has dominated the state's political landscape for more than two decades, filed his nomination for the Rajya Sabha elections on Thursday—paving the way for his exit from the top post just four months after being sworn in for a record 10th term as chief minister.

With the JDU chief expected to shift to national politics in Delhi, attention has quickly turned to the BJP's internal deliberations.

Several names are being discussed within the party, but Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary is widely seen as the frontrunner to take over the reins in Bihar.

SAMRAT CHAUDHARY - FRONTRUNNER
Chaudhary, currently serving as Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister, is regarded as the strongest candidate to lead the state government if the BJP is handed the chief ministership.

A prominent leader from the Kushwaha OBC



community, Chaudhary has steadily strengthened his political standing both within the party organisation and the state government over the past few years. His role in the NDA government and his

experience working closely with Kumar have boosted his administrative credentials.

Within the BJP, he is also viewed as a leader with strong organisational backing and grassroots connections, factors that could weigh heavily on the party's decision.

NITYANAND RAI - STRATEGIC OPTION

Another key name doing the rounds is that of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai. A prominent Yadav leader within the BJP, Rai has served as a junior minister under Union Home Minister Amit Shah for several years.

Political observers say his elevation could send a powerful signal to the Yadav community, traditionally seen as the core support base of the opposition. The community has long been politically aligned with leaders like Lalu Prasad Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

Appointing a Yadav chief minister could therefore be viewed as an attempt by the BJP to make deeper inroads into that voter base ahead of future national elections.

Amit Shah Launches Mascots For India's First 2027 Digital Census

Bengaluru.(Agency)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday soft launched a set of digital platforms and unveiled two mascots for Census 2027, marking the start of preparations for what will be the world's largest population exercise.

The mascots, named Pragati and Vikas, represent female and male enumerators and are meant to highlight equal participation of women and men in the national exercise as India works towards its goal of becoming a developed country by 2047. Officials said the upcoming census will be conducted in two phases and will be the first time that the nationwide exercise will be carried out using digital tools. For the first time, citizens will also have the option of self enumeration through a secure web based portal where they can submit their household details online in 16 languages before the door to door survey begins.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, or Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, has developed the digital platforms that will support the enumeration process across the country.

Four key digital systems

were introduced during the launch. These include the Houselisting Block Creator web application that allows officials to create houselisting blocks using satellite imagery, the HLO mobile application that enables enumerators to collect and upload field data through smartphones, the Self Enumeration portal for citizens to submit their information online, and the Census Management and Monitoring System that will allow authorities to track progress of the exercise in real time.



The government had formally announced its intent to conduct the next census through a gazette notification issued on June 16, 2025. The nationwide exercise will be carried out in two stages.

The first phase, known as the Houselisting and Housing Census, will gather details on housing conditions and household amenities. This phase will be conducted between April 1 and September 30, with each state and union territory carrying out the survey during a 30 day period notified locally. An optional 15 day window for self enumeration will be provided before the door to door survey begins.

The second phase will involve population enumeration and will capture demographic, social and economic information of every individual. This phase is scheduled to be carried out across the country in February 2027. For the Union Territory of Ladakh and snow bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the population enumeration will be conducted earlier in September due to weather conditions.

Officials said more than 30 lakh enumerators, supervisors and other personnel will be deployed across the country to carry out the census, which will rely heavily on mobile applications and digital monitoring systems to ensure accuracy and full coverage.

Bengal SIR: CM Mamata slams BJP over mass deletion in TMC's core turf

Kolkata.(Agency)

West Bengal Chief Minister (CM) Mamata Banerjee on Thursday launched scathing attacks on the BJP-led government at the Centre following deletions of thousands of voters belonging mainly to the Matua community across the state. While playing tribute to the Matua martriach Binapani Devi, reverently known as Baroma on her death anniversary today the CM accused the BJP of plunging the Matuas into 'uncertainty and confusion' under the pretext of granting them citizenship of the country.

Names of thousands of Matuas in districts like North 24 Parganas, Nadia, parts of Jalpaiguri and Bardhaman in West Bengal from the final list of



the post-Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state published on 28 February.

Mamata wrote on X on Thursday, "It's unfortunate

that with conspiracy of the BJP the Central Government has landed the Matua brothers and sisters into an uncertain and confusing situation. It has been playing politics with the Matua community in the name of granting them citizenship." "Questions in connection with their identity are being raised. Their names are deleted intentionally from the voters' lists in the name of the SIR exercise. These people, who are citizens of the country for generations and with whose votes a government is formed, are being pushed into a state of uncertainty and confusions," she said.

"We won't tolerate this illegal move snatching rights of the Matua brothers and sisters. We would intensify our protest against the removal of the Matua from the electoral rolls," she added.

Man—animal conflicts in Karnataka rises as experts say core issues remain unaddressed

Bengaluru.(Agency)

The year 2025-26 reported many cases of man-animal conflict. Experts point out that as knee jerk reactions were taken to resolve issues of human deaths by capture and release of wildlife, little or nothing was done to address core concerns.

They also pointed out that as efforts were made by the environment and forest departments to implement the budget announcements made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, along with increasing the budget allocation, this year the government should focus on adhering to rules. "There is no need to make new



announcements, but to ensure that the existing ones are executed. In the wildlife sector, forest land should not be diverted for any kind of projects, and the forest and wildlife laws and rules should be followed. And, in case of the environment sector, focus should be on

addressing industrial and air pollution, Construction and Debris (C&D) waste and clearance of encroachments," said an expert working closely with the government.

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) officials said the budget announcement of maintaining and monitoring 3,000 Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) in Bengaluru was implemented, but experts questioned it. "The STPs continue to be in poor condition as flooding continues in Bengaluru. The government has been unable to clear encroachments. It has reduced the buffer zones and concretised the drains. This only makes matters worse.

BJP Begins Final Candidate Screening For Assam Assembly Polls: Himanta Sarma

Assam.(Agency)

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday ceremonially distributed appointment letters to newly selected Assam Civil Service (ACS) officers and other allied service candidates at the Damodardeva International Auditorium in Panjabari, Guwahati.

On the same occasion, the Chief Minister also flagged off 143 newly inducted vehicles for the Forest Department, aimed at strengthening field-level monitoring and protection of forest resources across the state.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister congratulated the newly appointed officers and urged them to serve the people with dedication and integrity. The induction of new vehicles into the

Forest Department fleet is expected to enhance mobility and operational efficiency, particularly in remote and forested regions of Assam.

During a media interaction after the programme, the



Chief Minister responded to questions regarding the upcoming elections, particularly about the contest in the Jorhat constituency and Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi. He said, "We have our strong candidates in all 126 constituencies, including Jorhat. Our party

is fully prepared for the elections." "When asked about the possibility of Congress leaders joining the BJP ahead of the polls, Sarma remarked, "During elections, many opposition leaders join the BJP, and from the BJP some leaders may also join the Congress.

Military conflict not a solution PM calls for early end to Iran, Ukraine wars

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for an early end to the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, stressing that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only path to resolving global conflicts.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called for an early end to the Ukraine and US-Israel-Iran wars, stressing that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only way to resolve conflicts. The Prime Minister's remarks assume significance as the Middle East plunged into chaos following US-Israeli strikes against Iran on February 28 that triggered retaliatory attacks by Tehran.

Addressing a joint press conference with Finland President Alexander Stubb in Delhi, PM Modi said both countries shared a firm belief in the rule of law and that they will continue to push for long-lasting peace in Ukraine and in the Middle East. "India and Finland share a strong commitment to the rule of law, dialogue and diplomacy. We firmly believe that military conflicts cannot

resolve disputes. This applies equally to situations in Ukraine and West Asia. We hope for an early end to the wars and will continue to support efforts aimed at achieving lasting peace," PM Modi said.

He highlighted global instability from Ukraine to the Middle East and noted that India and Europe were entering a "golden era" of partnership for stability and prosperity.

"Today, the world is going through a period of instability and uncertainty. Conflict persists in many parts of the world,



from Ukraine to West Asia. In such a global environment, India and Europe, two of the

world's major diplomatic powers, are entering a golden era in our relationship. Our growing cooperation is giving new strength to global stability, development, and shared prosperity," PM Modi said. PM Modi's remarks come at a time when two major conflicts — the Russia-Ukraine war in Europe and the ongoing US-Israel-Iran confrontation in the Middle East — have heightened global tensions, disrupted economies and raised fears of a wider geopolitical crisis.

Touchstones: Lows of higher education

The huge brouhaha that has exploded over the recent AI event held in Delhi really shook up the capital. First, there was utter chaos on the roads leading up to Bharat Mandapam — the worst traffic mess I have ever seen in Delhi. The rush of delegates, visitors and the forever-roving crowd of those who go to such places only to make reels for posterity and their family, were just left to fend for themselves on the first few days. Then came the shameful episode of Galgotias University and the Chinese robotic dog that a 'Communications' person from the university was unable to explain, and last but not least, the demonstration by the Youth Congress volunteers that brought the house down (to say nothing of their clothes).

Enough masala to provide hours of tu-tu, main-main TV debates, so let me not repeat all that. My concern is with what we have made of the concept of a university, or education in general. The first modern Indian university was set up in 1858 in Calcutta. Years later, Lord Curzon initiated education reforms though he is now remembered for all the wrong reasons — the partition of Bengal, the loot from India and the precious jewels and artefacts he took with him to England. However, we often forget that he established the Archaeological Survey of India (that predates the Royal Architectural Society of England, by the way) and ordered restoration of several historical sites (including Akbar's tomb at Sikandra vandalised by a Jat ruler).

Calcutta was followed by universities in Madras and Bombay and later, by Allahabad, Lucknow, Delhi, to name a few. A special kind of architecture (broadly Indo-Saracenic) with towers, turrets, huge campuses with buildings marked for science and humanities, impressive libraries, senate halls with stained glass windows and balconies, gardens, hostels for girls and boys — all these follow a similar architecture.

From my memories of my alma mater in Allahabad, I can recall wide verandahs where students roamed to lofty tutorial and staff rooms. Humanities were then the most popular courses and entire generations of the civil service were filled with alumni from Allahabad, also then known as the Oxford of the East.

Similarly, Bombay became the hub of legal studies, and its advocates, jurists and constitutional experts (many Muslim and Parsi names) were legends known for their distinguished careers. Jinnah, Nanavati, Palkhiwala, Seervai, Tyabji are some names that come readily to mind. I am not so familiar with Madras but even Lucknow university had a renowned centre for botany in the years gone by. Medical education was provided by some outstanding colleges that have largely kept their reputations intact. Panjab University, partitioned into two campuses in 1947, held its own for decades.

The short point that I wish to make is that there was a grand tradition of higher education funded and run by the State. In addition, there were individual institutions (such as the BHU, the AMU) where generous donors and philanthropists created impressive centres of higher learning. However, it is with the establishment of the IITs that this landscape changed radically. Gone were the sprawling spaces with dreamy towers and turrets and in their place came gleaming concrete and glass buildings with state-of-the-art labs, as the focus moved from the humanities to science and engineering. Students who graduated from there went abroad, earned huge salaries and never came back. Our brightest and best started the brain drain that is responsible for a dumbing down now visible at every level of education. English-medium education acquired an aspirational pull and with the mushrooming of so-called convent schools and English medium schools even in villages, the local government-run schools became passe. Something else also followed these changes: a dialogue between science education and the humanities was slowly lost. So, we had brilliant scientists who never regarded history or literature with respect, and on the other hand, our historians.

The afterlife of the colonial image

Ultimately, the strength of typecasting lay in its refusal to offer definitive conclusions. Curator Sudeshna Guha deftly wove rare material, rigorous scholarship and a sharply articulated vision, transforming a colonial archive into a space for critical reflection

One of my favourite mediums of visual expression is photography. Photographs often reveal more than what meets the eye; they contain layers of meaning that unfold through careful reading. As colonisers, the British were meticulous documenters. Photography emerged as a "vital mode of data capture and transmission" in the 19th century, particularly as ethnographic surveys were developed by the Western world from the 1830s onward to study the races, cultures and perceived characteristics of the colonised and the "other." In February 2026, DAG presented a much-needed re-examination of this vast colonial archive at Bikaner House, New Delhi. Titled *Typecasting: Photographing the Peoples of India, 1855-1920*, and curated by historian Sudeshna Guha, the exhibition brought together nearly 200 photographs produced over 65 years. It assembled albumen and silver-gelatin prints, cartes-de-visite, cabinet cards, postcards, folios, albums, and rare publications. At its centre were folios from *The People of India*, the eight-volume series compiled by John Forbes Watson and John William Kaye between 1868 and 1875. The series was among the most ambitious colonial attempts to catalogue the subcontinent's population.

The material revealed the geographic and social reach of ethnographic photography. Lepcha and Bhutia communities from the northeast, Afridis from the northwest, and Todas from the Nilgiris appeared alongside occupational and social categories such as Parsis, merchants, barbers, coolies, snake charmers, and dancing girls. The curatorial framework centred on a critical interrogation of typology. Categories such as caste, tribe, occupation, and community were shown to be historically constructed rather than inherently fixed. As photography became a key instrument of modern anthropology, it lent these categories the authority of visual evidence. At the same time, photographs were presented as mutable objects whose meanings shift across contexts, viewers, and historical moments. The display emphasised ambiguity, interpretation and the instability of photographic truth. The exhibition also foregrounded the agency of the photographed subjects. Through posture, dress, and self-presentation, individuals participated in shaping their own visibility. This reframed ethnographic photography as a space of negotiation rather than a purely extractive colonial gaze. Photographs by Benjamin Simpson and Charles Shepherd showed how communities were fixed within administrative and military frameworks, including the labelling of certain groups as "criminal" or as "martial races." In contrast, Samuel Bourne's documentation of a



Toda settlement in the Nilgiris revealed how ethnographic photography functioned within networks of colonial administration, missionary activity and early anthropological research.

The images also demonstrated how textual framing shaped interpretation. Portraits by Willoughby Wallace Hooper revealed how notions of tribal authenticity were constructed through controlled settings and symbolic attributes. William Johnson's widely circulated photographs, accompanied by descriptive letterpress, transformed individuals into representatives of social categories. His portraits of urban elites, when contrasted with labouring figures photographed by Edward Taurines, reflected the visual hierarchies through which colonial photography organised Indian society into ordered categories of class, occupation, and respectability. Samuel Bourne's *A Group of Kashmir Females*, Srinuggur arranged and aestheticised female subjects within narratives of beauty and spectacle. Photographs by GR Lambert & Co. depicting Indian migrant families in Southeast Asia expanded the geographic frame, revealing the imperial networks through which Indian identities were documented and

circulated. The exhibition also examined the afterlives of ethnographic imagery. Subjects such as nautch performers, widely reproduced as "girls," moved from administrative and anthropological contexts into commercial and voyeuristic circuits.

Presented as an India Art Fair parallel exhibition and part of DAG's long-term effort to build one of the country's largest collections of early photography, typecasting functioned as a project of archival recovery. By framing the material through a critical lens, the exhibition invited contemporary audiences to revisit colonial visual archives and reflect on the enduring legacies of classification that continue to shape social perception. Ultimately, the strength of typecasting lay in its refusal to offer definitive conclusions. Curator Sudeshna Guha deftly wove rare material, rigorous scholarship and a sharply articulated vision, transforming a colonial archive into a space for critical reflection. An elegant, richly illustrated catalogue edited by Guha crowns the exhibition, with contributions from Christopher Pinney, Ashish Anand, Ranu Roychoudhary, Suryanandani Narain, and Omar Khan, extending its intellectual resonance well beyond the gallery

Law over loot: SC enforces mining ban in Aravallis

The SC's blunt message underscores a deeper truth: environmental compliance cannot be negotiated district by district

THE Supreme Court has delivered a line that should echo across every scarred ridge of the Aravalli Hills: "We say 'stop mining' and you stop." It is a constitutional reminder that environmental rule of law is not optional. For decades, the Aravallis — among the world's oldest mountain ranges — have been gouged by illegal and quasi-legal mining. Despite repeated bans and regulatory frameworks, extraction has continued through loopholes, weak enforcement and political complicity. The result is visible from space: denuded hills, depleted aquifers and rising dust pollution choking parts of Rajasthan and Haryana, with spillover impacts on the NCR.

Compounding this damage is the entrenched mining mafia that has thrived in regulatory grey zones, brazenly flouting court orders and environmental norms. Operating with impunity and often shielded by local patronage networks, these cartels have turned ecological plunder into a parallel



economy, mocking both governance and judicial authority. By maintaining its ban and seeking expert

inputs on whether mining can ever be sustainably permitted in the region, the SC has struck a necessary balance between caution and consultation. But the burden of proof must lie firmly on those who seek to mine, not on fragile ecosystems struggling to survive.

The Aravallis function as a natural barrier against desertification from the Thar, recharge groundwater, moderate climate extremes and support biodiversity. To reduce them to revenue blocks is ecological myopia. Successive administrations have failed to implement clear court directives. If expert panels are constituted, they must be independent, transparent and science-driven, not a fig leaf for reopening extraction. The SC's blunt message underscores a deeper truth: environmental compliance cannot be negotiated district by district. The executive must now decide whether it will listen or once again look the other way while the hills disappear.

Creating an enabling AI ecosystem is the big challenge for India

It's the right time to empower the youth with skill sets which will help them navigate the AI boom

The Delhi AI Impact Summit has established India as a significant and aspiring AI power. New Delhi has been able to articulate a normative vision of how AI should be harnessed for the larger global good — and this is a lofty vision. Our Edit and Op-Ed pages dissected the gains and the learnings from the summit. The summit's most consequential silence concerned labour, writes former financial adviser IMF & World Bank Udaibir S Das in his Op-Ed article India's AI ambition faces structural limits. Although its theme was 'Welfare for all, Happiness of all', India's technology services workforce — roughly 5.8 million people — had no structured presence in the summit's power forums.

The AI summit was part policy forum, part technology and trade exposition but, ambitions must be tempered by inescapable realities such as energy poverty and water stress, writes former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran in his Edit article India's AI road dotted with challenges. AI depends upon immense data-crunching capacity which comes from high-end Graphics Processing Units (GPUs), he says. Compare the numbers: The US is estimated to have 1.5 million GPUs in operation, China has half a million GPUs, India has only 38,000. While India seeks to play a significant role in the global AI pursuit, it has a very modest capability and does not rank among the top five AI-capable nations, writes C Uday Bhaskar Director, Society for Policy Studies, in his Op-Ed article India's AI vision lofty, capability limited. Yes, India is a major adopter of AI and the crowd surge at the Delhi summit reflects the enthusiasm of the younger Indian demography. Creating an ecosystem that is enabling and empathetic to nurturing AI in the long term will be the abiding Indian challenge.

