

Air Surcharges if applicable
Delivery Charges applicable

Policy moment: Case for social media age limit

The Influence of Algorithms on
What We See Online

PRICE - Rs 2 /-

Iran's Araghchi dials Jaishankar 4th time,
calls for co-operation from Brics

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The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

5.5 magnitude quake jolts central Turkiye, sending residents into the cold streets

ANKARA. (Agency)

A moderately strong earthquake struck central Turkiye on Friday, Turkiye's emergency response said. The tremor sent some residents rushing into the streets but no damage has been reported. The magnitude 5.5 quake was centred in the town of Niksar in Tokat province, at a depth of 6.4 kilometers (4 miles), according to the Disaster and Emergency Management agency, AFAD. It occurred at 3:35 am and was felt in several provinces, AFAD said, adding that "no adverse developments" were reported. Still, many residents were seen waiting in cars or in the streets despite the cold, afraid to return to homes, Haberturk news channel reported.

Turkiye sits on top of major fault lines and earthquakes are frequent. In 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake killed more than 53,000 people in Turkiye and destroyed or damaged hundreds of thousands of buildings in 11 southern and southeastern provinces.

US Woman Wrongly Imprisoned For 6 Months Due To Faulty Facial Recognition

World. (Agency)

A woman in the US had her life upended after she was wrongly imprisoned for six months in jail over a bank fraud case. Angela Lipps, 50, from Tennessee, was slapped with criminal charges last year when police jailed and later flew her to North Dakota after facial recognition showed she was the main suspect in an organized bank fraud case. Despite having never been to North Dakota or stepped on an aeroplane in her life, Lipps was apprehended and thrown behind bars.

Lipps was babysitting her four young children when a team of US Marshals took her away at gunpoint, according to a report in the Grand Forks Herald. She was booked into her county jail in Tennessee as a fugitive from justice from North Dakota. After sitting in the Tennessee jail for four months, she was charged with four counts of unauthorised use of personal identifying information and four counts of theft in North Dakota. After a local news channel obtained the Fargo police file in this case, it was revealed that detectives were investigating several bank fraud cases, where they came across a female suspect who was using a fake US Army ID to withdraw tens of thousands of dollars. To identify the woman, the Fargo police used facial recognition software, which wrongly pinpointed Lipps. In his charging document, the detective wrote that Lipps appeared to be the suspect based on facial features, body type, hairstyle and colour.

"If the only thing you have is facial recognition, I might want to dig a little deeper," said Jay Greenwood, the lawyer representing Lipps in North Dakota. After furnishing Lipps' bank records, Greenwood met Fargo police at the Cass County jail on December 19. It was the first time the police had interviewed in the last five months. Five days after the meeting, the case was dismissed, and she was released.

In Iran, Residents Deal With Shut Shops, Joblessness And Rationing

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

AFP reporters have been speaking to a range of people living in Iran to build a picture of life under daily US and Israeli bombardment despite an internet blackout and major communication problems. Here is a selection of their comments, either from people who sent messages to AFP reporters or from those interviewed at the borders as they fled. FOLLOW LIVE UPDATES AFP is withholding identifying information for their security.

My son 'has no understanding of war'

A 37-year-old man in Bukan, northwest Iran:

"Our landmarks, such as the main square and the central avenue, have been severely damaged by missile strikes. The city's only cinema is in ruins.

Many businesses have also been hit and the market that is usually bustling in the days leading up to Nowruz (Iranian New Year) no longer exists, which is really distressing. I have a six-year-old boy who has no understanding of war. Since the beginning of the conflict, during the bombings, we made him believe it was a game, a kind of 'Missile Launch World Cup' between Iran, the United States and other countries. Each time, he tells us that in this competition, he supports Iran. 'Employers weren't paying' A 24-year-old Afghan who worked at a factory in Tehran: "I saw a bomb drop on a military base. It destroyed the base and broke the windows of the factory. But electricity and gas supplies were ok, banks were active, everything was active. The internet was not working, but the landline phones were active. The market would be open for an hour or two, people would buy what they needed and leave quickly. All the Afghans were leaving, those with four or five months of validity left on their passports, because there was no more work anymore. They (Iranian employers) weren't paying, and there was no internet." Another Afghan, 48, from the capital:

"There were very few Iranians on the streets. I have been travelling around Iran for work for about 32 years. At this time, which is near the New Year and Eid, the streets and markets are usually very busy, but when I went to the market to buy a pair of shoes, I saw no one. The company I worked for had about 60 Iranian and Afghan employees, but not even 10 of them were coming to work. The Iranians had not faced much war compared to Afghans. The Afghans were less afraid, but the Iranians would become very nervous as soon as they saw a missile or a fighter jet, but since we had seen war, it wasn't too difficult for us.

China positions itself as force for global stability at its annual Congress

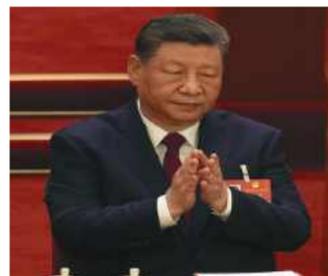
China is doubling down on a push to transform its economy and be at the forefront of technology, as the People's Congress also rubber-stamped three laws, including one governing ethnic minorities.

BEIJING. (Agency)

While much of the world's attention is on the Iran war, that hasn't stopped China from moving ahead with national priorities with global repercussions. Not that China doesn't care about the war and its impact on energy supplies and geopolitics. But for the world's second largest economy, its growing rivalry with the United States revolves around a different battle: the

development of the cutting-edge technologies shaping the 21st century. That message came through in a five-year plan formally endorsed on Thursday by the National People's Congress at the end of its annual meeting, the nation's biggest political event of the year. If anything, China is doubling down on a push to transform its economy and be at the forefront of technology. State media described China's determination to stay the course on economic development as a force for stability in an uncertain world.

"A stable and developing China injects more stability and certainty into a world fraught with change and turbulence," the official People's Daily newspaper said in a front-page column on Wednesday. Other state-media echoed that view. The commentaries and official statements didn't mention US President Donald Trump, whose tariffs and use of military force from Venezuela to Iran are shaking up the global order that has governed international relations in the post-World War II era. China publicly defends that system, while calling for



making it more equitable to reflect the interests of developing countries as well as rich ones.

Trump is due to visit Beijing in three weeks to hold talks with his counterpart, Chinese leader Xi Jinping. The National People's Congress also rubber-stamped three laws, including one governing ethnic minorities, at its closing session. The votes are ceremonial and nearly unanimous,

designed to show unity behind the ruling Communist Party's vision for the nation. The five-year plan was approved with 2,758 votes in favor, one against, and two abstentions. "We are forging ahead at full speed in building a great country," Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at an annual news conference during the Congress.

Banking on tech for growth

Many economists believe that China needs to do more to put more money into the hands of consumers to boost domestic spending and reduce its dependence on export-led growth. China's leaders agree in concept, but the five-year plan puts technology front and center, confirming it remains the top priority. Analysts expect any steps to boost consumption to happen only gradually, such as expanding social security and health care benefits, while government funds are poured into artificial intelligence, robotics and other areas. Chinese Premier Li Qiang announced an economic growth target of 4.5% to 5% for 2026 at the start of the Congress.

Watch what happens': Trump issues new threat to Iran's leaders as war rattles energy supplies

DUBAI. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Friday issued a new threat online to Iran's leadership, writing: "Watch what happens to these deranged scumbags today." Trump tallied the damage inflicted on Iran and its leaders and called it a "great honor" to be responsible for it. Trump made the post on Friday on his Truth Social website, saying that "Iran's Navy is gone, their Air Force is no longer, missiles, drones and everything else are being decimated, and their leaders have been wiped from the face of the earth."

Trump's remarks came in response to Iran's new leader issuing his first public statements on Thursday, resolving to keep fighting, promising more pain for Gulf Arab states and threatening to open "other fronts" in a war that has already disrupted world energy supplies, the global economy and international travel. The remarks by Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country's attacks were creating conditions for the Iranian population

to topple the government. "It is in your hands," Netanyahu said at a news conference, addressing the Iranian people. "We are creating the optimal conditions for the fall of the regime." Netanyahu also denounced Khamenei



as a "puppet of the Revolutionary Guards." Khamenei is close to Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and is widely seen as even less compromising than his father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Khamenei said in a statement read by a state TV news anchor that he was keeping a "file of revenge." He did not appear on camera and has not been seen since his father and wife were killed in the war's opening salvo, which also wounded him, according to an Iranian ambassador. Since the start of the war,

US and Israeli strikes have targeted security checkpoints in Iran to undermine the government's ability to suppress dissent, according to Armed Conflict Location and Event Data, the US-based independent monitoring group known as ACLED.

Intense airstrikes hit early Friday around Iran's capital, Tehran, as well as outlying areas. It was not immediately clear what had been targeted. Oil prices spiraled again and stocks sank

The war continued to escalate on its 13th day as oil prices spiraled up again to \$100 per barrel, and stocks sank worldwide over fears that the conflict could drag on longer than hoped.

To relieve the surge in prices, the US Treasury Department announced it was further easing sanctions on Russian oil by granting a license that authorizes the delivery and sale of some Russian crude oil and petroleum products for the next month. Trump signaled earlier this week that he would take more action to address the squeeze on oil flows. The move follows the administration's decision to grant temporary permission for India to buy Russian oil.

US military refueling plane crashes in Iraq and rescue is underway

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

An American military refueling plane taking part in the operation against Iran crashed in Iraq and rescue efforts were underway, U.S. Central Command said Thursday. It was not immediately clear if there were any casualties. A U.S. official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss the developing situation, said the KC-135 aircraft that crashed had at least five crew members aboard. The crash was not due to hostile fire or friendly fire, the military said in a statement, which described the plane as "a loss." U.S. Central Command, which oversees the Middle East, said that two aircraft were involved and that one landed safely and the other went down in western Iraq. A second U.S. official, who similarly spoke on condition of

anonymity, said the other plane involved also was a KC-135 tanker. "More information will be made available as the situation develops," Central Command said. "We ask for continued patience to gather additional details and provide clarity for the families of service members." The tanker is the fourth publicly acknowledged aircraft to crash as part of the U.S. military's operations against Iran. Last week, three American fighter jets were mistakenly downed by friendly Kuwaiti fire. All six crew members safely ejected from the F-15E Strike Eagles and were in stable condition after being recovered, the U.S. said.

Seven American troops have been killed in combat during the Iran war so far, while about 140 U.S. service members have been injured, including eight

severely, the Pentagon said earlier this week. Both President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth have warned that the Iran war would likely claim more American lives before it ends. Six of the fallen service members were killed when an Iranian drone struck an operations center at a civilian port in Kuwait. They were in the Army Reserve and worked in logistics, keeping troops supplied with food and equipment. They died one day after the U.S. and Israel launched the military campaign against Iran on Feb. 28. The Islamic Republic has retaliated with missiles and drones against Israel and several Gulf Arab states that host U.S. armed forces. The seventh American service member died after being wounded during a March 1 attack on the Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of targeting civilians in airstrikes amid third week of fighting

KABUL. (Agency)

Afghanistan's Taliban government early on Friday accused Pakistan's military of targeting homes in overnight airstrikes in Kabul and the southern province of Kandahar, saying at least four civilians were killed as fighting between the neighbors entered its third week.

Government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on X that Pakistan's aircraft also struck fuel depots belonging to the private airline Kam Air near Kandahar airport. "This company supplies fuel to civilian airlines as well as to United Nations aircraft," he said. Pakistan's military and government did not immediately comment. Pakistan and Afghanistan have been targeting each other's military installations since late February, when Kabul said it struck Pakistani posts in response to Pakistani attacks along the border. Pakistan's military has said its operations targeted the Pakistani Taliban and their support networks along the border, which Afghanistan has never formally

recognized. Both sides have claimed to inflict heavy losses in what has become their deadliest fighting in years, a confrontation Islamabad has described as an "open war" with Afghanistan.

In his posts on X, Mujahid claimed that Pakistani strikes hit multiple civilian sites and uninhabited locations in Afghanistan's Paktia and Paktika provinces, as well as other areas. He said the attacks "will not go unanswered." Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran said at least four civilians, including children, were killed in the city and 15 others were injured. The total number of casualties around Afghanistan was unclear. The latest Pakistani strikes came a day after China's special envoy, Yue Xiaoyong, arrived in Islamabad and met with his Pakistani counterpart, Mohammad Sadiq, following a visit to Kabul where he met Afghan government officials. Sadiq, Pakistan's

special envoy for Afghanistan, wrote on X the previous day that he and Yue "discussed threats posed by terrorist groups such as TTP and ETIM (East Turkestan Islamic Movement) to Pakistan and China



respectively" and agreed on the need for collective efforts to ensure lasting peace and stability. Repeated calls from the international community for restraint have had little

effect. Pakistan has previously said its strikes along the border and inside Afghanistan are aimed solely at Khawarij, a phrase Islamabad uses for the outlawed Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehrik-e

Taliban Pakistan, or TTP. Islamabad frequently accuses Afghanistan's Taliban government of harboring the group, a charge Kabul denies. Since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in 2021, the TTP has intensified attacks inside Pakistan and along the border. Islamabad says its military operations will continue until Kabul takes verifiable steps to curb the TTP and other militants operating from its territory. The current clashes also ended a ceasefire brokered by Qatar and Turkey in October, when the two neighbors again came close to war.

The truce, signed in Istanbul, was followed by six days of talks in Istanbul that produced an agreement to extend the ceasefire and hold a third round of negotiations in November.

Iran Clears Passage for Two Indian LPG Tankers Through Strait of Hormuz

New Delhi: In a significant diplomatic development amid rising tensions in West Asia, Iran has allowed two Indian liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tankers to safely pass through the strategically crucial Strait of Hormuz, easing concerns over potential disruption to India's energy supplies.

The clearance reportedly followed diplomatic communication between Indian and Iranian authorities after several vessels faced uncertainty in navigating the sensitive maritime corridor due to the escalating regional conflict. The two India-bound LPG carriers were granted permission to transit the narrow but vital shipping route connecting the Persian Gulf with global sea lanes.

Relief for India's Energy Security

The move comes as a major relief for India, which depends heavily on LPG imports for domestic consumption. A large share of these shipments travels through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy transit routes.

With tensions in the region affecting maritime traffic, several commercial vessels had slowed operations or adopted a cautious approach while approaching the strait. The clearance granted to the two Indian tankers has therefore helped ease immediate supply concerns.

Strategic Importance of the Strait

The Strait of Hormuz re-



India's LPG Supply Gets Boost as Iran Allows Tankers Through Hormuz

mains one of the most sensitive maritime chokepoints in the world, carrying a substantial portion of global oil and gas shipments every day. Any disruption to traffic through the narrow passage can quickly impact global energy markets and supply chains.

Recent geopolitical tensions in the region have height-

ened security risks for shipping companies and raised fears of potential disruptions to energy transportation.

Diplomatic Engagements Continue

Indian authorities are understood to be closely monitoring the situation and maintaining communication with regional stakeholders to ensure the safety of Indian vessels and uninterrupted energy imports.

While the safe passage of the two tankers offers temporary relief, the overall situation in the region remains delicate, with shipping companies and governments continuing to watch developments around the Strait of Hormuz with caution.

"Watch What Happens Today": Trump Issues Fresh Warning to Iran



Washington: US President Donald Trump issued a dramatic warning on Friday, telling the world to "watch what happens today" as tensions between the United States and Iran continued to intensify, raising fears of further military escalation in the Middle East.

The remark, posted on Trump's social media platform, came at a time when the conflict between Washington and Tehran has entered a critical phase. His brief but pointed message sparked speculation that new military action or a major announcement could be imminent.

Strong Warning to Tehran

In a series of statements, Trump adopted an aggressive tone toward Iran, asserting that American forces were inflicting heavy damage on Iranian military capabilities. He claimed that the United States possessed overwhelming military power and warned that Tehran would face severe consequences if hostilities continued.

Trump also suggested that the Iranian leadership was under immense pressure, hinting that recent operations had significantly weakened the country's command structure and strategic assets.

Bokaro Steel Plant Releases First Issue of Technical Bulletin 'The Endeavor'



by Deepak Kumar

Bokaro: The first issue of the quarterly technical bulletin "The Endeavor," prepared by the Technical Cell under the Operations Division of Bokaro Steel Plant, was formally released by Executive Director (Operations) Anoop Kumar Dutt.

The bulletin highlights key developments related to safety, environment, and health, while also providing updates on several ongoing projects within and outside the plant premises. It further showcases initiatives undertaken by various departments to shift from single-source procurement of spare parts and equipment to competitive tender-based procurement. The release event was attended by Chief General Manager (Technical Cell) Ajay Kumar, along with Chief General Managers of Safety, Mechanical, Cold Rolling Mills, Refractory and Instrumentation departments, and other senior officials.

Congratulating the Technical Cell team, Anoop Kumar Dutt appreciated the effort behind the inaugural edition and encouraged the team to make future issues more informative, refined and beneficial for the organisation.

Workers, Villagers Protest Against Proposed MDO System at Gua SAIL

by Siddharth Pandey

Chaibasa: Workers and villagers staged a massive rally on Friday evening opposing the proposed Mine Developer and Operator (MDO) system at Gua under SAIL.

The protest, organised by the Jharkhand Mazdoor Sangharsh Sangh, began around 5 PM from the union office at Railway Market and marched to the Gua SAIL General Office, with participants raising slogans against the move.

Addressing the gathering, union leaders, including Central President Rama Pandey, said labour organisations and local residents would strongly resist the implementation of the MDO system, fearing it could threaten the jobs of supply workers and lead to longer working hours.

Speakers also alleged that SAIL management has been gradually reducing workers' facilities, citing the closure of the Ruby Hospital guest house in Kolkata, which has affected workers seeking treatment there.

After nearly an hour-long protest, union representatives submitted a charter of demands to SAIL officials, who assured that the concerns would be forwarded to higher authorities. Several union leaders, local representatives and villagers participated in the demonstration.

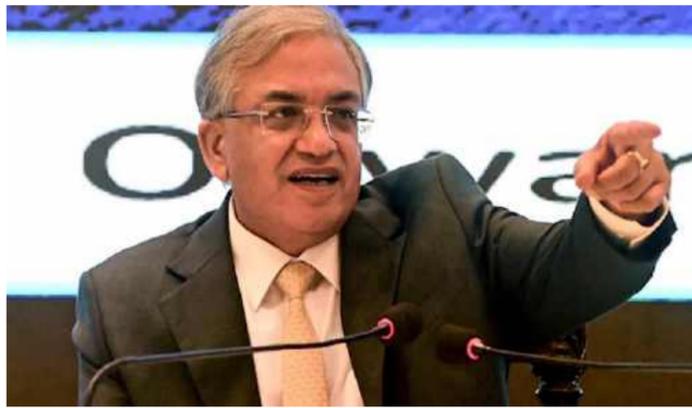
Opposition MPs Submit Notice Seeking Removal of CEC Gyanesh Kumar

New Delhi: In a major political development, opposition Members of Parliament have submitted formal notices in both Houses of Parliament seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, escalating tensions between the ruling establishment and opposition parties over the functioning of the Election Commission.

