



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Israel says strikes target Iran missile, air defence sites

World. (Agency)
The Israeli military said it launched a fresh wave of strikes targeting Iranian ballistic missile and air defence sites on Sunday, after an AFP journalist in Tehran reported hearing loud explosions. Tehran's enemies Israel and the United States began waves of strikes on Saturday, calling for regime change in Iran and prompting retaliation from the Islamic Republic. A military statement said Israeli forces had begun "an additional strike wave targeting the ballistic missile array and the aerial defence systems belonging to the Iranian terror regime", without specifying any location. At least three explosions were heard in Tehran around 0030 GMT, the AFP journalist said. Israel's military chief Eyal Zamir said on Saturday that the campaign against Iran comes after it "accelerated" its ballistic missile production and continued to promote nuclear weapon research. "We now face a significant, decisive and unprecedented operation to dismantle the capabilities of the Iranian terrorist regime," he said in a televised statement.

Death toll from Israeli strike that hit school in south now 108: Iranian Red Crescent



ATLANTA. (Agency)
The Iranian Red Crescent said the death toll from a strike on Saturday that hit a school in the country's south has risen to 108, after the US and Israel launched a wave of attacks on the Islamic republic. "The number of student martyrs at Minab School has reached 108, and relief and debris removal operations are still ongoing," a spokesperson for the organisation said. AFP was unable to access the location to verify the toll or the circumstances surrounding the incident. When contacted by AFP, the Israeli military did not offer an immediate comment on the reports. The Pentagon also did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but a CENTCOM spokesperson was quoted by The New York Times as saying: "We are aware of reports concerning civilian harm resulting from ongoing military operations. We take these reports seriously and are looking into them. "The protection of civilians is of utmost importance, and we will continue to take all precautions available to minimise the risk of unintended harm." Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said "this barbaric act is another black page in the record of countless crimes committed by the aggressors". Israel and the US launched a wave of strikes against their longtime foe on Saturday morning. The Iranian Red Crescent said on Saturday evening that at least 201 people had been killed and 747 injured in the attacks.

Explosion, Gunfire In Kabul As Afghan Forces Shoot At Pakistani Aircraft

World. (Agency)
An explosion followed by multiple rounds of gunfire were reportedly heard in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul,



as fighting between Pakistan and Taliban entered its fourth day on Sunday. The Taliban government said Afghan forces were shooting at Pakistani aircraft. "Anti-aircraft fire is being directed at Pakistani aircraft in Kabul; residents should not be alarmed," Taliban government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid posted on X. Pakistan on Friday bombed Taliban military installations and posts, some of them in Kabul and Kandahar, in one of the deepest incursions into its neighbour in recent years. The escalation came hours after Afghan forces attacked Pakistani border troops in what the Taliban government said was retaliation for deadly airstrikes earlier this week. After the strikes, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said his country's armed forces can "crush" aggressors. "Our forces have the full capability to crush any aggressive ambitions," he said. Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif declared an "open war" with the Taliban government. "Our patience has reached its limit. Now it is open war between us and you," Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif posted on X as the Pakistani military launched operation 'Ghazab Lil Haq' against Afghanistan. Islamabad accuses the Taliban of harbouring the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) group, who it says are carrying out attacks inside Pakistan, a charge the Taliban denies. The latest strikes mark the most serious escalation between Pakistan and Afghanistan in recent months, threatening a fragile ceasefire along the 2,600-km frontier.

US, Israel defend strikes at emergency Security Council meeting as Iran alleges 'war crime'

UN Secretary-General António Guterres told the council that everything must be done to prevent an escalation.

UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)
The United States and Israel clashed with Iran at an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Saturday where the U.N. chief and many countries urged a halt to their attacks and a return to negotiations to prevent the conflict from spreading further into the region and beyond. Secretary-General António Guterres told the council that everything must be done to prevent an escalation. "The alternative," he warned, "is a potential wider conflict with grave consequences for civilians and regional stability." Guterres said the U.S. and Israeli airstrikes violated international law, including the U.N. Charter. He also

condemned Iran's retaliatory attacks for violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Mike Waltz, insisted the U.S. military action was lawful. "Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon," he told the council. "That principle is not a matter of politics. It's a matter of global security. And to that end, the United States is taking lawful actions." Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon defended the airstrikes as necessary to stop an existential threat. "We are stopping extremism before it becomes unstoppable," he said. "We will ensure that no radical regime armed with nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles can threaten our people or the entire world." Amir Saeid Irvani, Iran's ambassador to the U.N., told the council that the airstrikes have killed and injured hundreds of Iranian civilians, which he called a war crime and a crime against humanity. He blasted the U.N. and the Security Council, its most powerful body, for not heeding Tehran's warnings

about the "warmongering statements" by the U.S. in recent weeks and urged the council to act now. "The issue before the council is straightforward: whether any



member state may, including a permanent member of this council, through the use of force, coercion or aggression, determine the political future or system of another state or impose control over its affairs," Irvani said. During his speech, the Iranian diplomat did not mention or comment on President Donald Trump's statement that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

was killed in the strikes. The assassination of the second leader of the Islamic Republic, who had no designated successor, raised the prospects of a protracted conflict given Iranian threats of retaliation. Iranian and US ambassadors have tense back-and-forth in a rare exchange, the U.S. and Iranian ambassadors traded warnings and direct rebuffs toward the end of the emergency session as military aggression between their countries risked spilling into a regional war. After Waltz responded to Iranian claims that the U.S. had violated international law, Irvani asked to speak again to issue a warning: "I advise to the representative of the United States to be polite. It will be better for yourself and the country you represent." Waltz responded immediately, saying, "This representative sits here, in this body, representing a regime that has killed tens of thousands of its own people, and imprisoned many more, simply for wanting freedom from your entire tyranny."

How succession works in Iran and who will be the country's next supreme leader

DUBAI. (Agency)
The death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei after almost 37 years in power raises paramount questions about the country's future. The contours of a complex succession process began to take shape the morning after Khamenei's assassination. Here is what to know: A temporary leadership council assumes duties as outlined in its constitution, Iran on Sunday formed a council to assume leadership duties and govern the country. The council is made up of Iran's sitting president, the head of the country's judiciary and a member of the Guardian Council chosen by Iran's Expediency Council, which advises the supreme leader and settles disputes with parliament. Iran's reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and hard-line judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei are its members who will step in and "temporarily assume all the duties of leadership." A panel of clerics selects a new supreme leader though the leadership council will govern in the interim, an 88-member panel called

the Assembly of Experts "must, as soon as possible", pick a new supreme leader under Iranian law. The panel consists entirely of Shiite clerics who are popularly elected every eight years and whose candidacies are approved by the Guardian Council, Iran's



constitutional watchdog. That body is known for disqualifying candidates in various elections in Iran and the Assembly of Experts is no different. The Guardian Council barred former Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, a relative moderate whose administration struck the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, from election for the Assembly of Experts in March 2024. Khamenei's son could be a possible contender. Clerical

deliberations about succession and machinations over it take place far from the public eye, making it hard to gauge who may be a top contender.

Previously, it was thought Khamenei's protégé, hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, may try to take the mantle. However, he was killed in a May 2024 helicopter crash. That has left one of Khamenei's sons, Mojtaba, a 56-year-old Shiite cleric, as a potential candidate, though he has never held government office. But a father-to-son transfer in the case of a supreme leader could spark anger, not only among Iranians already critical of clerical rule, but also among supporters of the system. Some may see it as un-Islamic and in line with creating a new, religious dynasty after the 1979 collapse of the U.S.-backed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's government. A transition like this has happened only once before.

There has been only one other transfer of power in the office of the supreme leader of Iran, the paramount decision-maker since the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Shipping Companies Tell Vessels To Steer Clear Of Gulf

Paris. (Agency)
Two major shipping groups on Saturday suspended navigation through the Gulf as conflict flared between the United States, Israel and Iran, piling onto a growing maritime slowdown in the region. The announcements came as Iran's Revolutionary Guards had warned several ships that the Strait of Hormuz, the vital waterway for oil from the Gulf, was "basically closed", Iran's Tasnim news agency reported. France's CMA CGM issued a statement telling its vessels in the Gulf to "take shelter" and also suspended passage through the Suez Canal because of the regional conflict. "All ships currently in the Gulf, or on route to the Gulf, have received the instruction, with immediate effect, to take shelter," said

the statement from CMA CGM, the world's third-largest container shipping company. Passage through the Suez is suspended until further notice and ships will be rerouted around the Cape of Good Hope, which would prolong the journey by thousands of kilometres, the statement added. Hapag-Lloyd, the world's fifth-largest container shipping company, said it was suspending all transit through the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Gulf to the open seas, "until further notice." Several shipping lines, including Danish giant Maersk, warned clients of possible delivery delays as ships re-routed. The United States for its part warned ships to stay away from the Gulf due to ongoing military activity. The strait, which

Iranian officials have often threatened to block in the event of a US attack, is a key transit point for global oil trade. According to data from maritime analytics site Marine Tracker, traffic through the trade artery has plummeted and a slew of oil tankers have turned around or been stopped at the strait. The EU's naval mission to the Red Sea confirmed that vessels had received radio messages from the IRGC saying the Strait was blocked to traffic, despite no formal closure order. The Strait of Hormuz is frequently the scene of ship seizures and attacks. The vital corridor links the Gulf to the Indian Ocean and is situated between Iran and Oman's Musandam exclave, situated at the tip of a peninsula.