In her Op-Ed Equipping kids to face AI's brave new world, senior financial journalist Sushma Ramachandran writes



that this is the right time to empower the youth and schoolchildren with skill sets which will help them navigate the AI boom. The nature of jobs will change as the need for different types of skills emerges with new technology. Investment in basic education must be enhanced along with a significant upgrade of infrastructure. Only then will it be possible for the next generation to deal effectively with the problems and perils of a future with AI, she writes. The spectacle mounted by Indian Youth Congress activists at the AI Impact Summit at Delhi's Bharat Mandapam signified a new low in the history of protests. The shirtless protest proved to be beneficial for the BJP government at the Centre. As the Congress made the protest a solo affair,

Rahul Gandhi could not escape accountability, says senior journalist Radhika Ramaseshan in her Edit article Congress scores another own goal. Rahul either oversteps the unstated limits of a convincing counter-campaign against the BJP or falters on facts due to a lack of thorough homework or gets the theme, timing and mode of protests wrong. In the IYC fiasco, the last factor proved to be his undoing, she writes.

On the other end of the spectrum is another viewpoint where former Planning Commission member Arun Maira writes in his Edit piece A blueprint for all-round growth that modern economies cannibalise human society to feed economic growth. The Viksit Bharat goal should be reset to make India a more inclusive society by

2047, for which he has given lasting solutions so that India's economy can become an engine of its own growth — form more local, cooperative enterprises; denser local economic webs composed of small enterprises, local systems; solutions cooperatively developed by communities; use capital frugally, among a few steps. Formal, large-scale enterprises are not creating enough good jobs even in developed countries, he argues.

The bust of Edwin Lutyens, the principal designer of imperial New Delhi, was replaced with that of C Rajagopalachari, the last Governor General of India, inside Rashtrapati Bhavan. Can replacing the bust of Lutyens with Rajaji transform the institutional ethos of the space or merely alter the gallery of memory? asks RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha in his Op-Ed Cosmetic changes won't heal the nation. Decolonisation, if it is to mean anything, cannot remain a ceremonial exercise performed at roundabouts and renamed avenues. It must travel inward into the grammar of governance and the conscience of society, he feels. When citizens today encounter an unresponsive bureaucracy or a coercive policing system, they are often encountering the afterlife of colonial rule, he writes.

The US has begun 'major combat operations' in Iran and Israel has launched missile attacks against Iran. Does US have any right to overthrow the Iranian regime and dictate policy to it? asks ORF Distinguished Fellow Manoj Joshi in his Op-Ed article India's Iran dilemma deepens amid war talk. The developments highlight the continuing Indian dilemma in relation to Iran. For India, Iran is the closest and cheapest source of hydrocarbons. It is also the landmass through which India had hoped to develop multi-modal trade corridors to Afghanistan, Central Asia and Europe and invested in developing a port in Chabahar.

भोजपुरी गजल

तनहाई क जहर

- श्याम कुंवर भारती



काशी में खेले होली महादेव

काशी में खेले होली।

श्मशान भभूत भरी धुरी उड़ावे।

नाचत गावत भूत धूम मचावे।

भस्म चिता भरी भरी झोरी।

काशी में खेले होली।

गंगा के तीरे भोला मगन होई घूमे,

फगुआ के धुन में जटा खूब धुने।

डमरू बजाई गावे शिव होली।

काशी में खेले होली।

नंदी झूमे भैरव कोतवाल खूम झूमे।

बउरसाई गंगा शिव चरणवा के चूमे।

फुफकारी नगवा पिचकारी छोरी।

काशी में खेले होली।

भारती भगत बाबा नशा के दीवाना।

भोला के फगुआ मगन सारा जमाना।

देवता खेले आई स्वर्गवा के छोड़ी।

काशी में खेले होली।

काशी में खेले होली महादेव

काशी में खेले होली।

पिण्ड पत्रद्वय अनुष्ठान: श्याम खल्ल नदीते
व्यापक उपस्थिति प्रारंभ

श्या, यशिरा: आज पिण्ड पत्र २०२५-२६ व्रतश्रित्ये दलित श्याद पवति खल्ल नदीरे तीरे उक्ति ३ व्रतश्रित्ये एक श्रद्धा प्रदर्शनी अनुष्ठिति श्या। प्राय ५०,००० एव ३ वरिण उक्तु पदिन ३ उदण अनुष्ठाने अश्व नति एथाने जडा रत।

मधुपाठेरे ह्यन, धुपरे भुवात्र एव नृणांशेनदे वृषभश्राश्री प्राथनाद अश्व पुरो पदविशे मूधरति ह्यि।

आवदश्रयन पदविशे नृणादो आदरे भाउर जना परिपण कयलने, कनारा कोपते कोपते आदरे पतिभाउर प्रति

वदिन जानानने, आद एक श्रिति आर प्राशत प्राशत उदण अर्पण करे उपस्थिति प्रवाद मनके श्रद्ध करे पशिछे।

एह अनुष्ठान, या श्रुति व्रतश्रित्ये श्रद्धा अश्व, जोरति ३ प्राशतरे मधे पवति श्रद्धाकरे प्रतीक, या प्राज्ञाने

आचार श्रुति ३ मूक्ति आचार मधे वने वशिष कया रथ।

दीय श्रुति ३ दाशक आ प्रश्रव ३ उक्तु आदरे अष्टन नशि

प्रदर्शन करलने। वशिषेभावे नमिति पमिषे जन, तनि ३ पशिपण करे नदीते पवति श्रद्धा करलने। पुरोशतियो

जायश्रुतिश्रुति नशिमे श्रद्धा अनुष्ठान पदविशना करे

गृहामपरे आध्यात्मिक पदविशे आर ३ वरिष करलने।

श्या, या श्रद्धाश्रुति-एव श्रुति श्रुति पदविशति, पति

पत्रद्वय श्रुति वदिशे उदण धारण करे। ए प्रथम पद्वये

कोणाक्षिण शक्रे एव वदिशे शक्रे ३ श्यादो नृणांशे

एथाने आश्रुति श्रुतिपत्र जानशिछे, एह शक्रे

उपस्थिति प्रशासन अनेके उपदरे शशिछे, या प्राज्ञित

व्रतश्रित्ये प्रति आश्रुति श्रद्धा पदविशय।

पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध के चलते तमिलनाडु का अंडा उद्योग प्रभावित, कीमतों में भारी गिरावट

एजेंसी

नामक्कल। पश्चिम एशिया के

देशों में जारी युद्ध और बढ़ते तनाव

का असर अब तमिलनाडु के अंडा

उद्योग पर स्पष्ट दिखने लगा है। राज्य

के प्रमुख पोल्ट्री केंद्र नामक्कल

सहित कई जिलों में अंडों का भंडारण

तेजी से बढ़ा है, वहीं कीमतों में भी

भारी गिरावट दर्ज की गई है।

उत्पादकों ने आशंका जताई है कि

यदि हालात जल्द सामान्य नहीं हुए तो

दाम और नीचे जा सकते हैं।

तमिलनाडु के नामक्कल जिले से

संयुक्त अरब अमीरात और सऊदी

अरब जैसे खाड़ी देशों को बड़े पैमाने

पर अंडों का निर्यात किया जाता रहा

है। भारत से होने वाले कुल अंडा

निर्यात में अकेले नामक्कल की

हिस्सेदारी 83.42 प्रतिशत है,

जिससे यह देश में पहले स्थान पर

बना हुआ है। हालांकि, पश्चिम

एशिया में जारी युद्ध के कारण इन

देशों को अंडों का निर्यात पूरी तरह

ठप हो गया है। इसके परिणामस्वरूप

नामक्कल और अरबपास के जिलों

में अंडों का भारी स्टॉक जमा हो गया

है। पोल्ट्री फार्म संचालक अंडों की

कोलड स्टोरेज में सुरक्षित रख रहे हैं

और नुकसान कम करने के लिए

अंडा पाउडर उत्पादन की ओर रुख

कर रहे हैं। राज्य में एक अंडे की

कीमत 6 रुपये से घटकर 4.30

रुपये तक पहुंच गई है। इसके

अतिरिक्त तमिलनाडु और केरल में

रमजान तथा ईसाई समुदाय के लेंट

(उपवास काल) शुरू होने से मांग में

भी गिरावट आई है। मांग और

निर्यात-दोनों में कमी आने से कीमतों

पर लगातार दबाव बना हुआ है।

उल्लेखनीय है कि वर्ष 2024

में वैश्विक अंडा निर्यात में भारत

13वें स्थान पर था, जबकि 2025

में 2.6 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी के साथ

10वें स्थान पर पहुंच गया। इसमें

तमिलनाडु की भूमिका अत्यंत

महत्वपूर्ण रही है। भारत से निर्यात

होने वाले कुल अंडों में तमिलनाडु

की हिस्सेदारी 91.51 प्रतिशत है,

जिसकी अनुमानित कीमत

1,355.90 करोड़ रुपये आंकी गई

है। इनमें अकेले नामक्कल जिले का

योगदान पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में

दोगुना होकर 1,234.42 करोड़

रुपये तक पहुंच गया है। उत्पादकों का

कहना है कि यदि युद्ध की स्थिति

जल्द सामान्य नहीं हुई तो अंडा उद्योग

को भारी आर्थिक नुकसान उठाना पड़

सकता है, जिससे हजारों किसानों

और श्रमिकों की आजीविका

प्रभावित हो सकती है।

सर्गाफा बाजार में गिरावट जारी, सोना और चांदी की घटी चमक

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। घरेलू सर्गाफा बाजार

में आज शुरुआती कारोबार के दौरान

सोना और चांदी के भाव ने कमजोरी

का रुख नजर आ रहा है। सोना आज

2,850 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम से लेकर

3,110 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम तक सस्ता

हो गया। इसी तरह चांदी की कीमत में

भी 10 हजार रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम की

गिरावट दर्ज की गई है। सोने की कीमत

में आई इस गिरावट के कारण देश के

ज्यादातर सर्गाफा बाजारों में 24 कैरेट

सोना आज 1,64,500 रुपये प्रति 10

ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी

तरह 22 कैरेट सोना आज 1,50,790

रुपये से लेकर 1,50,940 रुपये प्रति

10 ग्राम के बीच बिक रहा है। वहीं

चांदी की कीमत में भी कमजोरी आने

के कारण ये चमकीली धातु दिल्ली

सर्गाफा बाजार में आज 2,84,900

रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के स्तर पर बिक

रही है। दिल्ली में आज 24 कैरेट सोना

1,64,650 प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर

कारोबार कर रहा है, जबकि 22 कैरेट

सोने की कीमत 1,50,940 रुपये प्रति

10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। वहीं देश की

आर्थिक राजधानी मुंबई में 24 कैरेट

सोना 1,64,500 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम

और 22 कैरेट सोना 1,50,790 रुपये

प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है।

इसी तरह अहमदाबाद में 24 कैरेट

सोने की रिटेल कीमत 1,64,550

रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोने

की कीमत 1,50,840 रुपये प्रति 10

ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख शहरों के

अलावा चेन्नई में 24 कैरेट सोना आज

1,64,500 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की

कीमत पर और 22 कैरेट सोना

1,50,790 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की

कीमत पर बिक रहा है। वहीं कोलकाता

में 24 कैरेट सोना 1,64,500 रुपये

प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना

1,50,790 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के

स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। भोपाल में

24 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 1,64,550

रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर है,

जबकि 22 कैरेट सोना 1,50,840

रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक

रहा है। लखनऊ के सर्गाफा बाजार में

24 कैरेट सोना आज 1,64,650

रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर और

22 कैरेट सोना 1,50,940 रुपये प्रति

10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। पटना

में 24 कैरेट सोने की कीमत

1,64,550 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के

स्तर पर है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोना

1,50,840 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के

स्तर पर बिक रहा है। जयपुर में 24

कैरेट सोना 1,64,650 रुपये प्रति 10

ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 1,50,940

रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक

रहा है। देश के अन्य राज्यों की तरह

कनाटक, तेलंगाना और ओडिशा के

सर्गाफा बाजार में भी आज सोने के

भाव में कमजोरी दर्ज की गई है।

ईरान में युद्ध लंबा चला तो बढ़ सकती है वैश्विक चुनौतियां, फिलहाल भारत पर कोई असर नहीं- एन चंद्रशेखरन

एजेंसी

जमशेदपुर। अमेरिका-इजरायल

और ईरान के बीच जारी युद्ध और

वैश्विक परिस्थितियों को लेकर टाटा

संस के चेयरमैन एन चंद्रशेखरन ने

चिंता जताई है। उन्होंने कहा कि यदि

ईरान में युद्ध लंबा खिंचता है तो इसका

असर वैश्विक व्यापार और अपूर्ण

व्यवस्था पर पड़ सकता है। टाटा संस

के चेयरमैन एन चंद्रशेखरन टाटा समूह

के संस्थापक जनशेखरजी टाटा की

187वें जयंती के अवसर पर

जमशेदपुर पहुंचे थे। इस दौरान टाटा

स्टील परिसर में आयोजित मुख्य

समारोह में उन्होंने संस्थापक की

श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की और शहवासियों

को संस्थापक दिवस की शुभकामनाएं

दीं। मौडिया से बातचीत में उन्होंने कहा

कि मिडिल ईस्ट क्षेत्र से टाटा समूह को

लाइवस्टोन सहित अन्य कच्चे तेल का

आयात होता है। समूह का कारोबार

वैश्विक स्तर पर फैला हुआ है, ऐसे में

किसी भी लंबे युद्ध का प्रभाव स्पष्टाई

चेन, माल की डिस्ट्रीब्यूरी, लॉजिस्टिक्स

और सर्स्टेनेबिलिटी पर पड़ सकता है।

हालांकि उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि

वहीं आने वाले 5-6 साल में इसे 15

लाख तक ले जाने का लक्ष्य रखा गया

है। साथ ही महिला कर्मचारियों की

भागीदारी 28-30 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ाने

की योजना में भी काम किया जा रहा

है। आईटी क्षेत्र पर बोलते हुए उन्होंने

कहा कि नई तकनीकों के आगमन से

रोजगार को लेकर आशंकाएं

स्वाभाविक हैं, लेकिन आर्टिफिशियल

इंटेलिजेंस के माध्यम से स्टील,

ऑटोमोबाइल, फार्मेशन और अन्य

क्षेत्रों में नए अवसर उत्पन्न होंगे। इसका

सकारात्मक लाभ टाटा कंसल्टेंसी

सर्विसेज को भी मिलेगा। इस अवसर

पर टाटा स्टील के सीईओ टी वी

नरेन्द्रन सहित कई वरिष्ठ अधिकारी

उपस्थित रहे।

फिलहाल इस युद्ध का टाटा समूह या

भारत पर कोई सीधा असर नहीं पड़ा है।

साथ ही उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि टाटा

समूह के कर्मचारी विश्व भर में

मैनुफैक्चरिंग, सर्विसेज, होटल और

अन्य क्षेत्रों में कार्यरत हैं। ऐसे में सभी

कर्मचारियों और उनके परिवारों की

सुरक्षा समूह की सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है

और कंपनी इस दिशा में सर्वातकों

के साथ आवश्यक कदम उठा रही है।

रोजगार के मुद्दे पर उन्होंने कहा कि नई

इकाइयों की स्थापना और विस्तार

आयात और निर्यात दोनों के लिहाज से

इस क्षेत्र पर काफी निभर है, न इलाहा

की गंभीरता को समझते हुए त्वरित और

समन्वित कदम उठाने शुरू कर दिए हैं।

सरकार का स्पष्ट संदेश है कि

एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस ऊर्जा को बचाने, बायोडायवर्सिटी, वलाइमेट चेंज, ग्राउंड वॉटर आदि के अध्ययन वाला विषय है। एकेडमिक तौर पर देखें तो एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस का दायरा काफी व्यापक है और इस कोर्स में अध्ययन के दौरान सिर्फ भौतिकी या बायोलॉजिकल साइंस का ही नहीं बल्कि इकोलॉजी, भौतिकी, रसायन विज्ञान, बायोलॉजी और ज्योलॉजी का भी अध्ययन किया जाता है।

जिंदगी से जुड़ी फील्ड है एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस



पर्यावरण हमारी जिंदगी में अहम भूमिका निभाता है। चाहे बात खाने के अनाज की हो, रहने के लिए घर की हो, पहनने के लिए कपड़े की हो या फिर पानी, सूर्य की रोशनी, हवा की हो। सभी कुछ इसी पर्यावरण पर निर्भर करता है। इसलिए जब पर्यावरण को नुकसान पहुंचता है तो उसका कहीं न कहीं प्रभाव हमारे जीवन पर पड़ता है। औद्योगिक विकास की रफतार ने पर्यावरण को लीलने का काम किया है। यही कारण है कि सभी का ध्यान इस ओर गया है। ऐसे में, एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस से जुड़े लोगों की मांग काफी बढ़ गई है। मूल रूप से एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस ऊर्जा को बचाने, बायोडायवर्सिटी, वलाइमेट चेंज, ग्राउंड वॉटर आदि के अध्ययन वाला विषय है। एकेडमिक तौर पर देखें तो एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस का दायरा काफी व्यापक है और इस कोर्स में अध्ययन के दौरान सिर्फ भौतिकी या बायोलॉजिकल साइंस का ही नहीं बल्कि इकोलॉजी, भौतिकी, रसायन विज्ञान, बायोलॉजी और ज्योलॉजी का भी अध्ययन किया जाता है। एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस के अध्ययन की बात पहली बार 1977 में स्टॉकहोम में हुई काफ़ेस में सामने आई थी। औद्योगिक विकास की अंधी दौड़ में आज जिस तरह पर्यावरण को नुकसान पहुंच रहा है, वह किसी से अछूता नहीं है। ग्लोबल वार्मिंग और जलवायु परिवर्तन से लेकर ग्लेशियर के पिघलने या फिर पर्यावरण प्रदूषण आदि का मामला सभी कुछ इसी से जुड़ा हुआ है। आज के दौर में सरकार से लेकर स्वयंसेवी संगठन तक सभी पर्यावरण को लेकर जागरूक हो रहे हैं। एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस से संबंधित कोर्स यानी ग्रेजुएट और पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट करने वाले छात्र कंसट्रक्शन, केमिकल, मैनुफैक्चरिंग और एनर्जी के फील्ड में करियर बना सकते हैं। इसके अलावा और भी कई फील्ड हैं जहां इससे संबंधित डिग्री हासिल करने वाले छात्र करियर को नई मंजिल तक पहुंचा सकते हैं।