The notices, reportedly signed by 193 MPs, including members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, have been submitted to the presiding officers of the respective Houses for consideration under constitutional provisions governing the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Allegations of Bias and Irregularities

Opposition leaders have alleged that the Chief Election Commissioner has displayed partisan behaviour and discriminatory decision-making while carrying out his constitutional responsibilities. They claim that certain decisions taken by the Election Commission



under his leadership raised concerns about fairness and transparency in the electoral process.

The notice also mentions allegations related to the handling of electoral roll revisions and other election-related decisions that opposition parties argue could potentially affect voter participation and democratic credibility.

Constitutional Process

Under the Constitution of India, the removal of a Chief

Election Commissioner follows a process similar to the removal of a Supreme Court judge. The presiding officers of Parliament must first examine and admit the notice. If accepted, a formal inquiry may be initiated.

For the motion to succeed, it must be passed by a special majority in both Houses of Parliament, making the process legally stringent and politically significant.

Political Reactions

Opposition parties have de-

fended the move as a necessary step to protect the independence and integrity of the country's electoral system. On the other hand, critics have described the initiative as politically motivated and warned that it could deepen institutional confrontations.

The development has set the stage for a heated political debate in Parliament, with the issue likely to dominate discussions in the coming days.

DPS Bokaro Earns Prestigious 7-Star Rating as Leading SDG School

by Apurva

Bokaro: Bokaro: Delhi Public School (DPS), Bokaro has earned the prestigious 7-Star Rating Award as a leading Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) school in India. The recognition was conferred by the Centre for Educational Development (CED) Foundation, affiliated with NITI Aayog and the Ministry of MSME, at a ceremony in New Delhi.

The award recognises the school's effective integration



of sustainability in education through initiatives promoting environmental awareness, responsible resource use, energy efficiency and inclusivity among students.

DPS Bokaro had also received the SDG School Award last year, highlighting its continued commitment to eco-friendly practices and sustainable learning.

In another honour, Principal Dr. A. S. Gangwar received the Best Principal Award from the National EduTrust of India for his leadership in promoting innovative learning and environmental stewardship.

Dr. Gangwar congratulated the DPS Bokaro community, stating that the 7-Star rating reflects the collective dedication of students, teachers, parents and staff towards building responsible and environmentally conscious future citizens.

National Seminar on Self-Reliant India Begins at AM College, Gaya



by Suresh Pd Nikhar

Gaya Ji: A two-day national seminar on "Inclusive and Sustainable Development for Self-Reliant India" commenced at the Swami Vivekananda Auditorium of Anugrah Memorial College, Gaya, organised jointly by Magadh University's Anugrah Memorial College and the Indian Sociological Society (IKS Group).

Around 100 scholars from 18 states are participating, presenting research papers across seven technical sessions during the seminar.

The programme began with the Magadh University Kulgeet and ceremonial lamp lighting, followed by the felicitation of guests. Seminar coordinator Dr. Rakesh Rai outlined the theme and objectives of the event.

Speaking on the occasion, former Union Minister Sanjay Paswan emphasised the importance of Atmanirbhar Bharat and the role of youth and academic research in building a self-reliant nation. Former Vice-Chancellor Prof. Yogendra Singh highlighted India's development philosophy rooted in "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam."

Magadh University Registrar Prof. Vinod Kumar Mangalam and Principal Prof. Mohammad Nazir Akhtar also addressed the gathering, stressing inclusive development and the role of academia in nation-building.

During the event, the research journal "Pratibha Srijan" and a book titled "Dararon Ke Beech Jhankta Sach" were also released. Two technical sessions were held on the first day, while the remaining sessions will conclude on the second day.

Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren Hands Over 1,485 Vehicles to Jharkhand Police

Ranchi: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Friday handed over 1,485 modern vehicles to the Jharkhand Police and virtually laid the foundation stone for 12 new police stations across the state at a programme held at the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly complex in Ranchi.

Describing the initiative as a historic step in the 25-year history of Jharkhand, the Chief Minister said it was the largest fleet of vehicles ever provided to the police force at one time, aimed at strengthening policing capacity and improving public safety.

As part of the programme, Soren flagged off the newly inducted vehicles and virtually launched the construction of the police stations by pressing a remote button.

The Chief Minister also distributed appointment letters to candidates selected in different categories, marking another step towards strengthening the state's administrative and security framework.

India Unveils 'Avatar', Its First Amphibious Drone That Can Fly & Dive Underwater

From Sky to Sea: India's Next-Gen Drone Innovation

by Ashis Sinha

Bengaluru: In a breakthrough for India's rapidly evolving deep-tech ecosystem, a Bengaluru-based startup has developed the country's first amphibious drone capable of operating both in the air and underwater. Named "Avatar" (AVATAAR), the innovative drone can fly like a conventional quadcopter, dive into water to conduct underwater tasks, and then resurface to continue aerial operations.

The technology marks a significant step forward in multi-domain unmanned systems, offering a single platform that can perform surveillance and inspection tasks across both air and aquatic environments.

A Drone That Bridges Air and Water

Unlike conventional drones that are limited to aerial missions, the Avatar drone is designed to seamlessly transition between flying and underwater

navigation. During a mission, the drone can take off and perform aerial reconnaissance before descending onto a water surface and submerging to conduct underwater inspections or monitoring operations.

Once the underwater task is complete, the drone can emerge from the water and resume flight, allowing continuous multi-environment operations without needing separate aerial and underwater vehicles. This hybrid capability significantly expands operational flexibility, especially in maritime environments where both surface and underwater intelligence are critical.

Advanced Engineering for Harsh Marine Conditions

The amphibious drone has been engineered to withstand the challenging conditions of marine environments. Its body uses corrosion-resistant materials and sealed electronics designed to protect sensitive sys-



tems from saltwater and debris. To navigate underwater—where GPS signals do not function—the drone relies on advanced sensing and navigation technologies. These include sonar-based imaging systems that detect objects and obstacles, acoustic sensors for underwater mapping, and specialized navigation systems that maintain precise positioning even in low-visibility environments.

Integrated lighting and sensor modules allow the drone to carry out underwater inspections of structures, seabeds, and submerged objects.

Safety features are also built into the system. For instance, the drone will not initiate a dive if battery levels fall below safe operating thresholds, ensuring it can resurface and return safely.

Prototype Successfully Tested

The Avatar drone has already reached an advanced prototype stage, with successful demonstrations conducted in open-water environments. Engineers behind the project say the prototype has achieved a key development milestone, proving its ability to transition smoothly between aerial flight and underwater navigation.

The prototype has undergone multiple field tests to validate its

propulsion system, waterproof electronics, and navigation capabilities. These trials have confirmed that the drone can perform both aerial surveillance and underwater inspection within a single mission cycle.

Following successful testing, the company is now refining the system's performance, endurance, and sensor capabilities.

Moving Toward Production

The startup is currently working toward pre-production development, with plans to scale the technology for commercial and strategic applications. Engineers are focusing on improving battery efficiency, mission endurance, and payload capacity to support a wider range of operational requirements.

Once the next development phase is completed, the company aims to begin limited production of the amphibious drones for deployment in sec-

tors such as maritime security, offshore infrastructure monitoring, and environmental research.

Interest in the technology is growing from both government and industry stakeholders, particularly in areas involving coastal surveillance and underwater inspections.

Wide Range of Applications

The drone's ability to operate across two environments opens up numerous applications. In defence and security, it could support naval reconnaissance, port monitoring, and underwater threat detection. The platform can also be used to inspect offshore pipelines, underwater cables, and oil-and-gas infrastructure.

In addition, environmental agencies and research institutions could deploy the drone to study marine ecosystems, map seabeds, or monitor pollution in coastal waters. Search-and-rescue operations

following maritime accidents or disasters may also benefit from such technology, as the drone can quickly survey both surface and underwater areas.

A Milestone for India's Deep-Tech Innovation

India's vast coastline and growing focus on maritime security have created strong demand for advanced surveillance technologies. The development of Avatar demonstrates the growing capability of Indian startups to build sophisticated autonomous systems that combine robotics, artificial intelligence, and marine engineering.

If the project successfully enters large-scale production, the amphibious drone could become a significant addition to India's emerging defence and maritime technology landscape, positioning the country among innovators developing next-generation multi-domain unmanned systems.

Trump-Modi friendship helped clinch trade deal, US envoy reveals at Conclave 2026

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)
US Ambassador Sergio Gor on Friday asserted that personal rapport between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump played a decisive role in finalising the India-US trade agreement. Speaking at the India Today Conclave 2026, Gor, who took over as US envoy just two months back, made it clear at the outset that Modi and Trump were the "only two dealmakers" who ultimately got the trade agreement across the finish line. "The only two dealmakers were President Trump and Prime Minister Modi. Their deep and personal friendship got the deal done," Gor said, emphasising that India was a strong and reliable partner for the US. India and the US reached a trade deal last month after nearly a year of negotiations - a period that saw ties reach their lowest ebb. The proposed trade deal saw the US reduce tariffs on Indian imports to 18% from a crippling 50%, marking the end of a rough patch in economic relations. The scenario was completely different months ago, when Trump railed against India for purchasing Russian oil -- a revenue source the US claimed was funding Moscow's war machine in Ukraine -- and imposed an additional 25% tariff. Months of caustic remarks by Trump and aides followed it,

from labelling Delhi as Moscow's "laundromat" to the President calling India a "dead economy". However, even amid strained ties, Trump frequently referred to PM Modi as his "friend". This aspect was vividly highlighted by Gor at the India Today Conclave.

US ENVOY ON TRUMP-MODI DOSTI



The US envoy, known in Washington as a dealmaker who gets things done, underscored that the relationship between Trump and PM Modi went back several years. He also shared that it remained strong even when Trump was not in the White House. "PM Modi remained a friend even when Trump wasn't in the White House. Modi continued to stay in touch with him during that time,

something Trump saw as a sign of genuine friendship," Gor stressed. The US ambassador said that the relationship helped provide the "little push" needed to bring the two sides together and overcome sticking points during the trade deal talks.

Gor, however, acknowledged that negotiations were not easy, echoing Trump's claim that India was a "tough negotiator". However, Gor said the Modi government did a commendable job in safeguarding its national interests while working toward a mutually beneficial deal. "India is a tough negotiator. India has done a good job protecting India," he said, describing the final agreement as a "win-win deal" for both sides.

ON TRADE DEAL FUTURE

Rejecting claims of bad blood during negotiations, Gor underlined that the trade agreement was concluded in about a year -- significantly faster than other major deals India secured. "In reality, we got the deal done in a year. The European Union deal took several years," he said, referring to the 'mother of all deals' India and the EU signed in January after two decades of negotiations. However, the present status of the proposed deal remains in limbo after the US Supreme Court struck down the sweeping global tariffs imposed by Trump. The final deal was supposed to be signed in mid-March.

Economic Stabilisation Fund to help govt respond to global challenges: Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister says supplementary spending of Rs 2.81 lakh crore in 2025-26 will keep fiscal deficit within revised estimates; Parliament nod sought for fertiliser, food and defence subsidies.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the Rs 1 lakh crore Economic Stabilisation Fund will give fiscal headroom to allow India to respond to global headwinds. Replying to the debate on the second batch of supplementary demands for grants in the Lok Sabha, she said the fund will act as a buffer to absorb shocks arising due to unforeseen global challenges like the current one in West Asia. "The Rs 1 lakh crore Economic Stabilisation Fund will give fiscal headroom to allow India to respond to global headwinds," she said. Through the second batch of supplementary demands, the government sought Lok Sabha approval for spending a gross Rs 2.81 lakh crore extra in the current fiscal year. With additional receipts of Rs 80,000 crore budgeted for the current fiscal year, the net additional cash spending will be Rs 2.01 lakh crore. Sitharaman said the fiscal deficit for the current financial year (2025-26) will be within the Revised Estimates (RE). In RE 2025-26, the fiscal deficit has been estimated at par with Budget Estimates of 2025-26 at 4.4 per cent of GDP. "There is no increase in expenditure beyond the BE of 2025-26 due to the second supplementary," Sitharaman said, amid continuous sloganeering by Opposition members over LPG shortage concerns. In the Revised Estimates for the current fiscal year, the government had cut total expenditure to Rs 49.65 lakh crore, from Rs 50.65 lakh crore in BE. Till January, the government had spent Rs 36.90 lakh crore, according to Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data. The supplementary demands for grants include grants spending towards setting up of an Economic Stabilisation Fund of Rs 1 lakh crore. Also, Parliament's nod has been sought for an extra spending of Rs 19,230 crore towards fertilisers' subsidy.



'Paucity Of Time': President's Office Snubs Trinamool Outreach In Protocol Row

The Bengal Assembly election is due in April/May and will see a fierce showdown between the ruling Trinamool Congress led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, the main opposition.

New Delhi. (Agency)
The office of President Droupadi Murmu has rejected the Trinamool Congress' request for an appointment citing a 'paucity of time', sources said Friday morning. Sources said a senior Trinamool member wrote to Murmu on Monday asking for a meeting with a 12-member delegation to brief the President on state-sponsored welfare measures for tribal communities. The Trinamool wrote back requesting time next week, sources added. The rejection followed a face-off between the President and the Bengal government over alleged protocol lapses at a conference on welfare of tribal communities in Siliguri last week. The Trinamool's request has been seen as an attempt to

mend fences and share information about state initiatives for the 'inclusive development of all sections of society'. The President had questioned the absence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee or any of her cabinet ministers in the group that received her at the airport in Bagdogra. She also offered sharp remarks over a change in the location of the event and suggested the state is actively denying tribals access to welfare measures and facilities being offered by the centre. "Is development taking place for Santhals and tribals here? I don't think so," she said at the event. "Are facilities (from the central government) reaching you? I don't think so. I think some people



are being stopped from coming here... maybe some don't want Santhals to progress..." The Chief Minister responded as sharply and

dismissed the President's remarks as "political" and timed to coincide with a critical Assembly election due in April/May. "I would like to humbly request the President not to make statements that don't speak well of your post. You spoke about one community today... you didn't speak about the rest of the communities here in Bengal," she said. "Don't play politics on advice of BJP before poll." Mamata Banerjee - protesting the revision of state voter rolls, a revision opposition parties say is meant to disenfranchise some sections of voters - also asked the President: "Do you know how many tribals were deleted from voter lists here?"

Bid on Farooq Abdullah life a matter of great concern: Nadda in Rajya Sabha

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Centre Thursday said the murderous attack on Farooq Abdullah is a matter of great concern, adding that all necessary steps will be taken to ensure his security. Leader of the House and Union Minister J P Nadda said the government is taking the assassination bid with utmost seriousness. This was in reply to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's allegation that there seemed to be a conspiracy to kill Abdullah, blaming revocation of J&K's statehood for the incident. Nadda said a



thorough probe is being conducted to ascertain the motive of the arrested assassin and to prevent any such security lapse in the future. He said: "Reaching a conclusion that this happened because

(J&K) was not given statehood... and making allegations that there is in a way a conspiracy being hatched to kill him... is condemnable." Also, Opposition members slammed the Centre for replacing MGNREGA with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act - VB-G RAM G. In the Upper House, Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil said: "...MGNREGA gave jobs to poor people in villages... now you say the states will give money (for the scheme under VB-G RAM G).

10 lakh leaflets with 'chargesheet' against Himanta govt: Behind the arrest of 4 Congress workers in Guwahati

New Delhi. (Agency)
On a visit to Assam on February 19, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra released a 20-point "People's Chargesheet" against the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led BJP government. This Monday, the Assam police found four Congress workers carrying a large number of these leaflets, intended for distribution as part of the party's assembly poll campaign. The four were arrested and slapped with Section 152 of the BNS, a charge similar to "sedition" under the IPC. Their bail has been denied. The four



Congress workers - Rakibul Hoque Khan, Akshay Bordoloi, Joynal Abedin and Pranjit Pator - were detained by police in Guwahati in the early hours of Monday. Guwahati East DCP Tabu Ram Pegu said the police were alerted about a dispute over the entry of a truck into a housing society in the city, and when they checked the vehicle, they found "around 10 lakh printed leaflets", which "had allegations against our honourable chief minister", stocked for "large-scale distribution." He cited the "sensitive election time", and "law and order ramifications.

Iran's Araghchi dials Jaishankar 4th time, calls for co-operation from Brics

Abbas Araghchi spoke with S Jaishankar on Friday, briefing him on Iran's position after US-Israeli strikes and calling for support from Brics nations, while India emphasised cooperation and regional stability.

Chennai. (Agency)
Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held another phone conversation with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to discuss regional and international developments, according to an Iranian readout of the call. Araghchi briefed Jaishankar on the latest situation following what Iran described as US and Israeli attacks and their impact on regional and global stability, while also calling for greater cooperation from BRICS nations, Tehran said. This was the fourth time the Iranian foreign minister has spoken to his Indian counterpart since the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran on January 18, triggering retaliation from Tehran and escalating tensions across the Middle East. "Araghchi briefed his Indian counterpart on

the latest situation following what Iran described as US and Israeli attacks, and their impact on regional and global stability. He stressed the determination of the Iranian government, people, and armed forces to exercise their legitimate right of self-defence," the readout said. He also called on international and regional organisations to condemn what Iran termed "military aggression against the country" and highlighted the "importance of Brics in supporting global stability". Jaishankar, for his part, said India is ready to expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation in regional and international forums and emphasised the need to strengthen lasting stability and security in



the region, Tehran added. Jaishankar also confirmed the conversation, which happened on Thursday night. "Had another conversation with Iranian FM Abbas Araghchi yesterday night. Discussed bilateral matters as also Brics related issues," Jaishankar said. Both leaders held another "detailed" conversation on March 11, where they

discussed the war developments, including the missile attack on a girls' elementary school in Iran on the first day of the war and "subsequent widespread attacks on civilian sites and public service centres". "The Foreign Minister described the aggressive act by the US and the Israeli regime as a violation of the fundamental principles and rules of the United Nations Charter and international law, noting that all governments have a responsibility to condemn this military aggression and blatant law-breaking. The foreign ministers of Iran and India also 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," an earlier readout said.

Historian of social change

What a privilege—and a responsibility—it is for a student to speak about Professor K N Panikkar on the occasion of his passing. Writing about Professor Panikkar invites reflection on two intertwined aspects of his life: his work as a historian and his role as a public intellectual who helped shape how historians and readers engage with the past and understand modern India.

