



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Hezbollah Says Targeted Israel With "Dozens Of Rockets" In New Operation

world. (Agency)

Lebanon's Iran-backed group Hezbollah said on Wednesday it had launched rockets and advanced missiles at northern Israel as part of a new operation against its foe, as Israel carried out fresh strikes on south Beirut. Hezbollah in a statement said that "in response to the criminal aggression against dozens of Lebanese cities and towns and Beirut's southern suburbs", its fighters targeted sites in northern Israel "with dozens of rockets" as part of a new operation announced a short time earlier. In subsequent statements, the group said its fighters also targeted other locations in northern Israel as part of the operation, including the headquarters of the Israeli military's northern command near Safed and two bases in Haifa "with volleys of advanced missiles".

Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adraee said on X that "we will respond to them", referring to the Hezbollah operation announcement, and vowed a severe response.

"Serious Threat To Peace": UN Demands Iran Stop Attacks On Gulf Nations



World. (Agency)

The UN Security Council on Wednesday passed a resolution calling for Iran to immediately halt its attacks on Gulf states, saying they breach international law and pose a "serious threat to international peace and security."

The resolution, passed by 13 votes with two abstentions, "demands the immediate cessation of all attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan." It also "condemns any actions or threats by the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at closing, obstructing, or otherwise interfering with international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz." Iran has struck Gulf states in retaliation to US-Israeli attacks that killed Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The Islamic republic has also fired on commercial ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial sea passage for the global fuel trade, in a bid to inflict pain on the global economy.

Winston Churchill To Be Replaced By Wildlife In English Banknotes

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

According to a stinging barb from Donald Trump, Britons are being led by a Prime Minister who is no Winston Churchill. Soon they will have to cope without the popular wartime leader on their banknotes too. The cigar-toting mid-century Conservative is making way for creatures like hedgehogs and badgers. That's because the next generation of pound notes will feature wildlife native to the UK, according to the Bank of England, after half a century in which that status was reserved for historical figures including Churchill and Jane Austen. The BOE held a public consultation on refreshing its money last year and found nature emerged as the 44,000 responses' most popular theme. Historical figures came in third. The bank said it was looking for images that symbolized the UK, resonated with the public and weren't divisive.

Yet the removal of national icons from the notes still risks contention at a moment where the Labour government has cloaked itself in an anxious patriotism. The UK is again entangled in wars abroad, while at home the political landscape has fractured under the poll dominance of right-wing Reform UK. The upheaval of the two-party system has parties warring over the nation's symbols, of which Churchill is among the most potent - particularly for Conservatives. In 2020 a reckoning with the country's imperial past saw protesters pulling down statues of slave-owners, while Churchill's own statue was boarded up during anti-racism protests that swept major cities at the same time as Black Lives Matter movement roiled the US.

One Conservative member of parliament dubbed plans to consider alternatives to historical figures "wokery" when the BOE's consultation was first launched. While competing to champion that strain of populism, Nigel Farage, the leader of Reform UK, has been forthright in his criticism of the bank on issues from crypto regulation to quantitative easing.

Picking a face to adorn the UK's 5 pound (\$6.71), 10 pound, 20 pound and 50 pound notes hasn't been without controversy in decades past. Even Churchill, who Britons often rank as their favorite prime minister in polls, stirred criticism for displacing the only woman on the money at the time when he displaced social reformer Elizabeth Fry a decade ago.

As well as Churchill, the selected wildlife will replace author Austen, painter JMW Turner and WWII codebreaker Alan Turing on the reverse side of the notes, whose obverse features Charles III who became king in 2022. The designs may also include other natural elements such as plants and landscapes, the BOE said. Nature is a great choice from a banknote authentication perspective and means we can showcase the UK's rich and varied wildlife on the next series," said Victoria Cleland, the central bank's chief cashier.

Trump keeps telling America he's winning in Iran. He's less clear in explaining how the war ends

Trump's shifting comments, along with those of his top aides, are adding to the precariousness of the conflict, which is impacting much of West Asia and causing economic tremors worldwide.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Facing jittery global markets and drooping poll numbers since launching a war with Iran, President Donald Trump has cycled from calls for "unconditional surrender" to sounding amenable to an end state in which Iran trades one hard-line ayatollah for another. Shifting comments from the Republican president and his top aides are

adding to the precariousness of the 12-day-old conflict, which is impacting nearly every corner of the West Asia and causing economic tremors around the globe. With neither side budging, the war is now on an unpredictable path and a credible endgame is unclear. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Tuesday it was up to Trump "whether it's the beginning, the middle or the end" of the war. Trump, during the course of one speech at a House Republican gathering Monday, went from calling the war a "short-term excursion" that could end soon to proclaiming "we haven't won enough." "We have hit them harder than virtually any country in history has been hit, and we're not finished yet," Trump told reporters at the White House on Wednesday. The vacillation has fueled criticism from those who say Trump lacks a clear goal. "They didn't have a plan," Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., told reporters. "They have no timeline. And because of that, they have no exit strategy." A constantly shifting



goal line

Since ordering the Iran bombardment, Trump has continually shifted his timelines and goals for the war.

Over the past few days, Trump has called for the "unconditional surrender" of Iran's leaders, while suggesting he was already succeeded in achieving his objective of decimating Iran's military. At the same time, Trump's team has sought to soothe anxious Americans that the war will not be

long and drawn out even as the president has insisted he has not ruled out the option of using U.S. ground troops. The U.S. military says it has effectively destroyed the Iranian navy and made huge strides in defanging Iran's ability to launch missiles and drones at its neighbors. Yet the critical Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly 20% of the world's oil passes on a typical day, remains essentially closed to business, and Iranian leaders are unbowed. The Revolutionary Guard said Iran would not allow "a single liter of oil" through the vital waterway until the United States stopped its bombing campaign. Ali Larjani, Iran's top national security official, offered a menacing message on Tuesday after Trump had threatened to attack Iran "TWENTY TIMES HARDER" if Tehran stopped oil flowing through the strait. "The sacrificial nation of Iran doesn't fear your empty threats," Larjani wrote on X. "Even those bigger than you couldn't eliminate Iran."

Iranian Underwater Drone Hits US-Owned Oil Tanker In The Gulf, 1 Dead

Tehran. (Agency)

At least one person died, and 38 crew members were rescued after two foreign oil tankers were left ablaze in the Persian Gulf after coming under attack in Iraq's territorial waters. Iran has claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying an underwater drone attack "blew up two oil tankers in the Persian Gulf", according to Iranian state broadcaster IRIB. The ships that were attacked were the Maltese-flagged Zephyros and the Marshall Islands-flagged Safesea Vishnu. Safesea Vishnu is owned by the US-based company Safesea Transport Inc., while Zephyros' owner is based in Greece. Earlier, a CNN report claimed that a 'suicide' Iranian boat, rigged with explosives, could have hit the two vessels, and an investigation is ongoing. At least three commercial vessels have also been hit by "unknown projectiles" in the Strait of Hormuz, the world's busiest oil shipping route, as the American-Israeli war with Iran continues to squeeze the oil-rich Gulf region amid global energy concerns. One ship was hit off

the coast of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a second north of Oman had to be evacuated due to fire on board; and a third sustained damage north-west of Dubai, according to the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO).

Previously, Iran had said it would "set fire" to any ships trying to pass through



the Strait through which about 20 per cent of the world's oil usually passes. Despite Tehran's threat, a very small amount of traffic has continued through the route.

The Donald Trump administration in the United States, meanwhile, said its military has "eliminated" 16 Iranian mine-laying ships in the strait. The US-Islamic campaign against Iran is now in its 12th day, with no end in sight, and

has severely reduced sea traffic and sent global oil prices soaring. The Strait of Hormuz is a 55-kilometre-wide water channel between Iran and Oman, separating the Persian Gulf from the Arabian Sea. It is a particularly important piece of global real estate in terms of the energy sector and one of the busiest and most strategically significant shipping routes in the world.

About 13 million barrels of oil per day normally move through these waters -- about 31 per cent of global oil shipments. Closure of the strait would affect major ports belonging to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Iran itself. For several of these countries, the strait is the primary route through which oil reaches global markets. Its blocking could further inflate the cost of goods and services worldwide, especially oil, and hit some of the world's biggest economies, including China, India and Japan, which are among the biggest importers of crude through the waterway.

Epstein's Longtime Accountant Testifies On His Wealth, Business Ties

World. (Agency)

House lawmakers were digging into Jeffrey Epstein's sprawling financial portfolio on Wednesday as a committee deposed his former accountant and tried to understand his connections to some of the world's wealthiest men. Richard Kahn, who worked closely with Epstein for years and now serves as an executor of his estate, appeared for the closed-door deposition on Capitol Hill. He told lawmakers that he had not personally seen evidence of Epstein's sexual abuse, but provided a fuller picture of how Epstein acquired his wealth. The wealthy financier made hundreds of millions of dollars over two decades, during which he struck up friendships with some of the world's most powerful men. Kahn "was under the impression that Epstein made his

money as a tax advisor and a financial planner," said Rep. James Comer, the Republican chair of the House Oversight Committee. Lawmakers argued that a fuller picture of Epstein's finances could help the public understand how, for years, he was able to get away with trafficking and sexually abusing underage girls. "Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking ring would not have been possible without Richard Kahn, who managed Epstein's money for years, authorized payments, including payments to victims and survivors," said Rep. James Walkinshaw, D-Va., who added that Kahn told them he was unable to recall details of some of the transactions and communications that he was asked about. Kahn has said that he was unaware of Epstein's sexual abuse and had not seen any of his

victims. Comer, R-Ky., also said that lawmakers confirmed during the deposition that Epstein received significant amounts of money from former retail shopping chain executive Les Wexner, hedge fund manager Glenn Dubin, tech entrepreneur Steven Sinofsky, investor Leon Black and the Rothschilds, a wealthy banking family. None of those people have been accused of wrongdoing in their relationships with Epstein, but Democrats on the committee argued that anyone with ties to the wealthy financier should be scrutinized. Wexner was deposed by the committee last month, and Comer has also called on Black, among several others, to appear for transcribed interviews. Kahn also told lawmakers that Epstein had financial ties to Ehud Barak.

Damage to historical sites in Iran raises alarm about war's impact on protected places

UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)

US and Israeli strikes on Iran have damaged at least four cultural and historical sites, including palaces and an ancient mosque, raising alarms about the impact of the widening war on protected landmarks that are important to Iranian identity and world history. The speed and extent of the damage have so concerned Iran and Lebanon that they sent a request to the United Nations' cultural agency, UNESCO, this week to add more sites to its enhanced protection list.

UNESCO confirmed that it has verified damage to the lavish Qajar-era Golestan Palace in Tehran as well as the 17th century Chehel Sotoun palace and the Masjed-e Jame, the country's oldest Friday mosque, both in Isfahan. There also was verified damage at buildings close to the Khorramabad Valley, which includes five prehistoric caves and one rock shelter providing evidence of human occupation dating to 63,000 B.C. At Golestan Palace, shattered glass from the mirrored ceilings

blanketed the floors alongside broken archways, blown-out windows and damaged molding scattered below its glass-mosaic walls, according to Associated Press video taken March 3. UNESCO said it provided all parties to the conflict with the geographical coordinates of the heritage sites ahead of time, "to take all feasible precautions to avoid damage."

The impact to cultural sites has not been isolated to Iran but has been felt across the Middle East and beyond, with UNESCO tracking damage to the White City in Israel, Tyre in Lebanon and elsewhere.

Collateral damage to such places has been part of the fabric of war for decades, including in conflicts between Russia and Ukraine as well as Israel and Hamas, in which dozens of sites have been damaged or destroyed. "What is happening is clear to all: In these increasingly modern conflicts, it's civilians who pay the price, it's civilian



infrastructure that pays the price, and we've all seen the destruction of priceless historical heritage," U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said this week.

Damage to history. Human rights advocates are echoing that sentiment, warning that the Iran war not only has killed more than 1,000 people but upended the institutions and historical places that communities rely on. "It causes harm to civilians because it

damages or destroys a piece of their history that can be significant both to the world and also to a specific region or community," said Bonnie Docherty, senior researcher in the arms diversion at Human Rights Watch. "It undermines the sort of shared identity of a local community, which can often be important for bringing people together."

Arash Azizi, who grew up in Iran before moving to the U.S. as an adult, said that because his family couldn't afford to travel abroad when he was a child, they visited historical sites across the country. This, he says, is how he learned about his cultural identity and history.

"At times where school kids are killed, when human life is at stake, when the stakes are very high, people might think, 'What are a couple of broken tiles or broken glasses?' The 38-year-old New York resident said. "I think this is the wrong attitude," he added. "We need a cultural context."

Indian national killed in Iranian boat attack on oil tanker in Iraq's Basra coast

World. (Agency)

An Indian national has reportedly been killed in an attack on a US-owned oil tanker near Iraq after an Iranian "suicide" boat targeted the vessel inside Iraqi territorial waters, according to sources.

The tanker, Safesea Vishnu, which is owned by a US company and sails under the flag of the Marshall Islands, was attacked near the Khor Al Zubair Port in southern Iraq. The vessel was struck by an Iranian unmanned or suicide boat during the incident.

Farhan al-Fartousi, the director-general of the General Company for Ports of Iraq, made the announcement in a statement carried by the state-run Iraqi News Agency. Al-Fartousi said the attack targeted a vessel in a ship-to-ship transfer area at the Basra port on the Persian Gulf. One Indian crew member was killed in the attack. Authorities have not yet publicly released the identity of the victim. The remaining 27 crew members and personnel on board were safely



rescued and have been transported to Basra for further assistance and evaluation.

Sources close to Safesea, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the company is devastated to learn of the loss of the Indian national in the attack.

They have called for the Indian government to strongly condemn the attack and take urgent action to ensure safety of crew onboard ships in the region amid the escalating West Asia conflict.

The sources voiced concern that as Indians constitute over 15 per cent of the seafarers globally, irrespective of whichever ship Iran targets, Indian nationals will be "collateral damage." According to information on website Vessel Finder, the 228.6 meters long and 32.57 meters wide Safesea Vishnu is a crude oil tanker built in 2007, currently sailing under the flag of Marshall Islands.

India Faces No Fuel Shortage; 70% of Crude Imports Shifted Away from Hormuz

India Boosts Domestic LPG Output by 25% Amid Government Push to Strengthen Supply

New Delhi: The government on Thursday assured Parliament that India is facing no shortage of petrol, diesel, kerosene, aviation turbine fuel, or LPG, despite disruptions in global energy markets triggered by the ongoing West Asia conflict. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the government is closely monitoring fuel supply and distribution to ensure uninterrupted availability across the country. He emphasised that safeguarding energy access for households—particularly the kitchens of over 33 crore families—remains a top priority. Puri said India has significantly reduced its reliance on the Strait of Hormuz, with nearly 70% of crude oil imports now sourced from routes outside the critical shipping corridor, up from about 55% before the

conflict escalated. Highlighting India's diversified energy strategy, the minister said the country now imports crude oil from around 40 countries, compared with 27 in 2006-07. Refineries are operating at high capacity levels, with some even exceeding their rated output. To strengthen domestic supplies, refineries have been directed to maximise LPG production, resulting in a 28% increase in output in recent days. The standard delivery time for domestic LPG cylinders remains about 2.5 days, unchanged from pre-crisis levels. Puri said reports of shortages in some areas are largely due to panic booking and consumer anxiety, rather than any disruption in supply. Essential institutions such as hospitals and educational establishments have been placed under



priority fuel supply to ensure uninterrupted services. He also noted that the government has taken steps to prevent hoarding and black marketing, while ensuring that commercial LPG distribution remains regulated during the current supply constraints. Despite rising global energy prices, the government has continued to shield consum-

ers. LPG prices for beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana remain significantly lower than market-linked rates, with a substantial portion of the cost absorbed by the government. Puri urged citizens and political leaders to avoid spreading rumours about fuel shortages, stressing that India's energy system remains stable and

capable of navigating the current global crisis. **India Boosts Domestic LPG Output by 25% Amid Government Push to Strengthen Supply** India has recorded a significant 25 percent increase in domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) production following a series of government measures aimed at strengthening supplies for

household consumers amid evolving global energy uncertainties. Speaking at an inter-ministerial briefing in New Delhi on developments in West Asia, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Sujata Sharma, said the government issued a directive on March 8, 2026, instructing refineries and petrochemical complexes to maximise LPG production. Under the directive, refineries were asked to divert streams of propane, butane, propylene and butenes into the LPG pool. The move has resulted in a sharp rise in domestic LPG output, with the entire additional production now being channelled toward meeting household demand across the country. Officials said the measure has strengthened India's energy security and ensured uninterrupted LPG supply for domestic consumers.

IAF Chief Takes Operational Flight in MiG-29UPG Fighter Jet



New Delhi: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, flew an operational formation sortie on a MiG-29UPG fighter aircraft during a visit to a forward airbase in the western sector on Thursday, underlining the Indian Air Force's high level of combat readiness amid evolving regional security dynamics. During the visit, the Air Chief was briefed on the operational role of the air squadron stationed at the base, along with the enhanced capabilities of the upgraded MiG-29UPG platform. The briefing highlighted the squadron's preparedness to undertake critical missions and maintain air superiority when required. Air warriors stationed at the base demonstrated their operational efficiency by participating in various flying-related activities during the Chief's visit, reflecting the unit's sustained focus on maintaining peak combat readiness. The squadron, which is set to mark 63 years of service since its induction in 1963, carries a distinguished legacy in defending the nation's airspace. Air Chief Marshal Singh also interacted with aircrew, technicians, ground staff and veterans associated with the unit. He commended their dedication and professionalism, acknowledging their vital role in ensuring the continued operational readiness of frontline combat platforms and the Indian Air Force's mission preparedness.

Sakhi Bahinpa Bokaro Unit Wins Applause at National Folk Art Festival in Ranchi



by Arun Pathak

Bokaro: The Bokaro unit of the Sakhi Bahinpa Maithilani Group delivered a captivating cultural performance at a two-day National Folk Art Festival held in Ranchi to mark International Women's Day. Organised at The Lankavi Resort in Morabadi, the festival saw participation from more than 200 artists and members representing cities including Delhi, Kolkata, Dubai, Bengaluru, Patna, Jamshepur, Bokaro, Deoghar, Godda, Dhanbad, Koderma, Saharsa, Darbhanga and Madhubani. The event began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp followed by a soulful rendition of Bhagwati Vandana, composed by renowned Maithili poet Vidyapati. Ranchi Mayor Roshni Khalko and several dignitaries were present at the programme. Under the guidance of Bokaro unit in-charge Amita Jha and General Secretary Usha Jha, the Bokaro team presented a melodious group song that won widespread appreciation from the audience. The team included cultural in-charge Jayanti Pathak, treasurer Sujata Jha, media in-charge Sanjita Bhuvanesh, and members Kalyani Mishra, Bina Jha, Poonam Jha, Asha Pathak, Indira Jha, Neelu Jha, Madhu Thakur, Rekha Jha, Poonam and Kanchan Jha. The festival featured a variety of cultural performances including a ramp walk by the Darbhanga unit, songs by the Delhi unit, a drama by the Koderma unit, Jogira by the Madhubani unit, and dances by the Dhanbad and Godda units. Participants and guests were honoured during the event. The programme's success was credited to the efforts of Sakhi Bahinpa founder Aarti Jha, Ranchi unit in-charge Babita Jha, and members including Manorama Jha, Anita Jha, Santwana Mishra, Pratibha Mishra, Poonam Mishra and Madhu, among others.