एनवायरनमेंटल इंजीनियर्स

इस फील्ड से जुड़े लोग वास्ट मैनेजमेंट, लीन मैनुफैक्चर, रिसाइक्लिंग, इमिशन कंट्रोल, इनवायरनमेंटल सर्स्टेनेबिलिटी और पब्लिक हेल्थ मामलों का अध्ययन करते हैं।

एनवायरनमेंटल लॉबिस्ट

ये सरकारी अधिकारियों, नेताओं और संबंधित स्वयंसेवी संस्थानों को पर्यावरण मामलों और नीतियों की जानकारी देते हैं।

एनवायरनमेंटल एजुकैटर

इससे जुड़े लोग एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस या फिर इससे संबंधित विषयों यानी इकोलॉजी या हाइड्रोलॉजी छात्रों को पढ़ाते हैं। इसके अलावा, एनवायरनमेंटल बायोलॉजिस्ट, एनवायरनमेंटल मॉडलर्स, एनवायरनमेंटल जर्नलिस्ट या पर्यावरण से संबंधित तकनीकी विद्वानों की तरह भी कार्य कर सकते हैं।

वेतन - एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस में बैचलर डिग्री करने वाले छात्रों को आसानी से 15-30 हजार रुपये मासिक की नौकरी मिल जाती है। जिन्होंने इस विषय में पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट किया है, उन्हें कम से कम 35-50 हजार रुपये मासिक तौर पर तो मिलते ही हैं। जो लोग पीएचडी करने के बाद बतौर साइंटिस्ट या कंसल्टेंट कार्य करते हैं, उनका वेतन शुरुआत में 50-75 हजार रुपये के बीच होता है।

संस्थान - अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम विश्वविद्यालय, अलीगढ़, यूपी दिल्ली कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग, दिल्ली डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ एनवायरनमेंटल बायोलॉजी, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली गुरु गोविंद सिंह इंद्रप्रस्थ विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली स्कूल ऑफ एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस, जेएनयू, नई दिल्ली पूर्वांचल विश्वविद्यालय, जौनपुर, यूपी चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ, यूपी गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय, हरिद्वार, यूपी बाबा साहेब भीमराव अंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय, आगरा, यूपी

हस्तनिर्मित कागज उद्योग फलता-फूलता रोजगार

भारत में हस्तनिर्मित कागज उद्योग का इतिहास बहुत पुराना है। मुगल काल से इसके प्रमाण मिलते हैं। यह उद्योग भारत के सामाजिक परिवर्तन में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। इसमें सबसे खास बात यह है कि यह उद्योग अपशिष्ट पदार्थ को रिसाइक्लिंग प्रणाली द्वारा उच्चकोटि के कागज में तब्दील कर देता है। इसके अलावा, इसमें कम खर्च में अधिक लोगों को रोजगार दिया जाता है। असम, मणिपुर, अरुणाचल प्रदेश एवं नगालैंड जैसे राज्यों में हस्तनिर्मित कागज के उद्योग खूब फल फूल रहा है। जबकि भारत के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लगभग 10-15 हजार लोग इस व्यवसाय से जुड़े हुए हैं।



शैक्षिक योग्यता की दरकार

इस रोजगार को प्रारंभ करने से पहले यदि आप प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं तो आपको दसवीं की परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण होना बहुत जरूरी है। प्रशिक्षण के पश्चात आप विशेष योग्यता से लैस हो जाएंगे, बल्कि रोजगार से संबंधित बारीकियां भी आपको मालूम हो सकेंगी। यदि आपके पास इस व्यवसाय से संबंधित जानकारी पहले से ही मौजूद है तो पांचवीं की डिग्री भी महत्वपूर्ण है यानी आपको सिर्फ साक्षर होना

आवश्यक है। उम्र-सीमा 18 वर्ष से कम न हो।

संबंधित पाठ्यक्रम

इसमें मुख्यतः हैंडमेड पेपर में सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स (एक से दो सप्ताह), पेपर कंजरवेशन कोर्स (दो

जाती है। रिसाइक्लिंग में टेलर कटिंग, होजरी कटिंग तथा छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों के सहारे उच्चकोटि के उपयोगी पेपर तैयार किए जाते हैं।

खर्च एवं सुविधा

हस्त निर्मित कागज उद्योग का यूनिट लगाने में कम से कम 40-70 हजार रुपए की लागत आती है। प्रारंभ में यह जरूरी है कि यूनिट छोटी ही लगाई जाए। बाद में सफल होने तथा डिमांड अधिक होने पर यूनिट की क्षमता इच्छानुसार बढ़ा सकते हैं। इस रोजगार के लिए ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय ने किसी भी व्यक्ति को प्रोजेक्ट के क्रियान्वयन के लिए अधिकतम 25 लाख रुपए तक के ऋण का प्रबंध किया है। इसके साथ ही महिलाओं, अनुसूचित जातियों, जनजातियों और पिछड़े वर्ग के विकलांगों को दिए गए कर्ज में 30 फीसदी की सब्सिडी मिलती है।

माह), इंटरनियोरेशन कोर्स (दो माह) तथा हैंडमेड पेपर में एडवांस कोर्स (एक वर्ष) आदि शामिल हैं।

फीस एवं प्रशिक्षण अवधि

यदि आप प्रशिक्षण खादी ग्राम उद्योग कमीशन (केवीआईसी) से प्राप्त करते हैं तो आपको सिर्फ 200 रुपए मामूली फीस में प्रशिक्षण मिल सकता है। जबकि प्रशिक्षण अवधि 2-3 हफ्तों की होती है। इस दौरान प्रशिक्षु को अपशिष्ट पदार्थों को रिसाइक्लिंग कर आकर्षक कागज में परिवर्तित करने की कला सिखा दी

प्रशिक्षण दिलाने वाले संस्थान

ऐसे कई संस्थान हैं जो अपने यहां से हस्तनिर्मित कागज से जुड़ा प्रशिक्षण दिलाते हैं-

- खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग आयोग (गांधी दर्शन), राजघाट, नई दिल्ली-110002 (संस्थान का पूरे भारत में कई जगह प्रशिक्षण केंद्र मौजूद)
- डॉ राजेन्द्र प्रसाद मल्टी डिस्प्लोनीनरी ट्रेनिंग सेंटर, खादी एवं विलेज इंडस्ट्रीज कमीशन, शेखपुरा, पटना-14
- कुमारिया नेशनल हैंडमेड पेपर इंस्टीट्यूट, सांगानेर, राजस्थान-302022

टूरिज्म गाइड, मेहनती युवाओं के लिए बढ़िया करियर ऑप्शन

पर्यटन आज सांस्कृतिक पहचान पुख्ता करने के साथ रेवेन्यू अर्जित करने का भी जरिया बन रहा है। ऐसे में स्थानीय सरकारें देश में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने की पुरजोर कोशिश कर रही हैं। भारतीय गांवों की सैर विदेशी पर्यटकों के लिए किसी रोमांच से कम नहीं है। यहां के घर, बच्चों के खेल, महिलाओं का ओढ़ना-पहनना, खेत-खलिहान, दैनिक गतिविधियां, अर्थव्यवस्था आदि उन्हें इतने आकर्षित करते हैं कि पर्यटक महीनों यहां डेरा डाले रहते हैं। टूरिस्ट गाइड का कार्य किसी भी देश की सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं से पर्यटकों को अवगत कराने में टूरिस्ट गाइड की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण होती है। टूरिस्ट गाइड पर्यटकों के साथ रहकर उन्हें जाने-अनजाने और

अनुभूत पहलुओं से वाकफ कराते हैं। यही वो कारण है जिसके चलते आज टूरिस्ट गाइड एक आकर्षक करियर विकल्प के तौर पर अपनी जगह बना चुका है। संबंधित देश के टूरिस्ट गाइड राज्य क्षेत्र की भौगोलिक जानकारी के साथ-साथ सांस्कृतिक, ऐतिहासिक पर्यटन संबंधी जानकारी रखने के साथ ट्रेवल एजेंसी और बड़े-बड़े होटलों की जानकारी रखते हैं। देश में टूरिस्ट गाइड के लिए भारतीय पर्यटन और ट्रेवल विभाग से टूरिस्ट गाइड का लाइसेंस लेना होता है। लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने के लिए परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करनी पड़ती है। कोर्स और क्वालिफिकेशन - देश के अलग-अलग संस्थान टूरिज्म ट्रेवल एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन एंड मैनेजमेंट में शॉर्ट टर्म डिप्लोमा कोर्स संचालित करते हैं, जिसमें इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ ट्रेवल एंड टूरिज्म (आईआईटीएम) सबसे खास है, तो वहीं संबंधित राज्य व केंद्र सरकारों के पर्यटन विभाग भी टूरिस्ट गाइड ट्रेनिंग कोर्स आयोजित करते हैं, जिन्हें पास करने पर आपको सर्टीफाइड गाइड का लाइसेंस मिलता है। टूरिज्म

के क्षेत्र में करियर बनाने के इच्छुक युवाओं के लिए जरूरी है कि वे इस क्षेत्र में औपचारिक शिक्षा भी ग्रहण करें। देश में विभिन्न संस्थान एवं विश्वविद्यालय टूरिज्म में डिप्लोमा, बैचलर डिग्री एवं मास्टर्स डिग्री प्रदान करते हैं। डिप्लोमा कोर्स की अवधि अमूमन एक वर्ष होती है, जिसे ग्रेजुएशन के बाद किया जा सकता है। आईसीसीआर इस क्षेत्र में जूनियर फेलोशिप भी प्रदान करता है। करियर ऑप्शन - स्थानीय पर्यटन उद्योग, राष्ट्रीय पर्यटन उद्योग, होटल इंडस्ट्री, टैवल एजेंसी, एविएशन, कार्गो ऑपरेशन, हॉस्पिटैलिटी आदि में टूरिस्ट गाइड के लिए अवसर बाट जोह रहे हैं। टूरिज्म उद्योग के विस्तार से टूरिस्ट गाइड का स्कोप बढ़ा है। मेहनती, कुशल और ईमानदार युवा चाहें तो भारत की संपन्न विरासत से अपने लिए समृद्ध भविष्य की राह खोज सकते हैं। भारत सरकार भी अब ग्रामीण पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कदम उठा रही है। पर्यटन मंत्रालय के अनुसार पिछले वर्ष देश भर में 66 लाख विदेशी सैलानी आए, जिनसे करीब 17.75 अरब डॉलर की कमाई हुई। मंत्रालय ने प्रत्येक वर्ष इनकी संख्या में 12 फीसदी बढ़ोतरी का लक्ष्य रखा है ताकि वर्ष 2016 तक पर्यटन से विदेशी मुद्रा की कमाई दोगुनी की जा सके। रिस्कलड युवाओं के लिए इस फील्ड में सभावनाओं के असीमित द्वार हैं।

आप करियर के उस मुकाम पर खड़े हैं, जहां सोचते हैं कि अगले दस सालों में आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं? क्या कभी इस बात का भी अफसोस होता है कि आपने पढ़ाई के दौरान अलग-अलग विषयों का चुनाव क्यों नहीं किया, ताकि कुछ और पढ़ने या किसी दूसरी दिशा में करियर बनाने के बारे में सोच पाते? यदि इन प्रश्नों का उत्तर हां है तो यह समय है अपने पास मौजूद विकल्पों पर गंभीरता से विचार करने का। खुद की रिस्कलस में निवेश करके अपने आप को आगे बढ़ाने का, री-स्किलिंग का।

क्यों जरूरी है अपनी रिस्कलस में इजाफा करना?

क्या है रिस्कलस में इजाफा करना?

शब्दकोष में री-स्किलिंग का अर्थ होगा, वह प्रशिक्षण और अनुभव, जिसके जरिए नई और बेहतर रिस्कलस की जानकारी मिलती है। करियर में किसी उम्मीदवार में नई रिस्कलस हासिल करने, सीखने और खुद को बदलने की क्षमता और इच्छा का होना बेहद अहम गुण माना जाता है। यह दूरदर्शिता होना कि करियर को आगे ले जाने के लिए किन रिस्कलस की जरूरत होगी और उस दिशा में कदम बढ़ाना किसी उम्मीदवार के करियर को आगे ले जाने में मदद करता है। आईआईएम-बंगलुरु में चाइनीज बिजनेस लैंग्वेज कोर्स पढ़ाने वाले प्रो. एस स्वामीनाथन कहते हैं, 'अपनी रिस्कलस में इजाफा करने का अर्थ सक्रिय होकर केवल नई रिस्कलस सीखना भर नहीं है। यह नौकरी से ब्रेक लेकर उच्च शिक्षा की ओर कदम बढ़ाना भी हो सकता है। उदाहरण के लिए कई आईआईएम केंद्रों में मंडारिन एक लोकप्रिय लैंग्वेज कोर्स बन कर उभरा है। वर्तमान में भारत-चीन एक-दूसरे से व्यापारिक रिश्तों को नकार नहीं सकते। विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान हासिल करने के लिए इस दिशा में कदम बढ़ाना जरूरी भी होगा। ऐसे में चाइनीज बिजनेस कोर्स की मदद से विद्यार्थी दोनों देशों में बन रहे आर्थिक समीकरणों में अपनी सकारात्मक भूमिका निभा सकते हैं।' कॉलेज के दौरान लिए गए विषय निश्चित तौर पर पसंदीदा जब हासिल में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं, पर ऐसे भी मामले मिलते हैं, जहां लोग संयोगवश दूसरे क्षेत्रों में करियर बना बैठते हैं या फिर अपने करियर के दौरान ऐसे फंस जाते हैं, जहां उनके लिए समझना मुश्किल हो जाता है कि

अब वे किस ओर कदम बढ़ाएं। दो से तीन वर्ष नौकरी कर चुकने वाले विशेषज्ञता प्राप्त उम्मीदवार और बड़े अधिकारी भी यह मानते हैं कि बदलावों से घुरेज करना और अपनी रिस्कलस को बढ़ाने का प्रयास न करना एक स्तर पर आकर उम्मीदवार की प्रगति को बाधित कर देता है। जिस तेजी से कार्यस्थल और उनकी नीतियां बदल रही हैं, यह पहले से भी जरूरी हो गया है कि उम्मीदवार खुद को उपयोगी बनाने की दिशा में कदम बढ़ाएं। थोलॉस ग्लोबल इंस्टीट्यूट में एमडी अंकिता वशिष्ठ के अनुसार, 'जॉब मार्केट में खुद को रोजगार योग्य और उपयोगी बनाए रखना एक बड़ी चुनौती है। वर्कप्लेस पर बढ़ती विविधता और नित बदलती तकनीक ने कर्मचारियों पर नई तकनीक और कार्य प्रणाली को सीखने का दबाव बनाया है। उदाहरण के लिए, यदि कोई नई तकनीक मसलन बिग डेटा और एनालिटिक्स में करियर बनाना चाहता है तो उसके लिए स्टैटिस्टिक्स में क्लैस कोर्स करना फायदेमंद हो सकता है। एक परंपरागत मार्केटिंग व्यक्ति के लिए डिजिटल मार्केटिंग में अनुभव बढ़ाना लाभप्रद रहेगा। इसी तरह अन्य उम्मीदवार खुद को किसी ऑनलाइन कोर्स या डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम से भी जोड़ सकते हैं।' ग्लोबल रिस्कलमेंट फर्म केली सविसेज के हानिया अध्ययन के अनुसार विश्व परिदृश्य की तुलना में एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में बड़े स्तर पर कर्मचारी तेजी से उभरते बाजार में अपनी रिस्कलस में इजाफा करने की इच्छा जता रहे हैं। 69% भारतीय कर्मचारी आगे बढ़ने के लिए उच्च शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण हासिल करने के बारे में गंभीरता से सोच रहे हैं। यह संख्या यूरोप और अमेरिका की तुलना में अधिक है। पहले बैंकों में नौकरी में उन्हीं लोगों

को रखा जाता था, जो पहले बैंक में नौकरी करते रहे हैं। इसी तरह एफएमसीजी कंपनियां भी इसी क्षेत्र के अनुभव को वरीयता देती थीं। पर वह समय बीत गया है। आज कंपनियों विविध क्षेत्रों में विशेषज्ञता रखने वालों को रखना पसंद करती हैं। यानी गतिशील बाजार में खुद को रोजगार योग्य बनाने व उच्च पदों को कुशलता से संभालने के लिए प्रशिक्षण हासिल करने की जरूरत होगी ही। रोचक तथ्य - 57 प्रतिशत प्रतिभागियों ने अपने वर्तमान नियोजक के पास ही पदोन्नति को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपनी रिस्कलस में इजाफा करने की इच्छा जतायी। वहीं 47 प्रतिशत के अनुसार वे दूसरी कंपनी में जाने के लिए अपनी रिस्कलस में इजाफा करना पसंद करेंगे। 70 प्रतिशत के अनुसार सबसे महत्वपूर्ण और उपयोगी रिस्कल नौकरी करते हुए हासिल की जा सकती है। उसके बाद 58 प्रतिशत ने शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण को जरूरी बताया है। 26 प्रतिशत के अनुसार सैमिनार और वेबिनार से भी नई रिस्कल सीखने में मदद मिलती है। 42 प्रतिशत के अनुसार वे किसी नए कार्यक्षेत्र में जाने के लिए अपनी रिस्कलस में इजाफा करना पसंद करेंगे। इन सब में गणित, इंजीनियरिंग और आईटी कर्मियों ने खुद को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए री-स्किलिंग को अन्य की अपेक्षा अधिक महत्व दिया है। 31 देशों से लगभग 1 लाख 20 हजार कर्मियों ने इस सर्वे में भाग लिया। अमेरिका में उम्मीदवारों ने प्रमोशन हासिल करने के लिए प्रशिक्षण हासिल करने की जरूरत जतायी। वहीं कुछ देशों में कर्मियों ने प्रमोशन पाने और नए नियोजक के यहां नौकरी पाने के लिए री-स्किलिंग को जरूरी बताया।



NEW

Win the toss, win the match? How dew will impact T20 World Cup semifinal in Mumbai

New Delhi. (Agency)

As the sun sets over the Arabian Sea this Thursday, the floodlights of the Wankhede Stadium will illuminate more than just a high-stakes 2026 T20 World Cup semi-final between Suryakumar Yadav's India and Harry Brook's England. They will also catch the first glints of moisture on the outfield grass — the invisible protagonist that has historically dictated the fate of matches at this iconic venue. In the high-pressure cauldron of a World Cup knockout, the toss is often a matter of tactical preference. At Wankhede, however, it is a matter of geography.