When Professor Panikkar began his scholarly work at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, the study of modern Indian history was still largely centred on elite political narratives of colonialism, the Congress movement and constitutional developments. His work, however, asked a different question: what processes were unfolding beneath the formal political surface? In works such as *Against Lord and State: Religion and Peasant Uprisings in Malabar, 1836-1921*, he examined agrarian struggles, peasant resistance and the complex social world of colonial Kerala. He showed that resistance was not merely nationalist but also social—directed against landlordism, caste hierarchy and state authority. In doing so, he helped broaden the understanding of nationalism by locating it within wider social processes. Within the larger landscape of Indian historiography, he belongs to a generation that significantly reshaped the study of modern Indian history in the late twentieth century. This shift moved the discipline from political narrative towards social history; from nationalist teleology towards structural analysis; and towards a greater recognition of historical agency among ordinary people.

Professor Panikkar's scholarship on social reform movements, particularly in Kerala, remains an important contribution. He approached reform not simply as moral uplift but as a form of ideological contestation. In *Culture, Ideology, Hegemony: Intellectuals and Social Consciousness in Colonial India*, he explored how colonialism operated not only through political domination but also through cultural and intellectual processes. His work drew from Marxist historiography but was never doctrinaire. He engaged, for instance, with insights associated with Antonio Gramsci—particularly ideas about cultural agency, ideological struggle and the making of consent. Through such approaches, he highlighted how modernity in India evolved through negotiation rather than simple importation.

One of Professor Panikkar's important public contributions was his defence of secular and critical historiography. In *Communalism in India: History, Politics and Culture* and in numerous essays, he argued that communalism should be understood not merely as religious sentiment but as a modern political ideology. He consistently maintained that history should not be used to manufacture political identities or reduce the past to civilisational conflict. For him, secularism was not the denial of religion but a democratic framework for regulating power in a plural society. At moments when the writing of history itself became a subject of political contestation, he remained a thoughtful and steady voice for methodological rigour and critical inquiry. Beyond his scholarly work, Professor Panikkar also played a significant institutional role. As chairperson of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, he contributed to discussions on educational policy and the relationship between academic work and social responsibility. He believed that scholarship should not remain confined to academic forums. His writings in newspapers, public lectures and policy engagements reflected a scholar attentive to the wider responsibilities of intellectual life. As his student, I must also speak of the classroom. Professor Panikkar did not simply deliver lectures; he posed questions and problems. He encouraged us to read critically, examine sources carefully and situate ideas within their social and material contexts. He reminded us that history is not about memorising events but about understanding structures, contradictions and change.

Policy moment: Case for social media age limit

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 1 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.

Punjab's industrial policy: Execution key to success

Punjab has seen ambitious announcements before that failed to translate into sustained industrial growth.

PUNJAB's economy has long been weighed down by the slow pace of industrialisation. Once known for its entrepreneurial spirit and manufacturing clusters in cities like Ludhiana and Jalandhar, the state has gradually lost ground to more aggressive industrial hubs such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Haryana. The consequences are visible: economic stagnation, shrinking job opportunities and a steady migration of young Punjabis in search of better prospects. Against this backdrop, the Punjab government's new Industrial and Business Development Policy-2026 is a welcome step. The policy aims to attract investments worth Rs 75,000 crore and revive the industrial ecosystem through a mix of fiscal incentives, sectoral support and regulatory reforms. It introduces several significant measures, including capital subsidies for the first time, customised incentive packages for investors and extended support for up to 15 years. The eligibility threshold for employment subsidies has also been reduced, bringing smaller and medium-scale industries within the



ambit of government support. These provisions reflect a recognition that the industrial backbone lies not only in

large factories but also in thousands of small and medium enterprises that employ a significant share of the workforce. If implemented effectively, the policy could help revitalise traditional manufacturing clusters while attracting investment in emerging sectors such as electric vehicles, electronics and information technology. Yet policies alone cannot transform an economy. Punjab has seen ambitious announcements before that failed to translate into sustained industrial growth. Investors weigh incentives alongside governance standards, infrastructure quality, land availability and law-and-order conditions. Bureaucratic delays, policy uncertainty and weak logistics can erode the attractiveness of incentive schemes. The real test, therefore, lies in implementation. Transparent procedures, quicker approvals and reliable infrastructure are essential to build investor confidence. These factors will determine whether the policy becomes a turning point or another missed opportunity.

Time for India to stand firm in West Asian crisis

Is the prospect of annoying the US paralysing New Delhi's moves

RECENT geopolitical developments have sharply profiled the gap between the Union government's rhetoric and its policies as well as articulation — or the lack of it. Aboard INS Vikrant in October last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised that the Indian Navy "stands guard like a sentinel of the Indian Ocean". However, four months later, the sinking of Iran's naval vessel IRIS Dena by a US submarine 35 km off the Sri Lankan coast elicited silence. Perhaps, India was legally not required to comment on a vessel returning home after participating in India's MILAN 2026 multilateral naval exercise and the International Fleet Review. But there is law and then there is decency and perception. And, the general perception is that the absence of regret regarding IRIS Dena was in line with the Modi government's cave-in to the US over the past year.

This perception was only strengthened by External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar's short tutorial on the Indian Ocean at the recent Raisina Dialogue in Delhi. On Iranian naval vessels, he said the three which took part in the Fleet Review hosted by India "got caught on the wrong side of events". He went on to say that India allowed one of them to reach the Kochi port as a humanitarian gesture; Sri Lanka accepted a second one. He then said, "One, unfortunately, did not make it". This is how he referred to the torpedoing of IRIS Dena on March 4. Eighty-seven bodies were recovered by the Sri Lankan Navy, while 32 sailors were rescued.

If it was humanity which made India accommodate an Iranian naval vessel, Jaishankar's reference to IRIS Dena's sinking and the loss of lives was less than

humane. It was insensitive and not in keeping with India's cultural tradition of respectful reference to the dead, whatever be the circumstances. Jaishankar, with his wealth of diplomatic experience which has been strengthened by his almost seven years as EAM, should



be aware that his reference can only be perceived as kowtowing to the US. Even now he should make amends. It is never too late to do so. Is the prospect of annoying the US paralysing India's moves?

It was strange that the first statement by the Ministry of External Affairs regarding developments in Iran did not make any mention of the Israeli-US attacks on February 28 and the decapitating strikes against the Iranian leadership which killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali

Khamenei and members of his family. It called for restraint and urged that "dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to de-escalate tensions and address underlying issues. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected". The killing of Iran's Supreme Leader should have been, at a minimum, regretted. This was especially so as it had taken place in the context of US leaders asserting that European expansionism should be a matter of pride for the West and not of "guilt or shame". It was good that the government sent Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to sign the condolence book at the Iranian embassy and thus partially retrieved lost ground. No voice was raised by the ruling dispensation against US leaders' speeches and actions virtually defending colonialism. The capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife and the strikes against Iran were part of an approach which was reminiscent of the wilful assertion of power by the East India Company in India in the 18th century and the first half of the

19th. Then too, rulers were deposed and new ones put on the throne by an external power. Now, Trump is asserting that the leaders of Iran should be chosen by him or be acceptable to him. This is blowing up the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. The pursuit of national interest is the first task of any government. Successive Indian governments have held this as their supreme objective. If principles have come in the way, they have overlooked them. Thus, India

did not protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 which was accompanied by the killing of President Hafizullah Amin by Soviet commandos in his home. The only difference between the Soviet killing of Amin and the assassination of Khamenei was that the latter was avowedly done in the context of a virtual colonial project.

It is ironic that if the Jana Sangh was critical of the Soviet invasion and even more of India's silence on the issue, now the BJP-led government is silent on the US action against Iran. It is noteworthy that the Jana Sangh had considered Indira Gandhi's Afghan policy to have lowered "India's prestige in the world". Today, it is the Congress targeting the BJP in the same vein.

That colonial project was also reflected in the speech of US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau at the Raisina Dialogue. He made an impassioned case for an India-US partnership, but at the same time cautioned that "India should understand that we are not going to make the same mistakes with India that we made with China 20 years ago... We are going to make sure that whatever we do is fair to our people".

This was extraordinarily insulting to the Indian people because India's progress since Independence has not been dependent on any other power's benevolence. It has been achieved by the Indian people. But here was a senior foreign officer virtually telling Indians on Indian soil that there were limits to the government's desire for Viksit Bharat. It is strange that neither the government nor anyone from the ruling dispensation has responded to Landau's message so far. There is a time for silence and a time for a firm response. Now is a time for the latter. The world has to be made aware that India acts and speaks to defend its views and will not allow anyone to come in the way of its progress. Such action is derived from its civilisational ethos.



गैजेट्स न बिगाड़ दें सेहत

इन दिनों हम हर वक्त किसी न किसी गैजेट से खुद को घिरा पाते हैं। ये गैजेट्स भले ही हमारी जिंदगी का हिस्सा बन चुके हैं, लेकिन हम इनकी वजह से कब बीमारियों से घिर जाते हैं, पता ही नहीं चलता। इनके प्रभाव से कैसे करें अपना बचाव, बता रहे हैं पंकज धिल्लियाल

कंप्यूटर/लैपटॉप

आज कंप्यूटर के सामने बैठ कर काम करना मजबूरी भी है और कहीं-कहीं लत भी। इसके अधिक इस्तेमाल के कारण कई बार सेहत पर इसके दुष्प्रभाव भी देखने को मिलते हैं, जैसे शारीरिक सक्रियता का कम होना, नींद में कमी या स्लीप पैटर्न का गड़बड़ा जाना आदि। वहीं लैपटॉप के कारण गर्दन में दर्द एक बड़ी बीमारी के रूप में उभर कर सामने आ रहा है। की-बोर्ड के नजदीक होने से झुकना पड़ता है। इससे गर्दन में खिंचाव होता है, जिससे दर्द होता है। कभी-कभी डिस्क भी खिसक जाती है।

टेलीविजन और लाइफ़ स्टाइल

क्या बच्चे, क्या बड़े, लोग घंटों टेलीविजन के सामने बैठ कर समय व्यतीत करते हैं। एक लेख के अनुसार लोगों द्वारा हर घंटे देखे गये टीवी से उनका जीवनकाल 22 सेकंड कम हो जाता है। हर भारतीय एक सप्ताह में औसतन 15-20 घंटे टीवी देखता है। कई

शोधों में यह बात सामने आई है कि टीवी के सामने हर रोज दो घंटे बिताने से टाइप 2 डायबिटीज और दिल की बीमारियों का खतरा 20 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ जाता है।

वाईफ़ाई/सेलफोन

अनेक अध्ययनों में यह बात सामने आई है कि वायरलेस उपकरणों से निकलने वाली इलेक्ट्रोमैग्नेटिक तरंगें कैंसर का कारण बनती हैं और मस्तिष्क को नुकसान पहुंचाती हैं। स्वीडन में हुए एक अध्ययन के अनुसार, जो लोग 20 वर्ष से कम उम्र में मोबाइल फोन का उपयोग शुरू कर देते हैं, उनमें ब्रेन



दुष्प्रभाव से कैसे बचें

कंप्यूटर या लैपटॉप पर काम करते हुए हर दो घंटे के बाद एक ब्रेक लें या हर आधे घंटे के बाद दो-तीन मिनट के लिए अपनी आंखों को कंप्यूटर से हटा लें।

वीडियो गेम खेलने का समय और अवधि निर्धारित करें। कंप्यूटर के सामने बैठते समय हमारी पीठ सीधी हो, खासकर रीढ़ की हड्डी। कंप्यूटर की स्क्रीन आंखों से 15 इंच नीचे की तरफ होनी चाहिए। स्क्रीन से आंखों की दूरी दो फुट होनी चाहिए।

टीवी कभी भी अंधेरे में न देखें, वहां हमेशा पर्याप्त रोशनी बनाए रखें।

विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि करीब 1 घंटा मोबाइल फोन के इस्तेमाल से मस्तिष्क में ग्लूकोज का संतुलन बिगड़ सकता है। हमेशा बड़ी स्क्रीन के लैपटॉप का इस्तेमाल करें। इसके उपयोग से पॉश्चर पर ज्यादा दबाव नहीं आता।

लैपटॉप की स्क्रीन आंखों के समान लेवल या एंगल पर होनी चाहिए, ताकि आपको अपनी आंखें स्क्रीन पर रखने के लिए गर्दन को घुमाना या मोड़ना न पड़े।

मोबाइल फोन में बैकटीरिया!

एक रिसर्च में पाया गया है कि मोबाइल फोन में टॉयलेट के फ्लश हैंडल से औसतन 18 गुना ज्यादा हानिकारक बैक्टीरिया होते हैं। इनकी वजह से पेट में गंभीर बीमारियां होने की आशंका रहती है। रिपोर्ट में पाया गया है कि ब्रिटेन में इस्तेमाल किए जा रहे मोबाइल फोन्स के 6.3 करोड़ में से 1.47 करोड़ यूजर्स को स्वास्थ्य संबंधी समस्याएं आईं गई हैं।



आर्थोस्कोपिक सर्जरी दूर होंगी कंधे से जुड़ी समस्याएं

क्रिकेट, बैडमिंटन, बास्केट बॉल, कराटे जैसे खेलों में युवाओं की बढ़ती गतिविधियों के कारण देश के युवा वर्ग की जीवन-शैली भी तेजी से बदल रही है। इससे स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं को पहले से ही लंबी सूची में जोड़ने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ता है।

टूटने, मांसपेशियों से संबंधित दिक्कतें, हड्डियों के कार्टिलेज खराब होने जैसी कई परेशानियां जुड़ गई हैं।

युवाओं में कंधे का डिस्कोलोकेशन (कंधे का अपने नियत स्थान से खिसक जाना) और इससे जुड़ी दूसरी बीमारियां और मध्य आयु (मिडिल एज) के लोगों व बुजुर्गों में फ्रोजन शोल्डर (कंधा जाम होना या कंधा घुमाने में

दर्द होना) और शोल्डर रोटेटर कफ टियर (सिर के ऊपर वस्तु उठाने में दिक्कत होना) नामक रोग अब तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं। अतीत में लोग इन समस्याओं को बर्दाश्त कर लेते थे और जीवन-शैली से समझौता कर लेते थे।

ऐसा इसलिए, क्योंकि तब एक ही विकल्प उपलब्ध था- बड़ी ओपन सर्जरी। इस सर्जरी की सबसे बड़ी समस्या यह थी कि इससे कंधे का मूवमेंट सीमित हो जाता था, लेकिन वर्तमान दौर में लोगों की अपेक्षा रहती है कि

कंधे का मूवमेंट सीमित न रहे। वर्तमान दौर में आज एमआरआई जांच और आर्थोस्कोपिक सर्जरी के जरिये कंधे से संबंधित उपर्युक्त रोगों का इलाज कारगर ढंग से संभव है।

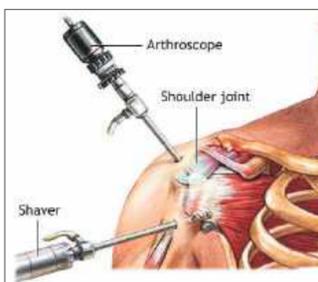
'की होल' सर्जरी

अब 'की होल' सर्जरी द्वारा छोटे चोरे से ही इस समस्या का अच्छी तरह इलाज किया जा सकता है। इससे न सिर्फ जटिलताएं कम होती हैं बल्कि परिणाम भी अच्छा हासिल होता है। साथ ही, स्वास्थ्य-लाभ (रिकवरी) भी काफी तेज होता है। कंधों के इलाज के लिए अतीत में देश के क्रिकेटर

विदेख जाते रहे हैं। अब यह सब कुछ भारत में किया जा रहा है।

युवाओं की समस्याएं

युवाओं में कंधे की जो समस्याएं सबसे आम हैं, उनमें एक है कंधे का बार-बार अपने नियत स्थान से हट जाना। इस स्थिति को शोल्डर डिस्लोकोशन कहते हैं। यह समस्या कंधे की संरचना के कारण है, क्योंकि कंधे का जोड़ (ज्वाइंट) एक अस्थिर जोड़ है। इसमें बॉल बड़ी और साँकेट छोटा है। इसलिए एक बार कंधा डिस्लोकेट हो जाए तो 10 में से 7 मामलों में



इसके फिर ऐसा होने की संभावना रहती है। पहले इस तरह की समस्याओं का कारण ही नहीं पता चलता था क्योंकि जांच के दौरान आमतौर पर कोई चिकित्सकीय संकेत नजर नहीं आता था। मरीज इनके साथ ही जीना सीख जाता था। आज एमआरआई और सी टी स्कैन से कंधे की संरचनात्मक जांच और आर्थोस्कोपिक सर्जरी से ज्यादातर मामलों में एनाटॉमिक रिपेयर या एनाटॉमिक रिस्ट्रिक्शन द्वारा सफल निदान संभव है।

मिडिल एज की समस्याएं

मध्य आयु (मिडिल एज) के लोगों और खासकर डायबिटीज के रोगियों में कंधा अक्सर सख्त या जाम

हो जाता है। इसे फ्रोजन शोल्डर कहा जाता है। यह पीड़ित व्यक्ति के कार्यों को सीमित करने वाली बीमारी है और मरीज अक्सर करीब एक साल में पूरी तरह ठीक हो जाते हैं। कंधे के बीच कॉर्टिसोन (स्टेरॉयड) इंजेक्ट करके ठीक होने की अवधि को कम किया जा सकता है, लेकिन कंधे से संबंधित गंभीर मामलों में आर्थोस्कोपिक सर्जरी जरूरी हो जाती है।

मध्य आयु के और बुजुर्ग लोग कफ डिजीज से भी ग्रस्त होते हैं। कफ मांसपेशियों का एक समूह है, जो कंधे के मूवमेंट को नियंत्रित करता है। यह सिर से कंधे के ऊपर तक जाता है और अक्सर हड्डियों के बीच दब जाता है, जो कभी-कभी फट जाता है। इसे रोटेटर कफ टियर कहते हैं। इस समस्या का सफल उपचार आर्थोस्कोपिक सर्जरी है।

सर्जरी के फायदे

आर्थोस्कोपिक सर्जरी कंधे की %की-होल% सर्जरी है, जहां जोड़ के अंदर के हिस्से को पेंसिल के आकार के एक पतले टेलीस्कोप से देखा जाता है। टेलीस्कोप से एक छोटा वीडियो कैमरा जुड़ा होता है और इस तरह जोड़ के अंदर का हिस्सा टीवी स्क्रीन पर देखा जा सकता है। यह सब एनेस्थेसिया देने के बाद दो या तीन छोटे सुराख के जरिए किया जाता है। चोरा या टांका लगाने की आवश्यकता नहीं होती। ऑपरेशन के बाद की अवधि में कम से कम असुविधा होती है और मरीज जल्दी ठीक हो जाता है। मरीज को सिर्फ एक दिन अस्पताल में रहना पड़ता है और वह हल्की पट्टी लगाकर घर आ सकता है।

सप्ताह भर के बाद कई पट्टियां हट जाती हैं और मरीज को प्रेरित किया जाता है कि वह कंधे को हिलाए। फिजियोथेरेपी से वापस हिलाने की ताकत और क्षमता हासिल करने में सहायता मिलती है।