6,477 Students Appear for CBSE Class 12 English Exam in Bokaro

Bokaro: The CBSE Class 12 English board examination was conducted smoothly across 23 examination centres in Bokaro on Thursday, with 6,477 students appearing for the test. According to Dr. A.S. Gangwar, CBSE City Coordinator and Principal of DPS Bokaro, a total of 6,543 students were registered, of whom 66 remained absent. While 6,476 students appeared for the English Core exam, only one student took the English Elective paper at GGPS, Sector 5. The examination was held peacefully with no reports of malpractice. After the exam, students had mixed reactions.

Iran Withdraws from 2026 FIFA World Cup After Escalating Conflict with US-Israel

News Desk: Iran has announced it will not participate in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, citing the ongoing war with the United States and Israel following the killing of its Supreme Leader. Sports and Youth Minister Ahmad Donyamali confirmed the decision, saying the country's security situation makes participation impossible. The move follows a joint US-Israel strike on Tehran that reportedly killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, triggering intense military exchanges in the region. Speaking to Iran's state broadcaster IRIB Sports Network, Donyamali said the current circumstances do not allow the national team to safely take part in the global tournament. "After the assassination of our leader, the conditions required for participation in the World Cup simply do not exist. Our players are not safe," he said, adding that months of conflict have left thousands



dead across the country. Iran had already secured qualification for the 2026 tournament, which will be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico starting June 11. The team was scheduled to play group matches against New Zealand, Belgium, and Egypt in cities including Los Angeles and Seattle. The development comes days after FIFA President Gianni Infantino met US President

Donald Trump, where Iran's participation in the tournament was discussed. Infantino later said Trump had indicated that the Iranian national team would be welcome to compete in the United States despite the geopolitical tensions. Meanwhile, the conflict has also affected Iranian women's football. Australia has granted humanitarian asylum to five Iranian women players after fears for their safety if they

returned home. The players—Fateme Pasandideh, Zahra Ghanbari, Zahra Sarbali, Atefeh Ramazanadeh, and Mona Hamoudi—recently staged a silent protest by refusing to sing Iran's national anthem before an AFC Women's Asian Cup match against South Korea. The protest occurred amid growing political turmoil in Iran following reports of Khamenei's death and the escalating war in the region.

Bokaro DC Ajay Nath Jha Celebrates Birthday with Children & Elderly

by Apurva

Bokaro: Deputy Commissioner Ajay Nath Jha spent his birthday on Thursday with children and elderly residents at social care institutions in Bokaro Steel City, spreading warmth and encouragement. The DC visited Manav Seva Ashram in Sector 5, where he interacted with differently-abled children, inquired about their well-being and distributed sweets. He also inspected ongoing repair



work at the Ashram being carried out under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative and directed officials to further improve facilities for the children's

care and education. Later, Jha visited the Baba Vaidyanath Jan Seva Samiti Old Age Home in Solagdi, where he met elderly residents, asked about their health and daily

needs, and shared sweets with them. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner also inspected Guruji Vatika, established in memory of Dishom Guru Shibu Soren, and instructed officials to ensure proper cleanliness, maintenance and beautification of the premises. His gesture of spending time with children and senior citizens brought smiles to the residents, with many describing the initiative as a meaningful social message.

World Kidney Day: BGH Host Health Camp



by Deepak Kumar

Bokaro: Bokaro General Hospital (BGH) of Bokaro Steel Plant organized a health checkup and awareness camp on March 12 to mark World Kidney Day 2026, focusing on preventive kidney care. The programme was inaugurated by Chief Medical Officers Dr. Anand Kumar, Dr. Aninda Mandal, and Dr. Indranil Choudhary. Held under the theme "Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet," the camp was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Simal Mardi, Additional CMO and Head of the Nephrology Department. Free health screenings—including blood pressure, blood sugar, and urinary tests—were provided to BSL employees, their families, and the public. Doctors and nutritionists also advised participants on maintaining kidney health through regular checkups, balanced diets, and control of diabetes and hypertension. A technical session featured Dr. Pratyush Roshan, who spoke on ABO-incompatible kidney transplantation, while Dr. P.K. Behera highlighted global strategies for kidney disease prevention. Several doctors, nursing trainees, and staff contributed to the programme's success, with Dr. Saket Mishra also donating blood on the occasion.

CCL Hosts Free Mega Health Checkup Camp in Ranchi



Ranchi: The CCL Public Health Center, Gandhinagar, organized a free mega health checkup camp at Bhitha Basti in Ranchi on Thursday, benefiting a large number of local residents. During the camp, 141 people underwent medical examinations and received free consultations from specialist doctors. The camp was successfully conducted with the efforts of Dr. Bharat Singh (CMO in-charge, Gandhinagar), Dr. Preeti Tigga (CMO and CSR in-charge), Dr. Anita Horo, Dr. Rajni Kujur, Dr. Swati, Dr. Shilpi Jha and Dr. Saim.

Gaya Identifies 4,000 Children Needing Special Support Under Pragma Shakti Initiative

by Prabhat Sinha

Gaya Ji: A one-day workshop under the 'Pragma Shakti' initiative was organised in Gaya on Thursday under the aegis of the Women and Child Development Corporation to strengthen support systems for children's mental and emotional development. The programme, held at a private hotel, was chaired by District Magistrate Shashank Shubhankar. The workshop began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the District Magistrate along with the Assistant Collector, Civil Surgeon, District Programme Officer (ICDS) and other officials. Addressing the gathering, Shubhankar said children across different age groups exhibit varied behavioural patterns and developmental needs. He stressed the importance of identifying children who require additional academic,



emotional or social support so that timely intervention can help them progress. Officials from departments including ICDS, education, labour and child protection services were directed to closely observe children during their routine interactions. Special attention will be given to children attending Anganwadi centres, schools and colleges, as well as those working in places like

brick kilns or factories who may have been left behind in their development. Resource persons from the Aditya Birla Foundation—Nikhil Mishra and Mika Chauhan—conducted training sessions for master trainers from various departments, focusing on identifying behavioural concerns and improving children's mental well-being. The District Magistrate said that fol-

lowing earlier orientation programmes, over 4,000 children in the district have already been identified as requiring special support due to behavioural or learning challenges. He added that the Pragma Shakti initiative aims to bring multiple departments and institutions together to create a coordinated system for supporting children's overall development at the district level.

Sri Sri University Launches 'Contadino-2026' with Cultural Performances



Ranchi: The Faculty of Agriculture at Sri Sri University launched its annual festival 'Contadino-2026' with vibrant cultural programmes at the university's multipurpose hall on Thursday. Renowned Bollywood actor couple Saabyasachi Mishra and Archita Sahu attended the event as chief guests. Prabhat Kumar Pradhan, founder and director of Pratyaksha Estates Private Limited, was also present and encouraged students. The programme began with a welcome address by Dr. Maitreyee Tripathi, followed by a colourful welcome dance

performed by students. During the event, the guests also unveiled the department's annual magazine 'Vartika-2026'. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Tejpartap, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture Prof. Dr. S. Kumaraswamy, and Sports and Cultural Committee Coordinator Dr. Abhinav Mishra were present and motivated the students. As part of the festival, several competitions—including fashion show, solo dance, music, skits, rangoli and quiz—were organised, with students enthusiastically showcasing their talents.

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India in a spot Michael Kugelman cautions Delhi over its Iran war 'balancing act'

The senior fellow at the Asia Pacific Foundation said that, while on one hand, India maintains strong ties with Israel, it also has good ties with Iran, keeping in mind New Delhi's interests in the Middle East. Hence, it won't be easy for India to perfect a balancing act during the ongoing war.

New Delhi.(Agency)
India faces a difficult diplomatic balancing act amid escalating Middle East tensions involving Iran, Israel and the US, geopolitical expert and author Michael Kugelman . Kugelman said New Delhi must tread carefully to protect its strategic interests, maintain key partnerships and safeguard energy security while adhering to its long-standing doctrine of strategic autonomy. Kugelman argued that India is in a tough spot because it maintains close ties with several actors, some of them rivals, directly affected by the conflict. "Balancing would, of course, reflect India's foreign policy when it comes to strategic autonomy," Kugelman said, noting that maintaining such balance will be difficult in the current climate. "India's in a tough spot because we see how important India's relationship with Israel has become over the last years". This comes a day after India Today reported that Iran's measured approach toward India highlights Tehran's strategic interest in keeping New Delhi engaged, even amid escalating regional rivalries. India's condolence over Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's death exemplifies its longstanding diplomatic practice of respectful engagement during geopolitical tensions. The situation was further complicated by US sanctions on the Chabahar Port,

a key project India is developing as a strategic trade gateway. Despite reduced investments under Washington's "maximum pressure" campaign, Iran refrained from harsh criticism, with former official Abbas Araghchi noting the cuts were "disappointing" but expressing hope for continued work.



Tehran's engagement reflects three priorities: securing energy supplies, protecting India's diaspora interests, and respecting India's non-alignment policy. Over the past decade, India's relationship with Israel has deepened considerably, particularly in defence cooperation. The partnership has become increasingly important as New Delhi looks to strengthen its military

capabilities, including acquiring advanced air defence systems from Israel. Kugelman further pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel shortly before the US and Israel launched strikes on Iran, underlining the growing closeness between the two countries.

According to Kugelman, developments such as Operation Sindoor have further strengthened the importance of India-Israel defence cooperation, wherein Israeli air defence technology helped India thwart Pakistani drone and missile strikes. However, Israel is only one part of India's complex strategic calculus. Kugelman noted that India also maintains strong ties with Gulf countries within the Gulf Cooperation Council, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. These relationships are critical for energy supplies and for the welfare of millions of Indian nationals living and working across the region.

"We know that given how volatile and potentially explosive this conflict is, and given how much India could be impacted for so many reasons, mainly based on energy equities and, of course, the several million Indians in the GCC region, India has to be very careful about how it messages itself on this war," Kugelman said.

First oil tanker to India crosses Strait of Hormuz, arrives at Mumbai port

An oil tanker from a Saudi port, captained by an Indian, safely reached Mumbai after Iran cleared it to transit the strategic Strait of Hormuz amid Middle East tensions.



New Delhi.(Agency)
A Liberian-flagged crude oil tanker captained by an Indian has reached the port of Mumbai after transiting the strategically crucial Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions in the Middle East. The tanker Shenlong Suezmax, carrying crude loaded at Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura port, arrived in Mumbai on Wednesday after Iran cleared the vessel to pass through the narrow waterway, according to the Mumbai Port Trust. The ship's arrival comes after Iran allowed Indian oil tankers to transit the Strait of Hormuz following talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints, through which a significant share of global crude oil and natural gas shipments passes. Iran has tightened control over the strait since the US-Israel military campaign against Tehran began on February 28, raising concerns over global oil supplies. The Liberia-flagged tanker had departed from Ras Tanura on March 1 before making the passage through the sensitive corridor.

Tejashwi hits out at NDA, accuses party of failing Bihar on all development fronts

A political numbers war has erupted in Bihar after Tejashwi Yadav accused the NDA government of failing the state despite years of "double-engine" rule.

Chandigarh.(Agency)
A political war of numbers has erupted in Bihar after Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav accused the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government of failing the state despite years of a "double-engine government". In a lengthy social media post on Thursday morning, Tejashwi alleged that Bihar continues to rank at the bottom of most development indicators even after decades of NDA rule. Tejashwi claimed that Bihar remains the "most unique state in the country" where the NDA has governed for years with support from both the state and the Centre, yet the state still performs

poorly across several socio-economic indicators. According to him, Bihar is the poorest state in the country, has the highest migration, the highest levels of crime and corruption, the highest unemployment, and the highest level of multidimensional poverty. He further alleged that the state records the lowest literacy rate, the lowest per capita income, the lowest farmers' income, the lowest per capita investment, the lowest electricity consumption and the lowest computer literacy in the country. Tejashwi also claimed that Bihar ranks among the



weakest states in terms of quality education, healthcare infrastructure and industrial

development. He said the state is lagging in almost every development indicator, accusing the government of avoiding accountability while running the administration through bureaucratic control, state resources and caste politics. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), however, strongly rejected Tejashwi's claims and countered them with its own set of figures. Party spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said the current situation in Bihar should be compared with the period between 1990 and 2005 when the state was governed by Lalu Prasad Yadav and Rabri Devi.

R N Ravi takes oath as 22nd governor of West Bengal

New Delhi.(Agency)
R N Ravi, retired IPS officer, on Thursday took oath as the 22nd Governor of West Bengal at a ceremony in Lok Bhavan in Kolkata. He was administered the oath by Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, Sujoy Paul, in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Biman Banerjee, Speaker of the state legislative assembly, senior minister and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim and veteran Marxist Left Front chairman Biman Bose.



Suvendu Adhikari, Leader of the Opposition, in the state assembly and

BJP MLA, who was invited at the ceremony was not seen. Senior BJP leader Anirban Ganguly was present in the programme. Senior state government officials, including state chief secretary Nandini Chakraborty and others were also present at Lok Bhavan today. Cutting across political rivalry, ruling Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata was seen requesting Bose, 84 year-old CPI-M leader who was sitting in the third row to come to front row of VIP guests.

Om Birla's "Rules" Reminder To Opposition Day After No-Trust Motion Defeated

New Delhi.(Agency)
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid concerns over reported LPG shortage, saying the PM is asking the people not to panic but is himself panicked for "completely different reasons". Gandhi alleged that the prime minister is panicked because of the Epstein files issue and the Adani Case in the US. He made the remarks after several opposition MPs, including himself and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, staged a protest in the Parliament House complex over the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders to



demand answers from the government over it. Speaking with reporters after the protest, Gandhi said, "The PM is saying there is no need to panic, but the PM himself has panicked for completely different reasons. He is panicked because of Epstein, he is panicked because of the Adani case, he is not able to come inside the House." "You saw yesterday that the prime minister's chair was empty. So, he is telling the country not to panic but has panicked himself," Gandhi added. Several opposition MPs from the Congress, DMK, TMC and SP, among others, staged a protest near.

Some opine that LoP is above the House

Om Birla's dig at Rahul Gandhi

Om Birla rejected the opposition's 'partisan' charge as he returned to the Speaker's chair in the Lok Sabha. On Wednesday, the Opposition's no-confidence motion against him was defeated in the House.

Chennai.(Agency)
Om Birla asserted that his actions were unbiased as he resumed duties as Lok Sabha Speaker on Thursday after the Opposition's no-confidence motion against him was defeated in the House. In his first remarks, Birla said he always tried to ensure that every MP got to speak in the Lok Sabha while underlining that the Leader of the Opposition was not "above the House", taking a swipe at Rahul Gandhi. "Some members were of the opinion that the Leader of the Opposition stands above the House and can speak on any subject. However, no one has any special privilege of that kind. The House functions according to its rules," Birla said, in a seeming dig at Rahul Gandhi.

"Even the Prime Minister and ministers have to give notice under House rules to make statements," he underscored. On Wednesday, the no-confidence motion brought by Opposition parties against Om Birla was dismissed by a voice vote amid high drama in the Lok Sabha, which witnessed a 12-hour debate. During the first phase of the Budget session, the Congress repeatedly accused the Speaker of not letting Gandhi speak in the House. In February, the Leader of the Opposition was prevented from speaking in the Lok Sabha about former Army Chief MM Naravane's unpublished memoir, triggering a massive uproar. The suspension of eight Congress MPs only escalated tensions, prompting the opposition to submit a no-confidence

OM BIRLA ON MIC CONTROL SWITCH



In an emotional address, Birla said allegations that he controlled the microphones of MPs in the House were baseless. The Speaker underlined that he does not have a "switch" to control the mic and explained the procedure in detail. "The Chair never has a button to switch the microphones on or off... When opposition members act as the presiding officer, they are also fully aware of this fact. The microphone is switched on only for the member who has been permitted to speak. Only that member's microphone is activated," Birla said.

notice seeking the removal of the Speaker. The notice was signed by 118 MPs. Rejecting the charge by the opposition that he acted in a partisan manner, Birla said, "I

have always tried to conduct the proceedings of the House with impartiality, discipline, balance and in accordance with the rules."

Narratives, pretensions and reality

Yes, yes, Bharat is mahan, very great, aspires to be vishwaguru or world teacher. And our leadership is also the best and smartest in the world, with every other great world leader a personal friend. We garner awards from all corners of the world, even countries ordinary citizens may never have heard of. All in the nation's name, of course; nothing personal about it.

And, if we are to believe an overwhelming section of the media and the commentariat, the United States is not only a declining power but has already lost its war with Iran. Notwithstanding the stark reality of a decimated Iranian leadership, air defence totally destroyed and the missile capacity degraded substantially. No, it's not a case of wishful thinking or mass delusion. People believe whatever they need to. Those who lose wars—hot or cold—must content themselves with preaching and propaganda. Narratives as the opiate of the masses. He who shall not be named said something similar, remember, but about religion?

It has happened before. The erstwhile Soviet Union lost to the US, but its leftist supporters found cushy and tenured positions in Western academia as post-colonialists. Closer to our own pain point, the progressive Muslim Left lost to their sectarian and separatist Partition-mongering co-religionists. Pakistan was born a day before India, a blood-soaked severance of the sacred soil of Mother India. But they captured Bollywood. Lahore penetrated Mumbai.

Similarly, we see China losing to the US in most theatres the world over, but its propaganda machine has infiltrated right into the heart of American politics, media and civil society. And ours too, in all probability? Russia, too, far from a swift victory in Ukraine, is entrapped in a four-plus year war, from which it finds it very hard to extricate itself. It has also given up the Middle East, with its sponsored proxy regime overthrown, and its erstwhile dictator, Bashar al-Assad, now living in Russia under Russian protection.

But we can't criticise Russia or its lifelike, 'elected leader'. He is a friend of India. Just as China's president for life is. We can—and must—criticise the US and Israel. Because they are occupying, colonising powers, no? Yes, both Ukraine and Iran, to a huge extent, are proxy wars. And in both cases, the Western alliance led by the US seems to have the upper hand. But don't forget the US is an ever-declining power. The idea behind propaganda is simple, if dangerous. If major powers lose their resolve to rule, defeating them becomes easier. With Europe's colonial guilt and managed decline well underway, a similar abdication, sooner than later, across the Atlantic is only to be expected. Oh, but there's the inconvenient phenomenon called Donald J Trump. Hated by the opposition parties both in the US and India. There is, however, a popular saying, "Cometh the hour, cometh the man." That Trump represents something much deeper, the US belief in its own exceptionalism and its refusal to cave in, can easily be glossed over through ad hominem homilies.

The other side has been drumming it into us for decades: the decline of the US and the rise of China is a foregone conclusion. Who can dispute that? Why bother if Red China has not been able to provide an alternative to the Western world order, militarily, financially or politically within its own country? The dollar will fall, of course, but wouldn't we rather have it than any other opaque and manipulated currency? The Chinese line, promoted by so many of its paid or unpaid champions, is that the US better step down gracefully from its pedestal. Its time is over; it has neither the moral authority nor the means to be the global hegemon. Consequently, the world, we were told, far from being uni- or even bi-polar, is definitely and verifiably multipolar. But is it? Can power—hard, soft, smart or any which way you slice and dice it—be countered just by bluff, bluster or propaganda.