The Wankhede Stadium is effectively a waterfront property. Its proximity to the coast creates a unique atmospheric trap. As evening temperatures drop in Mumbai, the high humidity drifting in from the Arabian Sea reaches its dew point and condenses rapidly onto the playing surface. For the fielding side, this transforms the cricket ball into something resembling a bar of soap. Spinners lose the ability to grip the seam for



purchase, while fast bowlers struggle to control their release. Conversely, for the chasing side, the wet grass acts as a lubricant, allowing the ball to skid off the surface and on to the bat with pace, making strokeplay significantly easier under lights. Historically, the numbers at Wankhede tell a clear story: in T20s overall, the team fielding first has won 123 times compared with 92 victories for sides batting first. However, this T20 World Cup has thrown up a slight anomaly. Contrary to the traditional "chase-to-win" manual, teams batting first have successfully defended totals in three of the seven night games played here so far. In India's tournament opener against the USA, the expected 200-plus fireworks never materialised; instead, the hosts had to grind out 161, a total that eventually proved sufficient for a 29-run victory. West Indies then successfully defended 196 by 30 runs against England in a night game, before later posting 254 against Zimbabwe to secure a commanding 107-run win.

Arsenal stretch lead at top of Premier League as Man City falter

LONDON. (Agency)

Premier League leaders Arsenal stretched their lead over Manchester City to seven points on Wednesday with a nervy win at Brighton, while Pep Guardiola's men were held to a costly 2-2 draw by Nottingham Forest. The Gunners have long been favourites to win their first English league crown since 2004 but Pep Guardiola's men have loomed large in their rear-view mirror. On a busy night of action, Arsenal drew first blood in the battle for English title as Bukayo Saka celebrated his 300th Arsenal appearance with a goal in the ninth minute at Brighton's Amex Stadium. The England man received the ball on the right before cutting in and hitting a shot from the edge of the penalty area which took a deflection off



Carlos Baleba before squirming through the legs of goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen. The home side dominated possession and had more shots but Arsenal kept them at bay, digging deep to see out a nerve-jangling 1-0 win. "This was a really difficult one after everything we've been through in the last few weeks," Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta told TNT Sports. "Every game in the Premier League offers you different things. Big credit to the boys because the effort they put in is astronomical. Second-placed City, who have a game in hand, appeared to be on course to stay within five points of top spot. But they twice surrendered their lead to relegation-threatened Forest, whose battling performance kept them out of the drop zone, above West Ham on goal difference. January signing Antoine Semenyo volleyed home for City in the first half but Morgan Gibbs-White produced a moment of magic to pull Forest level, backheeling home in the 56th minute. That sparked a renewed sense of urgency from City and they were back in front just six minutes later after the unmarked Rodri headed home Rayan Ait-Nouri's corner.

India need Kuldeep Yadav vs England: Vaughan suggests big change for semi-final

T20 World Cup: Michael Vaughan has urged India to consider playing Kuldeep Yadav against England in the T20 World Cup semi-final. The former England captain believes Kuldeep's record against England makes him a strong tactical option.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has suggested that India should consider bringing Kuldeep Yadav into their playing XI for the T20 World Cup semi-final against England, pointing to the wrist-spinner's strong record against English batters.

India has largely stuck with a settled bowling combination throughout the tournament, relying on Varun Chakravarthy and Axar Patel as their main spin options, with Washington Sundar tried and shelved over the group stages. The spinners have given ample support to spearheads Jasprit Bumrah

and Arshdeep Singh. Kuldeep, however, has featured only once in the tournament so far. His lone appearance came against Pakistan, where he returned impressive figures of 1 for 14. Speaking on CricBuzz, Vaughan said the left-arm wrist-spinner could be a valuable option against England's batting line-up. "I would play Kuldeep Yadav. Kuldeep, over the years, has had England on toast in any format. He has always been a bowler England have struggled to pick. Do you need Tilak Varma or Shivam Dube down the order? Instead, I would be playing the left-arm leg-spinner against this England batting lineup. We don't know if Kuldeep is in form as he hasn't played. But him against the England batters will be a good matchup for India," Vaughan said. However, Vaughan also acknowledged that India may prefer to retain their current balance rather than make a late change before a knockout clash. "But Gautam Gambhir's history is to generally



pack the batting. He sets up T20 teams where you've got a real powerful insurance at 7, 8 and 9. So what I am saying potentially won't happen, but it would be worthwhile to play Kuldeep against this England batting

lineup." **WHY SHOULD KULDEEP PLAY VS ENGLAND?**

Vaughan's suggestion is largely based on Kuldeep's impressive record against England in T20 internationals.

Across his appearances against England, the wrist-spinner has taken eight wickets while conceding just 77 runs from 12 overs, maintaining an economy rate of 6.41. His variations and ability to turn the ball away from right-handers have historically troubled England's aggressive batting unit.

Despite those numbers, India have preferred to continue with their existing spin combination in the T20 World Cup, using Varun Chakravarthy and Axar Patel as the primary options. With a place in the final at stake, it remains to be seen whether captain Suryakumar Yadav and head coach Gautam Gambhir will stick with their established formula or consider introducing Kuldeep as a tactical change against England.

Mohammad Amir says bad things about India to stay in the news: Kaif tears into pacer

Former India batter Mohammed Kaif tore into Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir for making inflammatory comments about the Indian cricket team. Kaif slammed Amir, stating that he said such things to stay relevant in the news.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India cricketer Mohammed Kaif has called out Mohammad Amir for his constant badmouthing of the Indian cricket team. Amir, who had earlier called Abhishek Sharma "nothing but a slogger" and predicted that India would not reach the semi-final of the T20 World Cup, faced strong pushback from Kaif a day ahead of the India vs England game. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Kaif said that Amir makes inflammatory comments about India to stay in the news and should not be given the relevance that he so desperately seeks. Kaif added that there was no need to acknowledge Amir's views on India or on cricket, as they did not come from genuine analysis. "Did Amir

really not know that India would reach the semifinals? Of course, he knew that the defending champions would make it. But they say these things because it becomes news. We must not give them importance. There is no need for us to come down to their level and reply," he said on his



YouTube channel. Kaif also questioned Amir's cricketing credentials, referring to Pakistan's T20 World Cup group-stage game against the USA. Kaif reminded fans — and perhaps Amir — that the Pakistan pacer failed to restrict the USA in the Super Over of that match by bowling a number of wides. Kaif said that a bowler who could not even win a game against the USA was not worth taking seriously. "The loss they faced against the USA in 2024 — it was the same

entire Pakistan team and the country's cricketing culture. He said that the country was many years behind India in the sport and lacked leadership in key positions across its structure.

"Why are we focusing on him? The country is so far behind in the sport — they have no players, no solid captain, no solid bowler, nothing. Just let them be. We don't have to respond to everything they say. They cannot come to our level. They have different problems. If we focus on their comments, it is like we are giving them importance, and that is what they want anyway," he concluded. Pakistan were knocked out of the T20 World Cup 2026 from the Super 8s stage. This is the second straight World Cup in which they have failed to reach the semi-finals of the tournament.

Jos Buttler out of form: But should India be wary of England's sleeping giant

New Delhi. (Agency)

Jos Buttler has built a reputation over the years as one of those batters who can flip a game on its head in a matter of overs. When he finds his rhythm, the game can slip away from bowlers in a blur of scoops, flicks and towering hits. That ability to flip the momentum of a match almost instantly made Buttler one of England's most dangerous limited-overs batters. In seven matches, Buttler has managed only 62 runs at an average of 8.85. Even more surprising is that he has fallen for single-digit scores in each of his last five innings, a streak that hardly matches the reputation of one of England's greatest white-ball players. Yet big tournaments have a strange way of offering second chances. Buttler now has the perfect stage to change his narrative when England face India in the high-stakes semi-final at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday. The question that naturally follows is simple. Should India still be wary of a champion waiting for his moment?

WANKHEDE: WHERE FORM CAN BE REWRITTEN

Buttler has good reason to believe a turnaround could arrive in the semi-final, particularly at the



Wankhede Stadium, a venue that has often brought out his best. Among overseas players, he is the second-highest T20 run-scorer at the iconic ground. Across 31 matches here, Buttler has scored 909 runs at an average of 32.46 and a strike rate of 143.82. Mumbai has frequently been a happy hunting ground for him.

In fact, his strike rate at the venue is higher and his average not far behind that of Rohit Sharma, a player who knows the Wankhede better than most. It was at this very ground in 2022 that Buttler smashed a brilliant 116 off 65 balls for Rajasthan Royals to guide them to a thrilling 15-run victory over Delhi Capitals.

His T20I numbers in Mumbai also tell an interesting story. In six innings he has scored 30, 26, 21, 21, 15 and 7. Those knocks show he has often found a start here but has not yet produced the kind of defining innings that leaves a lasting mark.

History meets high stakes in Mumbai as India face confident England in semifinal

Mumbai. (Agency)

Nearly four decades ago, England silenced a packed Wankhede Stadium by knocking India out of a World Cup semi-final. On Thursday night, the same venue hosts another chapter in that rivalry as defending champions India take on England in the semi-final of the men's T20 World Cup with the winner set to meet New Zealand in the final. Few grounds capture the emotional extremes of Indian cricket quite like the Wankhede. For millions of fans, it remains the site of one of the sport's most cherished memories — Gautam Gambhir's gritty 97 and MS Dhoni's unforgettable six that sealed the 2011 ODI World Cup. Yet the ground has also witnessed heartbreak. Kapil Dev's side saw their title defence crumble here in the 1987 World Cup semi-final, while nearly



three decades later MS Dhoni's team fell short against West Indies in the 2016 T20 World Cup semi-final. India meet England in the second semifinal at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai at 7 pm IST. The match will be televised on Star Sports and streamed live on JioHotstar in India. History, triumph and disappointment are never far from the surface at this venue. And as India prepare for another high-

stakes knockout here, the sense of occasion is unmistakable. It is perhaps this heavy air of what if that led the Indian camp to delay their training session on matchday minus two. In a bid to control the controllables, the team opted to avoid the shadow of the lunar eclipse, taking no chances with cosmic alignment when the stakes are this terrestrial. On Thursday evening, the Wankhede is expected to transform into a cauldron of noise. A packed and fiercely partisan crowd will gather in anticipation, hoping the ground that once delivered Indian cricket its greatest triumph can once again inspire the home side. Standing in India's path are England — a team that has become a familiar opponent in the knockout stages of the T20 World Cup.

Suryakumar Yadav vs Adil Rashid: Ashwin picks key battle for IND vs ENG semi-final

T20 World Cup: R Ashwin believes Suryakumar Yadav's battle against Adil Rashid could shape the India vs England T20 World Cup semi-final. The former spinner feels India hold the edge at Wankhede but must execute well.

New Delhi. (Agency)

"Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has highlighted a crucial tactical battle ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 semi-final, pointing to the contest between India captain Suryakumar Yadav and England leg-spinner Adil Rashid as one of the defining matchups when India face England in

Mumbai on March 5. India head into the semi-final at the Wankhede Stadium after navigating a tricky Super 8 stage. They suffered a setback against South Africa but bounced back strongly with must-win victories over Zimbabwe and West Indies to seal a place in the last four. England, led by Harry Brook, arrive with momentum after an unbeaten Super 8 campaign in Sri Lanka. Their only loss in the tournament came earlier at the Wankhede Stadium against West Indies. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin suggested that the battle between Suryakumar and Rashid could shape the direction of the semi-final.

"If we can chase 195 against the West Indies, we can do that against England as well. Their bowling is nothing special as such," Ashwin said. "We are playing in India, we are playing at the Wankhede, our favourite ground, so we have the edge. But having the edge does not mean that we will win. No excuse will work, your batting, bowling and fielding have to be on point. It

will not work if they say 'if only we had done that'. We just need a little luck." India's batting has faced occasional challenges against spin during the tournament.



Opposition teams have frequently used off-spin during the Powerplay to trouble India's top order and exploit the presence of several left-handers in the line-up. **SURYAKUMAR VS ADIL RASHID: KEY BATTLE IN MUMBAI**

Ashwin believes the contest between Suryakumar and Rashid could be a decisive moment in the semi-final, given the England spinner's strong form in the tournament.

Rashid has been England's most consistent bowler in the competition so far. In seven matches, the leg-spinner has claimed 11 wickets while conceding 209 runs from 26.4 overs at an economy rate of 7.83.

Suryakumar, meanwhile, has been one of India's key performers with the bat. The Indian captain has scored 231 runs in seven matches at an average of 38.50 and a strike rate of 135.88.

Against spin, Suryakumar often relies on sweep and slog-sweep variations to disrupt the bowler's rhythm, though those shots have brought mixed results during the tournament. His familiarity with the Wankhede surface could prove valuable in the semi-final. Having played several seasons at the venue with the Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League, Suryakumar understands the pace and bounce the pitch can offer.

Sanjeeda Shaikh

To Make Special Appearance In Yash Starrer Toxic? Here's What We Know

Yash starrer 'Toxic' is one of the most highly anticipated films, and it will release in theatres on March 19. The film features a strong female cast including Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Rukmini Vasanth and Tara Sutaria. Variety India reports that apart from the five leading ladies, Sanjeeda Shaikh has also joined the film in a special appearance.

Sanjeeda Shaikh Joins Toxic For Pivotal Cameo

Sanjeeda Shaikh, most popularly known for her television roles, has been gradually making her mark in the film industry and the OTT space with her impressive performance in projects such as 'Fighter' and 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar'. Now, Variety India reports that she has joined Yash starrer Toxic in a special appearance. While details about her role aren't yet known, she will reportedly play a brief yet pivotal character that serves as a crucial link within the film's narrative. Toxic marks Sanjeeda's first pan-India project. Meanwhile, apart from Toxic, Sanjeeda will also be seen in Ajay Devgn starrer 'Dhamaal 4', which is set to release on July 3, 2026. She also has Netflix's 'Ikka' alongside Sunny Deol and Akshaye Khanna in the pipeline.



About Toxic

Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas and directed by Geetu Mohandas, Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups has been shot simultaneously in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions releasing across Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and more, positioning the film on a global stage. Produced by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, Toxic is set to hit theatres on March 19, 2026. It will lock horns at the box office with Ranveer Singh starrer Dhurandhar 2, which is also set to release theatrically on the same date.

The teaser of Toxic was released by the makers recently. The response to the teaser has been electric and explosive, with the asset trending on YouTube in 9 countries, along with India, underlining the film's massive global pull. The Toxic teaser reveals a massive, cinematic world that is both vibrant and brutal. Moving from a circus setting to an East Asian-inspired backdrop, the story spans different time periods with a dark, edgy atmosphere. At the centre of this cinematic storm stands Rocking Star Yash, undergoing a transformation that is nothing short of a total reinvention. His physical evolution serves as one of the film's most powerful statements, showcasing a range of appearances—from a lean, agile silhouette to a massive, battle-hardened physique—all forged through relentless discipline.



Taapsee Pannu

On Navel Obsession In Songs: 'It's Not As Much As In South Cinema'

Actor Taapsee Pannu has never been one to shy away from uncomfortable conversations. And this time, she is candidly addressing the way women's bodies are framed on screen whether in South Indian films or in Hindi cinema.

In a recent interaction with Shubhankar Mishra, the actress reacted to the long-standing perception that song sequences in Bhojpuri and South Indian cinema often emphasise the navel. Responding to the observation, she said, "I am also trying to understand. It's not that item songs in Hindi cinema don't focus on it, but it's not as much as in South Cinema. Hindi cinema is more about cleavage."

Pannu, who began her career in Telugu and Tamil films before transitioning to Bollywood, also spoke about certain behind-the-scenes practices she encountered during her early years in the industry. She revealed that actresses in some South films are frequently instructed to wear padded bras for song shoots.

Describing how such directions are typically conveyed, she questioned the indirect communication chain on set—from the director to the assistant director, then to the styling team, moving to hair and wardrobe departments before

finally reaching the actress. She underlined how awkward these situations can become. She elaborated, "Imagine how embarrassing it would be. You're shooting a song, someone gets up in the middle, walks off, everyone knows exactly what's



happening. All the men are sitting there, watching what looks different when you come back." Before establishing herself in Hindi cinema, Pannu made her acting debut with the Telugu film Jhummandi Naadam in 2010 opposite Manoj Manchu. She went on to appear in several Telugu and Tamil projects, becoming a familiar face in the southern film industries. Her trajectory in Bollywood shifted significantly with films like Baby and Pink, which brought her critical recognition and repositioned her as a leading performer known for strong, issue-based roles.

Chahat Pandey On People Romantically Linking Her To Rajat Dalal: 'Change Your Thinking'



The 50's recent episode showed a shocking elimination day in the Mahal, with 5 contestants leaving the show. One of them was Chahat Pandey, who was making headlines for her growing bond with Rajat Dalal. Now, the actress has opened up about her equation with Rajat and clarified that there is no romantic angle involved, and that Rajat is "like a brother" to her.

When questioned about her equation with Rajat Dalal, Chahat, in an interview with Free Press Journal, shared, "What can I even say? Some things don't feel good at all. When I stepped out of the house and saw that people had linked Rajat and my name together, it did not feel good. Because after Bigg Boss, Rajat himself had made a video, which is still available on YouTube, if you search for it, you will find it, where he clearly said that after Bigg Boss, Chahat is like my younger sister. So that itself makes it clear that there is nothing like that."

She further continued, and while sharing how romantic music on their videos has changed the perspective, Chahat added, "Then we met again on this show, but people's perspectives did not change. They started seeing our friendship from a different angle. All our videos, if he is hugging me or any other video, if you remove the love angle music and instead put brother-sister music on it, your perspective will change. So this proves how social media can be used in such a negative way. It is an example of how social media can play a role in damaging someone's image."