जिम में सभी फिट रहने के लिए जाते हैं, पर क्या आप जानते हैं कि जिम जाने से शरीर को नुकसान भी पहुंच सकता है? किन-किन स्थितियों में जिम जाने से बचना चाहिए, बता रही हैं।

जिम जाएं सेहत बनाने के लिए, न कि सेहत को नुकसान पहुंचाने के लिए। आपकी उम्र कम या अधिक है या आप गर्भवती हैं या फिर आप अक्सर दोपहर में जिम जाते हैं तो तुरंत सावधान हो जाएं।

अगर 14 साल से कम उम्र है

जिम 14 साल की उम्र के बाद ही जाना चाहिए। 14 वर्ष से कम उम्र में जिम में व्यायाम करने से बच्चों के शरीर को क्षति पहुंच सकती है, क्योंकि कम आयु में बच्चों की हड्डियां बहुत संवेदनशील होती हैं। उनकी मांसपेशियां और नसें भी नरम होती हैं। ऐसे में उन्हें जिम में हार्ड वर्कआउट करना नुकसानदायक होता है। यह शरीर के विकास पर भी बुरा असर डाल सकता है। इतना ही नहीं, यदि 15 से 20 वर्ष की उम्र में जिम जाना शुरू कर रहे हैं तो अपना बीएमआई (बॉडी मास इंडेक्स) जरूर जांच करवा लें और उसके बाद डॉक्टर से सलाह लेकर ही जिम में एक्सरसाइज की शुरुआत करें।

दोपहर के समय जिम नहीं

जिम जाने के लिए बेहतर समय तो सुबह का ही है, पर आज की व्यस्त जीवनशैली में लोग अपनी सहुलियत के मुताबिक जिम जाने लगे हैं। कोई सुबह जाता है तो कोई शाम को और कोई रात को। अगर आप सुबह वक्त नहीं निकाल पा रहे हैं तो शाम और रात का समय जिम में वर्कआउट के लिए फिर भी ठीक है, लेकिन दोपहर लगभग बारह बजे से चार बजे तक जिम जाने से बचें। इस समय आपका शरीर वर्कआउट के लिए पूरी तरह से तैयार नहीं होता। अगर रात को आप खाना देर से खाते हैं तो ही रात को जिम जाएं और खाना खाने के बाद जिम में एक्सरसाइज बिलकुल न करें।

गर्भवती या मासिक धर्म होने पर

फिटनेस फिएस्टा की कोच गीता चौधरी बताती हैं कि महिलाओं के लिए जिम जाना अच्छा होता है। इससे भविष्य में उनकी सेहत को फायदा होता है, लेकिन गर्भवती महिलाओं को जिम जाने से गुरेज करना चाहिए। इसकी अपेक्षा वह योग या अन्य हल्के व्यायाम डॉक्टर से सलाह ले कर करें। इसके अलावा डिलीवरी होने के बाद भी पांच महीने तक जिम न जाएं। उसके बाद अपनी डिलीवरी रिपोर्ट जिम इंस्ट्रक्टर को दिखा कर उनकी सलाह के अनुसार जिम में व्यायाम शुरू

ऐसे में न जाएं जिम

करें। महिलाओं को मासिक धर्म के समय भी जिम नहीं जाना चाहिए, बल्कि मासिक धर्म का दर्द शुरू होने पर भी जिम न जाएं। उस समय महिलाओं में रक्त संचार तेज होता है, जिसमें जिम की एक्सरसाइज से महिलाओं को काफी परेशानी होती है। उन्हें कमजोरी महसूस हो सकती है, चक्कर आ सकते हैं।



45 पार कर गए तो

लगभग 45 की उम्र के बाद शरीर की शक्ति कम हो जाती है, साथ ही हड्डियां भी कमजोर होने लगती हैं। इस अवस्था में जिम में व्यायाम करने पर कई तरह की परेशानियां शरीर को सताती हैं। ऐसे में जिम सोच-समझ कर ही जाएं। यदि आप पहले से जिम नियमित तौर पर जाते रहे हैं तो 60 वर्ष की आयु तक भी जिम जा सकते हैं, क्योंकि ऐसे में शरीर में पहले ही स्ट्रेंथ बन जाती है।

कमर या पैर की तकलीफें में

कमर या पैर संबंधी गंभीर रोग या परेशानी होने पर जिम से परहेज करें। यही नहीं, किसी भी तरह की अंदरूनी बीमारी जैसे अटैक्स, पथरी आदि में भी जिम का व्यायाम नुकसानदायक हो सकता है। हो सके तो ऐसे परिस्थितियों में जिम को नजरअंदाज ही करें या अपने डॉक्टर की सलाह के बाद ही जिम में वर्कआउट करें।

NEWS BOX

Trophy is home: Suryakumar thanks Team India fans after T20 World Cup win

New Delhi. (Agency)

Suryakumar Yadav sent a special message to the Indian cricket team fans after their T20 World Cup 2026 win, with the trophy finally coming back home. India put on a clinical performance with bat and ball in the final in Ahmedabad on March 8 to beat New Zealand by 76 runs and become the first team in the history of the tournament to retain their title. The BCCI posted a special video dedicated to the fans with Suryakumar thanking them for their support and blessings throughout the journey. The Indian skipper said that the trophy win belongs to the entire country, and it was the victory of the kids who dream about making it big in cricket. "Dear Team India fans. First of all, a heartfelt thank you. We are here only because of your support and blessings. This



World Cup trophy belongs to the entire country. When we won, it wasn't just our victory." "It was the dream of those kids who hold a bat and ball and imagine a future. It was for the fans who fill the stadiums. And for the millions who support us from their homes. Your prayers and unconditional love have given us the strength to bring this trophy home. In India, cricket is not just a game — it's an emotion. And this victory belongs to all of you."

SURYAKUMAR AIMING FOR OLYMPIC GLORY

The T20 World Cup 2026 win was a major achievement for Suryakumar as India have remained unbeaten in bilateral series and multi-team tournaments during his tenure. However, the Indian captain isn't ready to slow down and is aiming for Olympic glory in LA in 2028 and doing a hat-trick in the T20 World Cup. "Next goal is Olympics gold and the T20 World Cup which is also in that year," said Suryakumar. Suryakumar will next be in action during the IPL where he will play for Mumbai Indians.

South Africa the stupidest team of T20 World Cup, could've knocked out India: Vaughan

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former England captain Michael Vaughan labelled South Africa as the stupidest team in the T20 World Cup 2026 and claimed it was their mistake that allowed India to win the tournament. Vaughan said that if South Africa had allowed West Indies to beat them in their Super 8 clash, then India would have faced an uphill task to make it to the semis and may have been eliminated in the process. During the Super 8 stage, India lost to South Africa by 76 runs, and it left Suryakumar Yadav's team in a tricky spot, needing wins in their next two games against Zimbabwe and the West Indies. India defeated Zimbabwe but were also closely following the result of the South Africa vs West Indies clash in Ahmedabad. The Proteas thrashed the Windies to seal their spot and make India's clash against the two-time champions a virtual quarterfinal in



Kolkata. The hosts won the contest and went on to beat England in the semi-final. South Africa were eliminated from the tournament after their loss to New Zealand in the final four stage. "I tell you, who I think is the stupidest team of the tournament? South Africa. Because if South Africa had allowed the West Indies to beat them in the Super 8s, India would have been knocked out. I'm just saying — if they had cleared them out, the juggernaut that was coming would have stopped," Vaughan said on the Stick to Cricket podcast. By winning that game, they allowed the juggernaut to go on. India then beat Zimbabwe, then the West Indies in a kind of quarterfinal, and then England. South Africa had to play Zimbabwe next, and they even rested three players for that match," he added.

England lifts media ban on Ashes stars despite ongoing performance review

ECB has lifted the temporary restriction on centrally contracted England players speaking to the media. The move comes amid scrutiny following England's Ashes defeat and a series of off-field controversies involving players during recent tours.

LAVERKUSEN. (Agency)

The England and Wales Cricket Board has lifted the temporary restriction that had prevented centrally contracted England players from speaking to the media while representing their counties. With the decision now reversed, England's top cricketers will once again be free to engage with journalists without limitations.

The measure had originally been introduced in the aftermath of England's disappointing Ashes campaign. The ECB wanted senior officials — managing director of men's cricket Rob Key and chief executive Richard Gould — to address the media first before



players began speaking publicly about the tour. As a result, centrally contracted England players were temporarily restricted from discussing the Ashes while appearing in media interactions linked to their counties. The ECB has now withdrawn that restriction, allowing players to speak independently of Key and Gould's scheduled media briefings in the coming weeks. The move comes amid continued scrutiny around England's Ashes

tour, where both on-field performances and off-field issues drew widespread attention.

ENGLAND'S OFF-FIELD PROBLEMS

England's difficult tour was followed by a series of controversies that placed the team management led by head coach Brendon McCullum under intense pressure.

One of the biggest talking points emerged after the Sydney Test when reports surfaced that Harry Brook had allegedly been involved in

an altercation with a nightclub bouncer during England's earlier tour of New Zealand, where the side had suffered a 3-0 defeat. The reported incident also raised questions about Brook's position as England's white-ball captain. Another controversy followed during the Ashes when reports suggested England's four-day break in Noosa resembled a stag-style party, with claims that several players had spent the time drinking heavily. Matters escalated further when a video circulated online showing England opener Ben Duckett appearing intoxicated while speaking to a fan. Responding to the incident ahead of the fourth Test, Rob Key said the board would look into the matter, adding that such behaviour did not represent the standards expected from an international side. England's performances on the field also failed to impress. The team struggled through the early stages of the Ashes, allowing Australia to retain the urn after dominating the opening three matches of the series. The ECB has since begun a formal review into the disappointing campaign in Australia. Despite the criticism surrounding the tour, McCullum is expected to remain in charge and guide England into the next home Ashes series in 2027.

World Cup-winning captain under fire: The strange scrutiny of Suryakumar Yadav

New Delhi. (Agency)

When a team lifts a World Cup trophy, the script usually writes itself. Celebration, admiration and collective pride follow in equal measure. Yet India's historic defence of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup on home soil has been met with something rather different. It has not even been a week after the triumph, and a curious narrative has emerged that questions the value of the victory and directs an unusual amount of criticism towards the man who captained it, Suryakumar Yadav. Another T20 World Cup now sits in India's cabinet, but for a section of fans, the moment somehow feels diminished. Some argue that India's influence over the modern game is too powerful, calling the triumph a sham. Others insist that the cricketing world must unite to curb India's dominance. It is an extraordinary reaction to what should have been a straightforward sporting achievement. Amid the noise, the player absorbing the brunt of the scrutiny is the captain himself.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

Statistically, Suryakumar's tournament was far from a failure. He finished as India's third-highest run-scorer, accumulating 242

runs from nine innings at an average of 30.25 and a strike rate of 136.72, including one half-century. These may not be headline-grabbing numbers, but they came



at moments when the team most needed composure. His most defining knock arrived in the opening fixture itself against the USA. India had slumped to 77/6, staring at an embarrassing defeat as the hoodoo of the first match as hosts in the T20 World Cup seemed to haunt the team again.

However, fresh from winning Player of the series against New Zealand, Suryakumar took it upon himself to rescue his team with

an unbeaten 84 from 49 deliveries, dragging the innings to a respectable 161/9. The knock ultimately set up a comfortable 29-run victory and ensured India won their opening game of the T20 World Cup as hosts for the first time. The rest of the competition did not produce another major innings from the captain, yet his contributions remained quietly significant.

A steady 32 off 29 against Pakistan on a tricky surface made sure that there was no collapse in the middle overs. Later, a measured 34 off 28 against the Netherlands provided stability amid the constant fall of wickets. A blistering 33 from just 13 balls against Zimbabwe ensured India maintained a relentless scoring rate on their way to a commanding total. None of those innings stood out amid the flashy big scores of the game and their value often slipped beneath the surface of scorecards and highlight reels.

THE STRANGE SCRUTINY

Despite those contributions, Suryakumar's credentials as India's captain have repeatedly been questioned since the World Cup victory. Much of the criticism stems from his broader batting numbers since the ICC T20 World Cup 2024 triumph.

Sunrisers Leeds X account suspended after backlash over Abrar Ahmed Hundred signing

Hours after making the signing of Abrar Ahmed during the Hundred auction, Sunrisers Leeds' X account was suspended on Thursday, March 12. The Leeds team is fully owned by the Sun Group, who are the owners of Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Sunrisers Leeds' X account was suspended on Thursday, March 12, hours after they completed the much-talked about deal to sign Pakistan's Abrar Ahmed during the Hundred auction. The SunRisers franchise, which is owned by the Sun Group—an Indian media conglomerate headed by



Kalanithi Maran—made a strong push to sign Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed and eventually secured his services for £190,000 (approximately Rs 2.34 crore). Kavya Maran, the CEO of the franchise and a key decision-maker, was present at the auction. Kavya Maran was joined by head coach Daniel Vettori at the auction table at

someone tries to access the account, they're met with the message, "Account suspended. X suspends accounts that violate the X rules."

At the moment, there is no explanation given by X as to why they decided to suspend the account of the Sunrisers Leeds franchise.

Piccadilly Lights in London on Thursday as SunRisers Leeds successfully outbid Trent Rockets to land Abrar Ahmed. The team will be captained by England's T20I skipper Harry Brook. The signing also marked a rare moment, as it is the first time in several years that a franchise with ownership ties to the Indian Premier League (IPL) has recruited a Pakistan cricketer. Following this, Indian fans slammed the Sunrisers franchise, calling for a boycott of SRH in the IPL. Now, the Sunrisers Leeds account cannot be accessed on X. If



thoughtful decision like, 'oh, I want to be a squash player.' It was more like, ok this is fun, let me enjoy my time playing squash. While my friends would be playing cricket or football, I would spend my time on the squash courts and slowly that passion turned into a profession. Now, Ramit sits at No.38 in the PSA squash tour rankings. He is the second-highest-ranked Indian behind Abhay Singh (World No.27) and one of the stalwarts leading the squash revolution in the country alongside Joshna Chinnappa, Anahat Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar. But watching Ramit show off his skills inside the squash court was something that almost didn't happen. In fact, he could have been living a completely different life — one in the world of finance, tackling balance sheets and the ups and downs of the stock market.

Duplantis breaks pole vault world record for 15th time at Uppsala World Athletics

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Armand Duplantis continued his extraordinary dominance in pole vault by breaking the world record for the 15th time in his career. Competing in front of a home crowd at the Mondo Classic in Uppsala, Sweden, the Olympic champion cleared 6.31m, improving his own previous mark by one centimetre. The record-breaking jump came at the World Athletics Indoor Tour Silver meeting on Thursday, where Duplantis comfortably won the competition before raising the bar to a new world record height. Speaking after the event, the Swedish star admitted performing in front of his home fans added extra pressure but made the moment even more special. "If you come to Sweden to compete against me, it will be even harder to beat me," Duplantis said after securing the 15th world record of his career. "There are a lot of emotions right now. There was a little extra pressure because I want to perform in a different way. Setting a

world record here was actually incredible."

"This is my home. Every time I stand on the track I represent you and feel such pride to jump for you and Sweden," he added.

DUPLANTIS BREAKS HIS OWN WORLD RECORD

Duplantis produced a dominant performance in Uppsala, clearing 5.65m, 5.90m and 6.08m without any failed attempts to seal victory. With the competition effectively wrapped up, he then asked for the bar to be raised to 6.31m, a height that would surpass his previous world record. The 26-year-old successfully cleared the mark to once again rewrite the record books. His previous world record had been set at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo in September.

The latest feat marked the 15th time Duplantis has broken the world record since first setting it in February 2020 with a clearance of 6.17m. Interestingly, most of his record



improvements have come in increments of just one centimetre, a pattern that continued with his latest jump.

All Mondo Duplantis world records:

- 6.17 m — February 08, 2020
- 6.18 m — February 15, 2020
- 6.19 m — March 07, 2022
- 6.20 m — March 20, 2022
- 6.21 m — July 24, 2022
- 6.22 m — February 25, 2023

- 6.23 m — September 17, 2023
- 6.24 m — April 20, 2024
- 6.25 m — August 05, 2024
- 6.26 m — August 25, 2024
- 6.27 m — February 28, 2025
- 6.28 m — June 15, 2025
- 6.29 m — August 12, 2025
- 6.30 m — September 15, 2025
- 6.31 m — March 12, 2026

It was also a special milestone for the Swedish superstar. Although he had previously broken the record in Sweden, Thursday's jump marked the first time he achieved the feat indoors on home soil.

Duplantis had only recently returned to competition after battling food poisoning during an appearance in Clermont-Ferrand, France, in February, where he cleared 6.06m. The Uppsala meeting was just his second competition of the year, making the record-breaking performance even more remarkable.

Nora Fatehi

Slams Trolls After Her World Peace Appeal Amid Middle East Tensions Sparks Backlash

Actress Nora Fatehi, who is quite active on social media, recently shared a video on Instagram amid the rising tensions in the Middle East. In her video, she assured her fans that she was safe while urging people to prioritise unity and peace. She emphasised that the fear of uncertainty is affecting people globally, and that peace and stability are what everyone truly seeks. Now, Nora has posted another video saying her appeal for world peace amid the Iran-Israel conflict had upset many, and she was criticized simply for advocating peace.

What has Nora Fatehi said in new video

On March 3, Nora shared a new video on her Instagram handle, calling out people who 'have lost touch with the ability to have comprehension skills and listening skills'. She slammed the trolls for the unnecessary backlash. She was heard saying, "I think a lot of people have lost touch with



the ability to have comprehension skills and listening skills. And I think that's something that we used to learn back in the day in school. So, you know, comprehension skills, critical thinking skills, and reading abilities, and being able to just listen. I think a lot of people have skipped that stage in life, especially now with social media and phones...I think we haven't been able to push our brains to that level of being able to understand things. But I do maintain my stance on world peace and unity."

She further said, "If you don't think you are a part of that sentence, because every country and every person is a part of the world. So if I speak generally on people and wanting people to live in peace, and if I speak against chaos, and if you have a problem with that, then you need to go check yourself. Morally,

there's something wrong with you."

Nora said her message about worldwide exhaustion from ongoing chaos spoke for everyone, irrespective of geography or faith. If calls for peace irritate or threaten someone, she believes they need to look within. The actress further added, "While I'm reflecting today, because you know, I just did my prayers, and I'm about to break my fast, and I'm sitting here, and I'm thinking, and I'm like, wow, you know, we live in a world today where people get upset, they get angry, if you speak about world peace, that's scary." Along with the video, she wrote, "Standing on business.. If world peace and unity is triggering you then please get some help."

Meanwhile, Nora was last seen in Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna's Thamma, where she made a special appearance in the song Dilbar Ki Aankhon Ka.