The Union must not devour its States

Overcentralisation suppresses the very diversity of strategies from which innovation arises

SINGAPORE's first Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew once observed, with characteristic bluntness, that India is not a nation but a set of countries held together by a British railway line. The remark stung when it was made. It still stings because it contains enough truth to be uncomfortable. The framers of our Constitution understood this instinctively. They did not pretend that India was a natural nation-state in the European mould. Article I declares simply: India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States. Not a Union with States. Not a Union above States. A Union of States. The distinction is not grammatical. It is constitutional. That distinction is now under sustained assault. The Justice Kurian Joseph Committee, which was constituted by the Tamil Nadu government in April 2025 and submitted Part I of its report last month, has produced the most comprehensive accounting yet of how far Indian constitutional practice has drifted from this founding design. The committee's findings on the Governor's office have been borne out by the latest gubernatorial appointments and resignations. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted that she was not even consulted about the transfer of RN Ravi to her state. Ravi, who has had a combative relationship with Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin, has been transferred in time for an unusually fraught election in West Bengal. Some have even speculated that Ravi might be an instrument of recommending President's rule in Bengal.

The Governor's office was conceived as a neutral constitutional link. It has become a partisan instrument. Bills passed by elected legislatures are held back for months or years. Raj Bhavans have been turned into outposts of the ruling party at the Centre. The Supreme Court found occasion to rebuke this conduct of RN Ravi in State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu in 2025. The committee's remedy is straightforward: Governors must act on state Bills within 15 days with deemed assent on expiry, and Article 155 should be amended to require appointment from names approved by the state legislature. These are the minimum conditions for treating state legislatures as legitimate constitutional institutions. The Tamil Nadu government, under MK Stalin, deserves commendation for commissioning this inquiry. In an era when States are expected to remain quietly grateful for whatever autonomy the Centre permits, this act of constitutional assertion is itself a form of public service. The committee's central finding will surprise no one who has watched Indian federalism at close quarters. Centralisation, once a founding necessity born of Partition anxieties and the integration of over 560 princely states, has hardened into an inherited reflex, a habit mistaken for principle.

The erosion has not come through any single dramatic stroke. It has crept in through successive constitutional amendments, expansive Union legislation in Concurrent List subjects, conditional Finance Commission transfers and Centrally sponsored schemes that convert States from governments into implementing agencies of Union policy. The cumulative pattern is an interconnected web of federal erosion. Even K Santhanam, a member of the Constituent Assembly, had cautioned that the Union's strength lay not in the indiscriminate accumulation of functions, but in the disciplined refusal of responsibilities that did not properly belong at the



national level. We have forgotten the caution and retained only the accumulation.

There is a persistent illusion, which CM Stalin has articulated forcefully, that the Union becomes stronger by diminishing its States. It is wrong. The Union and the States are not competitors in a zero-sum contest. No authority sitting in New Delhi, however enlightened, can tailor policy with equal sensitivity to every linguistic region, agricultural ecology or labour market.

Tamil Nadu's noon meal scheme, Kerala's achievements in public healthcare, Maharashtra's employment guarantee initiative — all began as state experiments before informing national policy. Overcentralisation suppresses the very diversity of strategies from which innovation and discovery arise.

History teaches a harder lesson too, one that those in Delhi would do well to hear. Overcentralisation does not produce passive acceptance. It produces reaction. Punjab's tragedy in the 1980s did not emerge from nowhere. The Anandpur Sahib Resolution of 1973 was at its core a constitutional demand: for the redefining of Centre-State relations, for genuine devolution of powers and for recognition that Punjab's identity and political aspirations deserved constitutional respect. Those

demands were not secessionist in origin. They were federal. The failure to engage with them constitutionally, the preference for dismissal over dialogue, contributed to a decade of violence that cost thousands of lives.

The lesson is not complicated. When legitimate constitutional grievances are denied constitutional remedies, they seek other outlets. A Union that mistakes suppression for unity should not be surprised when States seek more than they were denied.

One recommendation deserves particular attention because it addresses a wound that has not healed. The Justice Kurian Joseph committee proposes that no territorial reorganisation Bill may be introduced in Parliament when the affected state is under President's rule. This speaks directly to what was done to Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. A constituent state was bifurcated into two Union Territories by parliamentary majority, with its legislature suspended and its leadership under detention. The constitutional provision notionally requiring the state legislature's view was rendered meaningless through the fiction of Presidential rule. The Centre, having imposed President's rule, then consulted itself. If a state can be extinguished when its legislature is conveniently suspended, the indestructibility of States is not a constitutional guarantee but a constitutional pretence. The committee's proposed remedy, that all territorial reorganisation require the affected state's genuine concurrence, would restore what the framers intended when they wrote that India shall be a Union of States. On language, the committee exposes a statistical manipulation that has underwritten decades of cultural imposition. By misclassifying 53 independent languages, including Bhojpuri, Rajasthani and Chhattisgarhi, as dialects of Hindi, the Census has artificially inflated Hindi speakers' base from around 25 per cent to a claimed 43.6 per cent. Nearly 250 Indian languages have become extinct in the past 50 years. Another 400 face extinction in the next 50. The committee recommends constitutionally entrenching English as a permanent official language and recognising all Eighth Schedule languages as official languages of the Union. Federations flourish when linguistic diversity is protected. They fracture when one language is imposed. On the GST, States surrendered their most productive taxing powers in exchange for promises of revenue growth and stability that remain largely unredeemed. The GST Council, where the Union holds a structural veto, has functioned as an extension of the Union Finance Ministry. The committee's proposals include requiring Union decisions to secure the concurrence of at least 20 States, rotating the chairpersonship among state finance ministers and establishing an independent Secretariat and a statutory Dispute Settlement Authority.

Nepal votes for a new dawn

The rise of the RSP and its 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah signals a dramatic rejection of the country's entrenched political order.

NEPAL has made a clean break with the past. The sweeping victory of the Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP) in the national elections and the rise of 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah, popularly known as Balen, signal a dramatic rejection of the country's entrenched political order. In a nation where fragile coalitions have long been the norm, the electorate has delivered a powerful message: the old guard has failed miserably. The fledgling RSP's spectacular electoral show reflects deep public frustration with legacy parties such as the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist). Even stalwarts like former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli suffered humiliating defeats. Balen himself defeated Oli by a huge margin, such was the intensity of voters' anger against the established political elite. Balen's march has been remarkable. Having first gained prominence when he won the Kathmandu mayoral poll as an Independent in 2022, he has successfully channelled Gen Z frustration into a national political



movement. His victory embodies the aspirations of

Nepal's youth, who mobilised through street protests and social media to demand an end to corruption, nepotism and misgovernance. Balen is poised to become Nepal's youngest PM and its first Madhesi to occupy the coveted post. The mandate for change is unmistakable. Nepal has seen 14 governments in the past 18 years, with veteran leaders playing musical chairs for the PM's post. The challenges before the new rulers are formidable: tackling corruption, reviving a struggling economy and ensuring political stability.

For India, the outcome carries significant strategic implications. Political tremors in Kathmandu have slowed down bilateral projects, even as pro-China leaders such as Oli have often struck a discordant note. If the RSP government pursues pragmatic diplomacy, Nepal stands to gain by reinforcing its traditional ties with India.

Iran war shakes Gulf's faith in US protection

Arab ambassadors in Moscow sought Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's help in bringing peace in West Asia

FOR the first time in their post-colonial history, Arab Gulf states are victims of war, not its victors. Quietly, money, including Indian money, is moving to destinations away from economies hit by the war in West Asia. The region's big sporting event after cricket, the Formula One Grand Prix races in several countries, scheduled for next month are likely to be cancelled. Had Pakistan's participation in the just-concluded T-20 cricket matches been in the United Arab Emirates as once planned, instead of Sri Lanka, they would perforce have been in jeopardy if Pakistan had advanced to semi-finals. The Gulf has been where the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia (MENASA) turned to for several past decades when their own regions faced turbulence. Such disruptions to good life aside, geopolitics and geo-economics post the ongoing conflict — howsoever it ends — will be very different for the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Anger against the US, the protector of the Gulf since Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, is not just simmering. It is boiling over at times. And the censorship-prone governments in the region are not trying to stem the overflow of such feelings.

Ahmed Al-Tuwaijri is a former Dean at King Saud University and a member of the Shura Council (nominated Consultative Assembly) of Saudi Arabia. He wrote recently in the kingdom's Al Jazirah newspaper (not the Al Jazeera TV conglomerate) of Trojan horses within the Arab world. In an interview to Deutsche Welle television, Saudi writer and political researcher Munif Ammash Alharbi spoke of militias being propped up in Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen to undermine Arab nation-states. Dubai billionaire Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor's outburst against US President Donald Trump for dragging the Gulf states into war has been widely reported in the Indian mainstream media last weekend. "Who gave you the right to turn our region into a

battlefield?" Al Habtoor asked Trump in an open letter. He is no stranger to Trump. The billionaire has met Trump at his Mar-a-Lago resort.

These are not standalone free-thinkers in a region which has suppressed free thinking. When the royalty in the region also speaks out against Trump, it is clear that the ruling elite has empathy for the Arab street on this issue. Influential Saudi Prince Turki Al Faisal told CNN on Wednesday: "This is Netanyahu's war. He somehow convinced the (US) President to support his views." The grandson of Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdulaziz Al Saud, Prince Turki was the kingdom's chief of intelligence and Ambassador to the United Kingdom and the US. Prince Turki has been consistently outspoken in his opposition to the Abraham Accords, which Saudi Arabia has not joined.

A major topic of conversation at iftar parties of elites in Gulf capitals last week was grievance among regional leaders, conveyed to the US in private, that the Pentagon's forces had not adequately protected their expensive skylines against Iran's relentless missile and drone onslaughts. When US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth addressed a press conference at the Pentagon to mark "the first 100 hours of Operation Epic Fury", he was on the defensive against such complaints. "We cannot stop everything (that comes from Iran), but we ensured that the maximum possible defence and maximum possible force protection was set up before we went on offence." He said the US had spared "no expense or capability" to enhance air defence systems to protect allies in the Gulf.

Frustrated Gulf military leaders have now been reduced to seeking help from Ukraine, which has experience in intercepting Iranian drones, which are used by Russia in the war between the two countries. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has acknowledged.

Another topic of conversation is the abrupt absence of US civilians at such iftars because they have left the Gulf. US Assistant Secretary of State Dylan Johnson said on March 7 that 28,000 American citizens have "safely returned" to the US from the war-affected countries. He said many others are in transit homewards. His figure did not include those who have relocated elsewhere in West Asia. The Arab street is aghast that after plunging the region into a war, the US government is evacuating



Americans at such speed although many US citizens may be doing work that is critical for Gulf countries gripped by crisis.

This is in contrast to Indian expatriates doing similar work who have refused the option to leave when the host countries need their services.

Blacked out by international news agencies and by virtually the entire Anglo-Saxon media on both sides of the Atlantic, on March 5, Arab ambassadors in Moscow,

in one voice, sought Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's help in bringing peace in West Asia. Their dean, Bahrain's Ambassador Ahmed Abdulrahman Al Saati, said at an Ambassadors' Roundtable that "Russia has stronger positions on this issue (the West Asia conflict) and can help put an end to the aggression against our countries." Lavrov then did some reality check. He asked Al Saati: "Did you condemn what the US and Israel started doing? Did you condemn the death of 170 schoolgirls?" He went on: "We are against the suffering of the Gulf countries... But we also cannot accept (that) Iran's actions are deemed unacceptable while everything the US and Israel are doing is beyond discussion. Do you see my point?" One certainty after this war must be borne in mind. This is a turning point for the Gulf just as Iraq's occupation of Kuwait changed history in that region. At the request of Arab ambassadors, Lavrov outlined Russia's "Concept of Collective Security in the Gulf." He said "the core idea is very simple... Come together and discuss existing problems. Each participating country would set out the threats or the risks to its security as it sees them. Then we could begin with an agreement on transparency in military activities; transparency and perhaps limitations on the number of exercises that each country along the Gulf coast conducts. That would include mutual visits by military personnel and joint economic and trade projects." Lavrov promised to send details to Gulf ambassadors. Of course, any such Collective Security process can only start after the end of the war and only if Iran survives as a sovereign state. But the proposal offers promise.

क्या आप भी

ब्रोकोली

को हफतेभर तक रखना चाहते हैं फ्रेश?

जानें इसे लंबे समय तक स्टोर करने का सबसे आसान तरीका

जब भी हम ब्रोकोली खरीदकर घर लाते हैं तो कई बार हम उसे सही तरीके से स्टोर नहीं कर पाते और वह जल्दी खराब हो जाती है। ऐसे में अगर आप इसे एक हफते तक ताजा रखना चाहते हैं तो इसके लिए आप इसे घर पर ही सही तरीके से स्टोर कर सकते हैं। इसे खाने से एक नहीं बल्कि अनेक लाभ हो सकते हैं। यह आपके वजन को नियंत्रित रखता है, मधुमेह के खतरों को कम करता है, ब्रोकोली हृदय को स्वस्थ रखने में मदद करती है, त्वचा को स्वस्थ और चमकदार बनाती है और रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता को मजबूत बनाती है। आइये जानते हैं इसे स्टोर करने का सही तरीका क्या है?



मध्यम आकार में काटें और एक तरफ रख दें।

अगर आप ब्रोकोली को एक सप्ताह तक ताजा रखना चाहते हैं तो सबसे पहले उसे मध्यम आकार में काट लें और पानी से साफ कर लें। अब इसे निकाल कर एक प्लेट में रख लें और 10 से 15 मिनट तक पानी सुखने के लिए छोड़ दें। अब आप ब्रोकोली को दूसरे बर्तन में निकाल कर फ्रिज में रख सकते हैं।

कांच के जार में स्टोर करें।

यदि आपके घर में रेफ्रिजरेटर नहीं है, तो आप ब्रोकोली को कांच के जार में रख सकते हैं। इसके लिए आप इसका एक फूल लें। इसके बाद इसके पिछले हिस्से को अच्छे से काटकर साफ कर लें। अब एक कांच के जार में आधे से भी कम पानी भरें और उसमें ब्रोकोली डालें। इससे आपकी ब्रोकोली एक सप्ताह तक ताजा बनी रहेगी।

फलों से दूर रखें

यदि आप ब्रोकोली को फ्रिज में रख रहे हैं, तो इसे किसी खट्टे फल या अन्य फलों के साथ न रखें, क्योंकि कई फल एथिलीन गैस छोड़ते हैं, जैसे केला, सेब और नाशपाती, जो ब्रोकोली को खराब कर सकते हैं। ऐसे में फलों को फ्रिज में रखने की बजाय बाहर निकालकर रख दें।



क्या हमेशा घर दिखाता है बिखरा और गंदा? तो ऑर्गेनाइज करने के लिए अपनाएं ये टिप्स

कहा जाता है कि घर एक पारिवारिक जीवन का दर्पण होता है, जिसे देखकर यह अंदाजा लगाया जा सकता है कि परिवार के सदस्य अपने जीवन में कितने व्यवस्थित हैं। इतना ही नहीं, अगर आप अपने घर को सही तरीके से व्यवस्थित नहीं रख पाते हैं तो इससे आपके दैनिक जीवन में भी काफी मुश्किलें पैदा होने लगती हैं। उदाहरण के लिए, आपको हर समय इस्तेमाल के लिए चीजें ढूँढनी होंगी, घर में मेहमान आने वाले हैं तो लिविंग रूम को जल्दी से साफ करने का तनाव रहेगा, घर में नकारात्मक ऊर्जा आएगी और कई बार तो आपका जल्दी घर आने का भी मन नहीं करेगा। यहां हम आपको बता रहे हैं कि किन 7 टिप्स को अपनाकर आप अपने जीवन को आसान और व्यवस्थित बना सकते हैं।

बिस्तर की चादर और तकिया कवर

जब भी आप अपने बिस्तर और तकियों के कवर को साफ करें या बदलें तो उन्हें एक साथ रखें। इसके लिए, इन सभी को मोड़कर एक तकियों के कवर के अंदर रख दें। ऐसा करने से

आपको हर बार उन्हें खोजने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी।

लेबल

रसोईघर में रखे सभी जार पर चॉकबोर्ड या पेंट की मदद से लेबल लगाएं और उन्हें सामने की ओर सजाकर रखें। भंडारण के लिए उन्हें अलग-अलग बक्सों में रखने के बजाय एक ही बक्से का उपयोग करना बेहतर होगा। ऐसा करने से वे अच्छे दिखेंगे और व्यवस्थित भी रहेंगे।

इसे रख दें।

रसोईघर के दरारों या रैकों में सॉसपैन आदि को एक के ऊपर एक रखने से अधिक जगह घेरती है और यह देखने में भी अव्यवस्थित लगते हैं। बेहतर होगा कि आप इन्हें हैंगर पर लटका दें। इनका उपयोग भी आसान होगा।

दराज विभाजक का उपयोग करें

यदि आप अपने दरार में मेकअप, वॉलेट, चाबियाँ या अन्य चीजें एक साथ रखते हैं, तो दरार ड्रिवाइडर का उपयोग करना बेहतर होगा।

आपको रसोई के दरारों में भी ड्रिवाइडर का उपयोग करना चाहिए और चाकू, चम्मच, कांटे आदि को अलग-अलग रखना चाहिए। इससे वस्तुएं व्यवस्थित रहेंगी और उनका उपयोग करना भी आसान हो जाएगा।

मग और कप हैंगर

कप आदि को रसोई में रखने की बजाय आप उन्हें हैंगर या हुक पर लटका सकते हैं। ऐसा करने से वे एक-दूसरे से टकराकर टूटेंगे नहीं और उन्हें आसानी से उपयोग के लिए निकाला जा सकेगा।

रेक

आप अपने दरवाजे के पीछे एक लटकता हुआ जूता रैक लटका सकते हैं। आप इसमें अपने जूते, चप्पल और सैंडल व्यवस्थित तरीके से रख सकते हैं और आसानी से उपयोग के लिए निकाल सकते हैं। आपको हर बार पूरा रैक खाली करने और पहनने के लिए कुछ खोजने की जरूरत नहीं होगी।

बॉक्स का उपयोग

आप अलमारी में छोटे-बड़े कपड़े रखने, वलीनर आदि रखने, डाइनिंग टेबल को व्यवस्थित करने आदि के लिए बक्सों का उपयोग कर सकते हैं। आप ऐसे स्टूल या टेबल का उपयोग कर सकते हैं जिसमें बॉक्स सिस्टम हो। ऐसा करने से आपके पास अधिक भंडारण स्थान होगा और सामान इधर-उधर फैलने के बजाय बॉक्स में ही रहेगा।

क्या आप भी जा रहे हैं लंबे दिनों के लिए घर से बाहर, तो ऐसे रखें अपने घर को सुरक्षित

कभी-कभी हमें किसी न किसी काम से घर से बाहर जाना ही पड़ता है, लेकिन यहां हम ऑफिस, स्कूल-कॉलेज आदि के लिए ऐसा नहीं कर रहे हैं। बल्कि हम ऐसी चीजों के बारे में बात कर रहे हैं - जैसे कि आपको लंबे समय के लिए या कुछ दिनों के लिए घर से बाहर जाना पड़ता है। इसका कारण यात्रा हो सकती है, किसी की शादी में शामिल होना हो सकता है, कहीं बाहर जाकर कोई त्यौहार मनाया जा सकता है आदि। लेकिन ऐसे में एक सवाल हर किसी के मन में रहता है कि अगर हम घर से निकल रहे हैं तो क्या हमारा घर सुरक्षित है? क्योंकि हमने घर में जो चीजें रखी हैं, वे बहुत मेहनत से कमाई हैं। ऐसे में यह जानना जरूरी हो जाता है कि अगर कोई लंबे समय के लिए घर से बाहर जा रहा है तो उसे किन बातों का ध्यान रखना चाहिए ताकि उसका घर सुरक्षित रह सके। तो आइये जानते हैं इसके बारे में। इसके बारे में आप अगले अंक में जान सकते हैं...