'He Bet on Bombs': Mystery Trader Made Rs 4 Crore On Tehran Strike Before Missiles Hit

World. (Agency)
Three hours after bombs struck Tehran in a joint U.S.-Israel operation, one anonymous trader was already counting his winnings. On Polymarket, a crypto-based prediction platform where users buy and sell "YES" or "NO" shares on real-world events, a wallet known as "Magamyman" turned a controversial wager into a windfall. According to blockchain data, the account collected \$431,146 after betting "YES" on a strike scenario weeks before the first missile was reported. The trade was placed when markets priced the probability at 27 cents, implying just a 27% chance of military action. While diplomats were still negotiating and Oman's foreign minister was signaling that peace talks were within reach, the wallet poured in \$235,947 on the "YES" side. When the market resolved, each winning share paid out \$1. The payout wasn't a one-off. Crypto watchers claim the same account has made 88 Iran-focused predictions since October 2024: every



single one tied to escalating deadlines, strike scenarios, or geopolitical flashpoints. Not the Super Bowl. Not U.S. elections. Not Bitcoin. Just Iran. In another instance cited by traders, the wallet allegedly won \$278,079 betting that Israel would strike Iran by January 31. Now, even as missiles reportedly continue to fly, the account has fresh positions open, including \$78,000 on a "US strikes Iran by March 1" market. The timing is what has triggered alarm. Separate X posts allege the account placed a key trade 71 minutes before news of the strike became public, turning roughly \$87,000 into more than half a million dollars overnight when odds were sitting at 17%. Polymarket itself operates as a decentralized prediction market. Users connect crypto wallets, deposit USDC stablecoins, and trade shares priced between \$0 and \$1. The price reflects crowd probability, 17 cents equals a 17% perceived chance. When an outcome is confirmed, winning shares pay \$1 automatically. Supporters argue prediction markets aggregate information efficiently and often outperform pundits.

Questions cloud Trump's case for war against Iran

Iran "rejected every opportunity to renounce their nuclear ambitions," Trump said in a roughly eight-minute video message posted on social media more than an hour after US strikes began.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
President Donald Trump made his case for war against Iran early on Saturday as US and Israeli forces bombed the Islamic republic, saying conflict was required to eliminate "imminent threats" from Tehran. Iran "rejected every opportunity to renounce their nuclear ambitions," Trump said in a roughly eight-minute video message posted on social media more than an hour after US strikes began. "They attempted to rebuild their nuclear program and to continue developing long-range missiles" that "could soon reach the American homeland," the US president said, also

calling on Iranians to overthrow their government. But Iran was said to have signaled in talks that it was willing to cease stockpiling nuclear material, while Tehran may still be years away from developing significant quantities of missiles with intercontinental range -- raising significant questions about Trump's rationale for the conflict. "President Trump did not make a strong case for an imminent threat posed by Iran that would justify the massive joint US-Israeli strikes," said Mona Yacoubian, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. His call for the Iranian people to prepare to take control underscores that the ambitions here are more akin to regime change," Yacoubian said, also noting that according to intelligence assessments, Iran's nuclear program was "still not close to weaponizing." Trump had repeatedly claimed to have obliterated Tehran's nuclear program in June 2025 strikes, and the US military did not mention nuclear-related sites in a list of targets it had struck on Saturday. Progress in negotiations? Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi,



who has been mediating talks between Tehran and Washington, said Friday that Iran had agreed to cease stockpiling nuclear material needed to make a weapon -- a major concession he said would have eliminated the nuclear threat. "If you cannot stockpile material that is enriched then there is no way you can actually create a bomb," Albusaidi told CBS's "Face the Nation." "If the ultimate objective is to ensure forever that Iran cannot have a nuclear bomb, I think we have cracked that problem through these negotiations," the foreign minister said. Trump's assertion

that Iranian missiles could "soon" strike the United States is meanwhile called into question by a 2025 Defense Intelligence Agency assessment that said Tehran did not have intercontinental ballistic missiles then, and that it could take until 2035 for it to develop 60 such weapons. Tehran currently possesses short- and medium-range ballistic missiles with ranges that top out at about 1,850 miles (3,000 kilometers), according to the US Congressional Research Service. Aside from nuclear and missile issues, Trump cited other sources of tension with Iran, including the 1979 takeover of the US embassy in Tehran, attacks by Iranian proxy groups on US forces and international shipping in the region, as well as Iran's deadly crackdown on protesters. But proxy attacks on American forces were not currently ongoing, and Trump had hailed a ceasefire last year as having halted attacks on shipping by Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels. And while Trump had repeatedly threatened military intervention if Iran killed protesters, he pulled back from ordering strikes last month at the height of Tehran's crackdown on dissent.

Khamenei's Body Recovered from Iran Compound; Netanyahu, Trump Shown Photograph

RNS: In a stunning escalation that has shaken West Asia, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has been confirmed dead following coordinated US-Israeli airstrikes on Tehran, according to Iranian state media. The 86-year-old leader's body was reportedly recovered from the rubble of his heavily fortified residential compound after intense overnight bombardment. The strikes, described as among the most significant in the region in decades, also claimed the lives of several senior Iranian officials and members of Khamenei's family.

Leadership Decapitation Strike

Multiple strategic targets across Tehran were hit in the operation, including the Supreme Leader's official residence. Satellite images showed the complex reduced to debris, with Israeli officials claiming the compound was "completely destroyed."

Among those killed were Iran's Defence Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh and senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander Mohammad Pakpour, dealing a severe blow to Tehran's military command structure. Israeli broadcaster Channel 12 and public network Kan earlier reported that photographic evidence of Khamenei's body had been shown to Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, citing senior Israeli sources.

Trump Claims Massive Blow to Iran's Leadership

Speaking to Fox News, Trump said 48 senior Iranian leaders had been killed in the ongoing military campaign. "Nobody can believe the success we're having. Forty-eight leaders are gone in one shot," he said, calling the operation a decisive success and indicating that strikes were advancing "faster than anticipated."



Netanyahu, while initially guarded, later acknowledged there were "strong indications" that Iran's top leadership had been eliminated in the assault. Retaliation Engulfed the Gulf Even as strikes continued for a second day, Iran launched a sweeping retaliatory barrage of ballistic missiles and drones targeting Israel, US military facilities, and Gulf states including Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed it fired four ballistic missiles at the USS Abraham Lincoln strike group and launched more than 500 drones across the region.

In Israel, emergency services reported that nine people were killed in a ballistic missile strike in Beit Shemesh, with 27 others injured. The UAE confirmed three fatalities after 165 ballistic missiles and 541 drones were launched toward its territory. While the majority were intercepted, several drones struck residential areas in Dubai, injuring dozens and damaging infrastructure. A drone targeting Zayed International Airport in Abu Dhabi was intercepted mid-air, while Dubai International Airport sustained limited damage in a separate incident. Kuwait reported 97 ballistic missiles launched toward its territory, with falling debris injuring troops at Ali Al Salem Air Base. Bahrain said its airport was damaged in a drone strike. Saudi Arabia summoned Iran's ambassador after accusing Tehran of direct aggression. Oman confirmed two drones hit the Duqm commercial port, injuring one worker.

A Region on the Brink Khamenei's death marks a historic turning point for Iran, where he had ruled since 1989. The sudden elimination of the country's supreme authority and key military figures has triggered deep uncertainty over political succession and fears of wider regional war. Global powers are closely monitoring developments as West Asia teeters on the edge of a broader and potentially prolonged conflict.

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Ayatollah Alireza Arafai Named Iran's Interim Supreme Leader Following Khamenei Killing



Iran: In a dramatic turn of events, senior cleric Ayatollah Alireza Arafai has been named Iran's interim Supreme Leader following the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in joint US-Israeli airstrikes on Tehran.