Rashmika Mandanna Flaunts Sindoor, Mangalsutra As She Walks With Husband Vijay Deverakonda



Newlywed actor Rashmika Mandanna was spotted wearing a mangalsutra and sindoor as she walked hand in hand with husband Vijay Deverakonda following their traditional visit to his native village in Telangana. The couple, who tied the knot on February 26 in Udaipur, appeared relaxed and radiant during their latest public outing. Videos circulating online show the pair smiling and interacting warmly with locals as they returned from Thummanpet village in the Nagarkurnool district. Their visit was part of customary post-wedding rituals conducted with family members and well-wishers.

Rashmika Embraces Bridal Traditions

Rashmika opted for an elegant beige printed saree accented with a bold red border. She completed her look with layered gold chains, her mangalsutra (thali), and sindoor adorning her hair parting. Her soft curls and minimal makeup added to the understated bridal glow that fans quickly praised across social media.

Vijay complemented her in a white floral print kurta paired with crisp white pyjama trousers, keeping his look classic and traditional. The couple walked closely, often pausing to greet villagers who had gathered to catch a glimpse of them. Following their intimate wedding ceremony in Udaipur, attended by close friends and family, the duo reportedly performed a Satyanarayana Swamy Vratham and guruhapravesam ceremony at their newly built home in Thummanpet. The house-entering ritual marked the beginning of their married life in keeping with long-held customs.

Locals welcomed the star couple with festive cheer, music and blessings. The atmosphere reflected both celebration and pride, as residents turned out in large numbers to witness the couple's visit.

Temple Visit And Grand Reception Ahead

Soon after returning from Rajasthan, Rashmika and Vijay also visited the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam temple in Hyderabad to seek divine blessings. They distributed sweets to devotees and briefly interacted with fans, further amplifying the buzz around their wedding.

Ayesha Khan Opens Up About Receiving Rape Threats, Reveals She Was Dropped From A Song For Being 'Fat'



Actress Ayesha Khan had a successful 2025, featuring in Aditya Dhar's blockbuster Dhurandhar. She appeared alongside Krystle D'Souza in the song Shararat, which has been topping charts since the film's release. Amid the appreciation coming her way, Ayesha recently opened up about being dropped from a song because of her body size. She also spoke about being sexualised on Instagram and receiving rape threats.

Ayesha Khan talks about getting trolled on social media

Ayesha has previously addressed the trolling she faces online. During her stint on Bigg Boss 17, she received backlash over her association with Munawar Faruqui. Speaking at the We The Women event, she recalled being removed from a T-Series song during her college days. She revealed that she was set to feature as the second lead in the track while she was in Class 12, but was replaced just a night before the shoot because she was considered "fat."

During the conversation, she shared that she took her time to feel confident about her body and appearance. She shared that she is "almost every day sexualised" for her body on Instagram and feels judged regardless of what she wears.

Ayesha said, "I am almost every day sexualised for my body on Instagram. I wear a normal top; people have a problem, I wear skirts, people have a problem. I have to think before posting. If I have to think before wearing something or wanting to post something, just because someone else is going to sexualise me, it's, of course, a very sad space to be in. I don't know, there's a very thin line I keep struggling, sometimes I think I'll post whatever I want, but other times I am not in the mood to see any comments telling me whatever they would have done to me if they had a chance."

She went on to reveal that she gets "rape threats every day." She continued, "Because you are a potential rapist if you had the strength or you could do what you are saying, you would do it. So it's very scary that these are actual human beings around us. These are not just comments. I have had rape threats every day. I so wish something strict could be done about it. There are days when it triggers my wounds, scares me that if I were not this famous or powerful like I am today, it could have happened."

Rukmini Vasanth

Ashika Ranganath Back Saphami Gowda After She Calls Out Inappropriate Pap Angles

On March 3, actress Saphami Gowda took to social media to call out paparazzi for "deliberate zoom-ins and inappropriate angles" of women in the industry. Rukmini Vasanth, Ashika Ranganath, and Divya Spandana have now extended their support. They reposted the strong note shared by Saphami.

Actresses come out in support of Saphami Gowda

Kannada actor Rukmini Vasanth and Divya Spandana reposted the statement on their Instagram stories. Reposting the same note, Ashika Ranganath wrote, "Let's normalise respect - not violation. Deliberate zoom-ins and inappropriate angles are disrespectful and unacceptable."

In her slamming note, Saphami called out the 'unacceptable' behaviour by the paparazzi.

She spoke about the inappropriate video angles of female actors shot at public events. She even asked the paps to focus on the work and not the bodies.

Her note read, "As women in the film industry, we stand together in addressing a recurring issue. Repeatedly, videos and photographs of female actors at public events are shot and circulated from inappropriate angles, with unnecessary zooms that focus on our bodies rather than our work. This behaviour, carried out by a few individuals, is

disrespectful and unacceptable. We are here for our craft. We are here for our cinema."

She further wrote, "We unequivocally condemn deliberate zoom-ins and inappropriate angles. They are clear violations of dignity and will not be normalised or tolerated. We expect those covering events to maintain professionalism,



basic respect, and decency. We stand united in setting this boundary. We stand in solidarity with every woman who has experienced this - and we will continue to support one another in demanding respect." In another story, she requested media friends to show support over this concern. She wrote, "There are journalists and media friends who have shown immense respect and with whom we have felt extremely secured with. We request them to support us against these handful who are brutal in how they capture and project the ladies."



चतरा में कंटेनर पलटा, आधा दर्जन हाइवा मिड़े संघरी घाटी में हुआ हादसा, एक की मौत



चतरा, एप्रैसी। झारखंड के चतरा जिले की संघरी घाटी में शुक्रवार को एक भीषण सड़क हादसा हुआ। जोरी थाना क्षेत्र में एक अनियंत्रित कंटेनर पलटने के बाद पीछे से आ रहे आधा दर्जन हाइवा आपस में टकरा गए। इस दुर्घटना में एक व्यक्ति की मौत हो गई और चतरा-गया मुख्य मार्ग पर लंबा जाम लगा गया। हादसा संघरी घाटी के एक अंधे मोड़ पर हुआ, जब तेज रफ्तार कंटेनर असंतुलित होकर पलट गया। पीछे से आ रहे भारी वाहन संभल नहीं पाए और एक-दूसरे से टकराकर क्षतिग्रस्त हो गए।

वाहन घंटों तक फंसे रहे: मृतक की पहचान अभी नहीं हो पाई है। शव को पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए सदर अस्पताल भेज दिया गया है। हादसे के तुरंत बाद चतरा-गया मुख्य मार्ग पर यातायात पूरी तरह ठप हो गया। यात्रियों से भरी बसें, एम्बुलेंस और अन्य छोटे वाहन घंटों तक फंसे रहे। जोरी थाना पुलिस ने क्रैन की सहायता से क्षतिग्रस्त वाहनों को हटाने का कार्य शुरू कर दिया है। हालांकि, घाटी की जटिल भौगोलिक स्थिति के कारण यातायात बहाल करने में काफी कठिनाई आ रही है। इस बीच, चतरा विधायक जनार्दन पासवान ने इस हादसे पर संज्ञान लिया है। उन्होंने संघरी घाटी में आए दिन होने वाली दुर्घटनाओं पर दुख व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि प्रशासन की अनदेखी के कारण यह घाटी 'किलर जोन' बन गई है।

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

हजारीबाग, एप्रैसी। 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 ड्राइवर 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 ड्राइवर 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: 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 करवाया। 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 एनएचआई 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।

दो सगे भाइयों की गंगा में डूबने से मौत: तीन वर्षों बाद गांव लौटा था परिवार

साहिबगंज, एप्रैसी। साहिबगंज स्थित राजमहल थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत मोकीमपुर पंचायत के सरकंडा गांव में गंगा नदी में डूबने से एक ही परिवार के दो बच्चों की मौत हो गई। दोनों सगे भाई थे। दोनों ही गुरुवार की शाम से लापता थे। आशंका जाहिर की जा रही है कि दोनों भाई नहाने के लिए गंगा नदी में उतरे होंगे और इसी बीच वो गहरे में पानी में चले गए होंगे। मृतकों की पहचान सेंट्र चौरसिया के पुत्र आर्यन कुमार (8) और राधव कुमार (6) के रूप में की गई। मृत बच्चों के पिता सेंट्र चौरसिया ने बताया पत्नी व बच्चों के साथ पिछले तीन वर्षों से मुंबई में थे। होली मनाने के लिए करीब तीन वर्षों के बाद वह मुंबई से अपने घर सरकंडा वापस लौटे थे।

काफी खोजबीन के बाद भी कुछ पता नहीं चल सका था: इधर, गुरुवार की शाम बच्चों के लापता होने के बाद आसपास के इलाकों तथा सूराल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म में काफी खोजबीन करने के बाद भी उनका कुछ पता नहीं चल सका। किसी व्यक्ति ने गंगा नदी के किनारे बच्चों के कपड़े व चप्पल देखा तो लोगों ने गंगा नदी में डूबने की आशंका जताई। इसके बाद पुलिस को जानकारी देकर गंगा नदी में खोजने की प्रक्रिया शुरू की गई लेकिन देर रात तक पुलिस की मौजूदगी में खोजबीन करने के बाद भी बच्चों का पता नहीं चल सका।

गंगा तट पर ग्रामीणों की भारी भीड़ उमड़ पड़ी: अगले दिन शुक्रवार की सुबह एक बच्चे का का शव गंगा नदी में उपलब्ध दिखा। एक बच्चे का शव मिलने की सूचना मिलते ही गंगा तट पर ग्रामीणों की भारी भीड़ उमड़ पड़ी। इसके बाद गोताखोरों की मदद से दूसरे बच्चे का शव भी गंगा नदी से बरामद कर लिया गया। इधर, शव मिलने की सूचना मिलते ही राजमहल पुलिस एएसआई सिकंदर तिकी अपने दल बल के साथ मौके पर पहुंची। और दोनों शवों को अपने कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए राजमहल भेज दिया। दोनों बच्चों का शव देख कर गांव में मातम छा गया। हादसे के बाद घटनास्थल पर ग्रामीणों का गुस्सा फूट पड़ा। आक्रोशित लोगों ने चिरैयाटांड-कल्याणपुर-चतरा मुख्य मार्ग को जाम कर दिया। सूचना मिलने पर पिपरवार थाना प्रभारी अभय कुमार पुलिस बल के साथ मौके पर पहुंचे और स्थिति को नियंत्रित करने का प्रयास किया। पुलिस ने दुर्घटनाग्रस्त स्काफिया और मोटरसाइकिल को जब्त कर लिया है। भारी तनाव को देखते हुए पुलिस बल घटनास्थल पर कैप कर रही है और लोगों को समझाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। वहीं, चौथे किशोर ने अस्पताल ले जाते समय रास्ते में दम तोड़ दिया। मृतकों की पहचान बाराडीह गांव निवासी मंजीत कुमार (14), विकास कुमार (15), प्रताप कुमार (15) और हफुआ निवासी सोनू कुमार (14) के रूप में हुई है। ये सभी ज्ञानदीप विद्या निकेतन के छात्र थे। परिजनों ने बताया कि चारों दोस्त शाम करीब 3 बजे घर से घूमने जाने की बात कहकर निकले थे। शाम ढलते-ढलते उनकी मौत की खबर घर पहुंची, जिससे पूरे गांव में मातम छा गया। अनियंत्रित स्काफिया ने एक मोटरसाइकिल को टक्कर मार दी, बच्चों की मां प्रियंका देवी शव से लिपट कर फूट फूटकर रोने लगी। इधर, गुरुवार की शाम बच्चों के लापता होने के बाद आसपास के इलाकों तथा सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म में काफी खोजबीन करने के बाद भी उनका कुछ पता नहीं चल सका। तो लोगों ने गंगा नदी में डूबने की आशंका जताई। इसके बाद पुलिस को जानकारी देकर गंगा नदी में खोजने की प्रक्रिया शुरू की गई लेकिन देर रात तक पुलिस की मौजूदगी में खोजबीन करने के बाद भी बच्चों का पता नहीं चल सका। अगले दिन शुक्रवार की सुबह एक बच्चे का का शव गंगा नदी में उपलब्ध दिखा।

चतरा में स्कार्पियो ने बाइक को रौंदा, चार की मौत

एक ही बाइक पर सवार थे चार छात्र, आक्रोशित ग्रामीणों ने किया सड़क जाम

चतरा, एप्रैसी। चतरा जिले के पिपरवार थाना क्षेत्र के चिरैयाटांड में गुरुवार शाम एक सड़क हादसे में चार किशोरों की मौत हो गई। अनियंत्रित स्कार्पियो ने एक मोटरसाइकिल को टक्कर मार दी, जिससे यह हादसा हुआ। घटना के बाद स्कार्पियो को मौके पर छोड़ चालक फरार हो गया। पुलिस के अनुसार, एक ही मोटरसाइकिल पर सवार चार किशोर मैट्रिक की परीक्षा देकर घूमने निकले थे। चिरैयाटांड के पास तेज रफ्तार स्कार्पियो ने बाइक को सामने से टक्कर मार दी। टक्कर इतनी भीषण थी कि मोटरसाइकिल सवार तीन किशोरों की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई।

सभी ज्ञानदीप विद्या निकेतन के छात्र थे: वहीं, चौथे किशोर ने अस्पताल ले



जाते समय रास्ते में दम तोड़ दिया। मृतकों की पहचान बाराडीह गांव निवासी मंजीत कुमार (14), विकास कुमार (15), प्रताप कुमार (15) और हफुआ निवासी

सोनू कुमार (14) के रूप में हुई है। ये सभी ज्ञानदीप विद्या निकेतन के छात्र थे। परिजनों ने बताया कि चारों दोस्त शाम करीब 3 बजे घर से घूमने जाने की बात कहकर निकले थे। शाम ढलते-ढलते उनकी मौत की खबर घर पहुंची, जिससे पूरे गांव में मातम छा गया।

चिरैयाटांड-कल्याणपुर-चतरा मुख्य मार्ग को जाम कर दिया: हादसे के बाद घटनास्थल पर ग्रामीणों का गुस्सा फूट पड़ा। आक्रोशित लोगों ने चिरैयाटांड-कल्याणपुर-चतरा मुख्य मार्ग को जाम कर दिया। सूचना मिलने पर पिपरवार थाना प्रभारी अभय कुमार पुलिस बल के साथ मौके पर पहुंचे और स्थिति को नियंत्रित करने का प्रयास किया। पुलिस ने दुर्घटनाग्रस्त स्कार्पियो और मोटरसाइकिल को जब्त कर लिया है। भारी तनाव को देखते हुए पुलिस बल घटनास्थल पर कैप कर रही है और लोगों को समझाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। वहीं, चौथे किशोर ने अस्पताल ले जाते

समय रास्ते में दम तोड़ दिया। मृतकों की पहचान बाराडीह गांव निवासी मंजीत कुमार (14), विकास कुमार (15), प्रताप कुमार (15) और हफुआ निवासी सोनू कुमार (14) के रूप में हुई है। ये सभी ज्ञानदीप विद्या निकेतन के छात्र थे। परिजनों ने बताया कि चारों दोस्त शाम करीब 3 बजे घर से घूमने जाने की बात कहकर निकले थे। शाम ढलते-ढलते उनकी मौत की खबर घर पहुंची, जिससे पूरे गांव में मातम छा गया। अनियंत्रित स्कार्पियो ने एक मोटरसाइकिल को टक्कर मार दी, जिससे यह हादसा हुआ। घटना के बाद स्कार्पियो को मौके पर छोड़ चालक फरार हो गया। पुलिस के अनुसार, एक ही मोटरसाइकिल पर सवार चार किशोर मैट्रिक की परीक्षा देकर घूमने निकले थे। चिरैयाटांड के पास तेज रफ्तार स्कार्पियो ने बाइक को सामने से टक्कर मार दी। टक्कर इतनी भीषण थी कि मोटरसाइकिल सवार तीन किशोरों की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई।

झारखंड में तापमान पहुंचा 39 डिग्री के पार, बढ़ेगी गर्मी

रांची, एप्रैसी। राजधानी रांची सहित राज्य के अधिकांश जिलों में मौसम साफ होते ही तापमान में तेजी से वृद्धि होने लगी है। मार्च महीने में ही डाल्टनगंज में अधिकतम तापमान बढ़कर 39.2 डिग्री के पार पहुंच गया है। आने वाले दो-तीन दिनों में तापमान में दो से तीन डिग्री की वृद्धि होने की संभावना है। यह जानकारी मौसम विभाग ने शुक्रवार को दी। विभाग के अनुसार शुक्रवार को राज्य के कई जिलों में तापमान 36 डिग्री से अधिक रिकार्ड किया गया है। राज्य में सबसे अधिक गर्म जिले चाईबासा, सरायकेला और जमशेदपुर हैं, जहां अधिकतम तापमान 36 डिग्री अधिक रिकार्ड किया गया। चाईबासा में शुक्रवार को अधिकतम तापमान 37.4 डिग्री, सरायकेला में 37.2 डिग्री और जमशेदपुर में अधिकतम



तापमान 36.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस रिकार्ड किया गया। इधर, मौसम विभाग ने 17 मार्च तक राज्य के विभिन्न जिलों में गर्जन के साथ गर्जन के साथ हल्की बारिश और वज्रपात होने की संभावना व्यक्त की है। इसे लेकर विभाग ने येलो

बढ़कर 39.2 डिग्री के पार पहुंच गया है। आने वाले दो-तीन दिनों में तापमान में दो से तीन डिग्री की वृद्धि होने की संभावना है। यह जानकारी मौसम विभाग ने शुक्रवार को दी। विभाग के अनुसार शुक्रवार को राज्य के कई जिलों में तापमान 36 डिग्री से अधिक रिकार्ड किया गया है। राज्य में सबसे अधिक गर्म जिले चाईबासा, सरायकेला और जमशेदपुर हैं, वहीं, शुक्रवार को रांची में अधिकतम तापमान 33.6 डिग्री और न्यूनतम 17.4 डिग्री सेल्सियस रिकार्ड किया गया। इसी प्रकार जमशेदपुर में अधिकतम 37.5 डिग्री और न्यूनतम 23.3 डिग्री, डाल्टनगंज में अधिकतम 39.2 और न्यूनतम डिग्री और न्यूनतम 17.5 डिग्री एवं चाईबासा में अधिकतम तापमान 37.4 डिग्री और न्यूनतम तापमान 23.4 डिग्री सेल्सियस रिकार्ड किया गया।

गुमला में 3 दिन से लापता छात्र का शव मिला

गुमला, एप्रैसी। गुमला जिले के सदर थाना क्षेत्र के केसीपरा गांव में शुक्रवार को एक 8 वर्षीय छात्र तीन दिन से लापता था। शव मिलने के बाद परिजनों और ग्रामीणों में भारी आक्रोश फैल गया, जिसके बाद उन्होंने गुमला-सिमडेगा मुख्य मार्ग को जाम कर दिया। केसीपरा निवासी 8 वर्षीय छात्र प्रीतम गोप तीन दिन पहले लापता हो गया था। वह परिजनों के साथ गांव में ही एक शादी समारोह में शामिल होने गया था, जहां से वह रहस्यमय तरीके से गायब हो गया। परिजनों ने उसकी गुमशुदगी की रिपोर्ट थाने में दर्ज कराई थी और उसकी तलाश की जा रही थी, लेकिन कोई सुराग नहीं मिला था। सड़क जाम को सूचना