गैस बंद कर दें।

लोग सबसे ज्यादा लापरवाही गैस को लेकर करते हैं, जबकि सभी जानते हैं कि हमारी एक छोटी सी गलती बहुत बड़ा नुकसान पहुंचा सकती है। इसलिए जब भी घर से बाहर जा रहे हों तो गैस चूल्हे के अलावा गैस सिलेंडर को भी रेगुलेटर से बंद कर दें। अगर आप भूल जाते हैं तो इस काम को अपनी लिस्ट में शामिल कर लें या फिर गैस के पास एक स्टीकर भी लगा सकते हैं जिस पर लिखा हो कि गैस बंद कर दें। ऐसा करके आप अपने घर को सुरक्षित करने की दिशा में एक कदम और आगे बढ़ सकते हैं।

लाइटें बंद कर दें।

यदि आप घर से बाहर जा रहे हैं तो लाइटें बंद करना न भूलें। पंखा, कूलर, फ्रिज और एसी जैसी चीजों को मुख्य स्विच से बंद करें। इससे न केवल आपका बिजली बिल बचेगा बल्कि किसी प्रकार का नुकसान भी नहीं होगा क्योंकि कई बार बिजली की कम या ज्यादा शक्ति के कारण चीजें खराब हो सकती हैं।

पेंट का ख्याल रखना।

कई लोग शौक के तौर पर पालतू जानवर (कुत्ते, बिल्ली आदि) पालते हैं, लेकिन जब बात उनकी देखभाल की आती है, तो... तो इसमें उनकी लापरवाही साफ तौर पर दिखाई देती है। अगर आप लंबे समय के लिए घर से बाहर जा रहे हैं तो या तो आप पेंट को साथ ले जाएं। आप अपने पालतू जानवर को कुछ शर्तों के साथ ट्रेन, हवाई जहाज और रोलटिंग बसों में ले जा सकते हैं। यदि आप किसी अन्य कारण से अपने पालतू जानवर को अपने साथ नहीं ले जाना चाहते हैं, तो आप अपने पालतू जानवर को टेक केयर सेंटर यानी ऐसे स्थानों पर रख सकते हैं जहां पालतू जानवरों की देखभाल की जाती है। यहां आप कुछ शुल्क देकर अपने कुत्ते को जितने दिन चाहें छोड़ सकते हैं।

सुरक्षा पर ध्यान दें।

अगर आप घर से बाहर जा रहे हैं तो आपको अपने घर की सुरक्षा का भी ध्यान रखना होगा। अपना घर ठीक से बंद करो और जाओ। आप चाहें तो अपने घर में किसी जिम्मेदार पड़ोसी या विश्वसनीय रिश्तेदार को भी रख सकते हैं। इसके अलावा आप अपने घर में सीसीटीवी लगाकर भी उस पर नजर रख सकते हैं।



अगर आपके भी गुलाब के पौधे बार-बार मुरझा रहे हैं, तो ऐसे करें इनकी केयर

घर के बाहर आंगन में लगाए गए गुलाब के पौधे घर की सुंदरता बढ़ाने में मदद करते हैं। ऐसे में ज्यादातर लोग अपने घर के बाहर गुलाब के पौधे लगाना पसंद करते हैं, लेकिन कई बार ये पौधे मुरझाने लगते हैं और इस वजह से पूरे घर का लुक खराब होने लगता है। ऐसी स्थिति में अधिकतर लोग परेशान हो जाते हैं। अगर आपके घर के बाहर लगा गुलाब का पौधा मुरझाने लगा है तो यह खबर आपके लिए है। आज हम आपको कुछ आसान टिप्स बताएंगे, जिनकी मदद से आप पौधे को मुरझाने से बचा सकते हैं।

गुलाब के पौधों को मुरझाने से बचाएं

गुलाब के पौधे को मुरझाने से बचाने के लिए आप इन सुझावों का पालन कर सकते हैं। सबसे पहले आपको गुलाब के पौधे को रोजाना पानी देना चाहिए। यदि गर्मी का मौसम है तो आपको गुलाब के पौधे को दिन में 2 से 3 बार पानी देना चाहिए। आपको गुलाब के पौधे को कम से कम 6 घंटे धूप अवश्य देनी चाहिए, लेकिन ध्यान रखें कि सीधी धूप पतियों को जला सकती है।

नियमित रूप से खाद डालें।

इसके अलावा आपको गुलाब के पौधे में अच्छी मिट्टी डालनी चाहिए, क्योंकि मिट्टी में पर्याप्त पोषक तत्वों का होना बहुत जरूरी है। आपको गुलाब के पौधे को नियमित रूप से खाद देना चाहिए। आपको बाजार में आसानी से खाद मिल जाएगी। उर्वरक खरीदते समय पैकेट पर लिखे सभी निर्देशों को ध्यान से पढ़ें।

पौधे की छंटाई अवश्य करें।

इसके अलावा मिट्टी में पानी का अक्छा विकास होना भी बहुत जरूरी है, तभी आपका पौधा मुरझाने से बच सकता है। गुलाब की सभी सूखी हुई शाखाएँ काट दें।

इसके अलावा, छंटाई भी करें, इससे नई शाखाओं के विकास में मदद मिलेगी और पौधा अधिक सुंदर बनेगा।

कीटनाशक का प्रयोग करें

कई बार कीड़ों के कारण पौधा खराब होने लगता है, ऐसी स्थिति में आपको अपने पौधे की जांच कर कीटनाशक का प्रयोग अवश्य

करना चाहिए। सर्दियों में पौधे को ठंड लग सकती है। ऐसी स्थिति में उसका विशेष ध्यान रखें। वहीं, बरसात के मौसम में पौधे को ज्यादा पानी देने की जरूरत नहीं होती। आप इन सभी सुझावों का पालन करके गुलाब के पौधे को मुरझाने से बचा सकते हैं।



NEWS BOX

Fede Valverde relishing hat-trick as Real Madrid stun Man City: Best game of my life

New Delhi. (Agency)

Federico Valverde said he experienced the best night of his career after scoring a sensational hat-trick to help Real Madrid defeat Manchester City 3-0 in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League round-of-16 tie. The Uruguayan midfielder produced a stunning first-half performance at the Santiago Bernabeu to put Real Madrid firmly in control of the contest.

There had been a sense of uncertainty among Real Madrid fans heading into the clash against Manchester City. The Spanish giants had recently lost two league matches and needed a late deflection to beat Celta Vigo over the weekend. Speaking after the match, Valverde admitted the performance was one he had always dreamed about. "It's incredible, you always dream of nights like this...I want to thank my teammates who



give me the confidence I needed to stay positive, the coaching staff and everyone who supports us, even though it's been a difficult season," he said. "I really enjoyed myself today. It had been a while since I enjoyed a match like this," Valverde added.

HOW REAL MADRID STUNNED MAN CITY

Valverde's remarkable display completely changed the mood at the Bernabeu. The midfielder opened the scoring in the 20th minute after rounding goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and calmly finishing into the net. Seven minutes later he doubled the lead with a powerful left-footed strike that flew past the goalkeeper and gave Real Madrid full control of the match.

Valverde completed his hat-trick in the 42nd minute in spectacular fashion. He lifted the ball delicately over defender Marc Guehi before smashing a right-footed volley into the bottom corner to cap a brilliant first-half performance.

Pakistan cricketers find no takers in Hundred Women 2026 auction

New Delhi. (Agency)

No Pakistan players found buyers in the women's auction for The Hundred held on Wednesday, March 11. Left-handed batter Muneeba Ali, right-arm fast bowler Diana Baig, left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal and Pakistan captain Fatima Sana had registered for the auction with a base price of 15,000 pounds each. However, only Fatima Sana and Sadia Iqbal, the top-ranked bowler in Women's T20Is, were shortlisted for the final auction stage. Despite making the shortlist, neither of them had their names called during the bidding process. As a result, all four Pakistani players went unsold, missing out on contracts for the upcoming season of the 100-ball



tournament. Earlier, reports suggested IPL-owned Hundred teams might avoid signing Pakistani players, sparking controversy and criticism, including from England captain Harry Brook. In response, the ECB and The Hundred franchises clarified that nationality would not affect selection, emphasising choices would be based solely on performance, availability, and team requirements.

EYES NOW ON HUNDRED MEN AUCTION

Several Pakistan players are set to feature in the men's auction for The Hundred, scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 12. A total of 63 Pakistani cricketers had registered for the auction, but only 14 were shortlisted for the final bidding process.

Among the prominent names are the fast bowling trio of Haris Rauf, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah and all-rounders Shadab Khan, Saim Ayub all of whom have listed themselves with a base price of 100,000 pounds.

A trophy is a trophy: Why India's T20 World Cup win is no lesser prize

New Delhi. (Agency)

The dust had barely settled on India's historic T20 World Cup 2026 victory, a feat that made them the first team to successfully defend the title, before the familiar, rhythmic drumming of dissent began. It is a peculiar habit of the cricketing commentariat that the moment India achieves total dominance in the game's most volatile format, the goalposts are unceremoniously shifted. Leading the charge was Sanjay Manjrekar, whose recent critique on social media felt like a cold shower for a celebrating nation. "In time, we need to put these world titles given out every year in proper perspective," Manjrekar said. "India's T20 WC wins don't come remotely close to their 50 overs WC wins of 1983 under Kapil Dev and 2011 under Dhoni in terms of its pure challenge and its sanctity."

The sentiment was echoed in more vitriolic corners of the internet. One user on X mocked India's pursuit of global titles by likening T20 trophies to fast food prizes collected every two years at a drive-through, dismissing them as achievements that count for very little. It is a narrative that reeks of a staggering lack of perspective, wrapped in a thin veil of purism. To describe a World Cup victory achieved under the most high-

pressure, high-variance conditions known to the sport as trivial is not merely an insult to the Indian side. It reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of where cricket stands in 2026.

THE MYTH OF ODI WORLD CUPS

For decades, the 50-over ODI World Cup has been presented as the ultimate pinnacle. Its four-year cycle is often treated as the chief marker of prestige. Yet the modern tournament increasingly resembles a closed shop, a gated community of ten teams. It is a marathon format that tolerates off days and slow starts, where established powers are often all but guaranteed a path to the knockouts. Contrast that with the T20 World Cup. The tournament now features twenty teams. It is the only format in which the word world in the World Cup genuinely feels literal. Here, emerging sides such as the United States, Italy, Nepal and Namibia experience meaningful international competition. In a 50-over contest, the gulf in class can unfold relentlessly over eight hours. In T20 cricket, that gap narrows to the width of a single inspired over.

If a World Cup is judged by inclusivity and

global footprint, the T20 tournament wins decisively. Navigating a twenty-team field without a slip-up is not simply fortune, it demands sustained mental precision. The argument that the achievement is somehow



easier because the event occurs more frequently ignores a central truth of the format. In T20 cricket there is no settling in. Every ball is a crisis.

THE ENGINE ROOM

Beyond the trophies lies economic reality. T20 cricket has become the principal financial engine of the sport. It provides the revenue that sustains Test matches and ODI tours.

The numbers reflect the modern era. Since November 2023, leading cricketing nations have played nearly twice as many T20 internationals as ODIs. The format is not a sideshow or a convenience. It has become the main stage. It appeals to a digital-native generation, fits the rhythm of contemporary life and pushes the boundaries of athletic skill. In other sports, frequency does not diminish prestige. Tennis fans do not belittle the four Grand Slam tournaments simply because they occur annually. Nor do followers of chess dismiss a world title because it lacks a four-year cycle. In athletics or badminton, the regularity of major events merely demonstrates who can remain the best in a constantly evolving field. Cricket should not be the lone exception.

THE INDIAN REVOLUTION

Perhaps the most unfair aspect of the dismissive narrative is how it overlooks the genuine tactical transformation within Indian cricket. The journey from an 11-year ICC trophy drought to the current era of dominance began with a sweeping reset led by Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid in 2024.

Dropping Axar Patel in IND vs SA was my mistake, I apologised: Suryakumar Yadav

New Delhi. (Agency)

India captain Suryakumar Yadav admitted that leaving out Axar Patel for a key match during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 was his mistake. The skipper revealed that Axar was understandably upset with the decision, prompting him to personally apologise to the all-rounder after the game.

The decision came during India's Super 8 clash against South Africa in Ahmedabad, which turned out to be India's only defeat of the tournament. Axar had earlier missed the group-stage match against the Netherlands due to a minor injury concern, but his exclusion against South Africa was a tactical decision as Washington Sundar was included instead. Speaking to The Indian Express, Suryakumar said the conversation with Axar after the match was difficult. "He (Axar Patel) was very angry — and he should have been. He's an experienced player, he leads a franchise. He should be angry," Suryakumar said. "I apologised. I

told him I made a mistake, and I'm sorry, but it was a call for the team. It was a hard conversation. He took it in his stride and we talked it through the next day." India suffered a heavy 76-run defeat in that Super 8 match at the Narendra Modi Stadium, and the decision to drop Axar became one of the



most debated selection calls of the tournament.

HOW WAS AXAR PATEL T20 WORLD CUP 2026?

India quickly corrected the decision by bringing Axar back into the side for their

next Super 8 clash against Zimbabwe national cricket team. From that point onwards, the all-rounder played a key role in India's successful title defence. Axar finished the tournament with 11 wickets from eight matches while maintaining an economy rate of around 8.20, making him

one of India's most dependable middle-overs bowlers. He delivered one of his best performances in the final against New Zealand national cricket team, picking up three wickets for 27 runs to help India seal the trophy. Axar also contributed in the semi-final against England by pulling off two outstanding catches that shifted momentum towards India. With the bat, he chipped in with quick and valuable runs whenever the team required acceleration.

India eventually went on to win the tournament and successfully defend their T20 World Cup title, becoming the first side to achieve the feat while also lifting the trophy on home soil.

Ahead of IPL 2026, MS Dhoni cleared of conflict of interest allegations by BCCI

New Delhi. (Agency)

BCCI Ethics Officer Justice Arun Mishra (retd) has dismissed the complaint filed against MS Dhoni over alleged conflict-of-interest violations concerning his role as a Chennai Super Kings (CSK) player and his association with cricket academies run by M/s Aarka Sports and Management Private Limited. The ruling concluded that no conflict of interest was established regarding Dhoni's participation in the Indian Premier League (IPL) under current BCCI regulations.

IPL 2026 1ST PHASE: FULL SCHEDULE

The complaint, filed in February 2024, alleged that Dhoni violated Rule 38(4)(a) and Rule 38(4)(p) by being a current IPL player and academy owner simultaneously. The complainant also accused Dhoni of failing to disclose interests in accordance with Rule 38(2) and Rule 38(5) after the 2018 amendments to BCCI's conflict-of-interest rules. Justice Mishra's order noted that the agreement for the cricket academy was signed in 2017, which was before the BCCI's conflict-of-interest regulations came into



force in September 2018. This timing was a key factor in the assessment of the allegations raised by the complainant.

The Ethics Officer found no evidence that Dhoni had any institutional control or decision-making authority in the academy while playing in the IPL. The ruling clarified that simply continuing as an IPL player does not meet the threshold for a conflict of interest under the current BCCI regulations. Additionally, the order stated there was no proof presented of favouritism, bias, or preferential treatment linked to the ownership of the academy. The ruling emphasized that these factors are critical in determining conflict-of-interest violations under BCCI's code.

Pune lawyer alleges Hardik Pandya insulted national flag, files police complaint

Pune (Agency)

A Pune-based lawyer has filed a complaint seeking legal action against Hardik Pandya for allegedly disrespecting the Indian national flag during India's celebrations after winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. The complainant has urged the police to register an FIR over the alleged incident.

The complaint was submitted by advocate Wajid Khan at the Shivaji Nagar Police Station. The lawyer alleged that Pandya had wrapped the tricolour around himself while celebrating on the field with his girlfriend Mahieka Sharma after India defeated New Zealand in the final on Sunday at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Speaking to ANI, Khan said the act amounted to disrespecting the national flag. You must have seen the T20 World Cup here. Hardik Pandya was dancing with his girlfriend in celebration of his victory. The national flag was tied to his back...According to Section 2 of the 1971 National Flag Act, we should respect the dignity of the national flag. However, Hardik Pandya was so lost in the celebration



of his victory that he was lying with his girlfriend, wearing the national flag. I believe it is an insult to the national flag," Khan said. "I have filed a complaint with the Shivaji Nagar police station. When I went to file the complaint, they told me the incident occurred there, not here. So I told them that the national flag is a symbol of the entire

nation, and we can file a complaint with the Shivaji Nagar police. They have accepted my complaint and provided me with a copy. Let's see what happens next. I have filed the complaint," he added.

HARDIK'S T20 WC CELEBRATIONS STIR CONTROVERSY

The controversy surfaced after India's dramatic T20 World Cup victory over New Zealand triggered emotional celebrations on the field in Ahmedabad.

During the post-match celebrations, videos circulating on social media showed Pandya celebrating with Mahieka Sharma as the Indian team soaked in the historic triumph. In several clips, the couple were seen dancing, posing with the trophy and sharing emotional moments amid the celebrations.

One viral video also showed the couple lying together on the podium structure during the victory ceremony while players and staff continued celebrating around them.

Will Iran be replaced at the World Cup after withdrawal threat FIFA ponders options

After Iran's withdrawal threat from the World Cup 2026, FIFA are weighing up their options to replace them in the tournament.

Iraq and UAE are being considered as replacements by the international governing body.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Iran's withdrawal threat from the upcoming football World Cup has left FIFA looking into different options with the tournament kicking off in early June in the USA, Mexico and Canada. Iran's Sports Minister Ahmad Donyamali said on Wednesday, March 11,

that they won't be taking part in the tournament following airstrikes carried out by co-host nation the United States along with Israel that reportedly killed Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The announcement came only hours after FIFA President Gianni Infantino stated that U.S. President Donald Trump had assured safe entry and a welcoming environment for the Iranian national team during the tournament. The United States and Israel launched airstrikes on Iran nearly two weeks ago, an attack that reportedly resulted in the death of the Islamic Republic's supreme leader and triggered escalating tensions across the Gulf region. While it did seem uncertain that Iran would compete in a tournament hosted by a nation it is currently in conflict with, FIFA had still been planning for Team Melli to take the field in their opening group match against New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 15. A

withdrawal from the tournament will now be governed by Article Six of the World Cup



regulations, which allows FIFA to call up any nation it choose to fill up the void left by Iran. There's no modern precedent for this and, according to FIFA's own tournament regulations, they have full discretion to do whatever they want in the case of a team withdrawing." James Kitching, FIFA's former Director of Football Regulatory, told Reuters. "That means, for example, a team

that withdraws wouldn't have to be replaced by a team from the same confederation, or even replaced at all. Whether either of those scenarios would be politically tenable is a different question." The tournament regulations also provide disciplinary sanctions for any federation whose team withdraws. However, if Iran withdrew for any reason related to this current conflict, I doubt FIFA would impose any sanctions given the circumstances. Iran qualified for their fourth successive World Cup by topping Group A of the Asian qualifying. While a replacement does seem like the possible outcome, it is far from being straightforward.

Iraq FACING TRAVEL ISSUES

Iraq is one of the teams in the running to replace Iran in the World Cup if the official withdrawal does happen. Iraq are set to feature in the intercontinental playoffs in Mexico later this month, where they will compete for a place at the World Cup finals.