Iranian state media confirmed that Article 111 of the Constitution has been invoked, triggering an emergency leadership mechanism. Under this provision, a three-member council temporarily assumes the powers of the Supreme Leader until a permanent successor is chosen. Arafai has been appointed as the jurist member of this council and will oversee key responsibilities during the transition period. Khamenei was killed in what officials described as large-scale coordinated strikes targeting critical military and government installations in Tehran. The attacks also claimed the lives of Iran's Chief of Army Staff General Abdol Rahim Mousavi and Defense Minister General Aziz Nasirzadeh. Authorities said nearly 200 people were killed and more than 700 injured in the bombardment. A 40-day state mourning has been declared across Iran.

BSL Basant Mela Opens with Grand Fanfare at Library Ground Bokaro



Ranchi: The 2nd National Moot Court Competition on Consumer Protection Laws, 2026 concluded with a grand valedictory ceremony at the National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi. Justices Sujit Narayan Prasad and Ananda Sen of the Jharkhand High Court graced the occasion as chief guests.

Organized by the Chair on Consumer Research and Policy, NUSRL, with support from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the three-day national event saw participation from 43 teams representing NLUs, central universities and leading private law institutions. After a rigorous screening process, 18 teams advanced to the final round. The total prize pool stood at ₹1 lakh. Hidayatullah National Law University clinched the Winner's Trophy, while National Law Institute University, Bhopal, finished as Runners-up. Addressing the gathering, Justice Prasad emphasized the enduring importance of books and deep study of statutes and landmark judgments despite technological advances. Justice Sen encouraged balanced and responsible use of technology in legal research, expressing confidence in the next generation of legal professionals. Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil thanked participants and organizers, noting that moot courts play a vital role in sharpening advocacy skills and strengthening legal education.

Hotel Management Institute Key to Building Successful Hospitality Careers: Singh

by Siddharth Pandey



Chaibasa: In a major step towards strengthening professional hospitality education in the region, a three-year diploma course in hotel management will soon be launched in Kadma, Jamshedpur. Students who have completed Class 12 will be eligible for admission. Advocate Sanjay Kumar Singh of Press News Lahar and Law Friends Associates LLP said the course is aimed at meeting the rising demand for skilled professionals in the hospitality sector.

The District Bar Association, Jamshedpur, will extend support to the institute. The programme will offer practical training in front office operations, housekeeping, food and beverage services, and culinary arts, along with leadership, communication, and customer service skills. Singh said professional hotel management education opens strong career avenues, including global job opportunities, competitive salaries, and entrepreneurship prospects in the expanding hospitality industry.

'In One Shot': Trump Claims US Attack Eliminated 48 Top Iranian Commanders

Washington: President Donald Trump on Sunday declared that 48 senior Iranian leaders had been killed in sweeping U.S.-Israeli strikes, describing the operation as a decisive success and saying the campaign was progressing faster than expected. Speaking in separate television interviews, Trump said the coordinated assault had dealt a crippling blow to Iran's command structure. "Nobody can believe the success we're having. Forty-eight leaders are gone in one shot. And it's moving along rapidly," he said, portraying the offensive as both strategic and ahead of schedule.

The president asserted that the objective was to dismantle Iran's leadership network and significantly weaken its military capacity. He maintained that the operation was unfolding in a "very positive way" and insisted it was being carried out in the interest of global security. First US Casualties Announced Shortly after Trump's remarks, United States Central Command confirmed that American forces had suffered casualties in the escalating conflict. Three U.S. service members were reported killed, five seriously wounded, and several others injured. The command also announced that U.S. forces had destroyed an Iranian naval vessel docked in the Gulf of Oman, marking a significant escalation at sea.



Hints of Possible Talks

Despite the intensifying military campaign, Trump indicated he was open to discussions with Tehran. He said he would "be talking" to Iranian leaders but declined to provide details on timing or participants. He also suggested that several figures previously involved in negotiations were no longer alive. Referring to Iran's top leadership, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Trump implied that recent strikes had dramatically altered the country's political hierarchy. "They should have done it sooner," Trump said, arguing that diplomatic options had been available before the outbreak of hostilities. As U.S. and Israeli forces press forward with operations, the conflict appears to be entering a more volatile phase — marked by heavy losses, heightened rhetoric, and uncertain prospects for dialogue.

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Magadh University Celebrates 65 Years of Academic Legacy in Bodhgaya

by Prabhat Sinha

Bodhgaya: Magadh University marked its 65th Foundation Day with grandeur and pride at its campus in Bodhgaya on Sunday, celebrating six and a half decades of academic excellence and institutional growth. The ceremony began with the traditional lighting of the lamp by Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, Bihar Legislative Assembly Speaker Prem Kumar, and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Shashi Pratap Shahi. Addressing the gathering,



Manjhi reflected on the university's rich legacy and praised its vital contribution to higher education in Bihar and across the country. He emphasized the role of education in nation-building and commended the institution for expanding access to quality learning. Speaker Prem Kumar highlighted the university's developmental journey and urged continued focus on academic standards and institutional progress.

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Vasundhara Gali Soaks in Spring Spirit as Women Celebrate Grand Holi in Bokaro



by Apurva

Bokaro: The vibrant hues of Holi painted Vasundhara Gali in Sector 3B with joy and togetherness as the Vasundhara Parivar Mahila Mandal hosted a grand Holi Milan celebration filled with color, music, and harmony. As the festivities began, the entire lane transformed into a canvas of rainbow shades. Women warmly applied abir and gulal to one another, exchanging early Holi greetings and heartfelt embraces. The gathering echoed with laughter, festive songs, and a strong message of social harmony and mutual love. The celebration turned lively as women and children presented energetic dance performances on traditional Holi songs, folk melodies, and popular film tracks. The enthusiasm of the children added extra charm to the event. Adding to the excitement, several fun-filled competitions were organized, drawing enthusiastic participation from women who showcased their creativity and talent. Among those present were Rupa, Anamika, Ruby, Renu, Anita, Kanchan, Rashmi, Lakshmi, Veena, Pinky, Priyanka, Khushboo, Chanda Singh, Munni Devi, Amravati, Sunita, Asha, Reema, Moni and many others, making the celebration a memorable community affair.

Bokaro: The Sampoorna Brahmin Samaj marked its foundation day with a vibrant Holi Milan Samaroh at City Park on Sunday, witnessing an impressive turnout of community members. The programme began with Lord Parashurama worship and ceremonial lamp lighting by district president Vishnu Shankar Mishra and guests. In his address, Mishra highlighted the organization's commitment to social upliftment and called for unity within the community. Former MPs Yadu Nath Pandey and Ravindra Pandey emphasized solidarity, awareness, and cultural values while extending Holi greetings. A cultural segment featuring devotional songs and traditional Holi performances added colour to the celebration, with local artists entrancing the audience. Renowned singer Arun Pathak captivated the audience with popular Holi renditions, while other artists presented bhajans and festive melodies. Instrumental performances on flute, keyboard, and octopad added to the festive spirit. The event concluded with members exchanging festive greetings and reaffirming their collective resolve for social harmony and progress.

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Grand Holi Milan Marks Foundation Day of Sampoorna Brahmin Samaj



by Arun Pathak

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India Knock Out West Indies to Enter T20 World Cup 2026 Semi-Finals; Sanju Samson Smashes 97

Kolkata: India powered their way into the semi-finals of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup with a sensational five-wicket win over West Indies in a high-voltage virtual quarter-final at the iconic Eden Gardens on Sunday. The architect of the victory was Sanju Samson, whose breathtaking unbeaten 97 off just 50 balls turned a tense chase into a memorable triumph. His explosive knock — laced with 12 fours and four towering sixes — propelled India to 199/5 in 19.2 overs, chasing down a stiff 196-run target with four balls to spare amid deafening cheers from a packed home crowd. West Indies Post 195/4 After Late Surge Put in to bat, West Indies started steadily before Roston Chase accelerated with a brisk 40 off 25 balls. Shimron Hetmyer chipped in with a quick 27 to steady the innings in the middle overs. India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah provided crucial breakthroughs, dismissing both set batters at key moments. However, Rovman Powell (34 off 19) and Jason Holder (37 off 22) stitched together an unbeaten 76-run stand for the fifth wicket, lifting the Caribbean side to a formidable 195/4 in their 20 overs. Samson Leads the Charge in Record Chase India's reply revolved entirely around Samson's brilliance. The stylish right-hander brought up his maiden T20 World Cup half-century in just 26 balls, setting the tone for an audacious chase. He forged crucial partnerships with skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma, ensuring the asking rate never spiralled out of control. Though West Indies sensed an opening after removing Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya in quick succession, Shivam Dube struck two timely boundaries to calm nerves. With 10 needed off the final over, Samson fittingly finished the contest in emphatic fashion — smashing a massive six and a boundary off Romario Shepherd to seal India's semi-final berth and send the West Indies crashing out of the tournament. Strong Comeback After Early Setback India's win marked a strong rebound after their Super 8 defeat to South Africa. Back-to-back must-win victories ensured their passage into the last four with renewed momentum. In the semi-finals, Group 1 toppers South Africa will face New Zealand at Eden Gardens on March 4, while India are set to clash with Group 2 leaders England at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on March 5. With Samson in sublime form and the team peaking at the right moment, India's quest for T20 World Cup glory remains firmly alive.