मिलने पर गुमला थाना प्रभारी महेंद्र करमाली मौके पर पहुंचे और



ग्रामीणों को समझा-बुझाकर जाम हटाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। जाम स्थल पर मौजूद ग्रामीण अपराधियों की तत्काल गिरफ्तारी और घटना की उच्च स्तरीय जांच की मांग कर रहे हैं। सड़क जाम के कारण मुख्य मार्ग पर वाहनों की लंबी कतारें लग गई हैं और यातायात पूरी तरह बाधित हो गया है।

कोडरमा में बुजुर्ग ने फांसी लगाकर दी जान



कोडरमा, एप्रैसी। कोडरमा जिले के ताराटांड में गुरुवार देर रात एक 58 वर्षीय व्यक्ति ने फांसी लगाकर आत्महत्या कर ली। मृतक की पहचान शशिभूषण पांडे, पिता स्वर्गीय कामता पांडे के रूप में की गई है। पुलिस ने शव को कब्जे में लेकर मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है। मिली जानकारी के अनुसार, शशिभूषण पांडे गुरुवार रात खाना खाने के बाद अपनी पत्नी के साथ कमरे में सोने गए थे। सुबह जब उनकी पत्नी की नींद खुली तो उन्होंने पति को अपने पास नहीं पाया। तलाश करने पर वह छत पर बने कमरे में गमछे के सहारे फंदे पर लटक मिले। पत्नी के रोने की आवाज सुनकर उनका छोटा बेटा सूरज और बालू ने रहने वाले परिवार के अन्य लोग मौके पर पहुंचे। इसके बाद उन्होंने तुरंत तिलैया पुलिस को सूचना दी। सूचना मिलते ही तिलैया पुलिस

तिसरी में स्कूली बच्चों से भरी गाड़ी गड्डे में गिरी

गिरिडीह, एप्रैसी। गिरिडीह जिले के तिसरी थाना क्षेत्र में शुक्रवार सुबह स्कूली बच्चों से भरी एक सवारी गाड़ी सड़क किनारे गड्डे में गिर गई। यह दुर्घटना तिसरी-पलमरुआ मुख्य मार्ग पर नैयाडीह मोड़ के पास हुई। हादसे में लगभग 15 बच्चे सवार थे, जिनमें से कई को मामूली चोटें आईं। जानकारी के अनुसार, वाहन में आर्य पब्लिक स्कूल के लगभग 15 छात्र सवार थे, जो सुबह स्कूल जा रहे थे। नैयाडीह मोड़ के पास सड़क पर गिलानुमा मिट्टी होने और वाहन का ब्रेक ठीक से काम न करने के कारण गाड़ी अनियंत्रित होकर गड्डे में जा गिरी। घटना के बाद आसपास के ग्रामीण तुरंत मौके पर पहुंचे। उन्होंने वाहन से बच्चों को बाहर निकाला और ऑटो के माध्यम से तिसरी अस्पताल पहुंचाया। अस्पताल में बच्चों का प्राथमिक उपचार किया गया। इस दुर्घटना में आधा दर्जन से अधिक बच्चों को हल्की चोटें आई हैं। हालांकि, सभी बच्चे खतरे से बाहर बताए जा रहे हैं। स्कूल के प्रिंसिपल सुनील कुमार राज ने इस संबंध में बताया कि दुर्घटनाग्रस्त वाहन में उनके अस्पताल के बच्चे सवार थे। उन्होंने पुष्टि की कि यह हादसा वाहन के ब्रेक फेल होने के कारण हुआ। प्रिंसिपल ने बताया कि वाहन को छ नुकसान हुआ है।

अपहरण मामले में आरोपित गिरफ्तार

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एप्रैसी। पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के बहरागोड़ा थाना क्षेत्र में दर्ज एक अपहरण मामले में पुलिस ने त्वरित कार्रवाई करते हुए अंतरराज्यीय स्तर पर बड़ी सफलता हासिल की है। पुलिस ने पश्चिम बंगाल के मेदिनीपुर जिले से आरोपित को गिरफ्तार कर लिया और अपहृत युवती को सुरक्षित बरामद कर लिया। मामले की शुरुआत कारागारिया गांव निवासी सुरेश पात्र की लिखित शिकायत से हुई थी। उन्होंने अपनी बेटी के अपहरण की सूचना देते हुए बहरागोड़ा थाना में प्राथमिकी दर्ज कराई थी। शिकायत मिलते ही पुलिस ने मामले को गंभीरता से लेते हुए तुरंत जांच शुरू कर दी और एक विशेष टीम का गठन किया गया। जांच के दौरान तकनीकी सेल की सहायता से आरोपी की लोकेशन पश्चिम बंगाल के नयाग्राम थाना क्षेत्र के बारडीगा गांव में स्थित की



जानकारी मिली। इसके बाद पुलिस टीम ने योजनाबद्ध तरीके से छापेमारी करते हुए आरोपित सागर दंडपात को गिरफ्तार कर लिया, जहां से अदावत ने उसे न्यायिक हिरासत में जेल भेज दिया। पुलिस का कहना है कि मामले में आगे की जांच जारी है।

स्कूटी सवार महिला की अज्ञात वाहन से कुचलकर मौत

गुमला, एप्रैसी। गुमला जिला के सदर थाना क्षेत्र में गुमला-घाघरा सड़क पर खटवा नदी के पास शुक्रवार दोपहर करीब 12-01 बजे एक स्कूटी सवार महिला की अज्ञात वाहन की चपेट में आने से मौत हो गई। स्कूटी सवार महिला का शव सड़क के बीचों-बीच पड़ा मिला, जिसका सिर बुरी तरह कुचला हुआ था। मृतका की पहचान खरका डुमरला निवासी दिलवंती देवी पत्नी सीताराम माझी उर्फ राजा के रूप में की गई है। पुलिस और प्रशासन ने शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए अनुमंडल अस्पताल भेज दिया है। घटना के बाद सिन्धुनकोचा गांव सहित आसपास के क्षेत्रों में दहशत का माहौल है। ग्रामीणों का कहना है कि पिछले कुछ दिनों से हाथियों का झुंड इलाके में लगातार देखा जा रहा है और वे खेतों व गांवों में घुसकर नुकसान पहुंचा रहे हैं। ग्रामीणों ने वन विभाग से मांग की है कि हाथियों को आबादी वाले क्षेत्रों से दूर भगाने के लिए स्थायी उपाय किए जाएं और प्रभावित परिवार को शीघ्र उचित मुआवजा दिया जाए/बताया गया है कि दिलवंती देवी विकास मंडल में काम करती थीं और स्कूटी से गुमला जा रही थीं, तभी यह दुर्घटना हुई। घटना की सूचना परिजनों को दी गई है जिसके बाद रो-रोकर बुरा हाल है। सदर थाना की पुलिस को सूचना मिलने पर वह मौके पर पहुंची और शव को पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए भेज दिया। पुलिस अज्ञात वाहन का पता लगाने के लिए छानबीन कर रही है।

गौराज में खड़ी कार में लगी आग



धनबाद, एप्रैसी। धनबाद के पुटकी थाना क्षेत्र स्थित बीसीसीएल की बी टाइप कॉलोनी में गुरुवार रात एक कार में आग लग गई। गौराज में खड़ी यह कार देखते ही देखते पूरी तरह जलकर खाक हो गई। घटना के बाद इलाके में अफरातफरी मच गई। यह कार कॉलोनी निवासी मुनेश्वर प्रसाद की थी और उनके घर के गौराज में खड़ी थी। कार से धुआं और आग की लपटें उड़ती देख आसपास के लोगों ने शोर मचाया। जब तक घर के लोग और पड़ोसी मौके पर पहुंचते, आग ने पूरी कार को अपनी चपेट में ले लिया था। घटना की सूचना पुटकी पुलिस को दी गई, जिसने अग्निशमन विभाग को बुलाया। फायर ब्रिगेड की टीम ने मौके पर पहुंचकर काफी मशक्कत के बाद आग पर काबू पाया। हालांकि, तब तक कार पूरी तरह जलकर नष्ट हो चुकी थी। कार मालिक मुनेश्वर प्रसाद ने बताया कि वे घर के अंदर थे, जब उन्हें बाहर से शोर सुनाई दिया। बाहर आकर देखा तो गौराज में खड़ी उनकी कार में आग लगी हुई थी। उनके आग बुझाने का प्रयास करने से पहले ही आग ने पूरी कार को अपनी चपेट में ले लिया था।

जंगली हाथी के हमले में गर्भवती महिला की मौत

पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, एप्रैसी। पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले में जंगली हाथियों का आतंक थमने का नाम नहीं ले रहा है। ताजा घटना गोइलकेरा प्रखंड के कुईडा पंचायत अंतर्गत सिर्जनकोचा गांव की है, जहां गुरुवार की देर रात हाथी ने गर्भवती महिला को कुचलकर मार डाला। इस घटना के बाद पूरे गांव में शोक और भय का माहौल है। मृतका की पहचान 30 वर्षीय रानी बोयपाई के रूप में की गई है। बताया जा रहा है कि गुरुवार रात गांव के आसपास जंगल से एक हाथी अचानक आबादी वाले इलाके में घुस आया। हाथी को देखते ही ग्रामीणों में अफरा-तफरी मच गई और लोग अपनी जान बचाने के लिए इधर-उधर भागने लगे। इसी दौरान रानी बोयपाई खुद को सुरक्षित स्थान तक नहीं पहुंचा सकीं और हाथी की चपेट में आ गईं। हाथी ने उन्हें सूंड से पटककर कुचल दिया, जिससे मौके पर ही उनकी मौत हो गई। घटना की जानकारी मिलते ही स्थानीय प्रशासन और वन विभाग की टीम सक्रिय हो गई। शुक्रवार को प्रखंड



प्रमुख निरुमणी कोड़ा घटनास्थल पर पहुंचे और पीड़ित परिवार से मिलकर उन्हें ढाढस बंधाया। वहीं वन विभाग के रंजर राम नंदन राम के नेतृत्व में पहुंची टीम ने घटनास्थल का निरीक्षण किया और ग्रामीणों से घटना की जानकारी ली। वन विभाग ने मृतका के परिजनों को तत्काल राहत के रूप में 20 हजार रुपये की सहायता राशि प्रदान की है। साथ ही बताया गया कि सरकार की

ओर वे खेतों व गांवों में घुसकर नुकसान पहुंचा रहे हैं। ग्रामीणों ने वन विभाग से मांग की है कि हाथियों को आबादी वाले क्षेत्रों से दूर भगाने के लिए स्थायी उपाय किए जाएं और प्रभावित परिवार को शीघ्र उचित मुआवजा दिया जाए। वन विभाग के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि हाथियों की गतिविधियों पर नजर रखी जा रही है और ग्रामीणों को सतर्क रहने की सलाह दी गई है। साथ ही हाथियों को जंगल की ओर वापस खदेड़ने के लिए टीम तैनात की गई है, ताकि भविष्य में इस तरह की घटनाओं को रोका जा सके। मृतका की पहचान 30 वर्षीय रानी बोयपाई के रूप में की गई है। बताया जा रहा है कि गुरुवार रात गांव के आसपास जंगल से एक हाथी अचानक आबादी वाले इलाके में घुस आया। हाथी को देखते ही ग्रामीणों में अफरा-तफरी मच गई और लोग अपनी जान बचाने के लिए इधर-उधर भागने लगे। इसी दौरान रानी बोयपाई खुद को सुरक्षित स्थान तक नहीं पहुंचा सकीं और हाथी की चपेट में आ गईं।

श्रीनगर में जामा मस्जिद के दरवाजे बंद, मीरवाइज उमर फारुक ने की इजराइल से तुलना

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। जम्मू-कश्मीर के अलगाववादी नेता मीरवाइज उमर फारुक ने श्रीनगर स्थित जामा मस्जिद के दरवाजे बंद होने पर दुख और चिंता जताई है। उन्होंने कहा कि आज रमजान के अंतिम हजरो की संख्या में लोग नमाज पढ़ने और दुआ के लिए यहां आते, लेकिन इससे पहले ही मस्जिद के सभी दरवाजे लोगों के लिए बंद कर दिए गए हैं, जो बेहद दुखद है। मीरवाइज उमर फारुक ने सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट एक्स पर एक पोस्ट में कहा कि रमजान के अंतिम मुक़ाबल को जब हजरो की संख्या में लोग नमाज व दुआ के लिए इकट्ठा होते, तो इस बार भी मस्जिद के दरवाजे पूरी तरह से बंद कर दिए गए हैं। यह लगातार सातवां साल है जब स्थानीय प्रशासन ने जामा मस्जिद में इकट्ठा होकर नमाज पढ़ने की अनुमति नहीं दी। मीरवाइज ने इस स्थिति की तुलना इजराइल द्वारा रमजान के दौरान मस्जिद अल-अक्सा के दरवाजे बंद करने जैसी कठोर कार्रवाई से की। उन्होंने लिखा कि जिस तरह इजराइल ने रमजान के दौरान मस्जिद अल-अक्सा के दरवाजे जबरदस्ती बंद कर दिए हैं, वैसे ही एक हकीकत यहां भी देखने को मिल रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह सब देखकर हमारा दिल खून के आंशु रोता है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह शर्म की बात है कि कोई अल्लाह के घर के दरवाजे बंद कर देता है और लोगों को उनके धार्मिक कर्तव्यों व इबादत से वंचित करता है।

चुनाव आयोग भाजपा का दरबान, तुरंत महाभियोग लाने की जरूरत - पप्पू यादव

नई दिल्ली। बिहार के पूर्णिया से सांसद पप्पू यादव ने मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त ज्ञानेश कुमार को लेकर तोखी प्रतिक्रिया दी है। उन्होंने कहा कि चुनाव आयोग भाजपा का दरबान बन चुका है। वह चपरासी की तरह काम कर रहा है। सीईसी ज्ञानेश कुमार के खिलाफ संसद में टीएमसी की ओर से महाभियोग प्रस्ताव लाने की तैयारी है। इसी पर जवाब देते हुए पप्पू यादव ने कहा, 'यह बहुत पहले ही लाना चाहिए था। उन्होंने (ज्ञानेश कुमार) एक संवैधानिक संकट खड़ा कर दिया है। उन्हें संविधान, भारतीय मूल्यों, मान-सम्मान या नैतिकता से कोई मालब नहीं है। वह एक चपरासी की तरह काम करते हैं। भाजपा के कार्यालय में जो दरबान होता है, चुनाव आयोग उसी दरबान की तरह है। इसलिए इनके (ज्ञानेश कुमार) खिलाफ तुरंत महाभियोग लाने की जरूरत है।' एलपीजी सिलेंडर की किल्लत को लेकर भी पप्पू यादव ने सरकार पर निशाना साधा। उन्होंने कहा, 'हालात अच्छे नहीं हैं। भारत की दोस्ती को लेकर आज भी ईरान की आंखों में पानी है। वो लगातार प्रयास कर रहा है कि भारत में किसी तरह के बंडे संकट न हों। मैं इस बात को मानता हूँ कि गैस-डीजल पर इतना संकट नहीं है, जितना मुनाफाखोरों ने ब्लैकमार्केटिंग कर दी है। सभी डीलर गैस को ब्लैकमार्केट के जरिए बेच रहे हैं।' पीएम मोदी की ईरान के राष्ट्रपति से बातचीत को लेकर पप्पू यादव ने कहा, 'अगर भारत सरकार को ईरान की दोस्ती याद है तो हमारा कहना है कि आगे बढ़ना एक अच्छे पहल होगी।

एनसीआर में मौसम का बदला मिजाज: बारिश से मिलेगी गर्मी से राहत, एव्यूआई में भी सुधार

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र (एनसीआर) में मौसम ने एक बार फिर करवट ली है। पिछले कुछ दिनों से पड़ रही भीषण गर्मी से लोगों को उम्मीद है कि जल्द ही राहत मिलेगी। मौसम विभाग के ताजा पूर्वानुमान के अनुसार, 15 मार्च को हल्की बारिश की ठंडी फुहार पड़ने की संभावना है, जिससे तापमान में गिरावट आएगी और लोगों को उमस भरी गर्मी से निजात मिलेगी। मौसम में आए इस बदलाव का असर एनसीआर की वायु गुणवत्ता पर भी स्पष्ट रूप से देखा जा रहा है। गुरुवार से शुरू हुए इस बदलाव के चलते हवा की गुणवत्ता में काफी सुधार दर्ज किया गया है। मौसम विभाग द्वारा जारी 6 दिवसीय पूर्वानुमान के अनुसार, आज यानी 13 मार्च को अधिकतम तापमान 32 डिग्री और न्यूनतम तापमान 18 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहने की संभावना है, जिसमें आसमान साफ रहेगा। 14 मार्च को भी मुख्य रूप से साफ आसमान के साथ तापमान में कोई खास बदलाव नहीं होगा। हालांकि, 15 मार्च को मौसम पूरी तरह बदल जाएगा। इस दिन आसमान में आंशिक रूप से बादल छाए रहेंगे और एक-दो बार बारिश या गरज के साथ बौछरें पड़ने की संभावना है। 16 से 18 मार्च तक फिर मुख्य रूप से साफ आसमान रहेगा और तापमान में हल्की बढ़ोतरी देखने को मिलेगी।

पर्याप्त है कुकिंग गैस का भंडार, 'पैनिक बुकिंग' न करें: केंद्र सरकार

नई दिल्ली। केंद्र सरकार ने देश में कुकिंग गैस की संभावित कमी को लेकर उठ रही चिंताओं के बीच लोगों से एलपीजी सिलेंडर की पैनिक बुकिंग से बचने की अपील करते हुए कहा कि घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं के लिए गैस की शत-प्रतिशत आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जाएगी। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव (मार्केटिंग एवं ऑयल रिफाइनरी) सुजाता शर्मा ने राष्ट्रीय मीडिया केंद्र में आयोजित अंतर-मंत्रालयी प्रेस वार्ता में कहा कि कई राज्यों में कुकिंग गैस की भारी कमी की खबरें सही नहीं हैं और देश में एलपीजी की आपूर्ति सामान्य बनी हुई है। उन्होंने कहा कि मंत्रालय ने आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम के तहत आदेश जारी कर सभी रिफाइनरियों को एलपीजी उत्पादन अधिकतम करने के निर्देश दिए हैं। इसके परिणामस्वरूप एलपीजी का घरेलू उत्पादन बढ़कर 28 प्रतिशत हो गया है, जो एक दिन पहले 25 प्रतिशत था। शर्मा ने बताया कि देश में लगभग एक लाख रिटेल आउटलेट संचालित हो रहे हैं।