Calling this constant linking of two people without their approval unfair, Chahat shared, "Taking someone's name like this without their permission and without their acceptance is not a good thing. Please change your perspective, change your thinking. There is a good bond between Rajat and me, which you saw in Bigg Boss as well. Even after Bigg Boss, when we came out, we were shocked to see what was happening outside because there was nothing like that."

"Sharam Karo": Dipika Kakar's Son Roasts Her For Forgetting Wedding Anniversary, Shoaib Ibrahim Reacts



Television star couple Shoaib Ibrahim and Dipika Kakar recently gave fans a dose of laughter after their three-year-old son Ruhaan adorably poked fun at his mother for "forgetting" her wedding anniversary that falls on the 22nd of February.

In a recent YouTube vlog shared by Shoaib, the actor was seen teasing Dipika for being confused about their anniversary date. Dipika who appeared confused and forgetful was seen asking him whether their wedding anniversary falls on February 23 or 24. Shoaib continued to pull her leg,



further jokingly questioning how she could forget their wedding anniversary.

Taking the joke a little further, Shoaib turned to their little son Ruhaan and jokingly prompted him to say "Sharam karo mama" (Have some shame, mom). But little Ruhaan took the entire fun a step ahead and to everyone's surprise, said, "Sharam karo Dipika Kakar," leaving both his parents in splits. The unexpected response from the three year-old boy left Shoaib and Deepika bursting into laughter. Dipika later was then seen pretending to be upset over her son's remark, but the adorable baby boy melted her heart as he walked up to her, hugged her and planted a kiss, making her smile again.

Talking about Shoaib and Dipika's love story, it began on the sets of the television show 'Sasural Simar Ka', where they first met and gradually grew close over the period of time. The couple dated for several years before tying the knot on February 22, 2018, in a traditional ceremony in Maudaha, Shoaib's hometown. The couple welcomed their first baby, a son whom they call Ruhaan, in June 2023.

रेलवे अस्पताल में महिला की मौत पर परिजनों ने किया हंगामा

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। खासमहल स्थित टाटानगर रेलवे अस्पताल में इलाज के दौरान परसुडीह के हलुदबनी निवासी 70 वर्षीय गुलफूल देवी की देर रात मौत हो गई। घटना की जानकारी मिलते ही परिवार के सदस्य और आसपास के लोग अस्पताल पहुंच गए और डॉक्टरों पर लापरवाही का आरोप लगाते हुए जमकर हंगामा किया।

परिजनों का कहना है कि वृद्धा अपने पैरों से चलकर अस्पताल पहुंची थीं, ऐसे में अचानक उनकी मौत कैसे हो गई, इसका जवाब अस्पताल प्रबंधन को देना चाहिए। परिवार के लोग यह भी जानना चाहते हैं कि उन्हें किस प्रकार की दवा दी गई थी, जिससे उनकी मौत हो गई। मृतका के बेटे राजेश प्रसाद उर्फ पोंगा ने बताया कि 3 मार्च को सुबह करीब 11 बजे उनकी मां को सर्दी, खांसी और सांस



लेने में तकलीफ की शिकायत होने पर टाटानगर रेलवे अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया था। जांच के बाद डॉक्टरों ने कहा था कि स्थिति सामान्य है।

इस पर परिजनों ने उन्हें छुट्टी देने की बात कही, लेकिन डॉक्टरों ने कहा कि अगले दिन ब्लड रिपोर्ट

अस्पताल की ओर से परिवार को नहीं दी गई। जब राजेश अस्पताल पहुंचे तब तक उनकी मां की मौत हो चुकी थी। इसके बाद जब परिवार के अन्य सदस्य और बस्ती के लोग अस्पताल पहुंचे तो नर्स और अस्पताल कर्मियों ने उन्हें अंदर जाने से रोक दिया।

इसको लेकर भी लोगों में आक्रोश है और वे इसका कारण जानना चाहते हैं। घटना के बाद परसुडीह थाना में लिखित शिकायत दर्ज कराई गई है। परिजनों ने आरोप लगाया है कि डॉक्टरों की लापरवाही के कारण ही वृद्धा की मौत हुई है। उनका कहना है कि घटना के समय अस्पताल में कोई डॉक्टर मौजूद नहीं था और गुलफूल देवी को नर्सों ने चारों ओर से घेर रखा था। परिजनों ने पूरे मामले की निष्पक्ष जांच कर दोषी डॉक्टरों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की मांग की है।

आने के बाद छुट्टी दे दी जाएगी। राजेश के अनुसार बुधवार रात करीब 8.30 बजे तक उनकी मां से मोबाइल पर बातचीत हुई थी और उस समय उनकी तबीयत ठीक लग रही थी।

परिजनों का आरोप है कि गुलफूल देवी की मौत की सूचना भी

गिरिडीह के त्रिवेणी संगम में डूबे दो बच्चों की मौत



गिरिडीह, एजेंसी। गिरिडीह जिले के जमुआ - देवरी इलाके की मध्य सीमा पर बुधवार को गोदावरी त्रिवेणी संगम तालाब में पानी में डूब जाने से दो किशोर की मौत हो गयी। दोनों किशोर देवरी थाना क्षेत्र के चतरो बाजार के रहने वाले थे। खोरी महुआ एसडीपीओ राजेन्द्र प्रसाद ने डूबने से दो बच्चों की मौत की पुष्टि की है। मिली जानकारी के अनुसार चतरो (देवरी) गांव

निवासी संजय साव का पुत्र करण कुमार और पुर्नोगड़िया गांव के कृष्णा विश्वकर्मा के पुत्र दीपक कुमार चतरो बाजार में होली खेलने के बाद अपने दोस्तों के साथ स्नान के लिए त्रिवेणी संगम गए थे। जहां पर स्नान के क्रम में दोनों गहरे पानी में डूब गए। बच्चों के नदी में डूबने की सूचना के बाद स्थानीय लोग नदी में उतरे और खोजबीन करने में जुट गए।

सिगरेट नहीं देने पर फूंक दी दुकान, लाखों का नुकसान



पलामू, एजेंसी। जिला मुख्यालय मेदिनीनगर सदर थाना क्षेत्र के सुआ गांव के निराला टोला में सिगरेट नहीं देने पर एक किराना जेनरल स्टोर फूंक दी गई। दुकान के आइटम सहित शादी के लिए खरीद कर रखे गए सामान जलकर राख हो गए। घटना बुधवार देर रात की है। सूचना मिलने पर सदर थाना पुलिस और फायर ब्रिगेड की टीम मौके पर पहुंची। आग पर काबू पाया। इस संबंध में पुलिस को आवेदन देकर दुकान में आग लगा देने का आरोप लगाया गया है। जानकारी के अनुसार आग राजेश कुमार गुप्ता की दुकान सह मकान में लगी। राजेश ने गुरुवार को बताया कि बुधवार देर रात चार लड़के सिगरेट लेने के लिए दुकान में पहुंचे थे। शटर जोर-जोर से पीट रहे थे। बाहर निकले तो बाल के टोले के रितिक सिंह छोटू सिंह एवं अन्य ने सिगरेट मांगते हुए गाली गलौज की और मारपीट करने के लिए कॉलर पकड़ लिया। बताया गया कि सिगरेट खत्म हो गया है। चारों युवक गुप्ते में वहां से निकले और जाने के क्रम में धमकी दी की देख लेंगे। इसके कुछ देर बाद दुकान में आग लग गई। तत्काल इसकी सूचना सदर थाना पुलिस और फायर ब्रिगेड को दी। स्थानीय लोग भी मौके पर पहुंचे और सभी की मदद से आग पर काबू पाया। राजेश ने बताया कि 11 मार्च को उसके भाई छोटू कुमार गुप्ता की शादी होने वाली है। डेढ़ लाख के सामान खरीद कर रखे थे। 80 हजार नगद भी रखे हुए थे। आग से सारे जल गए। इसके अलावा दुकान में बसे सामान सहित करीब 10 लाख की संपत्ति जलकर नष्ट हुई है। उसकी कमर टूट गई है। राजेश ने चारों युवकों पर आग लगा देने का आरोप लगाया है। प्रशासन से कड़ी कार्रवाई करने का आग्रह किया है ताकि ऐसी घटना किसी के साथ ना हो सके।

धनबाद में बियर के बोतल से हमला आपसी विवाद में दो युवक और एक महिला घायल



धनबाद, एजेंसी। धनबाद के सरायखेला थाना क्षेत्र के उडिया पट्टी में गुरुवार को आपसी विवाद के दौरान बियर की बोतल से हमला किया गया। इस घटना में दो युवक और एक महिला गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए। सभी घायलों को इलाज के लिए धनबाद के एसएनएमएमसीएच अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया है। जानकारी के अनुसार, विक्की हाड़ी अपनी बहन रानी देवी के घर उडिया पट्टी आए हुए थे। इसी दौरान कुछ स्थानीय युवक नशे की हालत में वहां पहुंचे और एक व्यक्ति के साथ मारपीट की, जिससे उसका सिर फट गया। जब विक्की हाड़ी और उनके भाई बीच-बचाव करने गए, तो हमलावरों ने बियर की बोतलें तोड़कर उन पर हमला कर दिया। इस दौरान एक युवक के सीने पर बोतल से वार किया गया, जिससे वह गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गया। परिजनों ने आरोप लगाया है कि घायलों को बचाने पहुंचे लोगों पर हमलावरों ने चाकू से भी हमला करने की कोशिश की, जिसमें विक्की की बहन रानी देवी भी घायल हो गई। परिजनों का यह भी आरोप है कि इलाके के कुछ युवक अक्सर पिस्टल दिखाकर जान से मारने की धमकी देते रहते हैं। सरायखेला थाना प्रभारी मंजीत कुमार ने बताया कि घायलों को इलाज के लिए अस्पताल भेजा गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि आवेदन मिलने के बाद प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर आगे की कार्रवाई की जाएगी। पुलिस फिलहाल पूरे मामले की जांच कर रही है।

रांची के अनगड़ा में शराब दुकान में फायरिंग: अपराधियों ने चलाई पांच राउंड गोलिया

रांची, एजेंसी। रांची जिले के अनगड़ा थाना क्षेत्र में मंगलवार शाम अपराधियों ने एक शराब दुकान पर तांबड़तोड़ फायरिंग कर इलाके में सनसनी फैला दी। जानकारी के अनुसार बदमाशों ने दुकान पर कुल पांच राउंड गोलियां चलाई। घटना के समय दुकान पर ग्राहक और कर्मचारी मौजूद थे। अचानक हुई फायरिंग से वहां अफरा-तफरी मच गई। आसपास के दुकानदारों ने भी अपनी दुकानें बंद कर दीं। गनीमत रही कि इस घटना में किसी के घायल होने की सूचना नहीं है, लेकिन वारदात के बाद पूरे इलाके में दहशत का माहौल है। स्थानीय लोगों का कहना है कि शाम के समय इस तरह की घटना ने सुरक्षा व्यवस्था पर सवाल खड़े कर दिए हैं।

देव सिंह मुंडा समेत तीन पर आरोप : पुलिस के मुताबिक फायरिंग की इस घटना को देव सिंह मुंडा और उसके दो साथियों ने अंजाम दिया है। घटना से संबंधित सीसीटीवी सामने आया है। जिसमें साफ देखा जा सकता है कि एक अपराधी का चेहरा छका हुआ है, जबकि दो के चेहरे साफ दिख रहे हैं। सभी बाइक से आए थे। पूरी वारदात दुकान में लगे सीसीटीवी कैमरे में कैद हो गई है। फुटेज में आरोपी हथियार लहराते और फायरिंग करते साफ नजर आ रहे हैं। पुलिस ने सीसीटीवी फुटेज को कब्जे में लेकर जांच शुरू कर दी है। आसपास लगे अन्य कैमरों की रिकॉर्डिंग भी खंगाली जा रही है, ताकि आरोपियों की गतिविधियों और भागने के रूट का पता लगाया जा सके।

पुलिस की छापेमारी जारी, सुरक्षा बढ़ाई गई : घटना की सूचना मिलते ही अनगड़ा थाना की पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और जांच में जुट गई। थाना प्रभारी गौतम कुमार रजवार ने बताया कि मुख्य आरोपी की पहचान देव सिंह मुंडा के रूप में कर ली गई है। उसकी गिरफ्तारी के लिए छापेमारी की जा रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि पुलिस जल्द ही सभी आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार कर लेगी। पुलिस ने आम लोगों से अपील की है कि किसी भी संदिग्ध गतिविधि की सूचना तुरंत थाना को दें। आरोपितों के पास से लाखों रुपये के ब्राउन शूगर बरामद की गई है। जानकारी के अनुसार रेलवे के माध्यम से नशीले पदार्थों की तस्करी पर रोक लगाने के उद्देश्य से आरपीएफ की ओर से ऑपरेशन नारकोस चलाया जा रहा है। इसी अभियान के तहत वरिष्ठ मंडल सुरक्षा आयुक्त, रेलवे सुरक्षा बल चक्रधरपुर मंडल के निदेश पर टीम ने छापेमारी कर तीन तस्करो को दबोच लिया। गिरफ्तार आरोपितों के पास से कुल 28 पुडिया ब्राउन शूगर बरामद की गई है, जिसका कुल वजन 3.56 ग्राम बताया जा रहा है। बरामद ब्राउन शूगर की अनुमानित कीमत लगभग तीन लाख 56 हजार रुपये है। इसके अलावा आरोपितों के पास से तीन मोबाइल फोन और 4,330 रुपये नकद भी बरामद किए गए हैं। कुल जबर सामानों की कीमत लगभग 4 लाख 20 हजार 330 रुपये बताई गई है। पकड़े गए आरोपितों की पहचान परसुडीह थाना क्षेत्र के किताडीह निवासी मुस्तकीम अंसारी उर्फ रतन, बर्मागाँव के कैरेज कॉलोनी निवासी बसंत उपाध्याय उर्फ डेफिनटी और गोलमुरी खालसा क्लब के पास रहने वाले राहुल कुमार डे के रूप में हुई है। फिलहाल आरपीएफ तीनों आरोपितों से पूछताछ कर रही है और पूरे नेटवर्क की जानकारी जुटाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है।

युवक ने की खुदकुशी, जांच में जुटी पुलिस



जांच कर रही है और उसके आधार पर पूरे मामले की पड़ताल की जा रही है। परिजनों और स्थानीय लोगों के अनुसार सूरज प्रसाद ने दो शादियां की थीं। उसकी पहली पत्नी पिंकी सोनारी क्षेत्र में रहती है, जबकि वह अपनी दूसरी पत्नी सोनी के साथ कुम्हारपाड़ा में रह रहा था। करीब छह महीने पहले वह एक ट्रेन दुर्घटना का शिकार हो गया था, जिसमें उसके दोनों पैर और एक हाथ कट गए थे। इस घटना के बाद से ही वह शारीरिक और मानसिक रूप से काफी परेशान रहने लगा

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। सीतारामडेरा थाना क्षेत्र के कुम्हारपाड़ा में गुरुवार सुबह एक युवक के कौटनाशक खाकर खुदकुशी करने का मामला सामने आया है। मृतक की पहचान कुम्हारपाड़ा निवासी सूरज प्रसाद (38) के रूप में हुई है। घटना के बाद इलाके में शोक का माहौल है। मिली जानकारी के अनुसार गुरुवार सुबह सूरज की दूसरी पत्नी सोनी ने कमरे में उसे जमीन पर अचेत अवस्था में पड़ा देखा। पास में

कौटनाशक की बोतल भी पड़ी हुई थी। आनन-फानन में इसकी सूचना सीतारामडेरा थाना पुलिस को दी गई। सूचना मिलते ही पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और जांच शुरू की। पुलिस ने शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया है। जांच के दौरान पुलिस को मृतक के मोबाइल फोन से एक वीडियो भी मिला है। बताया जा रहा है कि उस वीडियो में सूरज ने अपनी मर्जी से खुदकुशी करने की बात कही है। फिलहाल पुलिस वीडियो की भी

ब्राउन शूगर के साथ तीन तस्करो गिरफ्तार

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। टाटानगर रेलवे स्टेशन परिसर में रेलवे सुरक्षा बल (आरपीएफ) ने नशीले पदार्थों के खिलाफ चलाए जा रहे अभियान के तहत बड़ी कार्रवाई करते हुए तीन तस्करो को गिरफ्तार किया है। आरोपितों के पास से लाखों रुपये के ब्राउन शूगर बरामद की गई है। जानकारी के अनुसार रेलवे के माध्यम से नशीले पदार्थों की तस्करी पर रोक लगाने के उद्देश्य से आरपीएफ की ओर से ऑपरेशन नारकोस चलाया जा रहा है।

इसी अभियान के तहत वरिष्ठ मंडल सुरक्षा आयुक्त, रेलवे सुरक्षा बल चक्रधरपुर मंडल के निदेश पर टीम ने छापेमारी कर तीन तस्करो को दबोच लिया। गिरफ्तार आरोपितों के पास से कुल 28 पुडिया ब्राउन शूगर बरामद की गई है, जिसका कुल वजन 3.56 ग्राम बताया जा रहा है। बरामद ब्राउन शूगर की अनुमानित कीमत लगभग तीन लाख 56 हजार रुपये है। इसके अलावा आरोपितों के पास से तीन मोबाइल फोन और 4,330 रुपये नकद भी बरामद किए गए हैं। कुल



जबर सामानों की कीमत लगभग 4 लाख 20 हजार 330 रुपये बताई गई है। पकड़े गए आरोपितों की पहचान परसुडीह थाना क्षेत्र के किताडीह निवासी मुस्तकीम अंसारी उर्फ रतन, बर्मागाँव के कैरेज कॉलोनी निवासी बसंत उपाध्याय उर्फ डेफिनटी और गोलमुरी खालसा क्लब के पास रहने वाले राहुल कुमार डे के रूप में हुई है। गुरुवार को आरपीएफ थाना प्रभारी राजेश महतो ने बताया कि जांच में सामने आया है कि मुस्तकीम अंसारी उर्फ रतन ब्राउन

शूगर को सरायकेला-खरसावां जिले के आदिलपुर इलाके से लाकर टाटानगर स्टेशन परिसर में बसंत उपाध्याय उर्फ डेफिनटी और राहुल कुमार डे को बेच रहा था। इसी दौरान आरपीएफ की टीम ने तीनों को रोह हाथ पकड़ लिया। फिलहाल आरपीएफ तीनों आरोपितों से पूछताछ कर रही है और पूरे नेटवर्क की जानकारी जुटाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। पुलिस यह भी पता लगाने में जुटी है कि इस तस्करी के पीछे और कौन-कौन लोग शामिल हैं।