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Nation paying heavy price for substance, style of Modi's foreign policy: Congress

Jairam Ramesh accuses PM of moral cowardice after Khamenei killing, criticises India-US trade deal and handling of regional tensions

New Delhi.(Agency) The Congress on Sunday said the government's response to the war unleashed on Iran has been a betrayal of India's values, principles and interests, as it claimed that the nation is paying a heavy price for both the substance and style of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign policy. Taking a swipe at Modi, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said India's foreign policy under the "self-styled Vishwaguru" stands brutally exposed, notwithstanding all the grandstanding on it by the cheerleaders of the PM, led by

himself. "Modi visited Israel on February 25-26, 2026, at a time when the entire world was aware that a US-Israel military attack on Iran for regime change was imminent. The assault began just two days after Mr. Modi left Israel where his speech to the Knesset was a display of shameful moral cowardice," Ramesh said on X. "The Modi government's response to the war unleashed on Iran that has involved targeted assassinations has been a betrayal of India's values, principles, concerns, and interests," he alleged. Ramesh's remarks come after Iranian

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in a major attack by Israel and the United States. State media reported that the 86-year-old was killed in an air strike targeting his compound in downtown Tehran. In his post on X, Ramesh lashed out at the Modi government's foreign policy. "The US President continues his romance with Pakistan, applauding again and again the very man whose inflammatory remarks provided the backdrop to the terror attacks in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025. The US has also categorically come out in support of Pakistan's war



on Afghanistan," he said. The US President has, at last count, claimed a hundred times that he had intervened to halt Operation Sindoor on May 10, 2025 using the threat of increased tariffs on India's exports to the US, Ramesh said. "But the PM is

completely silent on these assertions of President Trump. The first announcement of the halt to Operation Sindoor was made by the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio at 5:37 PM on May 10, 2025," he said. Ramesh further pointed out that on February 2nd, 2026 President Trump declared that - at Prime Minister Modi's request - the India-US trade deal had been finalised and is coming into effect immediately. "That this was a desperate move by Mr. Modi who was attempting to divert the headlines from the issues raised by Rahul Gandhi in Parliament is clearly obvious," he claimed.

Delhi CM launches 'nutrition programme' for children; inaugurates modern ICU at GTB

Addressing the gathering, Gupta said that a nourished childhood forms the bedrock of 'Viksit Bharat', emphasising that nutrition is not merely about food but about building the nation's future.

New Delhi.(Agency) Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday launched the 'Morning Nutrition Programme' in collaboration with Akshaya Patra Foundation, aiming to directly benefit nearly 90,000 students across the Capital. She also inaugurated a series of major healthcare projects, reinforcing the government's push to upgrade medical infrastructure in Delhi. At Guru Tegh Bahadur (GTB) Hospital, she launched a 10-bed Medical ICU ward, a modern GI HD Video Endoscopy Suite and an Integrated AYUSH Stress Management Programme. Addressing the gathering, Gupta said that a nourished childhood forms the bedrock of 'Viksit Bharat', emphasising that nutrition is not merely about food but about building the nation's future. The programme, implemented in around 200 Delhi government schools, will provide morning meals to children to boost their energy, concentration and overall development. Meals will be prepared and delivered through the Foundation's four



modern kitchens in Delhi. Gupta noted that welfare initiatives under Prime Minister Narendra Modi — including PM Poshan, National Food Security Act and Poshan Abhiyaan — have strengthened the country's nutrition

full support for efforts ensuring that no child begins the day hungry. Further, Gupta laid the foundation stone of a new state-of-the-art OPD building at the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), aimed at streamlining outpatient services and reducing waiting time for thousands of patients.

She said the government is working in mission mode to equip every hospital with world-class facilities. The upgraded ICU and endoscopy suite at GTB Hospital will strengthen critical care and enable faster diagnosis of gastrointestinal disorders, while new AYUSH stress management OPDs will promote holistic well-being through yoga and lifestyle counselling. Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh termed the initiatives a milestone, asserting that Delhi's healthcare system will emerge as a national model. The CM expressed confidence that the new facilities would significantly benefit residents of East Delhi and the wider NCR.

framework. She added that the Delhi government is also expanding subsidised meals through Atal Canteens, where food is served at Rs 5, with a target of feeding one lakh people daily. Calling the initiative a model of government-community partnership, Gupta reaffirmed

Kejriwal visits temple day after relief, AAP & BJP engage in war of words

Delhi.(Agency)

The day after former Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal was discharged in the excise policy case by a court, he visited the Hanuman Mandir at Connaught Place on Saturday. Kejriwal was accompanied by former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and Durgesh Pathak to the temple. Meanwhile, Delhi Law Minister Kapil Mishra accused Kejriwal of "overacting" after the court granted him relief. Mishra said that Kejriwal resorted to similar "dramas" even when he was in power.

Despite serious questions raised by the High Court and the Supreme Court of India, Kejriwal "kept roaming with a medal of truth" and was celebrating the lower court's verdict, he said. "Is it not true that when the excise case came up against Kejriwal, the liquor policy was withdrawn? If the policy was based on honesty, why was it taken back?" Mishra said. "The biggest justice happens in the people's court, and voters did not elect the Aam Aadmi Party government last year," he added. Senior AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the ruling party was claiming the order was from a lower court, with higher courts still available, but "the highest court is that of Lord Hanuman, from whom we have received blessings." Bharadwaj said the party's national leadership would gather at Jantar Mantar on Sunday, where Kejriwal would address the gathering and outline the way forward.

Kejriwal, accompanied by Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, and Durgesh Pathak, seeks blessings: Delhi Law Minister Kapil Mishra calls it "overacting."

A Delhi court on Friday discharged Kejriwal, Sisodia, and 21 others in the case linked to the now-scrapped excise policy, a development



that had triggered political controversy and contributed to the collapse of the AAP government in the national capital. Among those discharged was Telangana Jagruthi president K Kavitha, whose name had figured prominently during the investigation.

Don't drag me into it: DK Shivakumar distances himself from CM speculation

Bengaluru.(Agency)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday publicly distanced himself from speculation surrounding internal party manoeuvring, urging legislators not to use his name in their political pursuits. "I request you, please don't. No one should speak on my behalf," Shivakumar said, addressing reporters in Bengaluru amid talk of MLAs travelling to Delhi and possible jockeying for positions.



"If you have your own issues, if you are an MLA and want to become a minister, want power, or want a chairman post, you go ahead and pursue that. But please don't drag me into it. I am requesting you," he added. Responding to reports that some legislators were visiting the national capital or travelling abroad, Shivakumar said he had no knowledge of such moves. "I don't know anything about MLAs going to Delhi or abroad, and I will not even intervene on this," he said. Asked about remarks attributed to his brother DK Suresh suggesting he could become Chief Minister if destiny favoured him, Shivakumar dismissed the speculation. "Everyone is saying the same thing. I have not said that," he said firmly. On support within the Congress legislature party, he asserted that all 139 MLAs, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, were united.

Uttarakhand CM Dhami says Devbhoomi will not allow 'heinous, extremist thinking' at any cost

Dehradun.(Agency)

Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has asserted that "hateful and radical mindsets" will not be allowed to take root in the state. Speaking at the inauguration of the famous Purnagiri Mela in the Thuligad area of Champawat district, the Chief Minister emphasised that ensuring the sanctity of Devbhoomi ("the land of the gods") remained the government's top priority. While clarifying the government's stance on inclusivity, Dhami said that radicalism has no place in the hills. "It is the duty of every resident to protect the Sanatan culture of Devbhoomi. We have no prejudice against any caste or religion, but

there is absolutely no room for radicalism in our state," he noted.