एमसीडी के अतिरिक्त आयुक्त ने दिलशाद कॉलोनी वार्ड का किया निरीक्षण, स्वच्छता एवं अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन कार्यों की समीक्षा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली नगर निगम (एमसीडी) के अतिरिक्त आयुक्त पंकज नरेश अग्रवाल ने शहरदा उत्तरी क्षेत्र के उपायुक्त अभिषेक कुमार सहित वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के साथ दिलशाद कॉलोनी वार्ड का निरीक्षण किया तथा क्षेत्र में चल रहे स्वच्छता एवं अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन से संबंधित विभिन्न कार्यों की प्रगति की समीक्षा की। निरीक्षण के दौरान अतिरिक्त आयुक्त ने निर्धारित स्थल पर निर्माण एवं ध्वंस्तोकरण कचरे के संग्रहण की स्थिति का जायजा लिया। अधिकारियों ने अवगत कराया कि 11 मार्च को निगम के स्वयं के संसाधनों से 430 मीट्रिक टन सी और डी कचरे का संग्रहण किया गया। इस प्रकार अब तक कुल 755 मीट्रिक टन सी और डी कचरा एकत्रित किया जा चुका है। इसके अतिरिक्त रेलवे क्षेत्र में स्थित लीगेंसी कचरे को टटाने के कार्यों की भी समीक्षा की गई। अधिकारियों के अनुसार अब तक कुल 510 मीट्रिक टन कचरा टटायी जा चुका है। निरीक्षण के दौरान पंकज नरेश अग्रवाल ने एमसीडी स्कूलों में बैंक खाते खोलने से संबंधित कार्यों, समीक्षा की। उन्होंने अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिए कि बाजार क्षेत्र में नियमित सफाई सुनिश्चित की जाए तथा नागरिक सुविधाओं के लिए एएसबीएल नाले की डी-सिल्टिंग, गैर-कार्यात्मक कम्पोस्ट प्लांट की स्थिति तथा पार्क में स्थापित कम्पोस्ट पिट्स के संचालन का भी निरीक्षण किया। साथ ही उन्होंने सांसायटी मार्केट की सफाई व्यवस्था का जायजा लिया तथा बाजार में स्थापित पब्लिक टॉयलेट की स्थिति की

मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने की 'समर एक्शन प्लान' की समीक्षा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने कहा कि गर्मी के मौसम के दौरान पानी की मांग बढ़ जाती है, जबकि उत्पादन लगभग समान रहता है। इसे ध्यान में रखते हुए समर एक्शन प्लान तैयार किया गया है ताकि दिल्ली के सभी इलाकों में पर्याप्त पानी की आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जा सके, पानी की कमी वाले क्षेत्रों में तुरंत राहत पहुंचाई जा सके और शिकायतों का त्वरित समाधान किया जा सके। मुख्यमंत्री ने दिल्ली सचिवालय में आयोजित उच्चस्तरीय बैठक में दिल्ली जल बोर्ड (डीजेबी) के 'समर एक्शन प्लान-2026' की समीक्षा की। बैठक में जल मंत्री प्रवेश साहिव सिंह, सरकार के मुख्य सचिव राजीव वर्मा, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के सीईओ कौशल राज शर्मा तथा सरकार व बोर्ड के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी उपस्थित रहे। बैठक में जानकारी दी गई कि दिल्ली की आबादी लगभग 2.5 करोड़ है और मानक के अनुसार राजधानी को प्रतिदिन लगभग 1,250 मिलियन गैलन प्रतिदिन (एमजीडी) पानी की आवश्यकता होती है, जबकि वर्तमान में लगभग 1,000 एमजीडी पानी



दिल्ली में एलपीजी, पेट्रोल, डीजल या पीएनजी की कोई कमी नहीं : दिल्ली सरकार

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली सरकार ने कहा कि राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में एलपीजी, पेट्रोल, डीजल और पीएनजी की आपूर्ति पूरी तरह सामान्य है। सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया है कि शहर में किसी भी प्रकार के ईंधन की कोई कमी नहीं है। दिल्ली के निवासियों को सलाह दी गई है कि वे घबराहट में अतिरिक्त खरीदारी (पैनिक बाईंग) या जमाखोरी न करें और ईंधन आपूर्ति में व्यवधान से संबंधित किसी भी अफवाह पर ध्यान न दें। इद्रप्रस्थ गैस लिमिटेड (आईजीएल) ने पुष्टि की है कि दिल्ली में घरेलू पीएनजी की आपूर्ति स्थिर है। प्राकृतिक गैस के आवंटन में घरेलू पीएनजी और परिवहन क्षेत्र (सीएनजी) के उपभोक्ताओं को प्राथमिकता दी जा रही है। साथ ही तेल विपणन कंपनियों ने भी यह सुनिश्चित किया है कि पेट्रोल, डीजल और घरेलू एलपीजी का पर्याप्त स्टॉक उपलब्ध है और आपूर्ति शृंखला बिना किसी बाधा के सुचारु रूप से कार्य कर रही है। सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि एलपीजी



दिल्ली विधानसभा ने 'सर्वश्रेष्ठ विधायक पुरस्कार' के लिए उच्च स्तरीय समिति का किया गठन

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली विधानसभा के अध्यक्ष विजेंद्र गुप्ता ने दिल्ली विधानसभा के सर्वश्रेष्ठ विधायक को वार्षिक पुरस्कार प्रदान करने के लिए एक उच्च स्तरीय चयन समिति का गठन किया है। इस पहल का उद्देश्य उन विधायकों को सम्मानित करना है जो सार्वजनिक सेवा और संसदीय प्रक्रिया के प्रति उत्कृष्ट प्रतिक्रिया प्रदर्शित करते हैं। चयन समिति में निष्पत्ता और पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए नवगठित समिति में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की प्रतिष्ठित हस्तियों को शामिल किया गया है। इस समिति की अध्यक्षता स्वयं अध्यक्ष विजेंद्र गुप्ता करेंगे और इसमें राजेंद्र अग्रवाल (पूर्व सांसद, लोकसभा), पीडीटी आचार्य (पूर्व



विषय पर बोलने के बजाय वैश्विक मुद्दों पर बोलते हैं राहुल गांधी: किरेन रिजिजू

नई दिल्ली। केन्द्रीय संसदीय कार्य मंत्री किरेन रिजिजू ने लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी पर हमला बोला। उन्होंने कहा कि वे सदन में हमेशा विषय से हटकर बोलते हैं। संसद परिसर में आयोजित प्रेसवार्ता में केन्द्रीय संसदीय कार्य मंत्री किरेन रिजिजू ने कहा कि लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला के खिलाफ अविश्वास प्रस्ताव पर दो दिन की चर्चा के बाद, अध्यक्ष ने कुछ टिप्पणियां दीं। मुझे उम्मीद थी कि आज सदन की कार्यवाही शांति पूर्वक होगी। हालांकि, कांग्रेस ने अपनी कोई सीख नहीं ली। आज विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी ने स्पीकर को एक पत्र सौंपा जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि वे एलपीजी की कथित कमी पर चर्चा करना चाहते हैं। चर्चाओं के बाद हमने उनसे पूछा कि वे इस मुद्दे पर कब चर्चा करना चाहते हैं। मंत्री से जवाब तैयार करने को कहा गया। राहुल गांधी को बोलने की विशेष अनुमति दी गई।

आवश्यकता पड़ने पर गर्मियों के चरम समय में लगभग 200 अतिरिक्त टैंकर भी किराये पर लिए जाएंगे। टैंकर व्यवस्था को पारदर्शी और प्रभावी बनाने के लिए एक ड्राइवर मोबाइल ऐप विकसित किया गया है। इस ऐप के माध्यम से टैंकरों की जीपीएस आधारित निगरानी की जाएगी और पानी की आपूर्ति की फोटो के साथ पुष्टि दर्ज होगी। इससे संबंधित अधिकारी वास्तविक समय में निगरानी कर सकेंगे और नारिक भी अपने क्षेत्र में भेजे गए टैंकरों की जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकेंगे। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि समर एक्शन प्लान के तहत प्रत्येक विधानसभा क्षेत्र के लिए अलग-अलग विस्तृत व्यवस्था तैयार की गई है। इसमें कॉलोनी के हिसाब से पानी की आपूर्ति के घंटे, टैंकरों के रूट, पानी की कमी वाले स्थान और संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों की पहचान शामिल की गई है ताकि जरूरत के अनुसार तुरंत कार्रवाई की जा सके।

गर्मी के मौसम में निर्बाध जल आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एनडीएमसी का समर एक्शन प्लान: कुलजीत सिंह चहल

जेंसी नई दिल्ली। नई दिल्ली नगरपालिका परिषद (एनडीएमसी) के उपाध्यक्ष कुलजीत सिंह चहल ने आगामी गर्मी के मौसम को देखते हुए समर एक्शन प्लान-2026 के तैयारी की जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि गर्मियों की तैयारी के लिए एनडीएमसी 12 नए वाटर टैंकर खरीदेगा, आरके आश्रम में आधुनिक जल नियंत्रण कक्ष बनाया गया है। मुफ्त वॉटर एटीएम की संख्या बढ़ाई जाएगी। उपाध्यक्ष कुलजीत सिंह चहल ने एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति जारी कर कहा कि एनडीएमसी जल संकट वाले क्षेत्रों की पहचान कर विनय मार्ग क्षेत्र में 24म7 जल आपूर्ति का प्रोजेक्ट प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा है, जिसका उद्देश्य लगातार पानी की सप्लाई देना और पानी की बर्बादी को कम करना है। यह परियोजना जल्द पूरी होने की उम्मीद है। उन्होंने बताया कि वर्तमान में एनडीएमसी क्षेत्र में 37 वॉटर एटीएम कार्यरत हैं, जिनमें से 17 भुगतान आधारित हैं और बाकी मुफ्त पानी उपलब्ध कराते हैं। स्वच्छ पेयजल की उपलब्धता बढ़ाने के लिए क्लस्टर क्षेत्रों में लगभग 50 नए वॉटर एटीएम मुफ्त आधार पर लाना जाएगा। चहल ने अधिभावकों, छत्रों और आर्गुतकों को मुफ्त और

मुख्यमंत्री ने आईजीडीटीयूडब्ल्यू के दीक्षांत समारोह में छात्राओं से किया संवाद

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने इंदिरा गांधी दिल्ली महिला तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालय (आईजीडीटीयूडब्ल्यू) के 8वें दीक्षांत समारोह में छात्राओं से संवाद किया। उन्होंने सभी छात्राओं को इस उपलब्धि पर हार्दिक बधाई और उज्वल भविष्य की शुभकामनाएं दीं। इस अवसर पर दिल्ली के शिक्षा मंत्री आशीष सूद उपस्थित रहे। मुख्यमंत्री ने सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट एक्स पर पोस्ट में कहा कि हमारे इतिहास में रानी लक्ष्मीबाई की वीरता और अहिल्याबाई होल्कर के दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व की प्रेरणा रही है। आज वही शक्ति हमारी बेटियों में शिक्षा, विज्ञान और तकनीक के माध्यम से नए आविष्कारों के साथ आगे बढ़ती दिखाई दे रही है।

मुख्यमंत्री ने आईजीडीटीयूडब्ल्यू के दीक्षांत समारोह में छात्राओं से किया संवाद

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने इंदिरा गांधी दिल्ली महिला तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालय (आईजीडीटीयूडब्ल्यू) के 8वें दीक्षांत समारोह में छात्राओं से संवाद किया। उन्होंने सभी छात्राओं को इस उपलब्धि पर हार्दिक बधाई और उज्वल भविष्य की शुभकामनाएं दीं। इस अवसर पर दिल्ली के शिक्षा मंत्री आशीष सूद उपस्थित रहे। मुख्यमंत्री ने सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट एक्स पर पोस्ट में कहा कि हमारे इतिहास में रानी लक्ष्मीबाई की वीरता और अहिल्याबाई होल्कर के दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व की प्रेरणा रही है। आज वही शक्ति हमारी बेटियों में शिक्षा, विज्ञान और तकनीक के माध्यम से नए आविष्कारों के साथ आगे बढ़ती दिखाई दे रही है।

दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल संधू से भाजपा सांसदों ने की मुलाकात



एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के नव नियुक्त उपराज्यपाल तरनजीत सिंह संधू से भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) के दिल्ली के सांसदों- प्रवीण खंडेलवाल, मनोज तिवारी, बांसुरी स्वराज, योगेंद्र चंदोलिया, कमलजीत सहरावत और रामवीर सिंह बिष्टू ने मुलाकात की। सांसदों ने उपराज्यपाल को नई जिम्मेदारियों के लिए हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं दीं। प्रवीण खंडेलवाल ने सोशल मीडिया एक्स पर पोस्ट करते हुए कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के विकसित भारत और सशक्त राजधानी के विजन के अंशुरूप तरनजीत सिंह संधू के समृद्ध प्रशासनिक अनुभव, वैश्विक दृष्टि और प्रभावी नेतृत्व में दिल्ली के विकास को नई गति मिलेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि स्वच्छता, सुगम यातायात, बेहतर शहरी अवसर-चर्चा, व्यापारिक गतिविधियों के विस्तार और नागरिक सुविधाओं के सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में हम सभी जनप्रतिनिधि मिलकर कार्य करेंगे।

बिभाषावृत्ति उन्मूलन के लिए सरकार और सामाजिक संस्थाओं का संयुक्त प्रयास जरूरी : रविंद्र इंद्राज सिंह

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के समाज कल्याण मंत्री रविंद्र इंद्राज सिंह ने कहा कि बिभाषावृत्ति उन्मूलन के लिए सरकार और सामाजिक संस्थाओं का संयुक्त प्रयास जरूरी है। उन्होंने यह बात गुरुवार को दिल्ली सचिवालय में स्माइल (आजीविका और उद्यम) मंत्री किरेन रिजिजू ने कहा कि लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला के खिलाफ अविश्वास प्रस्ताव पर दो दिन की चर्चा के बाद, अध्यक्ष ने कुछ टिप्पणियां दीं। मुझे उम्मीद थी कि आज सदन की कार्यवाही शांति पूर्वक होगी। हालांकि, कांग्रेस ने अपनी कोई सीख नहीं ली। आज विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी ने स्पीकर को एक पत्र सौंपा जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि वे एलपीजी की कथित कमी पर चर्चा करना चाहते हैं। चर्चाओं के बाद हमने उनसे पूछा कि वे इस मुद्दे पर कब चर्चा करना चाहते हैं। मंत्री से जवाब तैयार करने को कहा गया। राहुल गांधी को बोलने की विशेष अनुमति दी गई।

पुनर्वास की दिशा में आगे बढ़ाया। कई लाभार्थियों को शेल्टर होम में स्थायी दिलया गया तथा उन्हें रोजगार और स्वरोजगार से जोड़ने की दिशा में प्रयास किए गए। प्रस्तुतियों में यह भी बताया गया कि लाभार्थियों को विकास प्रशिक्षण उपलब्ध कराने जैसे महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास भी किए जा रहे हैं। मंत्री रविंद्र इंद्राज सिंह ने कहा कि स्माइल योजना सरकार की एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल है जिसका उद्देश्य बिभाषावृत्ति जैसी सामाजिक समस्या को समाप्त करना और बेसहारा लोगों को सम्मानजनक जीवन प्रदान करना है। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार इस दिशा में गंभीरता से कार्य कर रही है और सामाजिक संस्थाओं के सहयोग से इस अभियान को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाया जा रहा है। मंत्री ने स्पष्ट रूप से कहा कि सरकार द्वारा एनजीओ को दिए जाने वाले संसाधनों और सहयोग के साथ पूर्ण



24 वर्षों से हर नए कॉरिडोर की पहली मेट्रो यात्रा करने वाले अनिल मारवाह सम्मानित

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। केन्द्रीय आवासन एवं शहरी कार्य के राज्य मंत्री तोखन साहू ने अनिल मारवाह को विशेष रूप से सम्मानित किया। मारवाह पिछले 24 वर्षों से दिल्ली मेट्रो रेल कॉर्पोरेशन (डीएमआरसी) के हर नए शुरू होने वाले मेट्रो कॉरिडोर के उद्घाटन के दिन पहली ट्रेन में सफर करने की अपनी परंपरा को निभाते आ रहे हैं। नई दिल्ली में आयोजित समारोह में डीएमआरसी के प्रबंध निदेशक डॉ. विकास कुमार भी मौजूद रहे। राज्य मंत्री टोखन साहू ने मारवाह को बधाई देते हुए कहा कि ऐसी कहानियां यह दर्शाती हैं कि लोगों का दिल्ली मेट्रो से कितना गहरा जुड़ाव है। उन्होंने कहा कि मेट्रो आज आधुनिक शहरी परिवहन का प्रतीक बन चुकी है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि देश में आधुनिक मेट्रो परियोजनाओं की नींव पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी के नेतृत्व वाली सरकार के दौरान रखी गई थी, जिससे बाद देश के कई शहरों में मेट्रो नेटवर्क का

कारिडोर के उद्घाटन के दिन पहली ट्रेन में यात्रा करते रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि मेट्रो की समयबद्धता, विश्वसनीयता और परिवहन व्यवस्था को नई दिशा दी है। इससे शहर के अलग-अलग हिस्सों के बीच कनेक्टिविटी



डॉ. विकास कुमार भी मौजूद रहे। राज्य मंत्री टोखन साहू ने मारवाह को बधाई देते हुए कहा कि ऐसी कहानियां यह दर्शाती हैं कि लोगों का दिल्ली मेट्रो से कितना गहरा जुड़ाव है। उन्होंने कहा कि मेट्रो आज आधुनिक शहरी परिवहन का प्रतीक बन चुकी है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि देश में आधुनिक मेट्रो परियोजनाओं की नींव पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी के नेतृत्व वाली सरकार के दौरान रखी गई थी, जिससे बाद देश के कई शहरों में मेट्रो नेटवर्क का

Central assistance of Rs 1,900 crore disbursed to flood-hit states including Himachal Pradesh, J&K

New Delhi, Agency: A high-level committee under Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved Rs 1,912.99 crore of additional central assistance to Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland and union territory of Jammu & Kashmir affected by flood, flash flood, cloudburst, cyclone 'Montha' landslides during 2025.

This Central assistance has been provided from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), subject to an adjustment of 50 per cent of the opening balance for the year available in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

Out of the total amount of Rs 1,912.99 crore, Rs 341.48 crore has been approved for Andhra Pradesh, Rs 15.70 crore for Chhattisgarh, Rs 778.67 crore for Gujarat, Rs 288.39 crore for Himachal Pradesh, Rs 158.41 crore for Nagaland and Rs 330.34 crore for the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the States in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the states. During the financial year 2025-26, the Central Government has released Rs 20,735.20 crore to 28 states under SDRF and Rs 3,628.18 crore under NDRF to 21 states.