पाकुड़ में देसी कट्टे के साथ युवक गिरफ्तार दो जिंदा कारतूस भी बरामद आरोपी का रहा है आपराधिक इतिहास

पाकुड़, एजेंसी। पाकुड़ एसपी निधि द्विवेदी के निदेश पर गठित पुलिस टीम ने एक अपराधी को गिरफ्तार किया है। अमड़ापाड़ा थाना क्षेत्र के बरमसिया मोड़ के पास से ताला मुर्मु उर्फ खलासी नामक इस अपराधी को एक देसी कट्टा और दो जिंदा कारतूस के साथ पकड़ा गया। पुलिस उससे पूछताछ कर रही है।

अमड़ापाड़ा थाना प्रभारी मदन कुमार शर्मा ने बताया कि एसपी को गुप्त सूचना मिली थी। इसके बाद उनके नेतृत्व में एक पुलिस टीम का गठन किया गया। इस टीम में पुलिस अवर निरीक्षक चंदन कुमार सिंह, सहायक अवर निरीक्षक संतोष मुर्मू, डवलदार सतपाल कुमार और प्रकाश असुर शामिल थे। वरिय अधिकारियों के निदेश पर पुलिस टीम बरमसिया



मोड़ से कोयला रोड पहुंची। पुलिस वहां को देखकर एक व्यक्ति भागने लगा, जिसे सशस्त्र बल की मदद से बरमसिया गांव के जंगल के पास पकड़ा गया। पूछताछ में उसने

अपना नाम ताला मुर्मु उर्फ खलासी बताया, जो साहबगंज जिले के मिर्जाचौकी थाना अंतर्गत छोटा लक्ष्मी का निवासी है। तलाशी के दौरान उसके पास से

एक देसी कट्टा और दो जिंदा कारतूस बरामद हुए। थाना प्रभारी ने बताया कि ताला मुर्मु का आपराधिक इतिहास रहा है। उस पर गोड्डा और साहबगंज जिलों के विभिन्न थानों में लगभग 6 मामले दर्ज हैं।

वह अंतर-राज्यीय आपराधिक घटनाओं में शामिल रहा है। गोड्डा जिले के ललमटिया थाना में उसके खिलाफ कांड संख्या 44/25 और 48/25 दर्ज हैं, जबकि बोआरीजोड़ थाना में 35/25 मामला दर्ज है। साहबगंज जिले के मिर्जाचौकी थाना में भी उस पर 35/25 और 37/25 मामले दर्ज हैं। अमड़ापाड़ा थाना में आर्म्स एक्ट के तहत कांड संख्या 8/2026 दर्ज कर आगे की कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

पानी फेंकने के विवाद में युवक को चाकू मारा, एमजीएम में भर्ती

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। होली के दौरान पानी फेंकने को लेकर हुए विवाद में साकची थाना क्षेत्र के काशीडीह लाइन नंबर-3 निवासी युवक रितेश कुमार को कुछ लोगों ने चाकू मारकर घायल कर दिया। घटना बुधवार रात की बताई जा रही है। घायल युवक का इलाज एमजीएम अस्पताल में चल रहा है। जानकारी के अनुसार रितेश कुमार बुधवार शाम घूमने के लिए घर से निकला था। इसी दौरान वह काशीडीह काली मंदिर के पास पहुंचा, तभी पास के एक घर की छत से किसी व्यक्ति ने उस पर पानी फेंक दिया। रितेश ने जब इस पर आपत्ति जलाई और पूछताछ की, तो आरोपित व्यक्ति उससे उलझ गया और दोनों के बीच कहसात शुरू हो गई। बताया जाता है कि कुछ ही देर में वहां तीन अन्य लोग भी पहुंच गए



आर रितेश के साथ मारपीट करने लगे। इसी दौरान एक व्यक्ति ने चाकू निकालकर रितेश के पेट में वार कर दिया, जिससे वह गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गया। घटना की जानकारी मिलने के बाद रितेश ने साकची थाना पुलिस को मामले की सूचना दी। पुलिस ने घायल युवक को इलाज के लिए एमजीएम अस्पताल पहुंचाया, जहां उसका उपचार चल रहा है। पुलिस पूरे मामले की जांच में जुट गई है।

गुमला में दो सड़क हादसों में दो की मौत:बाइक के पेड़ से टकराने से एक की गई जान



गुमला, एजेंसी। गुमला जिले में गुरुवार को दो अलग-अलग सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में दो लोगों की मौत हो गई। पुलिस ने दोनों शवों को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमार्टम के लिए सदर अस्पताल गुमला भेज दिया है और मामले की छानबीन में जुट गई है।

पहली घटना सदर प्रखंड के टोटो थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत कोटाम खरका रोड पर हुई। यहां एक अनियंत्रित बाइक पेड़ से टकरा गई,

जिससे हरखपुरा, बेगूसराय, बिहार निवासी 40 वर्षीय टाइल्स मिस्री जगदीश दास की मौत हो गई।

होली के दिन पतंगखेच की ओर गया था : जगदीश दास गुमला में किराए के मकान में रहता था और टाइल्स मिस्री का काम करता था।

होली के दिन वह पतंगखेच की ओर गया था। लौटते समय कोटाम खरका रोड पर उसकी बाइक अनियंत्रित होकर पेड़ से टकरा गई।

बाइक पर जगदीश के साथ एक और व्यक्ति सवार था, जिसे चोटें आई हैं और उसका अस्पताल में इलाज चल रहा है। जगदीश को गंभीर चोटें लगी थीं, और अस्पताल पहुंचने पर डॉक्टरों ने उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया।

बाइक चालक ने अभिषेक को टक्कर मार दी थी : दूसरी घटना बसिया थाना क्षेत्र में हुई, जहां धेमन उरांव के 17 वर्षीय पुत्र अभिषेक उरांव की सड़क दुर्घटना में मौत हो गई। मृतक के परिजन शुकरा धनवार ने पुलिस को बताया कि गांव में बाइक के चालक ने अभिषेक को टक्कर मार दी थी।

गंभीर चोटें लगने के बाद उसे प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र बसिया ले जाया गया, जहां इलाज के दौरान चिकित्सकों ने उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया। सूचना मिलने पर एसआइ राम बुलावन राम ने शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमार्टम के लिए सदर अस्पताल गुमला भेजा। पुलिस इस मामले की भी गहनता से छानबीन कर रही है।

बुजुर्ग की टांगी से मारकट हत्या, आरोपित फरार

पलामू, एजेंसी। रांगों और उमंग के पर्व होली के दिन पलामू के हुसैनाबाद थाना क्षेत्र के हीरा सिकनी गांव में खुशियां उस वक्त मातम में बदल गई, जब आपसी विवाद ने खूनी रूप ले लिया। गांव में जहां एक और लोग अबीर-गुलाल में सराबोर थे, वहीं दूसरी ओर 70 वर्षीय बुजुर्ग विश्वनाथ रजवार की टांगी से मारकर हत्या कर दी गई। मृतक की पहचान हीरा सिकनी निवासी विश्वनाथ रजवार (70) के रूप में हुई है। आरोप है कि गांव के ही उनके गौतिया कपिल रजवार (25) ने गुप्ते और शराब के नशे में धुत होकर इस वारदात को अंजाम दिया।

घटना बुधवार देर शाम की बताई जा रही है। गुरुवार सुबह शव का पोस्टमार्टम हुसैनाबाद अनुमंडलीय अस्पताल में किया गया।

तू-तू-तू-तू से शुरू हुआ विवाद, खून-खराबे में बदला : प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों के अनुसार, दोनों के बीच किसी बात को लेकर कहसात हुई। होली के दिन पहले से ही माहौल में शराब का असर था। इसी दौरान बात इतनी बढ़ गई कि कपिल रजवार ने रजवार को पीट डाला और विश्वनाथ रजवार पर तांबड़तोड़



वार कर दिए। गंभीर रूप से घायल बुजुर्ग ने मौके पर ही दम तोड़ दिया। गांव में दहशत, पुलिस जांच में जुटी : घटना की खबर आग की तरह पूरे गांव में फैल गई। होली का उत्सव पलभर में सन्नाटे में बदल गया। सूचना मिलते ही हुसैनाबाद थाना की पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया। पुलिस आरोपित को गिरफ्तार करने के लिए छापेमारी कर रही है। प्रारंभिक जांच में आपसी रंजिश और शराब के नशे को घटना का कारण बताया जा रहा है। इस घटना के बाद गांव में शोक और आक्रोश

का माहौल है। परिजनों का रो-रोकर बुरा हाल है। राजेश के अनुसार बुधवार रात करीब 8.30 बजे तक उनकी मां से मोबाइल पर बातचीत हुई थी और उस समय उनकी तबीयत ठीक लग रही थी। परिजनों का आरोप है कि गुलफूल देवी की मौत की सूचना भी अस्पताल की ओर से परिवार को नहीं दी गई। जब राजेश अस्पताल पहुंचे तब तक उनकी मां की मौत हो चुकी थी। इसके बाद जब परिवार के अन्य सदस्य और बस्ती के लोग अस्पताल पहुंचे तो नर्स और अस्पताल कर्मियों ने उन्हें अंदर जाने से रोक दिया।

एनएसयूआई अध्यक्ष विनोद जाखड़ ने की युवा कांग्रेस नेताओं के गिरफ्तारी की निंदा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारतीय राष्ट्रीय छात्र संगठन (एनएसयूआई) ने भारतीय युवा कांग्रेस के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष उदय भानु चिव तथा आठ अन्य युवा कांग्रेस सदस्यों को गिरफ्तारी की कड़ी निंदा करते हुए इसे लोकतांत्रिक अधिकारों और युवाओं की आवाज पर सीधा हमला बताया। एनएसयूआई के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष विनोद जाखड़ ने पत्रकार वार्ता को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि उदय भानु चिव और अन्य युवा नेताओं को अपनी आवाज उठाने के कारण गिरफ्तार करना निंदनीय और शर्मनाक कृत्य है। इस मौके पर गुजरात से विधायक जिग्नेश मेवाणी भी उपस्थित रहे। ईरान की स्थिति पर बोलते हुए विनोद जाखड़ ने ईरान के सर्वोच्च नेता की लश्कित हत्या की कड़ी निंदा की तथा उनके परिवार, ईरान की जनता और विश्वभर के शिया समुदाय के प्रति गहरी संवेदना व्यक्त की। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत की विदेश नीति सदैव विवादों के शांतिपूर्ण समाधान और संप्रभुता के सम्मान के सिद्धांतों पर आधारित रही है। उन्होंने यह भी उल्लेख किया कि कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष ने भी इसी प्रकार का वक्तव्य जारी कर इन सिद्धांतों का समर्थन किया है। गिरफ्तारियों पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए गुजरात से विधायक जिग्नेश मेवाणी ने कहा कि इस गिरफ्तारी की निंदा करते हैं और इस अन्याय के विरुद्ध संघर्ष जारी रखेंगे। एनएसयूआई के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष ने दोहराया कि वह लोकतंत्र और संवैधानिक मूल्यों की रक्षा के लिए पूर्णतः प्रतिबद्ध है।

टिकरी में गोदाम में लगी आग

नई दिल्ली। बाहरी दिल्ली के टिकरी इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया स्थित एक वेयरहाउस में सोमवार सुबह भीषण आग लग गई। आग इतनी भयावह थी कि काले धुएँ का गुबार कई किलोमीटर दूर से दिखाई दे रहा था। सूचना मिलते ही दमकल विभाग में हड़कंप मच गया और आनन-फ़ानन में राहत व बचाव कार्य शुरू किया गया। जानकारी के मुताबिक, आग टिकरी बॉर्डर के पास स्थित एक औद्योगिक इकाई में लगी। शुरुआती चिंगारी ने कुछ ही देर में विकराल रूप धारण कर लिया और पूरी इमारत को अपनी चपेट में ले लिया। प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों के अनुसार आग तेजी से फैली, जिससे अंदर मौजूद कर्मचारियों को संभलने का पर्याप्त मौका नहीं मिल सका। धुएँ के घने गुबार के कारण आसपास के इलाकों में दूधरात प्रभावित हुई और लोगों को सांस लेने में भी दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ा। आग की गंभीरता को देखते हुए दमकल विभाग ने इसे 'सीरियस कैटेगरी' में रखा। सूचना मिलते ही करीब 24 दमकल गाड़ियाँ मौके पर भेजी गईं। संकरी गलियाँ और वेयरहाउस के भीतर रखा ज्वलनशील सामान आग बुझाने में बड़ी बाधा साबित हुआ। फायर अधिकारियों ने बताया कि प्राथमिकता आग को आसपास की अन्य फैक्ट्रियों तक फैलने से रोकना है। दमकल कर्मी लगातार पानी की बीछर कर आग पर काबू पाने की कोशिश करते रहे। कई वरिष्ठ अधिकारी भी मौके पर मौजूद रहे और स्थिति की निगरानी करते रहे। सूरुखा की दृष्टि से पुलिस ने पूरे इलाके की घेराबंदी कर दी और आसपास की फैक्ट्रियों को एहतियातन खाली करा लिया गया। किसी भी आपात स्थिति से निपटने के लिए एंबुलेंस की कई गाड़ियाँ भी मौके पर तैनात रही।

गुरुग्राम में लिंव-इन पार्टनर द्वारा हमला - त्रिपुरा सीएम ने छात्रा को मदद का आश्वासन दिया

नई दिल्ली/अगरतला। त्रिपुरा के मुख्यमंत्री माणिक साह ने मंगलवार को राज्य की एक 19 साल की लड़की के माता-पिता को हर मुमकिन मदद का भरोसा दिया, जिसके साथ गुरुग्राम में कथित तौर पर बेरहमी से मारपीट की गई थी। चीफ मिनिस्टर ऑफिस (सीएमओ) के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि सीएम साह, जो अभी नई दिल्ली में हैं, ने पीड़िता के माता-पिता से मुलाकात की और उनके साथ अपनी सहानुभूति दिखाई। लड़की पर कथित तौर पर उसके लिंव-इन पार्टनर ने हमला किया था, जिससे त्रिपुरा और दूसरे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट राज्यों में बहुत गुस्सा फैल गया। फेसबुक पर एक पोस्ट में मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा, 'मैं आज नई दिल्ली में गुरुग्राम पीड़िता के माता-पिता से मिली।' उन्होंने आगे कहा, 'गहरी सहानुभूति के साथ, मैंने उन्हें त्रिपुरा सरकार से पूरे सपोर्ट के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता का भरोसा दिलाया और दिल्ली में त्रिपुरा भवन के स्पेशल चीफ रजिडेंट कमिश्नर को उनके साथ खड़े रहने का निर्देश दिया।

फिनलैंड के राष्ट्रपति अलेक्जेंडर स्टब तीन दिन की राजकीय यात्रा पर भारत पहुंचे

नई दिल्ली। फिनलैंड के राष्ट्रपति अलेक्जेंडर स्टब तीन दिवसीय दौर पर भारत पहुंचे हैं। उनका यह दौरा प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के निर्माण के बाद हो रहा है। राष्ट्रपति स्टब का पद सभालने के बाद यह पहला भारत दौरा है। नई दिल्ली पहुंचने पर उनका एयरपोर्ट पर विदेश मामलों के राज्य मंत्री कीर्ति वर्धन सिंह ने स्वागत किया। फिनलैंड के राष्ट्रपति के आगमन पर उन्हें गार्ड ऑफ ऑनर भी दिया गया। विदेश मंत्रालय (एम्ईए) ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट किया, 'भारत में आपका हार्दिक स्वागत है। फिनलैंड गणराज्य के राष्ट्रपति अलेक्जेंडर स्टब नई दिल्ली पहुंचे हैं। राष्ट्रपति स्टब का औपचारिक स्वागत और गार्ड ऑफ ऑनर किया गया। एयरपोर्ट पर राज्य मंत्री कीर्ति वर्धन सिंह ने उनका स्वागत किया।' राष्ट्रपति स्टब 7 मार्च तक भारत में रहेंगे और उनके साथ एक हाई-लेवल डेलीगेशन भी है, जिसमें मंत्री, वरिष्ठ अधिकारी और प्रमुख बिजनेस लीडर शामिल हैं। अपनी यात्रा के दौरान वे नई दिल्ली में 5 से 7 मार्च तक आयोजित होने वाले रायसीना डायलॉग के 11वें एडिशन में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में शामिल होंगे और मुख्य भाषण देंगे। एम्ईए के अनुसार, प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और राष्ट्रपति अलेक्जेंडर स्टब कई सेक्टर में द्विपक्षीय सहयोग को बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से व्यापक चर्चा करेंगे।

मुख्यमंत्री सुखू ने केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री से भेंटकर मांगा राज्य के लिए विशेष पैकेज

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। हिमाचल प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री सुखविंदर सिंह सुखू ने मंगलवार को नई दिल्ली में केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण से मुलाकात कर राज्य के लिए विशेष केंद्रीय सहायता (स्पेशल सेंट्रल असिस्टेंस) के तहत वित्तीय पैकेज देने का आग्रह किया। मुख्यमंत्री ने वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 में संभावित राजस्व घाटे की भरपाई के लिए केंद्र से मदद मांगी और कहा कि राजस्व घाटा अनुदान (आरडीजी) बंद होने से राज्य की आर्थिक स्थिति पर प्रतिकूल असर पड़ा है। मुख्यमंत्री सुखू ने बैठक में कहा कि हिमाचल प्रदेश जैसे छोटे और पहाड़ी राज्य की तुलना बड़े राज्यों से करना उचित नहीं है। उनका कहना रहा कि बड़े राज्य आरडीजी बंद होने से



अर्थव्यवस्था इतनी मजबूत नहीं है कि वह इस झटके को आसानी से सहन कर सके। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि सभी राज्यों का आकलन एक ही मापदंड पर करना व्यावहारिक नहीं है। मुख्यमंत्री सुखू ने केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री को बताया कि नार्लैंड के बाद हिमाचल प्रदेश को