Dhami accused the Congress of providing shelter to illegal immigrants for political gains. "The Congress is pained at the government's strict action against illegal immigrants, because we have shown them the exit door to infiltrators, whom they once sheltered in Devbhoomi," the chief minister said. He added that the opposition was finding it difficult to accept the government's tough stance on asserting the state's identity and ensuring its security. He alleged that vested interests operated in the



state. "Every step toward development and reform is met with attempts towards distraction by the opposition. The citizens, however, understand that our decisions are not driven by politics, but by the ultimate

interest of the state," Dhami remarked. The chief minister said that his government would turn the Purnagiri Mela at the Purnagiri temple into a year-round event. He directed officials to ensure seamless movement of devotees and bolster basic amenities. He inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for nine development projects worth Rs 74.54 crore. "Our goal is to equip the temple with permanent and modern facilities to enhance the spiritual experience of pilgrims," he said. Dhami also visited the 36th Battalion of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police in Lohaghat. He celebrated the upcoming festival of Holi with the soldiers stationed at the borders.

'Despicable': Priyanka Gandhi slams 'targeted assassination' of Iran's Khamenei, urges PM Modi to rescue Indians

New Delhi.(Agency)

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi on Sunday condemned Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei's death in the US-Israel joint attack, calling it a "targeted assassination". Without naming US President Donald Trump or Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu, she slammed the leaderships for the deaths of "multitudes of innocent people". Gandhi also urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make efforts to bring all Indian citizens in the affected nations in the Middle East. "The targeted assassination of the leadership of a sovereign nation by the so called leaders of the democratic world and the killing of multitudes of innocent people is despicable and deserves strong condemnation, no

matter what the proclaimed reason for it is. It is tragic that multiple nations have now been dragged into conflict," Gandhi said.

"The world needs peace not more unnecessary wars. Those in charge of it would do well to remember Mahatma Gandhi's words: An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind. I do hope that having genuflected before the Prime Minister of Israel and President Trump, our Prime Minister makes every effort to bring all Indian citizens in the affected countries back home to safety." Earlier on Saturday, Congress MP and



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said: "The rapidly escalating hostilities between US-Israel and Iran are deeply concerning. The safety and security of every Indian citizen across the Middle East must be our highest priority. I urge the

Government of India to take immediate and proactive measures to safeguard our people."

What India is doing

India is understood to be closely monitoring the situation. Indian Embassies in various countries in the Middle East have issued advisories asking citizens to stay sheltered and avoid going out unnecessarily. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has spoken to his counterparts in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Iran, and Israel. He shared his concerns over the rapidly escalating situation and received assurances from the leaders of respective countries about the safety of Indian citizens.

When the whole does not count all the parts

This past week, two developments brought India's Northeast back into focus. On February 23, Manipuri language film Boong, directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi and produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar, made every Indian proud by winning the prestigious British Academy of Film and Television Arts award in the children's and family film category.

The other incident, which happened on February 20 in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar, outraged the nation. A video of the incident, which went viral, shows the aggressive heckling of three women from Arunachal Pradesh living in a fourth-floor rented accommodation. They were insulted with racial slurs by a couple living in another flat below theirs.

The provocation for the verbal assault was the installation of an air conditioner by the girls in their room and the dust that was kicked up during the process. They were heaped with loud derogatory stereotypes that most from the Northeast in Delhi would be familiar with, having faced them silently almost daily—though mostly as racial micro aggressions—normalised so much as to inhibit complaining lest they sound trivial or else incredulous to others.

Interestingly, what happened in Malviya Nagar was almost a dramatic vindication of what Lakshmi Priya Devi flagged in her powerful acceptance speech in London: praying for the return of peace in her troubled home state Manipur but also calling attention to the continued neglect, undermining and underrepresentation of the Northeast region in the rest of India. Quite definitively, the Northeast is part of the Indian State. But unfortunately, the region is still struggling to fit into the larger Indian national identity, not so much on account of its own sense of alienation but because of the subliminal irredentist nature of the Indian identity and the unwillingness of those within this racial fold to accept the Northeast as it is within this fold. Communist Party of India (Marxist) ideologue Ashok Mitra anticipated this national blind-spot illustratively in a newspaper column titled 'A dose of heresy: Imagining alternative histories of the Northeast' years ago. Up until 1937, Burma was a part of British India. However, when the British decided to bifurcate India to be a separate colony that year, even though it was a time the Indian national movement was peaking, there was not even a squeak of protest. He also speculates that if the hill states of the Northeast, too, had been similarly separated that year, there probably would have been no protest either.

This nearly happened, too. Several British administrators posted in the Northeast noticed this psychological distance. Four of them had actually suggested that the 'excluded' and 'partially excluded' hill territories beyond Assam's Inner Line drawn by the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873, together with the contiguous hill regions of Burma, should be left as a separate 'Crown colony'—neither a part of India nor of Burma—when the British leave. The most elaborate of these suggestions came as a 22-page note from Robert Reid, who was the governor of Assam from 1937 to 1942. This plan came to be taken seriously, and as David R. Syiemlieh notes in his book *On the Edge of Empire: Four British Plans for North East India, 1941-1947*, the then secretary of state for India, L. S. Amery, forwarded a copy of it to Oxford professor Reginald Coupland to be used in the third and final volume on the constitutional problem in India that he was working on at the time. The professor did so, but lazy scholarship later resulted in this 'Reid's plan' coming to be also referred to falsely as the 'Coupland plan'. The plan was almost adopted before being ultimately dropped—not for any objection from Indian leaders, but because other British administrators felt such a place would be ungovernable.

Profit over miners' lives in Meghalaya

Coal from the state is a huge informal business — it is smuggled out in trucks to Assam from where it is dispatched to other destinations

The tyranny of distance was perhaps never more clearly emphasised than when India watched as a couple from Malviya Nagar in New Delhi were hunted down and arrested by the city police for abusing, threatening and using vile racist epithets at three young women from Arunachal Pradesh who were living above their flat. The incident, which went viral, was apparently triggered after some dust fell onto the couple's space while an air conditioner was being installed. But over 2,000 km away, when a furious blast in an illegal underground mine in Meghalaya blew away at least 34 men in one of the worst mining disasters in recent times, there were no loud protests, no massive media coverage. That incident happened on February 8 but it barely caused a ripple even in the region. What is more astounding is the flaccid response of the state government whose appointment of a judicial commission came under blistering criticism from the Meghalaya High Court. The court said the terms of reference were inadequate and the commission needed to examine the nexus between big money that pushed the entire process of supply and demand. This, it said, was the key.

What the court also found astonishing was that while the families of eight persons had received compensation (apparently, they were from the state), there were 15 from Nepal and 13 from Assam whose next of kin had not been notified or identified. So this is not just a local tragedy but an international disaster. One hopes the Nepal embassy in Delhi has been notified and the Assam government and relevant families too in the neighbouring state. Just think of it - more than two weeks after these deaths, the families may not even know that the bread earner has been killed. In any other part of India, perhaps the streets would have been packed with crowds demanding justice and also the government's resignation for inaction. But not in Shillong or elsewhere in the East Jaintia Hills, despite this being the second time in less than 10 years that something like this has happened in the district. The sense of outrage, so visible across Delhi and the country, on the racism incident was missing. The ugly and illegal behaviour of the Delhi couple was visible to all. They are facing punishment for their callous and cruel conduct. But the series of explosions that killed no less than 34 persons and wounded several others vanishes from the headlines within days. When businessman Raghuvanshi of Indore was killed in a conspiracy by his wife, her lover and others in Sohra or Cherrapunji in Meghalaya, the first finger of suspicion was pointed at local people. The metro media and others wasted no time in attacking the alleged criminal tendencies in the region before learning to their embarrassment that the reported masterminds included his wife. As these

incidents have shown, social media has positive uses -- the couple in Delhi found out to their cost and now I am sure those who were seen hurling vile abuse at staff in a resort in Arunachal Pradesh will too. They fade in significance though when compared with the thunderous explosion which ripped through the tiny tunnels underground giving little or no chance of escape as methane gas, the silent, odourless killer, ignited. The Meghalaya government under Chief Minister Conrad A Sangma announced compensation of two lakh rupees for each victim while his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma pledged five lakh rupees to each of the dead. That is little comfort for the families of those who have been killed in this brutal fashion, working desperately at the risk of life and limb in a banned "rat hole" procedure, for a measly few hundred rupees every day. In 2022, the Government of Meghalaya set up a one-



man commission to review and recommend measures to stamp out illegal mining. Justice BP Kakety, a former judge of the Gauhati High Court, has been at it doggedly, seeking to fix responsibility and pushing the government to move on issues. The fact that the state government, despite as many as 35 reports by Justice Kakety, has failed to act on the matter shows that it does not really care about the issue.