Additionally, Rs 5,373.20 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 23 States and Rs 1,189.56 crore from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to 21 states have also been released.

Highlighting there cannot be different criteria for children of govt employees and the rest, the court said it would amount to discrimination which can't be allowed.

"Adopting an interpretation that disadvantages one segment of the same backward class without rational justification would amount to treating equals as unequals and would thus become the antithesis of equality... Having regard to the peculiar facts of the present cases, the reasoning adopted by HC that treating similarly placed employees of private entities and PSUs differently from govt employees and their wards, while deciding their entitlement to reservation, would amount to hostile discrimination, is certainly one that inspires the confidence of this court," it said.

Gulf crisis: Strait of Hormuz safe passage for ships discussed with Iran, says government:

New Delhi, Agency: The govt said on Thursday that external affairs minister (EAM) S Jaishankar had discussed safe passage for commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz in a conversation with his Iranian counterpart Seyed Araghchi on Tuesday but did not confirm if there's any assurance yet from Tehran that India-bound vessels would not be targeted.

According to official sources, govt officials remain engaged with their Iranian counterparts to negotiate safe passage for around 28 Indian ships that are stuck in the Persian Gulf.

India had on Wednesday deplored attacks on cargo ships after an India-bound Thai ship was hit by an Iranian projectile. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) recalled that the ministers had spoken thrice about the conflict. "The last conversation discussed issues pertaining to safety of shipping and India's energy security. Beyond that, it would be premature to say anything," said spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. The official was responding to a question about whether Iran was allowing Indian ships to safely sail through the Strait. In his talks with Jaishankar, according to an Iranian readout, Araghchi had said 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". He also called for condemnation of the US and Israeli actions. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said on Wednesday it would not allow even a litre of oil to be transported through the Strait. "You will not be able to artificially lower the price of oil. Expect oil at \$200 per barrel. The price of oil depends on regional security, and you are the main source of insecurity in the region," said a spokesperson for IRGC. The Indian govt had said on Wednesday that 28 Indian vessels with 778 seafarers onboard were stuck in the Persian Gulf. Of these, 24 vessels with 677 seafarers are on the western part of the Strait of Hormuz, while four vessels with 101 persons are on the eastern side, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, special secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways had said in a media briefing.

India co-sponsors GCC-led UNSC resolution against Iran

New Delhi, Agency: India co-sponsored a resolution in UN Security Council that condemned the "egregious" attacks by Iran against Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan and demanded immediate cessation of all attacks by Tehran while denouncing its threats of closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The 15-nation Security Council, currently under the presidency of the US, adopted the resolution on Wednesday with 13 votes in favour, none against and abstentions by veto-wielding permanent members China and Russia.

Ministry of external affairs said India had co-sponsored the GCC-led resolution at the Security Council as it reflected its position on the issue. "We have 135 countries who have co-sponsored this particular resolution. The resolution



reflects several of our positions... we have a large diaspora in GCC countries and their well-being and welfare is of utmost importance," spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, adding the Gulf is also very important for India's energy security needs.

Without naming Iran, PM Narendra Modi had earlier condemned attacks on all GCC

countries. India co-sponsored the Bahrain-led resolution along with over 130 nations, including Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Ukraine,

UAE, UK, US, Yemen, and Zambia. The resolution, which had a total of 135 co-sponsors, reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Jordan.

It condemned in the "strongest terms the egregious attacks" by Iran against the territories of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Jordan and determined that such acts constituted a breach of international law and were a serious threat to international peace and security. The resolution demanded immediate cessation of all attacks by Iran against GCC countries and Jordan and that Tehran "immediately and unconditionally" cease from any provocation or threats to neighbouring states, including the use of proxies.

Fire breaks out in transport authority building in Delhi's Sheikh Sarai

New Delhi, Agency: A fire broke out in the record room of a transport authority building in south Delhi's Sheikh Sarai Phase-2 area, a Delhi Fire Services (DFS) official said on Friday.

A call regarding the fire was received from the transport authority office at 9.31 pm on Thursday, he said.

Nine fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the fire was confined to a record room in the building. It was doused by 11.20 pm, the official said. There were no reports of any casualties in the fire, the cause of which is yet to be ascertained, he said.

SC takes suo motu cognisance of illegal sand mining in National Chambal Sanctuary

New Delhi, Agency: The Supreme Court on Friday took suo motu cognisance of illegal sand mining in the National Chambal Sanctuary and threats to endangered aquatic wildlife.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said the court has taken cognisance of recent newspaper reports highlighting rampant illegal mining in areas where endangered gharial (long-snouted crocodile) species preservation programme is going on.

Due to the illegal mining, the endangered gharials have to relocate, the court said.

The bench said that even areas where the Madhya Pradesh chief minister had released gharials have come under illegal mining.

"Place the matter before the chief justice of India for necessary directions," the top court ordered the registry.

According to reports,



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav released 10 gharials into the Chambal river at the sanctuary in Morena in February last year. The National Chambal Sanctuary, also called the National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary, is a 5,400 sq km tri-state protected area. Besides the endangered gharial, it is home to the red-

crowned roof turtle and the endangered Ganges river dolphin. Located on the Chambal river near the tripoint of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, the sanctuary was first declared a protected area in Madhya Pradesh in 1978 and now constitutes a long narrow eco-reserve co-administered by the three states.

Government defends barring certain groups from list of blood donors

New Delhi, Agency: Centre on Thursday justified the exclusion of transgender persons, men having sex with men, and female sex workers from list of potential blood donors, saying the decision was not discriminatory but one based on health studies which found six to 13 times higher incidence of HIV among these groups.

Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhat told a three-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant that the National Blood Policy focused on sourcing blood from safe donor pools. "Sourcing blood and components from high-risk groups is against the tenets of the policy," said Bhat.

Health ministry said in its affidavit, "There is substantial evidence to show that transgender persons, men having sex with men, and female sex workers are 'at risk' for HIV, Hepatitis B or C infections."



Citing the annual report of the department of health and family welfare for 2020-21, it said, "HIV prevalence among transgenders, men who have sex with men, and female sex workers is six to 13 times higher than adult HIV prevalence."

"Similar restrictions for blood donors in respect of population groups with a high prevalence of HIV and other transfusion-transmitted infections exist all over the world. For instance, in most European countries, sexually active MSM are permanently deferred from donating blood," the ministry said.

Can't decide creamy layer for OBC quota solely on basis of parental income, says SC

New Delhi, Agency: Creamy layer status of candidates for availing reservation benefits under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category cannot be determined solely on the basis of parental income, without reference to the posts and status held by the parents in their organisations, the Supreme Court has ruled.

A Bench of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice R Mahadevan held that treating similarly placed employees of private entities and PSUs differently from government employees for deciding reservation would amount to hostile discrimination.

"Having regard to the peculiar facts of the present cases, the reasoning adopted by the High Court that treat-



ing similarly placed employees of private entities and PSUs differently from government employees and their wards, while deciding their entitlement to reservation, would amount to hostile discrimination, is certainly one that inspires the confidence of this court," the Bench said.

Dismissing the Centre's appeals, it upheld the decisions of the high courts of Delhi, Madras and Kerala,

which dealt with the eligibility of candidates claiming OBC (non-creamy layer) benefit for civil services examinations.

The top court directed the Centre to consider the claims of respondent candidates Rohith Nathan, Ketan, Ibson Shah I. and other intervenors in accordance with the principles laid down in this judgment, and to implement the same in six months.

The hidden costs of excessive screen media use in kids

New Delhi, Agency: New research highlights how children in India exceed global screen time guidelines, with lasting impact on health and cognitive abilities. Multiple screens have become an integral part of children's lives. But is it safe for young adolescents to be spending so much time on screen? Findings from existing research suggest that while devices like smartphones, laptops, tablets and TVs can aid learning, their excessive use is linked to adverse health and developmental outcomes.

A recent study*, published in Indian Journal of Psychiatry, examined children and adolescents with mental disorders to assess their screen use habits. The findings are striking: Average daily screen time was 3.1 hours. Importantly, two-thirds of the 212 study participants (average age 13 years) exceeded the recommended screen time limits set by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and World Health Organization (WHO). These guidelines recommend no screen exposure for children under



two years (except video calls), less than one hour per day for ages two to four, and a maximum of two hours daily for those five years and older.

The study revealed that television (66%) and mobile phones (70.3%) were the most commonly used devices, among 212 children and adolescents who were part of the study. Alarmingly, 22.2% of children met the criteria for screen media addiction, based on DSM-5 standards for Internet Gaming Disorder. DSM-5 is Diagnostics and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,

fifth edition, a guide used by researchers to diagnose, classify and treat mental health disorders.

Addiction was more prevalent among boys, those from joint or extended families, and children diagnosed with neurodevelopmental or disruptive disorders.

Excessive screen use contributes to obesity, sedentary behaviour, poor dietary habits, and disrupted sleep. Cognitively, prolonged exposure can impair language development, executive functioning and emergent literacy skills. Research even suggests structural brain changes in preschool children with high screen exposure, particularly affecting white matter tracts (which act as brain's communication networks), critical for learning and communication.

Psychosocially, children addicted to screen media often display deception (sneaking or lying to use devices), pre-occupation, withdrawal symptoms and conflicts within families. Screen use

also interferes with friendships and family activities, while increasing vulnerability to cyberbullying, unsafe online content and negative emotional states.

The study underscores the urgent need for parental awareness and regulation. Parents often allow children with neurodevelopmental disorders extra screen time as a coping mechanism, but this leads to more problems. In joint family settings, inconsistent parenting rules can further exacerbate the issue.

In conclusion, screen media use among children is not inherently harmful, but its excessive and unregulated use poses significant risks to physical health, cognitive development and emotional well-being. With nearly one-fourth of children in psychiatric care showing signs of addiction, routine evaluation of screen habits and strict adherence to recommended guidelines are essential steps toward safeguarding the next generation.

The Influence of Algorithms on What We See Online



In the digital age, the internet has become the primary source of information, entertainment, and social interaction for millions of people. Every day, users scroll through social media feeds, watch online videos, read news articles, and shop online. However, many people are unaware that the content they see is not random. Behind the scenes, powerful algorithms decide what appears on their screens.

Algorithms have quietly become the invisible gatekeepers of the digital world. They shape the information we consume, the advertisements we see, and even the opinions we form.

• What Are Algorithms?

An algorithm is essentially a set of instructions used by computers to solve problems or perform

tasks. On social media platforms, algorithms analyze user behavior—such as likes, comments, shares, watch time, and search history—to determine what type of content a person prefers.

Based on this information, platforms customize each user's experience. This means that two people using the same social media app may see completely different content on their feeds.

• Personalized Digital Experiences

One of the main goals of algorithms is to create personalized experiences for users. When someone frequently watches cooking videos, the platform will begin recommending more food-related content. Similarly, a person

who interacts with travel posts may see more travel blogs, photos, and advertisements.

This personalization keeps users engaged because they are more likely to interact with content that matches their interests.

However, this system also means that users often remain within a limited range of information and perspectives.

• The Creation of "Filter Bubbles"

Experts often use the term "filter bubble" to describe the situation where individuals are exposed only to information that aligns with their existing preferences or beliefs.

For example, if someone regularly watches videos about a particular political viewpoint, algorithms may continue recommending similar content. Over time, this can create a digital environment where users rarely encounter opposing opinions.

While personalization improves convenience, it can also limit exposure to diverse ideas and viewpoints.

• Influence on News Consumption

Algorithms also play a major role in how people consume news. In the past, newspapers and television editors selected stories for public audiences. Today, digital

platforms use algorithms to prioritize certain news articles based on popularity and user engagement.

As a result, sensational or emotionally charged content may receive more visibility because it generates more clicks and shares.

This shift has raised concerns about misinformation, as misleading content can spread quickly if algorithms detect high engagement.

• Impact on Online Businesses

Algorithms are not limited to social media. They also influence online shopping, streaming services, and search engines.

Streaming platforms recommend movies and shows based on viewing history, while online stores suggest products based on previous purchases.

These systems benefit businesses by increasing the chances that users will discover products or services they are interested in.

• Ethical Concerns

As algorithms gain more influence, questions about transparency and fairness are becoming increasingly important.

Many experts argue that technology companies should explain how their algorithms work and ensure they do not promote harmful or

misleading content.

Governments and digital policy organizations around the world are also exploring ways to regulate algorithms to protect users.

• The Future of Algorithmic Influence

Algorithms will continue to shape the digital landscape as technology evolves. Artificial intelligence and machine learning are making these systems even more advanced and capable of understanding complex human behaviors.

While algorithms offer convenience and efficiency, users must also develop digital awareness. Understanding how algorithms influence online experiences can help individuals make more informed choices about the information they consume.

• Conclusion

Algorithms have become powerful forces shaping the modern internet. From news and entertainment to shopping and social interaction, these invisible systems influence nearly every aspect of online life.

As society becomes more connected to digital platforms, understanding the role of algorithms will be essential in ensuring that technology continues to serve people responsibly.

Why Online Trends Spread So Quickly



In the age of the internet, trends appear and disappear faster than ever before. A dance challenge, a meme, a fashion style, or a catchy phrase can suddenly dominate social media platforms worldwide. Within hours, millions of people may be participating in the same online activity.

This rapid spread of trends highlights the powerful role of digital platforms in shaping modern culture.

The Nature of Online Trends

An online trend refers to any idea, behavior, or style that gains widespread popularity on the internet within a short period of time.

Unlike traditional trends that once took months or years to spread, digital trends can reach global audiences almost instantly.

The speed of communication and the interconnected nature of social media platforms allow trends to travel across countries and cultures with remarkable efficiency.

The Role of Social Media Platforms

Social media platforms play a crucial role in accelerating trends. Features such as hashtags, sharing options, and recommendation systems make it easy for users to discover and participate in trending content.

When a particular video or post receives a large number of likes, comments, or shares, algorithms begin promoting it to a wider audience. This creates a cycle where popular content becomes even more visible.

Influencers and Digital Creators

Influencers and content creators also contribute significantly to the spread of trends. Individuals with large online followings have the power to introduce new ideas, styles, or challenges that quickly capture public attention.

When influential personalities participate in a trend, their followers often imitate the behavior, increasing the trend's visibility and popularity.

Human Psychology and Social Participation

Human psychology also plays a major role in the rapid spread of online trends. People naturally enjoy participating in shared cultural experiences. Joining a popular trend allows individuals to feel connected to a larger community.

It also offers a sense of belonging and social recognition.

Additionally, many trends involve simple and entertaining activities that are easy for anyone to replicate.

The Power of Visual Content

Short videos, images, and memes are particularly effective in spreading trends. Visual content captures attention quickly and requires little time to consume.

Short video platforms have especially accelerated this phenomenon by allowing users to create and share content within seconds.

Positive and Negative Aspects

Online trends can have both positive and negative effects. On the positive side, they often encourage creativity, humor, and social interaction.

Many trends promote cultural exchange and introduce audiences to different parts of the world.

However, some trends may also promote risky behavior or spread misinformation. Responsible participation and critical thinking are important when engaging with viral content.

The Future of Digital Trends

As digital platforms continue to evolve, the nature of online trends will also change. Artificial intelligence and data analytics may further influence how trends are identified and promoted.

Despite these technological influences, one thing remains certain: the internet will continue to serve as a powerful engine for cultural trends and shared experiences.

Conclusion

Online trends demonstrate the speed and connectivity of modern digital culture. What begins as a simple idea from one person can quickly transform into a global phenomenon.



The Culture of Viral Challenges on the Internet

The internet has created a new form of entertainment and participation known as viral challenges. These online activities invite people to perform a specific task, record it, and share the video on social media platforms.

From dance routines to creative stunts, viral challenges have become a defining element of digital culture.

What Are Viral Challenges?

A viral challenge is an activity that spreads rapidly online as people imitate and share it. The concept is simple: one person performs the challenge and invites others to participate.

This chain reaction allows the challenge to spread across networks of friends, followers, and online communities.

The Appeal of Participation

One reason viral challenges are so popular is their simplicity. Most challenges require minimal preparation and can be performed using a smartphone camera.

Participants enjoy the opportunity to showcase creativity and humor while interacting with others online.

These activities often create a sense of excitement as people watch the challenge spread across social media.

Community and Connection

Viral challenges also help build online communities. When thousands of people participate in the same activity, they feel connected through shared experiences.

Many challenges encourage col-

laboration between friends or family members, strengthening social bonds.

Creativity and Innovation

Some viral challenges showcase impressive creativity. Dance routines, artistic performances, and innovative ideas often inspire viewers to develop their own versions. Digital platforms provide a stage where anyone can contribute to a global cultural trend.

Risks and Responsibility

Despite their entertainment value, some challenges may involve dangerous or irresponsible behavior. In recent years, authorities and educators have warned against participating in risky online challenges that could lead to injury.

Digital literacy and responsible online behavior are essential when engaging with viral content.

Cultural Influence

Viral challenges can also influence music, fashion, and language. Songs used in popular challenges often gain widespread popularity, and certain phrases or gestures may become part of everyday communication.

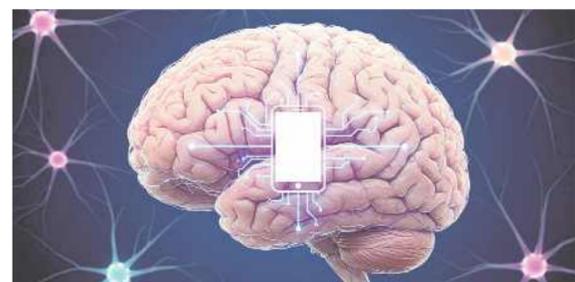
Conclusion

Viral challenges reflect the interactive nature of modern digital culture.

They demonstrate how creativity, humor, and community can thrive on online platforms.

However, as participation grows, users must balance entertainment with responsibility to ensure that digital trends remain safe and positive.

How Smartphones Have Changed Human Memory



Smartphones have become an essential part of modern life. People rely on them for communication, navigation, entertainment, and information.

However, the widespread

use of smartphones has also changed the way humans remember information.

The Digital Memory Shift

In the past, people memo-

rized phone numbers, directions, and important facts. Today, most of this information is stored digitally on smartphones. Contacts, reminders, and search engines allow individuals to access information instantly without needing to memorize it.

Convenience and Efficiency

This shift offers many advantages. Smartphones reduce the mental effort required to remember large amounts of information.

Navigation apps help travelers find directions easily, while digital calendars pre-

vent missed appointments.

The "Google Effect"

Researchers describe a phenomenon known as the "Google Effect,"

where people are more likely to remember where to find information rather than the information itself.

Instead of memorizing facts, individuals remember that the answer can be quickly searched online.

Positive Cognitive Changes

While some people worry about declining memory skills, smartphones also enhance other cognitive abilities.