Rashmika Mandanna

And Vijay Deverakonda Fly Economy After Wedding, Leave Fans Surprised

Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda got married on February 26, in a beautiful traditional ceremony in Udaipur. Fans went gaga over the dreamy photos from their wedding ceremony. A day after tying the knot, the couple headed back to Hyderabad, and much to their fans' surprise, they were seen flying economy class. A video of the newly married couple boarding the commercial flight from Udaipur is going viral on social media. They were seen beaming with joy as they headed to their seats.

Rashmika Mandanna Shares 'Yay' Moment On Flight After Wedding With Vijay Deverakonda

The video shared by a makeup artist on Instagram shows Rashmika and Vijay on their flight back to Hyderabad from Udaipur. The 'Liger' actor was all smiles as he interacted with the crew and waited for them to be seated. Meanwhile, Rashmika was also seen grinning widely and excitedly waving at the passengers who cheered for them. She made a small 'yay' gesture, expressing her joy. Check out the video below!



Fans React

The video was posted with the caption, "And finally here is Mr & Mrs Deverakonda." Netizens gushed over the newly married couple, while some were surprised to see them travelling in economy. "I don't know why I'm so happy for them," wrote one fan, while another one commented, "Her happiness is gorgeous." A third netizen wrote, "They fly economy?" while another comment read, "Flying economy after their wedding, thought they'd fly private." "He gave her the window seat!!! Green forest," pointed out one netizen. Meanwhile, a few social media users claimed that Rashmika and Vijay booked the whole flight for the wedding guests. "This makes sense, they booked the whole flight," read a comment.

Vijay Deverakonda's Note After Marriage With Rashmika Mandanna Goes Viral

After their wedding, Vijay and Rashmika shared dreamy photos from their wedding along with heartfelt notes for each other. Vijay's caption for his ladylove won hearts, and netizens couldn't stop gushing over the couple. "One day, I missed her. Missed her in a way that made me feel like my day would've been better if she were around. Like my meals would've felt more wholesome if she were sitting across from me."

Akshay Kumar, Wamiqa Gabbi Kick Off Bhoot Bangla Promotions In Nashik



Akshay Kumar and Wamiqa Gabbi have officially kickstarted promotions for their upcoming horror comedy Bhoot Bangla, setting the tone for what promises to be one of the most anticipated genre releases of the year. The actors were spotted heading to Nashik for the first leg of promotions, dressed in coordinated white shirts and blue denim, drawing attention for their easy camaraderie.

Sharing glimpses from the journey on social media, Wamiqa wrote, "Heading towards Nashik... starting first day of promotions of Bhoot Bangla... need your wishes and prayers," signalling the beginning of the film's promotional campaign.

The film marks Wamiqa's first on-screen collaboration with Akshay Kumar and also reunites Akshay with director Priyadarshan after a gap of 14 years.

About Bhoot Bangla: A Return To Classic Horror Comedy

Directed by Priyadarshan, Bhoot Bangla blends old-school slapstick humour with atmospheric horror elements, a combination that has previously delivered cult hits in Hindi cinema.

Set against the backdrop of a mysterious, crumbling mansion steeped in folklore, the film revolves around characters who find themselves entangled in supernatural chaos. The "bangla" in the title refers to an ancestral estate believed to be haunted, with secrets buried within its walls. What begins as a routine visit gradually spirals into a series of eerie yet comedic encounters involving restless spirits, hidden passageways and unexpected twists.

Known for his mastery in balancing humour with tension, Priyadarshan has crafted the film with practical effects, situational comedy and character-driven chaos rather than relying solely on jump scares. The narrative draws inspiration from classic haunted-house tales while adding a contemporary layer of satire, misunderstandings and supernatural mischief. The tone carries shades of Priyadarshan's earlier comic sensibilities while leaning into a darker, more atmospheric setting, making it nostalgic yet fresh.

Bengali Actress Subhashree Ganguly Stranded In Dubai With Son After Flight Cancellations



Flight suspensions linked to escalating tensions in West Asia have left several Indian nationals unable to return home, including actor Subhashree Ganguly and her young son. Subhashree had travelled to Dubai with her son Yuvaan during his school holidays. However, amid the ongoing conflict in the region and subsequent airspace restrictions, she has been unable to fly back to India. According to her husband, filmmaker Raj Chakraborty, both mother and son are safe and following official advisories.

Authorities in the UAE have reportedly advised residents and visitors to remain indoors as a precaution. Subhashree and her son are complying with the instructions while monitoring developments closely.

The disruption in travel services follows heightened tensions in the Middle East after military strikes involving the United States and Israel targeting sites in Iran. As a precaution, parts of Gulf airspace have faced temporary closures, leading to widespread flight cancellations and uncertainty for travellers.

Actor Sonal Chauhan has also been affected by the cancellations. She publicly appealed for assistance after finding herself stranded in Dubai without a confirmed return plan.

Addressing Prime Minister Narendra Modi through social media, Chauhan wrote, "Hon'ble PM @narendramodiji, I am currently stranded in Dubai due to the ongoing crisis." In a subsequent message, she added, "With flights canceled and no clear way to return to India, I respectfully seek the Government's guidance for a safe journey home. Grateful for any support extended."

Her appeal drew significant attention online, with some users urging authorities to intervene swiftly. One social media user commented, "Requesting concerned authorities to please look into this urgently. Citizens' safety should be the top priority." Others advised her to reach out directly to Indian diplomatic officials in the UAE.

Chauhan is known for her work in Hindi and Telugu cinema and gained recognition after starring opposite Emraan Hashmi in Jannat. Before her film career, she won the Miss World Tourism 2005 title and worked as a model.



Bhumi Pednekar

Bhumi Pednekar Says 'Hope Came True' As She Celebrates One Month Of Daldal, Shares BTS Moments

Bhumi Pednekar has been enjoying the love she is getting for the series Daldal. It has been one month since its release. Marking the special milestone, the actress took to social media to share an action-packed behind-the-scenes (BTS) video from the sets, giving fans a glimpse of the intense effort that went into creating the gripping drama.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Bhumi Pednekar shared the raw video featuring all the major action scenes and also penned a thank-you note for her fans. She writes, "It's been one month since Daldal released... and I have spent these weeks feeling nothing but gratitude. Looking back at these BTS moments reminds me of the chaos, the nerves, the long days, and the quiet in-betweens that shaped this journey. But more than anything, it reminds me of the love that came after. In the last month, I have read your messages, seen your edits, received your calls, watched your videos, and gone through every DM... sometimes twice. Thank you for opening your hearts to the show. Thank you for holding the characters with so much warmth. Thank you for seeing the effort, the intention, the honesty we tried to bring to every frame. As artists, we hope silently that our work reaches people in the way we imagined it. With Daldal, that hope came true because of you." One of the fans wrote, "Thank you for this wonderful piece of work everyone all the actors and the entire team."

Bhumi Pednekar's Daldal To Return With Season 2? Well, now there is growing buzz around the return of psychological crime thriller as creator Suresh Triveni recently opened up about plans for a possible second season. He revealed that the team is keen to continue the gripping narrative, raising hopes among fans. Mid-

day quoted creator Suresh Triveni talking about the second season of the series. He said, "We are ready to go for it. The writers have given three to four years working on the show, and they're raring to go." Triveni mentioned he has ideas to explore them further. He shared, "We have a couple of ideas. Also, I'm taking all the feedback from season one. We will take the right decision if everything falls in place."

Bhumi Pednekar On Playing A 'Flawed, Broken' Cop



In Daldal

DCP Rita Ferreira of the Mumbai Crime Branch, played by Bhumi Pednekar, is at the core of the storm. Now, the actress has opened up about her character. "Rita is a cop, but she's extremely flawed, broken, complex, complicated. She has more shades of black than white, which isn't how we usually see cops portrayed on screen," Bhumi told Elle India. "I got to play a hero while doing a lot of anti-hero things," she added.



बदलेगा मौसम का मिजाज :15 से राजधानी में फिर बारिश, पारा पहुंचेगा 35 डिग्री के पार

रांची, एप्रैल 13। कौते दिनों राजधानी रांची समेत पूरे राज्य में बारिश होने के बाद एक बार फिर बारिश की संभावना बन रही है। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, 15 मार्च को एक बार फिर राज्य के उत्तर-पश्चिमी भाग को छोड़कर शेष भागों में हल्की बारिश होने की संभावना है। मौसम विभाग ने रांची समेत 20 जिलों के लिए यलो अलर्ट जारी किया है। इस दौरान गर्जन के साथ 40-50 किलो मीटर प्रति घंटे के साथ तेज हवा और वज्रपात होने की संभावना है। 16 और 17 मार्च को भी बारिश होने की संभावना है। इस दौरान रांची का पारा 35 तक पहुंचेगा और लोगों को उमस वाली गर्मी सताएगी। इधर, बुधवार को पिछले 24 घंटे में राज्य के कई हिस्सों में गर्जन और वज्रपात के साथ हल्के दर्जे की बारिश हुई। सबसे अधिक बारिश हजारीबाग के हेंद्रीगरी में 10.8 मिमी हुई। आज भी रांची में हल्की बारिश, गर्जन- वज्रपात का यलो अलर्ट जारी किया है। इस दौरान 30-40 किलो मीटर प्रति घंटे की रफ्तार से हवा चलेगी। वहीं, 13 मार्च के लिए देवघर, गोड्डा, दुमका, जामताड़ा और पाकुड़ में यलो अलर्ट है।

जामताड़ा में करंट लगने से युवक की मौत, कल ही वापस जाने वाले पुणे

लोहे के दरवाजे में उतरे बिजली से हुआ हादसा



जामताड़ा, एप्रैल 13। जामताड़ा जिले के करमाटांड प्रखंड के कुरुवा गांव में बुधवार शाम करंट लगने से एक युवक की मौत हो गई। मृतक की पहचान 28 वर्षीय दुलाल राय के रूप में हुई है। बताया गया कि दुलाल के घर का दरवाजा लोहे का बना था, जिसके ऊपर से बिजली का तार गुजर रहा था। दरवाजे के बार-बार खुलने और बंद होने से तार में लीकेज हो गया था। बुधवार शाम बारिश हो रही थी और जमीन भीगी हुई थी। इसी दौरान दुलाल राय जैसे ही घर के अंदर जाने के लिए लोहे के दरवाजे को पकड़ा, उन्हें तेज करंट लगा। करंट इतना जोरदार था कि कुछ ही मिनटों में उनकी मौत पर ही मौत हो गई। दुलाल राय पुणे में मजदूरी करते थे और गुरुवार को वापस पुणे जाने वाले थे। उनकी शादी पिछले साल ही हुई थी और वह परिवार के एकमात्र कमाने वाले सदस्य थे। इस घटना से परिवार और ग्रामीणों में मातम छा गया है। ग्रामीणों ने बताया कि लोहे के गेट पर करंट से जलने के निशान भी मिले हैं। घटना के बाद परिजन जिला प्रशासन से मुआवजे की मांग की है।

धारदार हथियार से हमला कर युवक की हत्या

रांची, एप्रैल 13। रांची के तमाड़ थाना क्षेत्र के कोकोडीह गांव निवासी कमलेश महतो (युवक) की धारदार हथियार से हमला कर हत्या कर दी गई। प्रारंभिक जांच में प्रेम प्रसंग का मामला सामने आया है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, कमलेश महतो एक शादी समारोह से लौट रहा था। तभी पहले से घात लगाए अपराधियों ने उस पर धारदार हथियार से हमला कर दिया, जिससे उसकी मौत पर ही मौत हो गई। मामले की जानकारी मिलने के बाद पुलिस घटनास्थल पर पहुंची और जांच पड़ताल कर शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया है। इस संबंध में तमाड़ थाना प्रभारी प्रवीण कुमार ने बताया कि मामले की जानकारी मिली है। पुलिस जांच में जुटी हुई है।

सिमडेगा से जा रही बस छत्तीसगढ़ में पलटीप्याच यात्रियों की मौत,

सिमडेगा, एप्रैल 13। झारखंड से छत्तीसगढ़ जा रही एक बस चलते से 5 लोगों की मौत हो गई। इस घटना में बस सवार 17 यात्री घायल हैं। घटना छत्तीसगढ़ के जशपुर जिले के तपकरा थाना क्षेत्र में हुई। बस सिमडेगा के कुरुडेगा से छत्तीसगढ़ के कुनकुड़ी जा रही थी। इसी बीच गोडांडा गांव के पास तेज रफ्तार के कारण चालक का नियंत्रण हट गया और बस सड़क किनारे निर्माणाधीन मकान में जा घुसी और पलट गई।

पुल की रेलिंग तोड़ मछली लदा ट्रक गिरा डैम में: हादसे में चालक लापता

हजारीबाग, एप्रैल 13।

हजारीबाग में बुधवार की देर रात मछली लदा ट्रक अनियंत्रित होकर तिलैया डैम में जा गिरा। इस दुर्घटना में ट्रक समेत चालक लापता है। जबकि उपचालक गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गया। हादसा बरही थाना क्षेत्र में जवाहर घाटी स्थित तिलैया डैम पुल पर हुई।

आशंका जाहिर की जा रही है झड़वर की पानी में डूबने से मौत हो गई है। हालांकि पुलिस उसकी तलाश कर रही है। मछली से लदा यह ट्रक बरही से कोडरमा की दिशा में जा रहा था।

जवाहर घाटी के पास पहुंचते ही झड़वर ने वाहन पर नियंत्रण खो दिया। ट्रक पुल की रेलिंग को तोड़ते हुए सीधे तिलैया डैम के गहरे पानी में समा गया। टक्कर इतनी भीषण थी कि ट्रक में लदी मछलियां सड़क पर बिखर गईं।

राहत एवं बचाव कार्य शुरू:

उपचालक गंभीर रूप से जख्मी; ट्रक की तलाश जारी



इधर, घटना की सूचना मिलते ही बरही थाना प्रभारी विनोद कुमार यादव पुलिस बल के साथ मौके पर पहुंचे और तत्काल राहत एवं बचाव कार्य शुरू कराया। थाना प्रभारी ने बताया कि दुर्घटना के बाद ट्रक पूरी तरह से डैम के गहरे पानी में डूब गया है।

चालक की पहचान अभी तक नहीं हो पाई है और आशंका है कि उसका शव अभी भी ट्रक के अंदर फंसा हुआ है। गंभीर रूप से घायल उपचालक को तुरंत बरही अनुमंडल अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया है,

जहां उसका इलाज चल रहा है।

शव को डैम से निकालने के प्रयास जारी : पुलिस के अनुसार, चालक की पहचान सुनिश्चित करने और उसके शव को डैम से निकालने के प्रयास जारी हैं। स्थानीय प्रशासन द्वारा आगे की कार्रवाई की जा रही है और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर गोताखोरों की मदद भी ली जा सकती है।

वहीं, स्थानीय लोगों का कहना

है कि जवाहर घाटी में पहले भी इस तरह की कई सड़क दुर्घटनाएं हो चुकी हैं। घाटी क्षेत्र में तीखे मोड़ और पर्याप्त सुरक्षा इंतजाम नहीं होने के कारण हादसों का खतरा बना रहता है। लोगों ने प्रशासन और एनएचएआई से इस स्थान पर सुरक्षा व्यवस्था मजबूत करने तथा आवश्यक संकेतक और बैरिकेडिंग लगाने की मांग की है, ताकि भविष्य में ऐसी घटनाओं को रोका जा सके।

पुल की रेलिंग तोड़ मछली लदा ट्रक गिरा डैम में-हादसे में चालक लापता

हजारीबाग, एप्रैल 13। हजारीबाग में बुधवार की देर रात मछली लदा ट्रक अनियंत्रित होकर तिलैया डैम में जा गिरा। इस दुर्घटना में ट्रक समेत चालक लापता है। जबकि उपचालक गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गया। हादसा बरही थाना क्षेत्र में जवाहर घाटी स्थित तिलैया डैम पुल पर हुई। आशंका जाहिर की जा रही है झड़वर की पानी में डूबने से मौत हो गई है। हालांकि पुलिस उसकी तलाश कर रही है। मछली से लदा यह ट्रक बरही से कोडरमा की दिशा में जा रहा था।

धनबाद और लातेहार कोर्ट को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी

पुलिस अलर्ट, डॉग स्कॉड ने परिसर में की सघन जांच

कोई सदिग्ध वस्तु बरामद नहीं



धनबाद, एप्रैल 13। झारखंड के धनबाद और लातेहार सिविल कोर्ट को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिलने के बाद गुरुवार को पुलिस प्रशासन पूरी तरह सतर्क है। एहतियात के तौर पर सिविल कोर्ट परिसर में डॉग स्कॉड की टीम के साथ सघन जांच अभियान चलाया गया।

बताते चलें कि धनबाद कोर्ट को दूसरी बार यह धमकी मिली है। इस दौरान कोर्ट परिसर के विभिन्न हिस्सों के साथ-साथ वहां खड़ी गाड़ियों की भी बारीकी से जांच की गई। जांच के दौरान सुरक्षा व्यवस्था कड़ी कर दी गई थी और पूरे परिसर में पुलिस बल तैनात किया गया था। मौके पर डीएसपी डी.एन. बंका और

धनबाद थाना प्रभारी समेत कई पुलिस अधिकारी व जवान मौजूद रहे। डॉग स्कॉड की टीम ने कोर्ट परिसर के मुख्य प्रवेश द्वार, पार्किंग क्षेत्र और आसपास के इलाकों की भी गहनता से जांच की।

कोर्ट परिसर को खाली भी कराया गया था : गौरतलब है कि कुछ दिन पहले ही धनबाद सिविल कोर्ट को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिली थी। इसके बाद पुलिस प्रशासन तुरंत सक्रिय हो गया था और पूरे कोर्ट परिसर में सघन जांच अभियान चलाया गया था। उस समय सुरक्षा के मद्देनजर कुछ देर के लिए पूरे कोर्ट परिसर को खाली भी कराया गया था।

समय-समय पर जांच अभियान चलाए जा रहे : पुलिस अधिकारियों ने बताया कि कोर्ट परिसर को लेकर लगातार निगरानी रखी जा रही है और समय-समय पर जांच अभियान चलाए जा रहे हैं। गुरुवार को की गई जांच के दौरान किसी भी तरह की सदिग्ध वस्तु बरामद नहीं हुई है। फिलहाल स्थिति सामान्य बताई जा रही है, लेकिन एहतियात के तौर पर पुलिस की सतर्कता जारी है।

लातेहार जिला पुलिस प्रशासन अलर्ट : इधर, लातेहार सिविल कोर्ट को बम से उड़ाने की धमकी मिलने के बाद गुरुवार को

न्यायालय परिसर में हड़कंप मच गया। सुबह करीब 10 बजे न्यायालय के सरकारी ई-मेल पर अज्ञात व्यक्ति द्वारा बम से उड़ाने की धमकी दी गई। ई-मेल मिलने के बाद न्यायालय प्रशासन ने तुरंत इसकी सूचना पुलिस अधीक्षक (एसपी) को दी।

सूचना मिलते ही पुलिस प्रशासन सक्रिय हो गया। एसपी के निर्देश पर मुख्यालय डीएसपी संजीव मिश्रा तथा थाना प्रभारी प्रमोद सिन्हा दल-बल के साथ तुरंत सिविल कोर्ट परिसर पहुंचे। इसके बाद सुरक्षा के मद्देनजर कोर्ट परिसर में सघन जांच अभियान चलाया

गया। बम निरोधक दस्ते और डॉग स्कॉड की मदद से न्यायालय परिसर के विभिन्न कक्षों, कार्यालयों और आसपास के क्षेत्रों की बारीकी से तलाशी ली गई।