In a statement, Sangma said that accountability would be fixed and that "those responsible will face strict legal action. There will be no compromise when it comes to the safety of lives." What is missed in all this in the mainland/metro media is that the chief minister himself has held the mining portfolio since 2023, seeking to develop a transition from illegal to "scientific mining". In December 2018, water flooded a mine killing 18 persons in the same district where the latest tragedy struck. A commentator described it as a "shocking reminder that a fast-growing economy such as India

continues to allow Dickensian mining practices." There were mine disasters in the Garo Hills district in 2012 and 2014. Yet the practice was never really stopped, some say, because too many stand to profit from the gravy train. These mines are referred to as rat holes, underlining both the indignity of the process as well as the inherent dangers accompanying it. Men who are thin and small statured are preferred to work here because they can crawl into the low tunnels, scrape and cut coal, place it on trays or sacks t take it out. No modern equipment is used. The miners come from wretchedly poor families which are struggling to survive. Those from Assam are mainly of Bengali Muslim origin, there are workers from Nepal and local districts. Their employment is not just a violation of labour laws but flies in the face of a complete ban issued by the National Green Tribunal.

It is a blatant violation of human rights. By failing to act against the coal miners and mafia barons who control the business, the Government of Meghalaya is complicit in the continuance of these death traps. There is much demand for coal as an energy source and there are many avaricious eyes on the region's natural resources. Indeed, Meghalaya is one of India's top 10 states with regard to coal reserves. Coal from the state is a huge informal business - it is smuggled out in covered trucks to sites in Assam from where it is dispatched to other destinations. The names of political leaders reportedly involved in the murky process are whispered from time to time. The power wielded by these networks is substantial. Huge money purportedly funds campaigns as well as networks that assure protection and help maintain their dominance in the coal producing areas.

In addition, numerous disturbing issues come up alongside with the obvious ones. The first is that there is very little outcry in the local communities or in civil society in general on such matters. Part of the rationale for local silence is a mixture of dependence for livelihoods that these mines represent and fear of what activists call the power of the mining mafia. There appears to be a bias towards the workers who are seen as outsiders.

This shows up in different ways: in the 2018 tragedy, the mine was flooded after a worker cut through the narrow wall separating the mine from the river bed. A surge of water rushed into the breach, catching the miners unawares. What was worse was the rank incompetence of the Meghalaya government at the time in mobilising a lifesaving campaign. Hydrologists are trained to understand the flow and dynamics of water underground. A hydrologist was brought in two weeks after the event. The Indian Air Force flew in a 15-member expert navy diving team from Vishakhapatnam. Powerful pumps were airlifted from Guwahati.

A heavy toll: HP's transport tax will hit industrial momentum

A negotiated solution with transporters and industry is economically necessary

THE protest by truck operators against the proposed toll hike in Himachal Pradesh's industrial belt is more than a sectoral grievance; it is a warning about the fragile balance between revenue generation and economic growth. The increase, scheduled to take effect from April 1, has triggered strong opposition from transport unions operating in the Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (BBN) corridor, the state's principal manufacturing hub. For an industry dependent almost entirely on road transport, logistics costs determine competitiveness. Any sharp escalation in toll charges raises freight expenses, which are ultimately passed on to manufacturers, traders and consumers. Pharmaceutical units, small manufacturing enterprises and ancillary industries located in the BBN region already operate under geographical disadvantages typical of hill states, including higher fuel consumption and longer transit times. Higher transport costs risk eroding the very industrial attractiveness that Himachal has painstakingly built through policy incentives over the past few



decades. The impact extends beyond industry. Thousands of workers commuting daily from the neighbouring Punjab and Haryana will face higher travel expenses,

while increased freight rates could quietly push up prices of essential goods and raw materials. What appears to be a targeted revenue measure thus risks becoming an economy-wide burden with inflationary consequences. States grappling with fiscal stress understandably seek new revenue streams. Yet infrastructure financing cannot rely on abrupt user-charge increases without stakeholder consultation and transparent cost justification. Excessive tolling may yield short-term gains but it weakens long-term investment confidence, particularly in regions competing with better-connected plains. Himachal's economic future depends as much on industrial stability as on fiscal prudence. Policymaking must therefore move beyond immediate revenue considerations toward a calibrated approach that protects logistics efficiency while ensuring sustainable infrastructure funding. A negotiated solution with transporters and industry is economically necessary.

Military funding merits long-term planning

THE Indian defence budget announced for 2026-27 has been broadly welcomed by the armed forces and the industry. Defence allocation, at Rs 7.85 lakh crore, has increased by 15.19% over the previous year's estimates of Rs 6.81 lakh crore. In a push for modernisation, the capital budget is almost 22% higher than last year, with 75% spending earmarked for the domestic defence industry. Approximately 20% of the total defence budget is earmarked for revenue expenditure on sustenance and operational preparedness. Although revenue expenditure is often viewed as not contributing to modernisation, it is critical to ensure the readiness of forces deployed on our unsettled borders and in the maritime spaces that are vital for India's economic growth.

While the government's focus on national security is clear, we must ask the larger question: how is defence spending contributing to the development of our military power? This question is important because we often equate military capability with inputs, assuming that higher defence spending automatically translates into better capability. While budgets matter, outputs are the real measure — what is our readiness status today? And there are some concerns here. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is down to 29 squadrons, the lowest figure since the 1960s. A total of 180 Tejas Mk1A are on order, but deliveries have not yet commenced. Media reports indicate that some pending issues remain before the IAF can accept the aircraft, but assuming these are resolved, the delivery of 180 aircraft will be completed by 2033.

The government has approved a deal to procure 114 Rafale fighter aircraft at a cost of about \$36 billion. Eighteen aircraft will be procured in fly-away condition from France, and 96 are to be manufactured in India with 60% indigenous content. Considering the current backlog of orders with Dassault Aviation, the first aircraft is likely to arrive in India after three years. The shortfall in air-to-air

refuellers will be made up by converting six second-hand Boeing 767 airframes into tankers by Israel Aerospace Industries, in partnership with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Also approved are six additional Airborne Early Warning & Control Systems, based on the Embraer aircraft. Both these projects are likely to see completion by 2032.

There is justifiable pride in the Indian Navy's indigenous shipbuilding capacity. Project 17A, which aims to equip the Navy with seven advanced stealth frigates, is on track with four frigates commissioned and the remaining three to be delivered this year. Project 15B, which was to provide the Navy with four stealth guided-missile destroyers, was completed in 2025.

The challenge before the Navy is the induction of a new class of frigates and destroyers. Project 17B, the next-generation frigates, was approved in 2024, but the Request for Proposal has yet to be issued. Project 18, the next-generation destroyers, is in an advanced planning stage, but formal approval is pending. Therefore, it appears unlikely that any new frigate or destroyer will be inducted into the Navy in the next five years.

There is a similar situation with Project 751 for six advanced diesel-electric submarines with Air-Independent Propulsion technology. Approved in 2019, the project is in advanced negotiations, and the first submarine is expected to be commissioned in 2032.

The Army is also seeking replacements for its existing infantry fighting vehicles and battle tanks. Both projects have experienced numerous delays, and the earliest induction is unlikely before 2030. Due to delays in the procurement of new equipment, the Army has initiated projects to upgrade existing infantry fighting vehicles, air defence guns and artillery. India ranks among the top five

spenders globally on defence. There are voices in India's security establishment that regularly call for increasing the defence budget to at least 2.5% of the GDP, up from the current 2%. However, the central challenge is not the amount of funds, but the effectiveness of the ecosystem and processes that support military capability development. In this regard, three recommendations are



made. First, the military must be funded in accordance with a long-term plan. Each service prepares a 10-year Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP) that the Chief of Defence Staff harmonises. The ICDP is approved by the Defence Acquisition Council in the Ministry of Defence. However, since there is no approval of this plan by the Ministry of Finance, annual budgetary allocations reflect funding for annual requirements rather than a long-term plan. The government must approve the ICDP and ensure a regular flow of funds to ensure its completion. One problem plaguing the modernisation of the military is that decision-making is hesitant and personalised. There are numerous examples,

from fighter aircraft to submarines to tanks, which took decades from initiation to approval. A well-defined long-term capability plan can help mitigate this problem by making decisions more structured, predictable and institutionally anchored. Second, the procurement process requires structural reform. While some corrective steps have been taken, including updated acquisition manuals, the underlying culture remains overly compliance-driven, procedurally cumbersome and risk-averse. As Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh observed in June 2025, the real bottleneck is the acquisition cycle itself, with the purchase of weapon systems stretching five to six years. Such delays mean that systems risk obsolescence by the time they enter service and also undermine private-sector participation, since firms wait for years with no clear idea of orders.