आरडीजी के रूप में लगभग 12.7 प्रतिशत हिस्सा मिलता रहा है, जो देश में

दूसरा सबसे अधिक था। उन्होंने आरडीजी बंद करने के फैसले को सहकारी संघवाद (कोऑपरेटिव फेडरलिज्म) की भावना के विपरीत बताया। मुख्यमंत्री ने संविधान के अनुच्छेद 275(1) का हवाला देते हुए कहा कि इसमें राज्यों को उनके राजस्व

विपक्ष की ईरान हमले की थ्योरी ‘दुर्भावनापूर्ण साजिश’ है - अमित मालवीय

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भाजपा नेता अमित मालवीय, जो पार्टी के राष्ट्रीय सूचना एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के प्रमुख हैं, ने यूएस, इजरायल और ईरान के बीच बढ़ते झगड़े में हाल के डेवलपमेंट को संभालने के तरीके के लिए भारत के विपक्ष और जिसे उन्होंने लेफ्ट-लीनिंग इकोसिस्टम बताया, जिसमें मीडिया के कुछ हिस्से भी शामिल हैं, की कड़ी आलोचना की है। 'एक्स' पर एक पोस्ट में, मालवीय ने उनके 'पूरी तरह से एकेटरन' चर्चे पर तरस खायी। उन्होंने बताया कि हाल तक, विपक्ष के कई लोगों और उनसे जुड़े कमेंट करने वालों ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी पर ईरान के खिलाफ यूएस-इजरायल के जॉइंट मिलिट्री ऑपरेशन का परोक्ष रूप से समर्थन करने का आरोप लगाया था। उन्होंने लिखा, 'मुझे भारत के विपक्ष और लेफ्ट इकोसिस्टम पर, जिसमें मीडिया का एक हिस्सा भी शामिल है, लगभग

तरस आता है कि वे कितने खुले तौर पर एकेटरन हो गए हैं। कल तक, वे जोर-शोर से आरोप लगा रहे थे कि तथाकथित इजरायल-यूएस एक्सिस ने प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के समर्थन से ईरान पर हमला किया, और इसे आसानी से उनके दौरे से जोड़ दिया। यह इशारा जानबूझकर और गलत इरादे से किया गया था। अब, नए खुलासे से पता चलता है कि ऑपरेशन 23 फरवरी के लिए प्लान किया गया था, जो प्रधानमंत्री के इजरायल में एक लंबे पहले से तय कार्यक्रम के लिए आने से दो दिन पहले का था। उनकी साजिश की थ्योरी के लिए बस इतना ही।' उन्होंने आगे आरोप लगाया कि उन्होंने इस आरोप को पीएम मोदी के इजरायल के पहले से तय दौरे से जोड़ा, जो 25 और 26 फरवरी को हुआ था, जिससे पता चलता है कि उनका मौजूदगी या मंजूरी ने 28 फरवरी को ईरान के सुप्रीम लीडर अयातुल्ला अली खमेनेई की मौत के लिए हुए हमलों

सत्ता विशेषाधिकार नहीं, बल्कि एक पवित्र सार्वजनिक विश्वास है : विजेंद्र गुप्ता

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली विधानसभा अध्यक्ष विजेंद्र गुप्ता ने कहा कि सत्ता कोई विशेषाधिकार नहीं है, बल्कि एक पवित्र सार्वजनिक विश्वास है जिसे समाज के अंतिम व्यक्ति की प्रगति के लिए उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। ये विचार विजेंद्र गुप्ता ने आज 'इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ डेमोक्रेटिक लीडरशिप' (आईआईडीएल) के युवा छात्रों को संबोधित करते हुए व्यक्त किए। विधानसभा के ऐतिहासिक सदन में 'कोहोर्ट टुडू' के छात्रों का स्वागत करते हुए गुप्ता ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि लोकतंत्र की ताकत केवल उसके कानूनों में नहीं, बल्कि राष्ट्र की सेवा करने वालों के नैतिक मूल्यों में निहित है। उन्होंने छात्रों से आग्रह किया कि वे स्वयं को भारत के भाग



ने छात्रों को विधायी कामकाज और शासन की बारीकियों को करीब से समझने का अवसर प्रदान किया। अध्यक्ष ने रामभाऊ म्हाळगी प्रबोधिनी की इस पहल की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि लोकतांत्रिक नेतृत्व में युवाओं को प्रशिक्षित करने वाले

संस्थान गणतंत्र की मजबूती के लिए अनिवार्य हैं। उन्होंने रेखांकित किया कि शैक्षणिक सिद्धांत केवल एक आधार प्रदान करते हैं, लेकिन सार्वजनिक नीति और प्रशासन की

जटिलताओं को समझने के लिए लोकतंत्र का अनुभव उसकी संस्थाओं के भीतर ही किया जाना चाहिए। विजेंद्र गुप्ता ने अपने संबोधन में कहा कि 'विकसित भारत' के विजन पर बल देते हुए कहा कि भारत की एक विकसित

मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने एनडीएमसी में फूल महोत्सव का किया उद्घाटन



एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने कर्नाट प्लेस के सेंट्रल पार्क में नई दिल्ली नगरपालिका परिषद (एनडीएमसी) फूल महोत्सव का उद्घाटन किया। उन्होंने दिल्लीवासियों से फूल महोत्सव में आने की अपील की। मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने कहा कि होली के अवसर पर इस फ्लॉवर फेस्टिवल से पूरा कर्नाट प्लेस खिल उठा है। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि यहां ट्रे गार्डन, सिरागिड और सिलेंडर आकार की शानदार फ्लॉवर इंस्टॉलेशन, खूबसूरत लैंडस्केप और खास सेल्फी पॉइंट्स इस आयोजन को और भी आकर्षक बना रहे हैं। वे फेस्टिवल रंगों, नेचर और क्रिएटिविटी का जीवंत उत्सव है। इस अवसर पर एनडीएमसी के अध्यक्ष केशव चंद्रा, उपाध्यक्ष कुलजीत चहल सहित अन्य गणमान्य उपस्थित रहे।

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

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। देश के प्रथम राष्ट्रपति डॉ. राजेंद्र प्रसाद की पुण्यतिथि के अवसर पर 'कला एवं संस्कृति के संरक्षण में संग्रहालयों की भूमिका' विषय पर एक विचारोत्तेजक संगोष्ठी का आयोजन बिहार संग्रहालय में किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता बिहार संग्रहालय के अपर निदेशक अशोक कुमार सिन्हा ने की। अपने संबोधन में सिन्हा ने डॉ. राजेंद्र प्रसाद की अमर विरासत पर प्रकाश डालते हुए बताया कि वर्ष 1917 में स्थापित बिहार संग्रहालय में महान राजनेता के दृष्टिकोण और कृतियों को समर्पित एक विशेष दीर्घा का विकास कार्य प्रगति पर है। उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसे प्रयास ऐतिहासिक चेतना को सुदृढ़ करते हैं तथा नई पीढ़ी को अपनी जड़ों से जुड़ने के लिए प्रेरित करते हैं। इस अवसर पर प्रख्यात लेखक एवं ब्रिटिश लिंग्वा के संस्थापक डॉ. बोरबल झा ने अपने प्रेरणादायक वक्तव्य में संग्रहालयों की कालजयी



में निर्मित नहीं होती; उसे सदियों में गढ़ा जाता है। ' संग्रहालयों को 'सांस्कृतिक दूत' बताते हुए डॉ. झा ने कहा, 'वे विश्व 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

स्वरूप नगर में सिलेंडर फटने से धमाका, सात लोग झुलसे

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली पुलिस के बाहरी उत्तर जिला अंतर्गत थाना स्वरूप नगर क्षेत्र में मंगलवार को एलपीजी सिलेंडर फटने से अफरा-तफरी मच गई। हादसे में महिलाओं और बच्चों समेत सात लोग झुलस गए। सभी घायलों को तुरंत अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया है। पुलिस के मुताबिक मंगलवार को मकान संख्या 134, एफ-ब्लॉक, गली नंबर-4, स्वरूप नगर की तीसरी मंजिल पर सिलेंडर फटने की सूचना मिली थी। सूचना मिलते ही पुलिस और दमकल विभाग की टीम मौके पर पहुंची। जांच में सामने आया कि तीसरी मंजिल पर 25 वर्ग गज के कमरे में रखा छोटा एलपीजी सिलेंडर अचानक फट गया। बताया जा रहा है कि कमरे में किराएदार का परिवार रह रहा था, जिसमें चार सदस्य थे। धमाके में तीसरी मंजिल पर मौजूद पांच लोग जिनमें एक महिला और दो बच्चे शामिल हैं झुलस गए। इसके अलावा दूसरी मंजिल पर रहने वाली दो महिलाएं भी घायल हुईं। घायलों को तुरंत अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया है। दमकल कर्मियों ने मौके पर पहुंचकर आग पर काबू पा लिया। पुलिस मामले की जांच कर रही है और आवश्यक कानूनी कार्रवाई की जा रही है।



दिल्ली नगर निगम ने 'संपत्तिकर निपटान योजना (सुनियो)' को 31 मार्च तक बढ़ाया : महापौर

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली में संपत्तिकर निपटान योजना (सुनियो) को 31 मार्च तक बढ़ा दिया गया है। यह जानकारी के दिल्ली के महापौर राजा इकबाल सिंह ने दी। उन्होंने सभी योग्य संपत्ति करदाताओं से इस योजना के तहत लाभ उठाने हुए इस अवसर का उपयोग करने की अपील की। महापौर राजा इकबाल सिंह ने जारी विज्ञापन में कहा कि हम सभी संपत्ति मालिकों एवं कब्जाधारियों से अपील करते हैं कि वे 'सुनियो योजना' के तहत इस सुनहरे अवसर का पूरा लाभ उठाएं और बिना किसी ब्याज व जुर्माने के अपने बकाया प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स का निपटान करें। उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि यह योजना 31 मार्च के बाद आगे नहीं बढ़ाई जाएगी। महापौर ने आगे कहा कि हमने क्लिबं शुल्क में कोई वृद्धि नहीं की है, बल्कि इसे पूर्व विस्तारित अवाधि अर्थात फरवरी माह के दौरान लागू दर 5 प्रतिशत के समान ही रखा है। महापौर ने बताया कि नागरिक टैक्स एमनेस्टी योजना में सक्रिय रूप से भाग ले रहे हैं और सुनियो योजना का



लाभ उठा रहे हैं। एक मार्च तक 1,87,425 करदाताओं ने इस पहल का लाभ उठाते हुए 1089.97 करोड़ रुपये का प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स जमा किया है। इसमें से 1,34,666 आवेगों की सूची में 211.44 करोड़ रुपये

वित्तीय वर्षों (2020-21 से 2024-25) का मूल प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स बिना किसी ब्याज और जुर्माने के जमा करें। महापौर ने आगे बताया कि एक मार्च तक चालू वित्तीय वर्ष (सूनियो) योजना सहित) में कुल 2893.86 करोड़ रुपये का टैक्स संग्रह 12,78,445 करदाताओं से हुआ है, जबकि वित्त वर्ष की समाप्ति अर्थात् 10,56,528 करदाताओं से 1937.44 करोड़ रुपये का संग्रह हुआ था। यह कर संग्रह में 49.37 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि तथा करदाताओं की संख्या में 21 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि की दर्शाता है। उल्लेखनीय है कि 1,02,201 नए करदाताओं ने सुनियो योजना का लाभ उठाते हुए पहली बार प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स का भुगतान किया है और इन प्रसेस बार करदाताओं से 395.96 करोड़ का टैक्स संग्रह हुआ है। वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 में कुल 11,33,161 करदाताओं से 2132.29 करोड़ का कर संग्रह हुआ था, जो कि चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में अब तक हुए संग्रह से काफी कम है।

पश्चिम बंगाल में चुनाव तयों नहीं होने चाहिए: रंजन चौधरी

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। पश्चिम बंगाल में होने वाले विधानसभा चुनाव को लेकर जहाँ तमाम राजनीतिक पार्टियाँ तैयारियों में जुटी हुई हैं, वहीं, कांग्रेस नेता अधीर रंजन चौधरी ने चुनाव उद्घाटन किया और इसके स्थायी भवन के निर्माण के लिए भूमि पूजन भी किया। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि यह करारवल नगर और पूरे उत्तर-पूर्वी दिल्ली क्षेत्र के लिए महत्वपूर्ण और ऐतिहासिक अवसर है। उन्होंने बताया कि इस इलाके में लंबे समय से अच्छे शैक्षणिक सुविधाओं की कमी थी और अब तक यह क्षेत्र मात्र एक केंद्रीय विद्यालय पर निर्भर था। नए केंद्रीय विद्यालय के बनने से बच्चों को बेहतर और आधुनिक शिक्षा मिलेगी। साथ ही, पूरे क्षेत्र में शिक्षा का माहौल भी सुधरेगा और, सकारात्मक बदलाव देखने को मिलेगा। इस अवसर पर मुख्यमंत्री के साथ दिल्ली के शिक्षा मंत्री आशीष सूद, पर्यटन मंत्री कपिल मिश्रा सहित शिक्षा विभाग के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी उपस्थित रहे। मुख्यमंत्री ने पूर्ववर्ती



से श्रोताओं को भावविभोर किया। उसका सबसे विशेष आकर्षण 'वृंदवन' की फूलों की होली' रही, जिसे चारकुला आर्ट्स अकादमी ने प्रस्तुत किया और जिसने दर्शकों को होली की सांस्कृतिक परंपरा से गहराई से जोड़ दिया। कार्यक्रम का संयोजन प्रख्यात नाटककार

विवास परियोजनाओं को तेज गति से आगे बढ़ाया जा रहा है और इनका प्रत्यक्ष लाभ आम जनता को मिल रहा है। मुख्यमंत्री ने विश्वास व्यक्त किया कि केंद्रीय विद्यालय के निर्माण से क्षेत्र के बच्चों को राष्ट्रीय स्तर की सरकारों के कार्यकाल का उल्लेख करते हुए कहा कि उस समय क्षेत्र के विद्यालयों की स्थिति अत्यंत दयनीय थी। कक्षाओं के अभाव में बच्चों को अलग-अलग दिनों में बुलाकर पढ़ाई कराई जाती थी और एक ही कमरे में

शिक्षा उपलब्ध होगी और यह संस्थान आने वाली पीढ़ियों के उज्ज्वल भविष्य की मजबूत नींव बनेगा। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार का लक्ष्य प्रत्येक बच्चे को गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा और बेहतर अवसरचयना उपलब्ध कराना है ताकि विकसित दिल्ली के

दिल्ली कला उत्सव का समापन: प्रस्तुतियों ने बनाया यादगार सांस्कृतिक आयोजन

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। संस्कार भारती दिल्ली प्रात का दिल्ली सरकार के सहयोग से आयोजित दो दिवसीय 'दिल्ली कला उत्सव' का सफल समापन रविवर भवन में संपन्न हुआ। दोनों दिनों तक चले इस सांस्कृतिक उत्सव ने न केवल बड़ी

संख्या में कला प्रेमियों को आकर्षित किया, बल्कि अपनी उच्च स्तरीय प्रस्तुतियों के कारण इसे यादगार आयोजन के रूप में सराहा गया। उद्घाटन समारोह में केंद्रीय सड़क परिवहन राज्यमंत्री हर्ष मल्होत्रा, दिल्ली विधानसभा अध्यक्ष विजेंद्र गुप्ता, संस्कार

भारती के अखिल भारतीय सह-व्यवस्था प्रमुख एवं क्षेत्रीय संगठन मंत्री विजय कुमार तथा संस्कार भारती के अखिल भारतीय कार्यकारिणी सदस्य अशोक तिवारी की उपस्थिति रही। अतिथियों ने भारतीय कला और संस्कृति के संरक्षण एवं प्रसार में ऐसे आयोजनों की महत्ता पर प्रकाश डाला।

उत्सव के दोनो दिनों में शास्त्रीय संगीत, नृत्य, लोक प्रस्तुतियाँ, नाट्य मंचन, काव्य एवं पारंपरिक कला रूपों का समृद्ध संगम देखने को मिला। सुप्रसिद्ध संतूर वादक एवं संगीतकार पंडित अभय रस्तम सोभारी ने अपने संतूर-पाद के माध्यम से राग भारतीय को विशेष प्रस्तुति दी, जो

प्रभात कुमार ने इस सफल आयोजन के लिए सभी कलाकारों, अतिथियों, सहयोगियों एवं आगंतुकों के प्रति आभार व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि ऐसे आयोजन भारतीय सांस्कृतिक मूल्यों को समाज में सशक्त रूप से स्थापित करने का माध्यम बनते हैं।

Telangana man injured in attack near Abu Dhabi airport; parents seek safe return

New Delhi, Agency: A man from Telangana suffered minor injuries following an attack by Iran near the Abu Dhabi airport, amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, his parents said on Wednesday. N Rajeswara Rao, a native of Pothireddypalle village in Rajanna Sircilla district, was injured in the incident, his father Prabhakar Rao said.

Rao, who works in the housekeeping section at the airport, informed his parents that he and several others escaped with minor injuries.

"My son has been working there for a year. He works at the airport. He sustained injuries in the attack. He spoke to us over a video call, but he is not showing us the injuries. I want my son to return home soon," Prabhakar Rao told PTI Videos.

Rao's parents urged the Indian government to take steps to ensure their son's safe return. A group of passengers who arrived at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, said they did not face any difficulties due to the prevailing situation in the Gulf region.

Pilgrims who had travelled to Madina expressed satisfaction with the facilities and arrangements.

Mohd Abdul Razak told PTI Videos that his return to Hyderabad was delayed due to flight cancellations. However, he said the travel agency had taken care of his accommodation and other arrangements.

Divorce can't be granted citing cruelty based on WhatsApp chat without rebuttal chance to spouse: HC

New Delhi, Agency: Divorce cannot be granted on grounds of alleged cruelty merely based on WhatsApp chats without giving the spouse a chance to rebut, the Bombay High Court has said.

A bench of Justices Bharati Dange and Manjusha Deshpande last week quashed an order passed by the Nashik district family court allowing an application filed by a man seeking divorce from his wife on grounds of cruelty. The woman moved the high court, challenging the family court order claiming that the same was passed ex-parte and without giving her an opportunity to oppose or put forth her arguments.

The family court, in its May 2025 order, relied on a WhatsApp chat submitted by the man in which the woman demanded that they shift from Nashik to Pune to live separately, and also in which she allegedly made derogatory comments against her mother-in-law and sister-in-law. The family court noted that the wife had used pressure tactics, emotional blackmail and intemperate language in the WhatsApp chat and held that cruelty was meted against the husband and hence he was entitled to divorce.