जांच के दौरान पुलिस ने कोर्ट के सभी कमरों और परिसर के कोने-कोने की जांच की, लेकिन किसी प्रकार की सदिग्ध वस्तु बरामद नहीं हुई। इसके बावजूद पुलिस प्रशासन पूरे मामले को गंभीरता से लेते हुए हर पहलू की जांच में जुटा हुआ है। ई-मेल भेजने वाले की पहचान करने के लिए तकनीकी टीम भी सक्रिय कर दी गई है।

यात्रियों को राहत : धनबाद-पोतनूर अमृत भारत स्पेशल ट्रेन 14 मार्च को चलेगी, रांची व हटिया में भी ठहराव

रांची, एप्रैल 13। यात्रियों की अतिरिक्त भीड़ को देखते हुए रेल मंत्रालय ने धनबाद से पोतनूर के लिए एक तरफा (वन वे) अमृत भारत स्पेशल ट्रेन चलाने का निर्णय लिया है। ट्रेन संख्या 03375 धनबाद-पोतनूर अमृत भारत स्पेशल ट्रेन (वया रांची) का प्रिचालन 14 मार्च को धनबाद से किया जाएगा। निर्धारित समय के अनुसार यह ट्रेन धनबाद से दोपहर 2 बजे प्रस्थान करेगी। इसके बाद बोकारो स्टील सिटी में 3:50 बजे आगमन और 3:55 बजे प्रस्थान, मुरी में 4:40 बजे आगमन और 4:45 बजे प्रस्थान, रांची में शाम 6 बजे आगमन और 6:10 बजे प्रस्थान तथा हटिया में 6:25 बजे आगमन और 6:30 बजे प्रस्थान करेगी। इसके बाद ट्रेन राउरकेला, सम्बलपुर, रायगड़, विजयवाड़ा, काटपाडी और कोयंबटूर होते हुए अगले दिन 11:20 बजे पोतनूर पहुंचेगी।

यात्रियों से भरा टेंपो पलटा, महिला और दो स्कूली बच्चे घायल

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एप्रैल 13। बर्मागाँव थाना क्षेत्र के ईस्ट प्लांट बस्ती के पास गुरुवार की सुबह एक सड़क हादसे में एक महिला और दो स्कूली बच्चे सहित कुल तीन लोग घायल हो गए।

मिली जानकारी के अनुसार साकची से बर्मागाँव की ओर जा रहा यात्रियों से भरा एक टेंपो अचानक अनियंत्रित होकर सड़क किनारे पलट गया। इस दुर्घटना में तीन लोग घायल हो गए।

घटना के बाद मौके पर अफरातफरी का माहौल बन गया और आसपास के लोग तुरंत मदद के लिए जुट गए।

प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों के अनुसार टेंपो चालक नशे की हालत में वाहन चला रहा था और काफी तेज गति में था। ईस्ट प्लांट बस्ती के पास पहुंचते ही चालक वाहन



पर नियंत्रण नहीं रख सका, जिसके कारण टेंपो अचानक पलट गया।

टेंपो पलटते ही उसमें सवार यात्री सड़क पर गिर पड़े, जिससे कई लोगों को चोटें आईं।

घटना के बाद स्थानीय लोगों ने तुरंत घायलों को टेंपो से बाहर निकाला और इसकी सूचना पुलिस को दी। सूचना मिलते ही बर्मागाँव थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और घायलों को इलाज के

लिए नजदीकी अस्पताल भेजवाया। डॉक्टरों के अनुसार घायलों की हालत फिलहाल स्थिर बताई जा रही है।

हादसे में घायल छात्र लक्की ने बताया कि वह ईस्ट प्लांट बस्ती के प्रेम नगर का रहने वाला है और गुरुवार सुबह टेंपो से स्कूल जा रहा था। रास्ते में चालक तेज गति से वाहन चला रहा था और अचानक टेंपो पलट गया, जिससे वह घायल हो गया।

स्थानीय लोगों ने बताया कि उस समय टेंपो में कई यात्री सवार थे, जिनमें स्कूली बच्चे भी शामिल थे। हादसे के बाद कुछ देर के लिए सड़क पर भीड़ लग गई और यातायात प्रभावित हो गया। पुलिस ने मौके पर पहुंचकर स्थिति को नियंत्रित किया और यातायात को सामान्य कराया।

लातेहार में सिकनी गांव के पास दो कारों की टक्कर

87 पैकेट में कुल 92 किलोग्राम गांजा बरामद, चालक फरार



लातेहार, एप्रैल 13। लातेहार जिले के चंदवा थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत सिकनी गांव के पास राष्ट्रीय उच्च पथ-39 पर बुधवार को दो कारों की टक्कर के बाद गांजा तस्करी का खुलासा हुआ। पुलिस ने दुर्घटनास्थल से एक कार से 92 किलोग्राम गांजा बरामद किया है। जन्त गांजा की अनुमानित कीमत करीब 1

लाख 84 हजार रूपए बताई जा रही है। एसपी कुमार गौरव ने बताया कि वाहन के बीच सिकनी गांव के पास आमने-सामने टक्कर हुई थी। टक्कर इतनी भीषण थी कि दोनों कारों का अगला हिस्सा बुरी तरह क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया। हालांकि, हादसे में दोनों वाहनों में सवार लोग सुरक्षित बताए गए हैं।

वाहन में सवार दो लोग मौके से फरार : घटना की सूचना मिलते ही चंदवा थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और वाहनों की जांच शुरू की। तलाशी के दौरान, वाहन से 87 पैकेट में कुल 92 किलोग्राम गांजा बरामद किया गया। पुलिस के अनुसार, दुर्घटना के बाद गांजा ले जा रहे वाहन में सवार दो लोग मौके से फरार हो गए। वहीं, दूसरी कार में सवार एक परिवार घटनास्थल पर मौजूद रह और सभी सदस्य सुरक्षित पाए गए।

पुलिस ने बरामद गांजा जन्त कर लिया है और मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है। एसपी कुमार गौरव ने बताया कि फरार चालक और वाहन मालिक की गिरफ्तारी के लिए लगातार छापेमारी की जा रही है।

पुलिस यह भी पता लगाने का प्रयास कर रही है कि गांजा कहाँ से लाया गया था और इसे कहाँ पहुंचाया जाना था। इस अवैध तस्करी से जुड़े अन्य लोगों की भी पहचान की जा रही है। पुलिस ने मामले में एनडीपीएस एक्ट के तहत प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर आगे की कार्रवाई शुरू कर दी है।

धनबाद में 1450 KG मिलावटी पनीर जब्त

फूड सेफ्टी टीम ने बस से 6 टैन पी भी बरामद, बिहार से लाया जा रहा था मिलावटी पदार्थ

धनबाद, एप्रैल 13। धनबाद में फूड सेफ्टी विभाग ने गुरुवार तड़के मिलावटी खाद्य पदार्थों के खिलाफ बड़ी कार्रवाई की। विभाग ने पूजा टॉकीज इलाके में एक बस से भारी मात्रा में सदिग्ध पनीर और घी जन्त किया। यह कार्रवाई गुप्त सूचना के आधार पर की गई। बिहार के बरिख्यारपुर से आ रही बुंदेला एसी बस से धनबाद में मिलावटी पनीर लाए जाने की सूचना मिली थी। छापेमारी में बस से लगभग 1450 किलोग्राम पनीर और घी के 6 टैन बरामद किए गए। जन्त सामग्री की अनुमानित कीमत करीब 3 लाख रूपए है। इसे शहर के विभिन्न होटलों और बाजारों में आपूर्ति करने की योजना थी।



सभी नमूने फेल हो गए : इस छापेमारी का नेतृत्व फूड सेफ्टी ऑफिसर डॉ. राजा कुमार ने किया। मौके पर ही पनीर की गुणवत्ता जांच के लिए स्टार्च टेस्ट किया गया, जिसमें सभी नमूने फेल हो गए। प्रारंभिक जांच में पनीर के मिलावटी और निम्न गुणवत्ता का होने की पुष्टि हुई है।

कार्रवाई के दौरान बस के चालक और उसके सहयोगी को हिरासत में लेकर पूछताछ की जा

रही है। जन्त खाद्य सामग्री के नमूनों को विस्तृत जांच के लिए स्टेट फूड टेस्टिंग लैबोरेटरी, रांची भेजा गया है।

डीएसपी-2 धीरेंद्र बांका, मनोज पांडे और धनबाद थाना प्रभारी एसआई देव आनंद यादव सहित कई पुलिस अधिकारी मौके पर मौजूद थे। लैब रिपोर्ट आने के बाद संबंधित व्यक्तियों के खिलाफ फूड सेफ्टी एंड स्टैंडर्ड्स एक्ट के तहत कानूनी कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

एसीबी ने 15 हजार रिश्वत लेते दारोगा को किया गिरफ्तार

कोडरमा, एप्रैल 13।

भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ अभियान चलाते हुए भ्रष्टाचार निरोधक ब्यूरो (एसीबी) की टीम ने गुरुवार को कोडरमा जिले के चंदवारा थाना में पदस्थपित सब इंस्पेक्टर पवन कुमार राम को रो रो हाथों गिरफ्तार किया है।

आरोपित दारोगा एक मामले में मदद करने के एवज में 15 हजार रुपये की रिश्वत ले रहा था। जानकारी के अनुसार नकली शराब के एक मामले कई लोग आरोपित बनाए गए थे। इस मामले में उक्त दारोगा बड़ी रकम की मांग कर रहा था।

इसकी शिकायत विधायक जयराम महतो तक पहुंची। उन्होंने स्थानीय प्रेम नायक को मामले को देखने को कहा। चंदवारा निवासी प्रेम चंद्र नायक ने मामले में अभियुक्तों से मुकदमा लड़ने का आविर्भाव किया।

वहीं रिश्वत मांगे जाने की



हजारीबाग एसीबी से शिकायत दर्ज कराई। शिकायतकर्ता का आरोप था कि सब-इंस्पेक्टर पवन कुमार राम उक्त मामले को रफा-दफा करने या उसमें राहत देने के नाम पर एक लाख रुपये की रिश्वत की मांग कर रहे थे। काफी मिन्नतें करने के बाद सौदा तय हुआ।

शिकायत के सत्यापन के बाद एसीबी की टीम ने जाल बिछाया। जिसके तहत पहली किस्त के रूप में 15 हजार रुपये गुरुवार को दिया

जा रहा था। जैसे ही प्रेम चंद्र नायक ने तय रणनीति के तहत चंदवारा थाना परिसर में सब इंस्पेक्टर पवन कुमार राम को रिश्वत के पैसे थमाए, पहले से घात लगाकर बैठी एसीबी की टीम ने उन्हें धर दबोचा। आरोपी के पास से रिश्वत की पूरी राशि बरामद कर ली गई है। गिरफ्तारी के बाद टीम आरोपित दारोगा को अपने साथ हजारीबाग ले गई है, जहां उससे पूछताछ की जा रही है।

दिल्ली के मटियाला गांव में आग से 400 झुगियां जलकर नष्ट

एजेंसी
नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के मटियाला गांव स्थित मखली मार्केट इलाके में देर रात आग लग गयी। देखते ही देखते आग ने आसपास की कम से कम 400 झुगियों को अपनी चपेट में ले लिया। सूचना पर दमकल विभाग की नौ गाड़ियां पहुंचीं और ढाई घंटे की कड़ी मशकत के बाद आग पर काबू पाया। अग्निशमन विभाग के अधिकारी ने गुरुवार को बताया कि करीब 11:54 बजे आग लगने की सूचना मिली। इसके बाद दमकल की गाड़ियां मौके के लिए रवाना की गईं। आग की गंभीरता को देखते हुए बाद में लगातार और गाड़ियां मौके पर भेजी गईं। कुल मिलाकर दमकल की नौ गाड़ियां, आठ वाटर बाउजर, दो बीएफटी, दो मोटर पंप, एक ढाई टेंडर के साथ कई अधिकारी मौके पर पहुंचे। स्थानीय पुलिस आग लगने के कारणों की जांच कर रही है। शुरुआती जांच के बाद आशंका जताई जा रही है झुगियों के पास जमा कूड़े के ढेर में किसी ने सिगरेट या बीड़ी फेंक दी थी, जिससे आग लगी और बढ़कर झुगियों तक फैल गई। अग्निशमन विभाग के अधिकारियों के अनुसार रात करीब 12:30 बजे आग को मीडियम श्रेणी की घोषित किया गया। मौके पर डीसीएफओ एक मलिक, डीओ सदीप दुगल समेत कई अधिकारी मौजूद रहे और राहत एवं बचाव कार्य का नेतृत्व किया। करीब 2:20 बजे आग को चारों तरफ से घेर लिया गया और 2:30 बजे आग पर काबू पा लिया गया। इसके बाद दमकल कर्मियों ने क्लीनिंग ऑपरेशन शुरू किया, जो तड़के तक जारी है।

सड़कों के चौड़ीकरण को लेकर सर्वे और सीमांकन का काम जल्द करें पूरा : कपिल मिश्रा

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्री कपिल मिश्रा ने उत्तर पूर्वी दिल्ली में सड़क चौड़ीकरण एवं भूमि अधिग्रहण से जुड़े मुद्दों और विकास कार्यों को गति देने के लिए दिल्ली सचिवालय में संबोधित अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक की। बैठक में विधानसभा उपाध्यक्ष मोहन सिंह बिष्ट भी उपस्थित रहे। मंत्री ने उत्तर-पूर्वी दिल्ली डीएम, एमसीडी उपायुक्त, राजस्व अधिकारियों सहित अन्य संबोधित अधिकारियों को आवश्यक निर्देश दिए। मिश्रा ने दयालपुर चौक से शिव विहार (तिहाड़ तक) काकविल नगर रोड में पुनः सीमांकन (डिफाइनेशन) करने के निर्देश दिए। उन्होंने यह कार्य अगले 2 से 3 दिनों में पूरा करने के लिए राजस्व अधिकारियों को कहा। मिश्रा ने इस सड़क को चौड़ाई 80 मीटर करने के लिए आवश्यक सर्वे का कार्य भी एक माह के भीतर पूरा करने के निर्देश दिए। जिससे यह तय किया जा सके कि चौड़ीकरण के लिए किन संपत्तियों और खसरा नंबरों का न्यूनतम अधिग्रहण आवश्यक होगा। मिश्रा ने कहा कि उत्तर पूर्वी दिल्ली और यमुनापुर क्षेत्र में यह ऐतिहासिक विकास का दौर है। सभी बुनियादी सुविधाओं के विकास कार्यों को गति दे, ताकि जल्द से जल्द लोगों को उसका लाभ मिले। मंत्री ने काली घटा रोड को प्रस्तावित 60 फीट चौड़ा करने के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण की प्रक्रिया शुरू करने के भी निर्देश दिए।

जीटीबी और संजय गांधी मेमोरियल अस्पताल में नए स्पेशल मेडिकल कोर्स शुरू करेगी सरकार : पंकज कुमार सिंह

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली सरकार राजधानी के बड़े सरकारी अस्पतालों में दो नए स्पेशल मेडिकल कोर्स शुरू करने जा रही है। प्रस्तावित कोर्स में गुरु तेग बहादुर (जीटीबी) अस्पताल में गायनोकोलॉजिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी फेलोशिप और संजय गांधी मेमोरियल अस्पताल में फेमिली मेडिसिन में डीएनबी प्रोग्रामों कोर्स शामिल हैं। यह जानकारी दिल्ली के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डॉ. पंकज कुमार सिंह ने एक विज्ञप्ति के जरिए दी। जीटीबी हॉस्पिटल में गानेकोलॉजिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी फेलोशिप प्रोग्राम को एसोसिएशन ऑफ गानेकोलॉजिकल ऑन्कोलॉजिस्ट्स ऑफ इंडिया (एजीओआई) के तहत एक सीट के साथ शुरू करने का प्रस्ताव है। यह फेलोशिप गानेकोलॉजिकल कैंसर के डायग्नोसिस और ट्रीटमेंट में स्पेशलाइजेशन विकसित करने पर फोकस करेगी, जो टर्शियरी हेल्थकेयर की स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र है। इसके अलावा दिल्ली सरकार का नेशनल बोर्ड ऑफ एजामिनेशन (एनबीई) से एफ़ेडिशन मिलने के बाद संजय गांधी मेमोरियल हॉस्पिटल में एमबीबीएस के बाद चार सीटों के साथ फेमिली मेडिसिन में डीएनबी प्रोग्राम कोर्स शुरू करने का भी प्रस्ताव है। इस प्रोग्राम का उद्देश्य प्रशिक्षित फेमिली मेडिसिन स्पेशलिस्ट की उपलब्धता को और मजबूत करना है, जो प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

विजेंद्र गुप्ता ने दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल तरनजीत सिंह संधू को दी बधाई

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली विधानसभा के अध्यक्ष विजेंद्र गुप्ता ने तरनजीत सिंह संधू को दिल्ली के नए उपराज्यपाल के रूप में शपथ लेने पर अपनी हार्दिक बधाई और शुभकामनाएं दीं। उन्होंने कहा कि नए उपराज्यपाल का विशाल राजनयिक अनुभव और सार्वजनिक सेवा के प्रति उनकी अटूट प्रतिबद्धता निरसंदेह राष्ट्रीय राजधानी के शासन और विकास में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देगी। विधानसभा अध्यक्ष ने इस महत्वपूर्ण जिम्मेदारी में संधू की सफलता के लिए अपनी शुभकामनाएं व्यक्त करते हुए आशा जताई कि उनका कार्यकाल शहर की जनता की सेवा के लिए समर्पित, प्रतिष्ठित और फलदायी होगा। विधानसभा अध्यक्ष ने लोक नित्यस में आयोजित आधिकारिक शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में शामिल होकर उपराज्यपाल को शुभकामनाएं प्रकट कीं।



दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट ने उन्नाव दुष्कर्म पीड़िता की याचिका पर सुनवाई टाली

अगली सुनवाई 28 मार्च को

एजेंसी
नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट ने उन्नाव दुष्कर्म पीड़िता की ओर से दायर उस याचिका पर सुनवाई टाल दी है, जिसमें उसने अपने पिता की हिरासत में हुई मौत के मामले में दोषियों की सजा बढ़ाने की मांग की है। इस याचिका में मुख्य आरोपी और पूर्व विधायक कुलदीप सिंह सेगर समेत अन्य आरोपियों की सजा बढ़ाने की अपील की गई है। मामले की सुनवाई के दौरान अदालत ने संबंधित पक्ष को जवाब दखिल करने के लिए अतिरिक्त समय देने की अनुमति दे दी। कोर्ट ने कहा कि संबंधित पक्षों को अपना जवाब दखिल करने के लिए और समय दिया जाता है। अदालत ने मामले की अगली सुनवाई 28 मार्च के लिए तय कर दी है। उन्नाव रेप पीड़िता ने कोर्ट में याचिका दखिल कर अपने पिता



को देखते हुए दोषियों को कड़ी सजा दी जानी चाहिए। उन्नाव दुष्कर्म मामले में पीड़िता के परिवारवालों ने अब दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट का दरवाजा खटखटाया है। पीड़िता ने अपने पिता की कथित पुलिस हिरासत में मौत के मामले में दोषी करार दिए गए पूर्व विधायक कुलदीप सिंह सेगर की सजा बढ़ाने की मांग की है। निचली

दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट ने रेलवे जमीन-बदले नौकरी मामले में लालू प्रसाद की याचिका पर सीबीआई को जारी किया नोटिस