Third, India must invest more in research and development (R&D). India's spending on R&D is about 0.65% of the GDP, well below the global average of 2%. Roughly two-thirds of R&D funding comes from the public sector, with the private sector contributing the balance. In most advanced economies, the situation is reversed, with private industry accounting for the bulk of R&D spending. Under-investment in R&D has left India import-dependent on critical technologies.

The real challenge facing India is not about how much it spends on defence, but how it converts resources into usable combat power. That will require reform in procurement, greater investment in critical technologies and a stronger alignment between long-term planning and execution. Otherwise, India will continue to spend heavily while remaining short of the military capability its strategic ambitions demand.



पति को कराएं बच्चे की जिम्मेदारी का अहसास

एक मां ही यह बता सकती है कि पेरेंटिंग का अनुभव कितना आनंददायक होता है। अक्सर पुरुष इसे बहुत भारी जिम्मेदारी के तौर पर देखते हैं और शुरू से उन्हें यह लगता है कि बच्चे का पालन-पोषण मां की जिम्मेदारी होती है।

बच्चे को सही परवरिश देना मां और पिता दोनों का काम होता है, पर बच्चे की परवरिश का जिम्मा मां पर ही आता है। अगर आप चाहती हैं कि आपके पति को भी बच्चे की जिम्मेदारी का अहसास हो तो इन बातों का ध्यान रखें।

बताएं आप उनकी मदद लेना चाहती हैं

बच्चा होने के बाद कुछ पुरुष यह चाहते हैं कि वो बच्चे की देखभाल करें, पर महिलाएं अक्सर इस संकोच में कि बच्चे का काम पति सही ढंग से कर पाएंगे या नहीं, सोच उनको मना कर देती हैं। अगर आपके पति बच्चे के पालन-पोषण में आपकी मदद करना चाहते हैं तो उनका यह प्रस्ताव सहर्ष स्वीकार कर लें। उन्हें अपने तरीके से बच्चों की केयर करने दें, हर समय टोकें न, अगर वो कहीं गलत है, तो उन्हें प्यार से बताएं।

भूमिका आनंददायक है

एक मां ही यह बता सकती है कि पेरेंटिंग का अनुभव कितना



गुप बनाएं पिता भी

पुरुष अक्सर बच्चों के बारे में बात करने से बचते हैं। महिलाएं तो कई बार गुप में जाकर बच्चों की परेशानियां, आदतें आदि के बारे में चर्चा कर लेती हैं, पर पिता को ऐसा नहीं करते। आप पति को प्रोत्साहित करें कि वो फेसबुक, ब्लॉग, फ्रेंड सर्कल में पिताओं के गुप में शामिल हों। इससे वो सारी समस्याओं का समाधान पा सकते हैं, साथ ही अन्य पुरुषों से अपने अनुभव साझा कर सकते हैं और उनके अनुभव से सीख सकते हैं।

प्राथमिकता निर्धारित कर उनसे सहयोग मांगें

मां होने के नाते आप प्राथमिकता तय कर लें कि किन-किन बातों में आपको अपने पति की जरूरत पड़ सकती है। यह निर्धारित करने के बाद आप उन्हें बताएं कि आपको उनके सहयोग की कितनी जरूरत है। ऐसा करने से आप एक अच्छा वक एक-दूसरे के साथ बिता सकते हैं।

यादों को रखें सहेज कर

आप अपने पति से पूछें कि फादरहुड के दौरान वो कौन-सी पांच बातें थीं, जिनसे उन्हें बेहद खुशी मिली। आप उन सारी बातों को एक छोटी-सी नोटबुक में नोट करें। अगर उससे जुड़ी फोटो आपको पास है तो उसे भी चिपकाएं, ऐसा करने से आप इन छोटी-छोटी और प्यारी बातों को ताज्जु सहेज कर रख सकते हैं।

आनंददायक होता है। अक्सर पुरुष इसे बहुत भारी जिम्मेदारी के तौर पर देखते हैं और शुरू से उन्हें यह लगता है कि बच्चे का पालन-पोषण मां की जिम्मेदारी होती है। आप उन्हें बताएं कि एक बच्चे की देखभाल करने में जिम्मेदारी तो है, पर इसमें आनंद भी खूब है। बच्चा जब छोटी-छोटी हरकतें करता है तो उन्हें देखने में कितना मजा आता है। इस तरह की बातें जब आप उनसे शेयर करेंगी तो वो खुद ब खुद इसमें रूचि दिखाने लगेंगे।

चमकाएं बाल और त्वचा

अगर आप चमकदार त्वचा और हैल्दी हेयर चाहते हैं तो अपनी फूड लिस्ट में इन चीजों को शामिल कर सकते हैं। ये चीजें आपको खूबसूरती के साथ-साथ बढ़िया सेहत से भी नवाजेंगी।

विटामिन ए से भरपूर चीजें

क्या लें: गाजर, पालक, ब्रोकली, पपीता, आम, आलू व टमाटर

फायदा: इन चीजों में कैरोटीन होता है, जो सनस्क्रीन का काम करता है और त्वचा को धूप से बचाता है। टमाटर में लाइकोपीन भी सनस्क्रीन का काम करता है, लेकिन जरूरी है कि टमाटर अच्छे से पका हो।

सूखे मेवे

फायदा: इनमें ओमेगा थ्री फैटी एसिड होता है जो त्वचा में नमी बनाए रखता है। अखरोट में बायोटीन होता है जो बालों को बढ़ाता है, झड़ने और दो मुँह होने से रोकता है।

विटामिन सी वाली चीजें

फायदा: नींबू, आंवले, संतरे का खट्टापन शरीर में जाकर कोलेजन बनाता है, जो त्वचा की कोशिकाओं को जवां रखता है, इससे झुर्रियां नहीं पड़तीं और त्वचा के घाव भी जल्दी भरते हैं। विटामिन-सी वाली चीजें आसानी से पच जाती हैं और अधिक मात्रा होने पर यूरिन के रास्ते निकल जाती हैं।

अलसी के बीज

फायदा: खाने को कुरकुरा बनाते हैं। इनमें मौजूद फाइबर, ओमेगा थ्री फैटी एसिड व विटामिन ई से त्वचा की नमी बनी रहती है, मुंहासे नहीं होते। रोजाना एक चम्मच प्रयोग करें।

विटामिन बी और कॉपर

पुरुषों के बालों में सफेदी की शुरुआत दाढ़ी से होती है, जबकि महिलाओं में कनपटी की तरफ से। इसके प्रमुख कारण हैं: चिंता करना, विटामिन बी, आयरन, कॉपर और आयोडीन की कमी। इसके लिए धूम्रपान न करें, मटर, ब्रोकली, ब्राउन राइस, गट गोभी खाएं व ग्रीन टी पीएं।

तौर-तरीके बदलकर

खुश रहना सीखें

मन खुश हो, तो तन दुरुस्त रहता है। इसलिए खुश रहने के लिए इन सुझावों को आजमा कर देखें -

खुद को एक्सप्रेस करें: अमरीका की वेक फॉरेस्ट यूनिवर्सिटी के वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार खुद को खुलकर अभिव्यक्त करने से मन में खुशी के भाव आते हैं। दूसरों के लिए कुछ करें: फोर्ब्स डॉट कॉम के शोध के मुताबिक दूसरों के लिए कुछ करने से खुशी मिलती है। जब हम किसी की मदद करते हैं, अपनों को उपहार देते हैं या उन पर खर्च करते हैं, तो मन को सुकून मिलता है।

सकारात्मक सोचें: अपनी सोच सकारात्मक रखें और ऐसे लोगों के साथ रहें, जिनसे आपको प्रेरणा मिल सके।

दोस्तों व रिश्तेदारों से अच्छा व्यवहार रखें। यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ इलिनॉयस के वैज्ञानिकों ने 30 साल तक एक लाख लोगों पर शोध के बाद पाया कि शिक्षा, राजनीति, सैलरी और संबंधों में से सबसे ज्यादा खुशी लोगों को अच्छे संबंधों से होती है। पर्याप्त मात्रा में पानी पीएं क्योंकि डिहाइड्रेशन होने से कई बार मूड चिड़चिड़ा हो जाता है।



खुद से करें प्यार का वादा

खूबसूरती बाहरी नहीं, बल्कि आंतरिक होती है, इसलिए अब से आप अपने को हमेशा खूबसूरत मानेंगी। आपके अंदर जो भी खासियत है, उसे और भी निखारेंगी और जो चीजें आपको शर्मिंदा महसूस करवाती है, उन्हें कम करने की कोशिश करेंगी।