The high court, in its order, noted that the family court failed to give an opportunity to the wife to rebut the evidence (WhatsApp chats) submitted by the husband. "Merely relying on the WhatsApp chat, the divorce decree cannot be granted, since it is not proved by leading evidence," the HC said.

'Father didn't know minor son took car', says court, grants bail to businessman in accident case

New Delhi, Agency: A Mumbai court has granted bail to a businessman arrested in connection with a fatal car accident caused by his minor son, noting that prima facie the father had no knowledge of the boy taking out the vehicle for a drive.

Additional Sessions Judge R M Jadhav on Wednesday allowed his bail on a bond of Rs 50,000 and mainly relied on the statement of a watchman of the building where the businessman resides while granting him relief. The accident occurred on February 5 near Somaia College in Mumbai's Ghatkopar area. As per police, the minor son of the businessman was driving a Kia Seltos when it collided with a scooter, leading to the death of its rider Dhruvil Patel. The deceased victim's wife Meenal, who was riding pillion, suffered grievous injuries in the crash.

The boy's father was arrested on February 10 and booked under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita provisions related to rash driving, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, act endangering life and safety of others, as well as relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act. The accused, through his advocate Manish Singh, had argued in the court that he was neither present at the accident spot nor driving the vehicle at the relevant time. The businessman claimed he had no knowledge of his son taking the vehicle on the day of the accident and was not responsible for the fatal crash.

Rajnath Singh plays drums on Holi wishes for 'peace, harmony' in world

New Delhi, Agency: On the occasion of Holi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh showcased active participation in the celebrations at his residence, playing drums, and putting gulaal on people.

Many people gathered at his residence in the national capital to celebrate the festival of colours.

Singh also extended Holi greetings to the people, wishing for peace and harmony in the world.

Speaking to reporters, he said, "Heartfelt greetings of Holi to all the countrymen. May peace be established throughout the world. May everyone live in peace and harmony. These are my



Prime Minister Narendra Modi also extended greetings to all citizens on the occasion of Holi and wished for happiness, prosperity and success to everyone.

Heartfelt Holi greetings to all my fellow citizens. May this festival, brimming with colours and exuberance, bring a shower of joy to everyone. May every life be sprinkled with the hues of happiness, prosperity, and success - this is my heartfelt wish."

On the occasion, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also fed cows and calves at Gorakhnath Mandir Gaushala, applying gulaal teeka to them.

Application & approval process for access roads from NHs goes fully digital

New Delhi, Agency: People seeking access roads from National Highways (NHs) for fuel stations, wayside amenities, industries, private properties and rest area complexes won't need to visit govt offices to get an NOC anymore. They will be able to apply online and get the approval without any physical interface with the system. Road transport minister Nitin Gadkari has launched a new one-stop digital platform - - to process all such applications. The portal can also be used by govt and private entities to obtain permissions for laying utilities such as water pipelines, gas pipelines, optical fibre cables, electrical lines and other services along or across NHs.

Oxford museum set to return 500-year-old bronze statue taken from Tamil Nadu temple

New Delhi, Agency: A 16th-century bronze statue of Saint Tirumankai Alvar, taken from a temple in Tamil Nadu, is among several Indian heritage items that are being returned to India from the UK.

The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford acquired the 57.5cm tall statue of the South Indian Hindu saint in good faith in 1967 and had it on display. According to Sotheby's, it was sold to the museum by the private collector, Dr J R Belmont (1886-1981). There is no information on how it entered his collection. However, in Nov 2019, a French scholar alerted the University of Oxford museum to research indicating that a photograph of the bronze had been taken in 1957 in the temple of Soundarrajaperumal



temple in Thadikombu, a village in Tamil Nadu. This made the museum aware that its provenance was unclear, so the museum decided to investigate.

Although no formal claim had been made, the Ashmolean wrote to the Indian High Commission on 16 Dec 2019, requesting further information and indicating the museum's willingness to discuss its possible return.

On 11 Feb 2020 a temple executive officer filed a police report noting that a modern

replica had replaced the original bronze. The Indian High Commissioner then made a formal claim for return of the bronze on 3 March 2020. At request of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the museum commissioned metal analysis of the bronze and submitted results to inform a report on its provenance.

Director of the Ashmolean Dr Xa Sturgis said: "The Ashmolean is pleased to see this important object returned to India and we are grateful to the Indian authorities and scholars who have helped establish its provenance. The museum and University of Oxford are committed to ethical collections practices and continued research into our collections, their origins and history."

West Asia crisis: 38 Indian ships stuck in Persian Gulf; 3 sailors dead

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, Agency: Thirty-eight Indian flagged ships, mostly carrying crude and LNG with nearly 1,100 seafarers, were stuck in the Persian Gulf on Tuesday amid the conflict in West Asia.

Shipping authorities here also confirmed the death of three Indian sailors and injury to one on board foreign-flagged vessels in "attacks" off the Oman port.

There are around 23,000 Indian seafarers on different ships in the conflict-hit region at any given time and their safety remains the government's priority, officials said. India is the third largest supplier of seafarers after the Philippines and China.

1k containers stuck at Indian ports amid West Asia crisis: Shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal chaired a review meeting on Tuesday and directed officials, including DG Shipping, to take steps to ensure



the safety and welfare of Indian seafarers as well as the security of maritime assets. "There have been no confirmed instances of casualty, detention or boarding involving Indian-flagged vessels," DG Shipping said in a statement.

The minister and officials were briefed by DG Shipping on the situation in the region, and on the status of Indian flagged ships and Indian seafarers. Officials informed the ministry that 24 ships are stranded west of Strait of Hormuz and another 14 in the east of the strait.

Maharashtra transporters to launch stir against e-challans; indefinite strike from Thursday midnight

New Delhi, Agency: Transporters across Maharashtra have announced a statewide "chakka jam" from Thursday to protest against e-challans and other issues faced by the sector, and an indefinite strike from midnight.

After the last round of negotiations held at the Maharashtra Transport Commissioner's office on Wednesday evening remained inconclusive, the Maharashtra Transport Action Committee (M-TAC) said it would go ahead with the strike.

According to M-TAC representatives, transporters will stage protests at Azad Maidan in Mumbai and outside the Regional Transport Office (RTO) premises in other parts of the state before going on strike from mid-



on Thursday.

Earlier this week, Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik also held a meeting with transporters at the MSRTC headquarters here, but M-TAC said the talks remained unfruitful due to what it described as "hollow assurances" from the government.

Sarnaik had appealed to the transporters to withdraw their agitation, stating that the government was positive about cancelling "unjust" e-challans issued to parked vehicles and would take a favourable decision on the matter.

M-TAC said the agitation was being organised against what it termed "arbitrary and excessive" electronic traffic enforcement and the mounting financial burden on the transport sector.

'I have seen the missile': Indian woman from first evacuation flight recounts tense days in Dubai

New Delhi, Agency: An Indian national who returned to India in the first batch of flights from Dubai after air travel resumed has described tense nights, emergency alarms and uncertainty as conflict in the Middle East disrupted travel across the Gulf.

Saumya Khandelwal, who had travelled to Dubai for work, said she experienced missile alerts and saw debris during the escalation of hostilities involving Iran, the United States and Israel.

"I have seen the missile, and we've seen this debris. And then we've also seen, we've also got alarms in the middle of the night where the government was sending us, the alarms were blaring for us to go to the shelter or to the basement of the hotel and be there," she said.



"It was 12:13 in the night and we get a huge alarm on our phone and we had to rush to the basement."

Khandelwal had arrived in Dubai on Wednesday and was scheduled to return to India on Saturday, but her plans were disrupted when airspace restrictions were imposed amid rising tensions in the

region.

"I went on Wednesday and I was supposed to come back on Saturday. The afternoon we got to know that the space is closed," she said. Authorities asked travellers to remain indoors as the situation unfolded. "We were asked by the authorities to be in the hotel and not roam around on the

streets. We were in the hotel. Things were very frightening over there. We were very tense." Despite the uncertainty, she said both local authorities and residents extended support to stranded travellers.

"The government was fully cooperative and the people over there are very warm. There was full cooperation from everybody around. They opened their homes for the people over there." The Indian Embassy in the UAE also stayed in touch with citizens during the crisis. "We've had calls, several calls that if you need any help, if we need anything, any sort of help, they were there to help," she said.

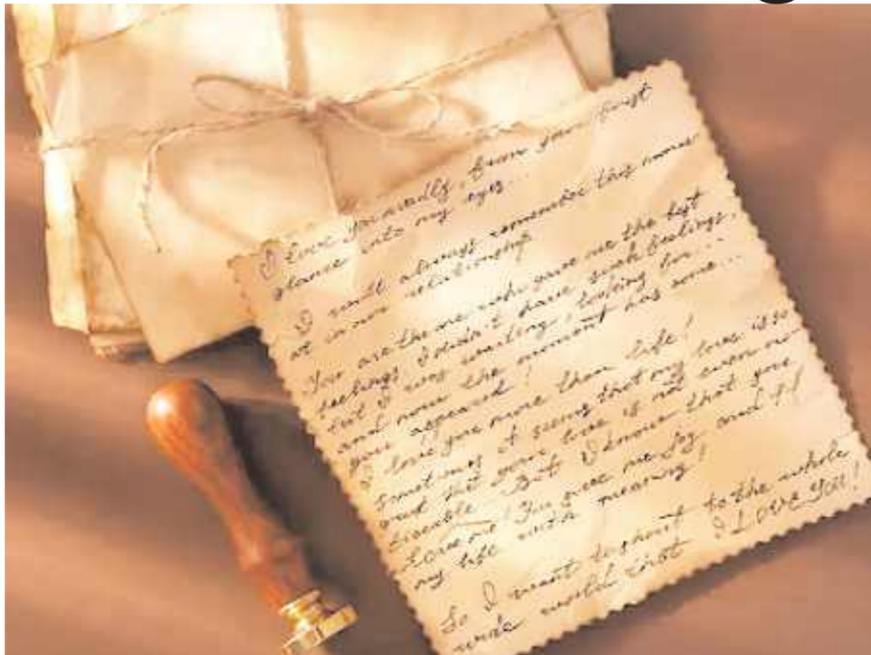
"I received about two, three calls from Indian Embassy." The sounds of sirens and missile alerts created a climate of

fear, she said. "I was very scared and I thought that I don't think so that I'll be able to move out of UAE for next two, three weeks at least." Her family in India was also anxious as the situation unfolded.

"It was just a four day trip for work and nobody had imagined that something like this was happening in UAE."

Even as tensions remained high, Khandelwal said everyday life in Dubai continued largely without panic. "Monday the city was functioning normally. People were on the roads, they were doing their daily chores. The groceries were open." "There was no panic at all, which was the best part. The cabs were running smoothly, the hotels were running smoothly." She also said hotels and airlines avoided raising prices during the crisis.

The Return of Handwritten Letters in the Digital Era



In a world where messages travel across continents in seconds, handwritten letters may seem like a relic of the past. Instant communication through applications such as WhatsApp and Telegram has transformed the way people stay connected. Yet, surprisingly, handwritten letters are slowly making a comeback among those who crave deeper emotional expression and personal connection.

For centuries, letters were the primary way people communicated over long distances. Before telephones and the internet, families, lovers, and friends depended on letters to share their thoughts, feelings, and life events. These letters carried more than words—they carried emotions, memories, and sometimes even the scent of the writer's home. Today, while technology has made communication faster and more

convenient, many believe it has also made it less personal.

A handwritten letter requires time, effort, and intention. The writer must sit down with pen and paper, carefully choose words, and physically write them out. This process creates a stronger emotional connection between the writer and the recipient. Unlike a quick text message that can be typed in seconds, a letter represents thoughtful communication.

Psychologists often point out that handwritten communication has a unique emotional impact. When someone receives a handwritten letter, they can see the writer's handwriting, which reflects personality and emotion. Small details such as underlined words, corrections, and unique writing styles make each letter personal and authentic.

Another reason for the

revival of handwritten letters is nostalgia. Many people today feel overwhelmed by constant digital notifications. Emails, social media updates, and instant messages create a fast-paced communication culture. Writing a letter offers a refreshing break from this digital overload. It slows down the process of communication and allows people to express themselves more thoughtfully.

Young people are also rediscovering the charm of handwritten communication. In recent years, social media trends have encouraged people to share aesthetic photos of handwritten letters, postcards, and journals. This has inspired many individuals to start writing letters to friends, family members, and even pen pals across the world.

The concept of pen pal friendships, which was popular decades ago, is also returning. Through online

communities, people connect with strangers from different countries and exchange handwritten letters. This not only promotes cultural exchange but also builds meaningful relationships beyond digital platforms.

Handwritten letters are also being used in professional and educational settings. Some teachers encourage students to write letters as a way to improve writing skills and emotional expression. Similarly, some businesses use handwritten notes to thank customers, creating a personal touch that digital messages often lack.

Another important factor contributing to the return of handwritten letters is their lasting value. Digital messages can easily be deleted or lost in the endless stream of notifications. Letters, on the other hand, can be preserved for years or even decades. Many families keep old letters as cherished memories that connect them to the past.

Despite the dominance of digital technology, handwritten letters remind us that communication is not only about speed but also about meaning. A letter represents effort, care, and genuine emotion. It shows that the writer invested time and thought in expressing their feelings.

In an era dominated by instant messaging and rapid communication, the simple act of writing a letter continues to hold a special place in human relationships. While technology will continue to shape the future of communication, handwritten letters prove that sometimes the most meaningful messages are the ones written slowly, by hand.



The Rise of Podcast Culture

Over the past decade, podcasts have transformed the way people consume information and entertainment. What began as a niche form of digital audio content has now become a global phenomenon. Platforms such as Spotify and Apple Podcasts have made podcasts easily accessible to millions of listeners around the world.

Podcasts are essentially digital audio programs that people can listen to anytime, anywhere. Unlike traditional radio broadcasts that follow fixed schedules, podcasts allow listeners to choose what they want to hear and when they want to hear it. This flexibility has made podcasts particularly popular among busy individuals who prefer consuming content while traveling, exercising, or completing daily tasks.

One of the biggest reasons for the rise of podcast culture is the diversity of content available. Podcasts cover a wide range of topics including news, storytelling, education, technology, health, business, and personal development. Whether someone wants to learn about history, listen to true crime stories, or explore motivational talks, there is a podcast available for nearly every interest.

Another reason for their popularity is the intimate nature of audio storytelling. Listening to a podcast often feels like participating in a personal conversation. The host speaks directly to the audience, creating a sense of connection and engagement that written content sometimes lacks.

Podcasts have also opened new opportunities for independ-

ent creators. Unlike traditional media industries that require significant funding and infrastructure, podcasts can be produced with relatively simple equipment. A microphone, recording software, and an internet connection are often enough to start a podcast channel.

This accessibility has allowed many individuals to share their expertise, opinions, and stories with global audiences. As a result, podcast creators have become influential voices in fields such as entrepreneurship, education, and entertainment.

Businesses and brands have also recognized the potential of podcasts as marketing tools. Many companies now sponsor podcast episodes or create their own branded podcasts to connect with customers. This form of marketing feels less intrusive than traditional advertisements and often builds stronger trust with audiences.

Educational institutions are also using podcasts as learning tools. Students can listen to lectures, discussions, and expert interviews outside the classroom, making education more flexible and accessible.

In India and many other countries, podcast listenership has grown rapidly in recent years. With increasing smartphone usage and affordable internet access, more people are discovering the convenience of audio content.

However, the growth of podcast culture also brings challenges. With thousands of new podcasts being launched every year, competition among creators is intense.



Urban Gardening: Growing Green in Small Spaces

Rapid urbanization has changed the way people live, work, and interact with nature. In crowded cities where open spaces are limited, many residents feel disconnected from the natural environment. However, a growing trend known as urban gardening is helping people reconnect with nature even within small living spaces.

Urban gardening refers to the practice of growing plants, vegetables, or herbs in city environments. Instead of large farms or gardens, urban gardeners use balconies, rooftops, terraces, and even window sills to cultivate plants.

One of the main reasons behind the popularity of urban gardening is the growing awareness of healthy and sustainable living. Many people prefer growing their own vegetables and herbs to ensure they are free from harmful chemicals and pesticides. Fresh homegrown produce also adds flavor and nutritional value to daily meals.

Urban gardening also contributes to environmental sustainability. Plants improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and

releasing oxygen. In densely populated cities, even small gardens can help reduce pollution and create a greener environment.

Another important benefit of urban gardening is its positive impact on mental health. Gardening activities such as planting seeds, watering plants, and watching them grow can be incredibly relaxing. Many people find gardening to be a therapeutic hobby that reduces stress and anxiety.

Urban gardening also promotes community engagement. In some neighborhoods, residents collaborate to create shared gardens where they grow vegetables and flowers together. These community gardens strengthen social bonds and encourage cooperation among residents.

Technology has also played a role in supporting urban gardening. Online tutorials, gardening apps, and social media communities provide valuable information for beginners.

People can easily learn about soil preparation, plant care, and pest control through digital resources.

The Culture of Cafés as Modern Social Spaces

In many cities around the world, cafés have evolved beyond their traditional role as places to drink coffee. Today, they serve as social hubs where people meet friends, work remotely, study, and relax. Popular brands such as Starbucks and Café Coffee Day have played a major role in shaping modern café culture.

The rise of café culture reflects changes in urban lifestyles. As cities become busier and homes become smaller, people often look for comfortable public spaces where they can spend time outside their homes.

Cafés offer a unique environment that combines relaxation with productivity. Many cafés provide free Wi-Fi, comfortable seating, and a calm atmosphere, making them ideal for students, freelancers, and professionals who need a temporary workspace.

For young people, cafés are also important social spaces. Meeting friends at a café has become a common way to socialize, celebrate special occasions, or simply spend time together. The casual atmosphere allows people to have conversations without the formality of traditional restaurants. Café culture is

also closely connected to creativity and intellectual exchange. Writers, artists, and thinkers have historically used cafés as places for discussion and inspiration. Even today, many creative professionals find cafés to be stimulating environments for brainstorming ideas. Another reason for the popularity of cafés is their aesthetic appeal. Many modern cafés invest in stylish interiors, artistic decorations, and visually appealing food presentations. Social media platforms have amplified this trend, as customers often share photos of café experiences online.