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नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट ने सीबीआई को नोटिस जारी किया है। यह नोटिस लालू प्रसाद यादव की उस याचिका पर जारी किया गया है, जिसमें उन्होंने रेलवे में जमीन के बदले नौकरी भ्रष्टाचार मामले में उनके खिलाफ चार्ज फ्रेम करने के ट्रायल कोर्ट के आदेश को चुनौती दी है। हाईकोर्ट की सिंगल जज बेंच जस्टिस मनोज जैन ने मामले की सखिष सुनवाई के बाद सीबीआई से जवाब मांगा और याचिका को अगली सुनवाई 17 मार्च के लिए तय की। याचिका में लालू प्रसाद यादव ने ट्रायल कोर्ट के उस आदेश को चुनौती दी, जिसमें उनके खिलाफ और उनके परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों के खिलाफ आरोप तय किए गए थे। उन्होंने दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट से राहत की



मांग की है। इस मामले में जनवरी में स्पेशल जज विशाल गोगने ने लालू प्रसाद यादव और उनके परिवार के कई बेटियों मौसा भारती और हेमा यादव भी शामिल हैं। अदालत ने अपने आदेश में कहा कि लालू यादव और उनके

2004 से 2009 तक के समय से जुड़े हैं, जब लालू प्रसाद यादव रेल मंत्री थे। सीबीआई के अनुसार, लालू यादव के परिवार के नाम और उससे जुड़े एक कंपनी के नाम पर जमीनें खरीदी गईं, जो अक्सर बाजार मूल्य से कम कीमत पर खरीदी गईं। इनका भुगतान नकद किया गया और फिर बदले में रेलवे में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में नौकरियां दी गईं। हालांकि, लालू प्रसाद यादव और उनके परिवार ने भ्रष्टाचार, धोखाधड़ी और आपराधिक साजिश के आरोपों को अस्वीकार किया और मामले को मेरिट्स पर रखने का विकल्प चुना।

स्पीकर के खिलाफ अविश्वास प्रस्ताव लाना सदन के लिए अफसोसजनक घटना- अमित शाह

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नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने लोकसभा में स्पीकर ओम बिरला के खिलाफ अविश्वास प्रस्ताव पर चर्चा के दौरान सदन को संबोधित किया। उन्होंने कहा कि यह कोई सामान्य घटना नहीं है। करीब चार दशक के बाद एक बार फिर से लोकसभा अध्यक्ष के सामने अविश्वास प्रस्ताव आया है। संसदीय राजनीति और सदन दोनों के लिए यह अफसोसजनक घटना है, क्योंकि जो स्पीकर होते हैं, वो किसी दल के नहीं, बल्कि सदन के होते हैं।

नेता ने एकसाथ उनको आसन पर बैटयन का काम किया। इसका मतलब है कि स्पीकर को अपने दायित्वों के निर्वहन के लिए पक्ष और विपक्ष दोनों को एक प्रकार से मुक्त माहौल भी देना



को स्वीकार करती है। जब इस पंचायत के मुखिया और उसकी निष्ठा पर सवालिया निशान लगता है तो देश में नहीं, पूरी दुनिया में हमारी लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया पर सवालिया निशान लगता है, इसलिए आमतौर पर कभी स्पीकर के सामने अविश्वास प्रस्ताव नहीं आता है।

दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट के लॉयर्स कैटिन में एलपीजी गैस खत्म, नहीं बन सका लंच

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नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट की लॉयर्स कैटिन में फिलहाल मुख्य भोजन नहीं पकाया जा पा रहा है क्योंकि एलपीजी गैस सिलेंडर खत्म हो गया है। प्रबंधन ने सभी से सहयोग की अपील करते हुए कहा है कि जैसे ही गैस मिलेगी, पूरा भोजन फिर से शुरू कर दिया जाएगा। कैटिन प्रबंधन की ओर से दी गई जानकारी के मुताबिक गैस की उपलब्धता अभी नहीं है, इसलिए भोजन तैयार नहीं किया जा सकता। गैस सप्लाई कब तक बहाल होगी, इसकी अभी कोई निश्चित जानकारी नहीं है लेकिन जैसे ही सिलेंडर मिलते हैं, भोजन फिर से परोसना शुरू कर दिया जाएगा। इस दौरान प्रबंधन ने सभी से सहयोग की अपील की है। इस बीच, वकीलों और कर्मचारियों के लिए सैंडविच, सलाद, फ्रूट चाट और अन्य स्नैक्स उपलब्ध रहेंगे और इन्हें नियमित रूप से परोसा जाएगा। कैटिन प्रबंधन ने इस असुविधा के

लिए खेद जताते हुए सभी से सहयोग की अपील की है। उनका कहना है कि यह अस्थायी समस्या है और पूरी



कोशिश की जा रही है कि मुख्य भोजन जल्द उपलब्ध कराया जाए। कैटिन की यह सूचना लॉयर्स कैटिन, दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट की ओर से आधिकारिक रूप से जारी की गई है। इसमें वकीलों और कोर्ट कर्मचारियों से विनम्र अनुरोध किया गया है कि इस दौरान हल्के नाश्ते का ही भोजन करें और सप्लाई का समझें। प्रबंधन ने भरोसा दिलाया है कि जैसे ही गैस सिलेंडर की सप्लाई बहाल होगी, भोजन बनाने का काम शुरू कर दिया जाएगा। इस पूरे समय के

तरनजीत सिंह संधू के नेतृत्व में दिल्ली सरकार काम करेगी - सीएम रेखा गुप्ता

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नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के नए उपराज्यपाल के तौर पर तरनजीत सिंह संधू ने पदभार ग्रहण किया। इस दौरान दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने कहा कि भाजपा सरकार उपराज्यपाल के नेतृत्व में काम करेगी। सीएम रेखा गुप्ता ने कहा कि मैं दिल्ली के विकास को तेज करने में मदद करने के लिए आपका दिल्ली में स्वागत करती हूँ। हमें पूरा भरोसा है कि आपकी मौजूदगी से दिल्ली की तरक्की और तेज होगी, शहर की समस्याओं का बेहतर समाधान मिलेगा और दिल्ली सरकार आपके मार्गदर्शन और दिशा में काम करेगी। हम आपका आशीर्वाद चाहते हैं। सीएम रेखा गुप्ता ने एक्स पोस्ट में लिखा कि दिल्ली के नवनियुक्त उपराज्यपाल तरनजीत सिंह संधू को

पदभार ग्रहण करने पर हार्दिक बधाई। उनके शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में



सम्मिलित हुई। दिल्ली हम सबकी साझा विरासत है। इसकी प्रगति और समावेशी समृद्धि के लिए हम सभी मिलकर कार्य करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आपके व्यापक और दीर्घ प्रशासनिक अनुभव से दिल्ली में चल रहे विकास कार्यों को नई गति और ऊंचाइयां प्राप्त होंगी। आपके सफल और यशस्वी कार्यकाल के लिए

उपराज्यपाल के रूप में तरनजीत सिंह संधू ने पदभार ग्रहण किया। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि उनके अनुभव, दूरदृष्टि और कुशल मार्गदर्शन में दिल्ली के विकास और सुशासन को नई दिशा और गति मिलेगी। मैं पुन उन्हें उनके आगामी कार्यकाल के लिए बहुत-बहुत बधाईयाँ देता हूँ। मंत्री प्रवेश वर्मा ने एक्स पोस्ट में लिखा कि दिल्ली के नवनियुक्त उपराज्यपाल तरनजीत सिंह संधू को पदभार ग्रहण करने पर हार्दिक बधाई। मुझे विश्वास है कि आपके समृद्ध प्रशासनिक अनुभव और दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व में दिल्ली के विकास कार्यों को नई गति मिलेगी तथा राजधानी प्रगति नए आयाम स्थापित करेगी। आपके सफल एवं जनसेवा में परिपूर्ण कार्यकाल के लिए हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।

दिल्ली पुलिस की क्राइम ब्रांच ने छेनु गेंग के दो बदमाशों को किया गिरफ्तार

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नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली पुलिस की क्राइम ब्रांच की टीम ने बड़ी कारवांइ करते हुए कुख्यात छेनु गेंग के दो बदमाशों को गिरफ्तार किया है। पकड़े गए आरोपियों की पहचान राशिद उर्फ सोनू और फहीम उर्फ डैनी के रूप में हुई है। पुलिस ने इनके कब्जे से दो अवैध पिस्टल, पांच कारतूस और एक कार बरामद की है। दिल्ली पुलिस के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि पुलिस को गुप्त सूचना मिली थी कि छेनु गेंग से जुड़े कुछ बदमाश रघुबीर गगर स्थित गुरु गोबिंद सिंह अस्पताल के पास किसी बड़ी वादात को अंजाम देने की फिराक में घूम रहे हैं। सूचना मिलते ही क्राइम ब्रांच की डब्ल्यूआर-1 टीम ने तुरंत कारवांइ करते हुए इलाके में घेराबंदी कर निगरानी शुरू कर दी। पुलिस टीम ने कुछ देर बाद एक रंग की टाटा पंच कार को संदिग्ध हालात में देखा। टीम ने जब कार को रोकने

का इशारा किया तो उसमें सवार दोनों आरोपियों ने मौके से भागने की कोशिश की, जिसके बाद पुलिस ने कुछ दूरी तक पीछ किया और दोनों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। इसके बाद पुलिस ने कार की तलाशी ली, जिसमें एक पिस्टल में चार कारतूस और दोसी कट्रे में एक कारतूस बरामद हुआ। इसके अलावा जिस कार में दोनों आरोपी सवार थे, उसे भी पुलिस ने जब्त कर लिया है। पुलिस जांच में सामने आया है कि राशिद उर्फ सोनू एक शांति अपराधी है और उसके खिलाफ विभिन्न थानों में 21 से अधिक मामले दर्ज हैं। इनमें लूट, चोरी और अन्य गंभीर अपराध शामिल हैं। इतना ही नहीं, वह राजस्थान के जयपुर स्थित विधायकपुरी थाने में दर्ज 70 लाख रुपए की ज्वेलरी चोरी के मामले में भी लंबे समय से फरार चल रहा था, जिसके बाद पुलिस उसकी तलाश कर रही थी।

राज्यसभा में कहा, राष्ट्रपति के प्रोटोकॉल का उल्लंघन केवल चूक नहीं संवैधानिक अपराध है

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नई दिल्ली। पश्चिम बंगाल में राष्ट्रपति के आगमन पर राज्य सरकार द्वारा किए गए व्यवहार का विषय राज्यसभा में उठाया गया। यहां स्पष्ट तौर पर कहा गया कि पश्चिम बंगाल की इस घुलतखी को माफ नहीं किया जा सकता। भाजपा सांसद ने इस मामले पर कहा कि राष्ट्रपति पद किसी व्यक्ति का नहीं बल्कि सभी 140 करोड़ भारतीयों के गौरव का प्रतीक है। गौरतलब है कि राष्ट्रपति की पश्चिम बंगाल यात्रा के दौरान राज्य के लिए लंबी कतारों में खड़ा नहीं होना पड़ेगा। सीएम जनसुनवाई पोर्टल के माध्यम से लोग ऑनलाइन शिकायत दर्ज कर सकते हैं और उसकी प्रगति को रियल-टाइम में देख सकते हैं। मुख्यमंत्री ने बताया कि राजधानी में 75 से अधिक सेवाएं अब सामान्य सेवा केंद्रों (सीएससी) के माध्यम से उपलब्ध हैं, ताकि नागरिकों को अपने काम के लिए दफ्तरों के चक्कर न लगाने पड़ें और उन्हें अपने ही क्षेत्र में समाधान मिल सकें।

जनता की समस्याओं का समाधान करना ही सुशासन का मूल आधार : रेखा गुप्ता

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने मुख्यमंत्री जनसेवा सदन में आयोजित जनसुनवाई में दिल्ली के लोगों से सीधे संवाद करते हुए उनकी समस्याओं के जल्द समाधान करने के अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिए। मुख्यमंत्री ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर पोस्ट में कहा कि जनता की बात सुनना और समाधान देना सुशासन का मूल आधार है। यही दिल्ली की नई कार्यसंस्कृति है। अब नागरिकों को अपनी समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए लंबी कतारों में खड़ा नहीं होना पड़ेगा। सीएम जनसुनवाई पोर्टल के माध्यम से लोग ऑनलाइन शिकायत दर्ज कर सकते हैं और उसकी प्रगति को रियल-टाइम में देख सकते हैं। मुख्यमंत्री ने बताया कि राजधानी में 75 से अधिक सेवाएं अब सामान्य सेवा केंद्रों (सीएससी) के माध्यम से उपलब्ध हैं, ताकि नागरिकों को अपने काम के लिए दफ्तरों के चक्कर न लगाने पड़ें और उन्हें अपने ही क्षेत्र में समाधान मिल सकें।

एजेंसी
नई दिल्ली। पश्चिम बंगाल में राष्ट्रपति के आगमन पर राज्य सरकार द्वारा किए गए व्यवहार का विषय राज्यसभा में उठाया गया। यहां स्पष्ट तौर पर कहा गया कि पश्चिम बंगाल की इस घुलतखी को माफ नहीं किया जा सकता। भाजपा सांसद ने इस मामले पर कहा कि राष्ट्रपति पद किसी व्यक्ति का नहीं बल्कि सभी 140 करोड़ भारतीयों के गौरव का प्रतीक है। गौरतलब है कि राष्ट्रपति की पश्चिम बंगाल यात्रा के दौरान राज्य के लिए लंबी कतारों में खड़ा नहीं होना पड़ेगा। सीएम जनसुनवाई पोर्टल के माध्यम से लोग ऑनलाइन शिकायत दर्ज कर सकते हैं और उसकी प्रगति को रियल-टाइम में देख सकते हैं। मुख्यमंत्री ने बताया कि राजधानी में 75 से अधिक सेवाएं अब सामान्य सेवा केंद्रों (सीएससी) के माध्यम से उपलब्ध हैं, ताकि नागरिकों को अपने काम के लिए दफ्तरों के चक्कर न लगाने पड़ें और उन्हें अपने ही क्षेत्र में समाधान मिल सकें।



आगमन के दौरान जो प्रोटोकॉल का उल्लंघन हुआ है, वह केवल एक चूक नहीं बल्कि एक संवैधानिक अपराध है। उन्हेोंने कहा कि जब एक राज्य सरकार जानबूझकर देश के सर्वोच्च पद की अवहेलना करती है, तो वह भूल जाती है कि वह संविधान की शपथ लेकर सत्ता में बैठी है। संविधान के अनुच्छेद 52 से 62 तक राष्ट्रपदों की व्याख्या की गई है। उन्हेोंने कहा कि ये राष्ट्रपद भारतीय

गणराज्य के प्रतीक है। इन पदों का सम्मान करना सभी का कर्तव्य है। भारतीय जनता पार्टी के सांसद ने कहा कि पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार का यह आचरण अनुच्छेद 256 और 257 का भी उल्लंघन है। अनुच्छेद 256 और 257 यह कहते हैं कि राज्य सरकार केन्द्र के निर्देशों और संवैधानिक समकों के प्रोटोकॉल के पालन के लिए बाध्य है। उन्हेोंने कहा कि यदि कोई राज्य सरकार जानबूझकर राष्ट्रपति या संवैधानिक प्रमुख के प्रोटोकॉल का उल्लंघन करती है, तो उसे संवैधानिक तंत्र की विफलता मानकर अनुच्छेद 356 के तहत कारवांइ की प्रक्रिया शुरू की जानी चाहिए। गौरतलब है कि अनुच्छेद 356 के तहत कारवांइ तब की जाती है जब राज्य सरकार संविधान के प्रावधानों के अनुरूप काम करने में असमर्थ हो या राज्य संवैधानिक तंत्र विफल हो जाए। अनुच्छेद 356 के तहत राज्य सरकार को बर्खास्त किया जा सकता है। आबुमहमद निषाद ने

राष्ट्रपति के पश्चिम बंगाल दौर के दौरान राज्य सरकार के बर्ताव पर कहा कि ऐसी घटनाओं पर संबंधित राज्य के विवेकाधीन अधिकार में कटौती का प्रभाव मिलेगा। यही नहीं प्रोटोकॉल के लिए जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों और मंत्रियों पर दंडनीय कारवांइ व आपराधिक मुकदमा चलाना चाहिए। उन्हेोंने कहा कि अगर आज बंगाल की इस घुलतखी को माफ किया गया तो कल अन्य राज्यों की भी सरकारें इसी राह पर चलेंगी। हमें यह सुनिश्चित करना होगा कि संविधान सर्वोपरि है। राष्ट्रपति पद किसी व्यक्ति का नहीं बल्कि 140 करोड़ भारतीयों के गौरव का प्रतीक है। गौरतलब है कि राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू के पश्चिम बंगाल में अपमान का मामला लगातार गरमा रहा है। इस मामले को लेकर केंद्रीय गृह सचिव पहले ही पश्चिम बंगाल के मुख्य सचिव से जवाब मांग चुके हैं। बंगाल के मुख्य सचिव से पूछा गया था कि आखिर नियमों का पालन क्यों नहीं किया गया।

सीबीआई ने हजारों करोड़ के क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी घोटाले के मुख्य आरोपी को किया गिरफ्तार

एजेंसी
नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय जांच ब्यूरो (सीबीआई) ने डार्विन लैम्ब प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के सह-संस्थापक और सीटीओ आयुष वाष्णैय को गेनबिटकॉइन क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी धोखाधड़ी मामले में गिरफ्तार किया

है। इसके साथ ही सीबीआई इस मामले की जांच कर रही है। यह मामला वेरिएबलटोक प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा शुरू की गई कथित गेनबिटकॉइन धोखाधड़ी से संबंधित है, जिसमें निवेशकों को मोटा मुनाफा का वादा करके

धोखाधड़ी वाली क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी योजना में निवेश करने के लिए प्रेरित किया गया था। निवेशकों से लिए गए पैसे का बाद में दुरुपयोग किया गया। इस मामले की जांच भारतीय दंड संहिता की धारा 120बी, 406, 420 और सूचना

प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम 2000 की धारा 66 के तहत की जा रही है। 13 दिसंबर को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गेनबिटकॉइन धोखाधड़ी से संबंधित इसी तरह के आरोपों के बारे में दर्ज एफआईआर की जांच सीबीआई को एक सामान्य जांच

एजेंसी के रूप में करने का निर्देश दिया था। जांच के दौरान एमसीपीपी नामक क्रिप्टो टोकन और संबंधित ईआरसी-20 स्मार्ट कॉन्ट्रैक्ट के डिजाइन, विकास और तैनाती में डार्विन लैम्ब प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और इसके सह-संस्थापकों जिनमें

आरोपी आयुष वाष्णैय, साहिल बागला और निक्कुज जैन शामिल हैं, की भूमिका सामने आई। डार्विन लैम्ब प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ने धोखाधड़ी वाली योजना के संपूर्ण तकनीकी ढांचे को विकसित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। इसमें

बिटकॉइन माइनिंग पूल प्लेटफॉर्म, बिटकॉइन पेमेंट गेटवे, कॉइन बैंक बिटकॉइन वॉलेट और गेन बिटकॉइन निवेशक वेबसाइट शामिल हैं। आरोपी के फरार होने के कारण लुकआउट स्कंदुर जारी किया गया

था। 9 मार्च को भारत छोड़ने का प्रयास करते समय मुंबई में इमिग्रेशन अधिकारियों ने आयुष वाष्णैय को रोक लिया और बाद में सीबीआई को सौंप दिया। इसके बाद कानूनी प्रक्रिया के तहत सीबीआई ने आयुष को गिरफ्तार कर लिया।

EAM Jaishankar, Iran minister touch base for 3rd time since war, discuss Strait of Hormuz



New Delhi, Agency: Foreign minister S Jaishankar discussed the situation in the Strait of Hormuz with his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi in a phone conversation on Tuesday evening. While Jaishankar stressed the need for safe merchant shipping, an Iranian readout said that they discussed the "consequences of the US and Israeli regime's military aggression on the security of shipping and vessel traffic through the Strait of Hormuz".

Jaishankar had earlier said that he had had a "detailed" discussion on developments in the ongoing conflict. "Referring to Iran's principled approach to safeguarding shipping security in the Persian Gulf, Iran's foreign minister reminded that the insecure situation and problems arising for shipping in the Persian Gulf are a result of the aggressive and destabilising actions of the United States, and the international community must hold the US accountable for this situation," said Iran's readout of what was the third conversation between the foreign ministers since the war started on Feb 28.

"The Indian foreign minister, while emphasising the importance of continuing and enhancing bilateral relations between Tehran and New Delhi, stressed the necessity of ongoing consultations to help restore stability in the region," it added.

According to Iran, Araghchi described the "aggressive acts by US and Israeli regime" as a violation of the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and international law, noting that all governments have a responsibility to condemn this military aggression and blatant disregard for international law. On Tuesday, Iran also officially honoured the sailors of frigate Dena that was torpedoed and sunk by a US submarine on March 4. The Iranian foreign ministry again underlined in a statement that Dena had been officially invited by Indian Navy to participate in a joint naval exercise and a port visit.

Karnataka govt sets up committee on Responsible AI



Bengaluru, Agency: The Karnataka government on Thursday announced the setting up of a 'Committee on Responsible Artificial Intelligence' (RAI) as the state accelerates efforts to become the "AI capital of the future", leveraging its talent pool of nearly one lakh AI professionals and a growing base of AI companies in Bengaluru.

With this, Karnataka becomes the first Indian state to formally initiate discussions on responsible deployment of artificial intelligence amid the rapid growth of the tech ecosystem.

Responsible AI (RAI) refers to the practice of designing, developing and deploying AI systems in ways that prioritise fairness, transparency, privacy and safety.

State IT minister Priyank Kharge emphasised the need RAI: "AI is moving quickly from research labs into everyday governance, industry and public services. As AI adoption accelerates, it becomes equally important to ensure that its use remains responsible, transparent and accountable."

The committee will bring together experts from government, industry and academia to examine emerging AI use cases, identify high-risk and prohibited applications, and recommend safeguards related to data governance, privacy and citizen protections. "It will also propose governance mechanisms covering transparency and accountability standards, audit frameworks, procurement guidelines and institutional capacity building. We are confident that the committee's work will lay the foundation for a comprehensive policy framework and implementation roadmap for Karnataka's AI journey," Kharge added. The move comes as Bengaluru continues to strengthen its position as a global AI hub. The city hosts nearly 50% of India's AI talent that drives deep-tech innovation. Global AI firms such as Anthropic also have a presence in the city.

MEA condemns attack on India-bound Thai ship says innocent lives lost in conflict 'unacceptable':

New Delhi, Agency: India has deplored the attack on the Thai-flagged cargo ship, Mayuree Naree, in the Strait of Hormuz, while confirming the ship was bound for Kandla port, Gujarat. It condemned the commercial ship being made a target amid the ongoing conflict.

The ministry of external affairs, in a statement, said that targeting the Thai cargo ship and endangering the lives of innocent civilians should be avoided. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal shared the stance on X with the caption, "Statement regarding ship bound for Kandla, India."

It said, "We have seen reports about the attack on a



Thai ship, Mayuree Naree, in the Straits of Hormuz on 11 March. The ship was bound for Kandla in India. India deplores the fact that commercial shipping is being made a target of military attacks in the ongoing conflict in West Asia. It also denounced the innocent lives lost in the recent

attacks, which included two Indians, while one went missing, and criticised the increasing intensity of the attacks.

"Precious lives, including those of Indian citizens, have already been lost in multiple such attacks in the earlier phase of this conflict, and the intensity and lethality of the attacks only seem to be increasing," it said.

It further urged the exclusion of commercial ships from the attacks.

"India reiterates that targeting commercial shipping and endangering innocent civilian crew members, or otherwise impeding freedom of navigation and commerce, should be avoided," the statement read. A Thailand-flagged

commercial ship was attacked in the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday, which was headed to India. Iran's Revolutionary Guards later claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Thai transport ministry, in a statement, said that three of the 23 crew members on board were missing.

The attack occurred near Omani waters. The crew, who abandoned the vessel in a lifeboat following the strike, were later rescued by the Omani Navy. Admiral Thadawat Thatpitakul of the Royal Thai Navy said that after receiving information about the incident, Thai naval personnel stationed in Bahrain coordinated with the Omani Navy for the rescue operation.

CBI raids 15 locations in online fraud linked to overseas fintech platform

New Delhi, Agency: The CBI has conducted searches at 15 locations across multiple states in connection with a large-scale online financial fraud involving overseas fintech platform 'Pyyp', officials said Thursday.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is now seeking custody of the alleged kingpin of the gang, Ashok Kumar Sharma, a chartered accountant, who was recently arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The case was referred to the CBI by the Union home ministry's anti-cyber crime wing - I4C. Following this, the agency registered a case and carried out searches on Wednesday in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab, they said. According to investigators, Sharma was allegedly running a large-scale organised scam involving fraudulent investment schemes, cyber fraud, and illicit cryptocurrency



transactions, and part-time job fraud involving offshore withdrawals and overseas fintech platforms from his office in Bijwasan on the Delhi-Gurugram border, which came to be known as the "Bijwasan Group". The gang allegedly defrauded victims of Rs 900 crore last year alone. The proceeds were routed and laundered through a network of 15 shell companies identified so far, the agency said. The CBI conducted coordinated searches at 15 locations across Delhi,

Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab in connection with a case related to large-scale organised online investment and part-time job fraud involving offshore withdrawals and overseas fintech platforms, predominantly the Dubai-based 'Pyyp', an agency spokesperson said in a statement. "It was alleged that thousands of unsuspecting Indian citizens were cheated of crores of rupees through deceptive online schemes operated by an organised transnational fraud syndicate," she said.

Smoke from Bapgaon fire pushes AQI to 347 hazardous level in Kalyan West

Kalyan, Agency: A thick layer of smoke engulfed several parts of Kalyan West on Wednesday morning, leading to a sudden spike in air pollution and creating concern among residents.

According to preliminary information, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in the area briefly surged to a hazardous level of 347, making the air quality extremely poor for a few hours. Residents in several parts of Kalyan West reported difficulty in breathing as the atmosphere appeared hazy and filled with smoke since early morning.

Civic officials said the smoke was likely caused by a fire that broke out early Tuesday morning in the Bapgaon area in Bhiwandi beyond the Gandhari bridge.



Due to the direction of the wind, large volumes of smoke drifted towards the Kalyan West region.

Several localities including Gandhari, Ring Road, Godrej Hill, Khadakpada, Adharwadi and Lal Chowki witnessed dense smoke in the air during the morning hours, prompting concern among residents over the sudden rise in pollution levels.

Officials from the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) clarified that the spike in pollution was temporary.

Gunmen abduct 20 Naga people from three vehicles in Manipur

Guwahati, Agency: Suspected militants waylaid at least three vehicles passing by two tribal villages along Manipur's Ukhrul-Imphal Road Wednesday and abducted 20 Naga men, women and children at gunpoint, potentially igniting a fresh ethnic firestorm in a state already scarred by the Meitei-Kuki conflict.

Ukhrul-headquartered organisation Tangkhul Naga Long alleged mass abduction was handiwork of Kuki militants, calling it a "pre-planned act of violence targeting the Nagas" and demanding state and central govt rescue them "within two hours or face the consequences".

Manipur CM: Release all civilians unconditionally: Manipur's new CM Yumnam Khemchand Singh, who took up office on Feb 4, put out an appeal



as the security establishment scurried to make sense of the abductions from near Mongkot Chephu and Shangka, both Kuki villages.

"Deeply concerned by reports of civilians being held captive along the Ukhrul-Imphal road. I strongly urge those responsible to immediately release all civilians safely and unconditionally," Khemchand said in a statement released on social media.

US can't put conditions on India to buy Russian oil as it affects our sovereignty: Ex-NSA Narayanan;

New Delhi, Agency: Former National Security Adviser and Intelligence Bureau chief M K Narayanan said on Wednesday "our country has every right to buy oil from wherever it is available" and that no country should impose condition on India, and that Pakistan won't "dare go for another conflict with India" in the immediate future especially after Operation Sindoor.

In an interview to Media on the sidelines of Synergia Conclave in Delhi, Narayanan, when asked about another conflict with Pakistan, said, "Pakistan has enough problems to handle - with Afghanistan and Balochistan - to dare go for another conflict with India." He further said, "I don't think another war with



Pakistan is imminent."

On US putting conditions on India over Russian oil imports, Narayanan, who served as IB chief for two terms between 2005 and 2014, said, "We have always borrowed the policy of dynamic neutrality. We have not sided with one country. Russia has been giving us crude oil and we have been accepting it. We will normally buy oil from wherever it is

available based on its prices. The US wants us to reduce the quota and quantity of oil that we buy from Russia. Numerically, we need to make some changes. That is fine. But when it becomes a condition that is applied to you, then it affects our sovereignty. We have to balance things (as per our interest)."

Slamming the US pressure on India over Russian oil imports, he said, "We don't want to create problems for ourselves and we don't want to create problems with other countries. There is a limit beyond which a country can compel us to do the following. The (Indian) govt knows it as the foreign minister has said recently. There are issues coming up and they have to deal with it."

'Non-Sanatans' barred from Badrinath and Kedarnath temples

Dehradun, Agency: The Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) has approved a proposal to bar "non-Sanatans" - people who do not follow Sanatan Dharma - from entering 47 temples under its jurisdiction in Uttarakhand, including Badrinath and Kedarnath.

The decision was taken at the temple committee's budget meeting at its Dehradun office, chaired by BKTC chairman Hemant Dwivedi.

The chairman had indicated in January that the committee was considering restrictions on the entry of non-Hindus at the Char Dham shrines.

He said, "The decision was taken to ensure that only those who believe and have faith in Sanatan Dharma visit the Char Dham shrines and other temples."

He added that the restriction would apply to the innermost sanctum and the immediate temple premises.

Dwivedi defended the move, saying it was aimed at preserving the sanctity



of temples in Uttarakhand.

Temple committee approves Rs 121 crore for Char Dham yatra:

During the same meeting, the committee approved the estimated budget for the next financial year, keeping in view

preparations for the upcoming Char Dham yatra. Of the total allocation of Rs 121 crore for 2026-27, Rs 57.5 crore was earmarked for Badrinath Dham and Rs 63.6 crore for Kedarnath Dham.

In another decision, the board approved the creation of a Teerth Purohit Welfare Fund aimed at improving the social and economic security of temple priests associated with the pilgrimage. Dwivedi said the fund would support welfare measures for teerth purohits, including financial assistance and other benefits.

The portals of Kedarnath temple are scheduled to open on April 22, while Badrinath temple will open on April 23 for the 2026 pilgrimage season. The portals of Gangotri and Yamunotri shrines are set to open on April 19 on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya. Committee officials said preparations for the pilgrimage season were being intensified in view of the growing number of devotees visiting the Himalayan shrines every year.

The Researchers'

The Magic of Summer Travel: Why This Season Inspires Wanderlust



Summer has always been synonymous with travel. As the days grow longer and the sun shines brighter, the desire to escape routine and explore new places becomes irresistible. For many people around the world, summer travel is not just a vacation—it is a tradition, an opportunity to reconnect with nature, family, and oneself.

One of the main reasons summer travel is so popular is the weather. In many regions, summer provides ideal conditions for outdoor exploration. Beaches sparkle under the sunlight, mountains become accessible after winter snow melts, and national parks open their trails to visitors. Travelers find themselves drawn to destinations where they can hike, swim, camp, and explore the beauty of nature.

Another reason summer travel is special is the freedom it offers. Schools are closed for vacation, workplaces often allow time off, and families can plan extended trips together.

For children, summer holidays often mean road trips, camping adventures, and visits to relatives in distant towns. These experiences create memories that last a lifetime.

Summer travel also encourages people to reconnect with nature. After spending months indoors during colder seasons, travelers are eager to breathe fresh air and experience the outdoors. From trekking in the mountains to kayaking in rivers or relaxing beside lakes, summer provides endless opportunities for adventure.

Traveling during summer also has cultural benefits. Many destinations host festivals, fairs, and cultural events during this season. Travelers can enjoy local traditions, food festivals, music concerts, and art exhibitions. These events provide insight into local culture and traditions while creating vibrant travel experiences.

However, summer travel requires careful planning. Popular destinations often become crowded, and accom-

modation prices can rise significantly. Booking hotels and transport in advance can help travelers avoid last-minute stress and high costs. Choosing less crowded destinations can also make the experience more enjoyable.

Sustainable travel is another important aspect to consider. With increasing tourism during summer, many natural destinations face environmental challenges.

Responsible travelers can help by minimizing waste, respecting wildlife, and supporting local businesses rather than large chains.

Technology has also transformed summer travel in recent years. Travel apps help tourists find accommodations, discover hidden destinations, and navigate unfamiliar cities. Social media platforms inspire travel dreams by showcasing beautiful locations and travel experiences.

Summer travel also provides opportunities for personal growth. Exploring new cultures, tasting unfamiliar foods, and meeting people from different backgrounds broaden perspectives. Travelers often return home with a deeper appreciation for diversity and a renewed sense of curiosity.

For many people, summer travel is not about luxury but about experiences. Whether it is watching a sunset on a beach, walking through a quiet mountain trail, or enjoying street food in a lively market, these moments create lasting memories.

In the end, summer travel represents more than just a seasonal trend. It reflects humanity's natural desire to explore the world.

As long as the sun shines bright and the roads stretch toward new horizons, summer will continue to inspire people to pack their bags and set out on unforgettable journeys.

Road Trips in Summer: The Joy of Exploring the Open Road

Few travel experiences capture the spirit of adventure quite like a summer road trip. The open road, endless landscapes, and freedom to stop wherever curiosity leads create a unique form of travel that many people cherish.

Road trips have long been associated with summer vacations. Families, friends, and solo travelers often choose road travel because it offers flexibility and spontaneity. Unlike flights or trains, road trips allow travelers to explore hidden destinations and scenic routes.

One of the greatest joys of road travel is discovering unexpected places. Small towns, roadside cafes, scenic viewpoints, and local markets often become memorable highlights of the journey. These discoveries create experiences that cannot be planned in advance.

Summer is particularly suitable for road trips



because of longer daylight hours. Travelers have more time to drive, explore attractions, and enjoy scenic landscapes. From coastal highways to mountain roads and countryside routes, summer reveals the beauty of nature along the

way. Planning a road trip requires preparation. Travelers should ensure their vehicles are in good condition, including checking tires, brakes, and fuel levels. Carrying emergency supplies, maps, and first-aid kits is also important for safety.

Choosing the right route can greatly enhance the road trip experience. Scenic routes with natural attractions, national parks, and cultural sites provide opportunities for exploration. Travelers often plan their journeys around famous highways or scenic drives.

Food plays an important role in road trips. Stopping at roadside eateries, trying local cuisine, and enjoying picnics along the journey add to the experience. Local dishes often reflect regional culture and traditions.

Road trips also strengthen relationships. Spending long hours together in a car encour-

ages conversations, laughter, and shared experiences. Families often create cherished memories through songs, games, and storytelling during the journey.

Photography enthusiasts find road trips especially rewarding. Changing landscapes provide countless opportunities for capturing stunning images. Sunsets over open highways, mountain vistas, and countryside scenery make road travel visually inspiring.

While road trips are exciting, travelers should also practice responsible driving. Following traffic rules, avoiding fatigue, and respecting local communities ensure safe and enjoyable journeys. In the end, summer road trips are about freedom. They allow travelers to move at their own pace, explore unfamiliar places, and create unforgettable memories along the way. The journey itself becomes as meaningful as the destination.



Beating the Heat: Best Summer Destinations to Stay Cool

Summer brings sunshine and warmth, but in many regions it also brings intense heat. As temperatures rise, travelers look for destinations where they can escape the scorching sun and enjoy a refreshing climate. Fortunately, the world offers many cool and comfortable destinations perfect for summer travel.

Hill stations are among the most popular summer retreats. Located at higher altitudes, these destinations offer pleasant temperatures and stunning views. Travelers can enjoy fresh mountain air, lush forests, and peaceful landscapes. Activities such as trekking, nature walks, and boating make hill stations ideal for relaxation and adventure.

Mountain destinations provide another excellent escape from summer heat. Snow-capped peaks, alpine meadows, and crystal-clear lakes create breathtaking scenery. Travelers often visit these regions for hiking, camping, and photography. The cooler temperatures allow people to explore nature without the discomfort of extreme heat.

Coastal destinations also attract summer travelers. While beaches can be warm, sea breezes provide natural cooling. Early morning and evening walks along the shore offer refreshing experiences. Many coastal towns host summer festivals, seafood fairs, and water sports events that attract tourists.

Another popular option is visiting national parks and wildlife reserves. These destinations offer opportunities to explore forests, observe wildlife, and enjoy natural beauty. Early morning safaris and evening walks allow travelers to experience nature in comfort-

able temperatures.

For those who prefer international travel, northern countries often provide pleasant summer climates. Travelers can enjoy long daylight hours, scenic landscapes, and cultural attractions. Many cities host music festivals, art events, and outdoor markets during summer.

Lakeside destinations are also perfect for cooling off during summer. Lakes provide opportunities for swimming, boating, kayaking, and fishing. Surrounding landscapes often include forests and mountains, creating peaceful environments for relaxation.

Adventure travelers may prefer destinations that offer outdoor sports. Summer is ideal for activities such as paragliding, mountain biking, rafting, and trekking. These experiences allow travelers to enjoy nature while staying active.

When choosing a summer destination, travelers should consider weather conditions, accessibility, and available activities. Researching local climate patterns helps ensure a comfortable travel experience.

Travelers should also pack appropriately for summer trips. Lightweight clothing, sunscreen, hats, and hydration are essential. Staying hydrated and avoiding peak afternoon heat can make travel more enjoyable.

Ultimately, the best summer destination is one that offers both comfort and memorable experiences. Whether it is a peaceful hill station, a scenic lake, or a lively coastal town, summer travel allows people to explore places where they can relax, recharge, and escape the heat.



Budget Summer Travel: How to Explore More While Spending Less

Traveling during summer does not always require a large budget. With careful planning and smart choices, travelers can enjoy memorable vacations without spending excessive amounts of money.

One of the best ways to save money during summer travel is to plan in advance. Booking transportation and accommodation early often results in lower prices. Many airlines, trains, and hotels offer discounts for early reservations. Choosing budget-friendly destinations can also reduce travel expenses. Instead of visiting expensive tourist hotspots, travelers can explore lesser-known locations that offer similar attractions at lower costs. Small towns, rural areas, and emerging destinations often provide affordable travel experiences.

Accommodation is one of the biggest travel expenses. Budget travelers can consider alternatives such as hostels, guesthouses, homestays, or vacation rentals. These options often provide comfortable stays at lower prices compared to luxury hotels.

Transportation choices also affect travel budgets. Public transportation, shared taxis, and carpooling services can significantly reduce travel costs. In some destinations, renting bicycles or walking allows travelers to explore while saving money.

Food is another area where travelers can manage expenses. Instead of dining exclusively at restaurants, travelers can explore local street food markets or small eateries. These places often offer authentic cuisine at affordable prices.