नया साल हमें जिंदगी को एक बार फिर नए तरीके से जीने के लिए कहता है। नए साल पर आप अपने से यह वादा करें कि हमेशा अपने आप से प्यार करेंगी। अब से आपने चाहे कोई हैयरस्टाइल करवाई हो या फिर कोई नई ड्रेस पहनी हो तो उसमें खुद को अच्छा महसूस करेंगी। अपने अंदर यह आत्मविश्वास लाएंगी कि आप जो भी पहन रही हैं, उसमें पूरी तरह परफेक्ट लग रही हैं। खूबसूरती बाहरी नहीं, बल्कि आंतरिक होती है, इसलिए अब से आप अपने को हमेशा खूबसूरत मानेंगी। आपके अंदर जो भी खासियत है, उसे और भी निखारेंगी और जो चीजें आपको शर्मिंदा महसूस करवाती है, उन्हें कम करने की कोशिश करेंगी।

कुछ महिलाएं अपनी त्वचा के रंग को लेकर हमेशा असंतुष्ट रहती हैं, पर आप बिल्कुल भी ऐसा न करेंगी। आप अपनी त्वचा के रंग पर परेशान होने के बजाय यह कोशिश करेंगी कि आपकी त्वचा हमेशा रंगीन करती रहे। अगर आपके साथ कुछ बुरा होता है या फिर आपके लुक को लेकर आपका कोई करीबी नकारात्मक कमेंट करता है तो उससे अपना मूड खराब करने की बजाय आप उस पर ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं देंगी, बल्कि अब से आप अपने दिमाग में इस बात को रखेंगी कि दूसरों को भले आप पसंद न आएँ, पर आप अपने को पसंद करती हैं और

करती रहेंगी। अपने शरीर को पसंद और नापसंद करना आपके हाथों में है। वर्तमान में आपकी बाँड़ी किसी भी शोप में हो, अब से आप उस पर फख्र करेंगी। यह अलग बात है कि अगर आपका वजन कुछ ज्यादा है तो उसे कम करने की कोशिश करेंगी, पर अपने शरीर को लेकर सकारात्मक सोच को खत्म बिल्कुल नहीं करेंगी और उसे अच्छा ही मानेंगी। आप हमेशा यह मानेंगी कि आप दिल, दिमाग और शरीर तीनों से बेहद खूबसूरत हैं। भले ही आपके बारे में कोई कुछ भी कहे, आप उसकी बात का बुरा नहीं मानेंगी। अगर आप ऐसा सोचेंगी तो सच मानिए, आप गॉर्जियस दिखेंगी।

एक प्यारी मुस्कुराहट लोगों का ध्यान हमेशा आकर्षित करती है और चेहरे पर भी नूर लाती है। इसलिए अब से चेहरे पर हमेशा तनाव लाने की बजाय मुस्कुराहट बनाए रखेंगी। एक प्यारी मुस्कुराहट आपके चेहरे पर चार चांद लगा देगी।

अगर आपके बाल हेल्दी या फिर त्वचा का टोन अच्छा है तो उस पर नाज करेंगी। अपनी कमी को देकर दुखी नहीं होंगी। बाल सफेद हो रहे हैं, उनमें रूसी है तो उन्हें देख-देखकर चिड़ेंगी नहीं, इन्हें दूर करने के उपाय खुशी-खुशी करेंगी।



आप संवरिए लेकिन जरा संभलकर

खास मौकों पर सज-संवरकर चेहरे की सुंदरता बढ़ाना वैसे तो कोई बुरी बात नहीं, लेकिन कई बार रोजाना भारी-भरकम मेकअप करने की आदत और पुराने या कम गुणवत्ता वाले ब्यूटी उत्पाद कुछ देर की सुंदरता और लंबे समय की बीमारी लेकर आते हैं।

ब्लीच

लोग स्किन की टैनिंग कम करने के लिए या चेहरे के बालों को छिपाने के लिए ब्लीच करते हैं, लेकिन इससे कई बार स्किन एलर्जी हो जाती है। उपाय: ब्लीच को 24 घंटे पहले कान के पीछे लगाकर टेस्ट कर लें, अगर कोई एलर्जी न हो तो ब्लीच करें। टैनिंग दूर करने के लिए ब्लीच कर रहे हैं तो संतरे, पपीते का पाच्य या चंदन पाउडर लगा सकते हैं।

डियो और परफ्यूम

डियोडेंट का ज्यादा प्रयोग अंडरआर्म की त्वचा को नुकसान पहुंचाता है। खुजली की समस्या हो, परफ्यूम से छिंके आती हैं या सांस के रोगी हों तो इनका प्रयोग न करें। उपाय: डियो या परफ्यूम में कैमिकल्स होते हैं, इन्हें सीधे बाँड़ी पर न लगाकर कपड़ों पर लगाएं।

आई मेकअप के नुकसान

अगर आप आई मेकअप करने के बाद आंखों में कॉन्टैक्ट लेंस लगाते हैं तो ऐसे में बैक्टिरिया कोनिया तक पहुंच जाता है जिससे कोनियल इन्फेक्शन का खतरा रहता है। कई बार मेकअप करने से बैक्टिरिया का मैब्रेन (झिल्ली) से संपर्क होता है।



नेलपॉलिश

नेलपॉलिश लगाने के बाद हमें नाखूनों की मैल नहीं दिखती जिससे पेट में इन्फेक्शन हो सकता है। उपाय: नाखूनों की सफाई का ध्यान रखें और खाना बनाने या खाने से पहले नेलपॉलिश को सुखा लें।

फाउंडेशन और क्लशर

इनके रोजाना प्रयोग से चेहरे के रोमछिद्र बंद हो जाते हैं। त्वचा के अंदर जमी गंदगी और तेल बाहर नहीं आ पाते, जिससे छिद्रों में मवाद जमने से कील-मुंहासे होने लगते हैं। उपाय: ब्यूटी प्रोडक्ट की क्वालिटी का खयाल रखें। त्वचा ऑयली है तो वॉटर बेस प्रोडक्ट और रूखी है तो ऑयल बेस स्किन प्रोडक्ट का प्रयोग करें।

NEW

Sanath Jaysuriya to step down as Sri Lanka coach after forgetful T20 World Cup run

Pallekele. (Agency)

Sri Lanka head coach Sanath Jayasuriya has hinted that he could step away from his role following the team's disappointing T20 World Cup 2026 campaign at home, though not immediately. While expressing pride in the progress made during his tenure, Jayasuriya suggested he would be open to stepping aside if Sri Lanka Cricket finds a suitable successor. Speaking after Sri Lanka's 5-run loss to Pakistan on Saturday, Jayasuriya indicated that discussions about his future are still pending, with his current contract running until June 2026. With a limited-overs tour of Afghanistan scheduled for March, the board may prefer continuity in the short term even as it begins exploring replacement options. "I thought I should give that title to someone else. That's why I mentioned two months ago during the England series that I have no plans staying here." "I feel sorry about how the World Cup ended. I could have taken this team forward for one and a half years. We moved up in



rankings across formats and took the team to better positions." "My contract ends in June. I have not given my official decision to Sri Lanka Cricket yet. I need to discuss with them what comes next."

HOW WAS SRI LANKA'S T20 WORLD CUP 2026?

Sri Lanka's campaign never really gained sustained momentum. After progressing from the group stage despite a shock loss to Zimbabwe, hopes of a turnaround faded quickly in the Super 8 phase. Back-to-back defeats against England, New Zealand and Pakistan ended their semifinal hopes. The loss to Pakistan was particularly painful, with Sri Lanka falling just five runs short while chasing 213 despite a blistering unbeaten 76 from captain Dasun Shanaka. The early exit extended a worrying trend for the 2014 champions, who have now failed to reach the semifinals in five straight T20 World Cup editions.

Stranded PV Sindhu says explosion near Dubai airport, reveals frightening ordeal

MEXICO CITY. (Agency)

India's Olympic medal-winning badminton ace PV Sindhu revealed that an explosion occurred close to where she and her team were sheltering at Dubai airport after being stranded due to the ongoing Iran-linked attacks in the region. She described the moment as extremely tense and frightening, adding that her coach had to quickly move away after finding himself closest to the smoke and debris. Sindhu shared that the group has since been shifted to a safer location, crediting Dubai Airport authorities and the Indian High Commission for their swift support during the unfolding crisis. As uncertainty continues, she shared a post on her X account about the experience, while also updating that they are now trying to rest while holding on to hope for the situation to settle. "We are all safe now and have been moved to a more secure place, thanks to the tireless efforts of the staff at Dubai Airport



and the Dubai authorities. A special thanks as well to the Indian High Commission in Dubai for their incredible support and constant assistance in helping keep us safe. For now, we are trying to get some rest and hold on to hope as we wait for things to settle," she added. HOW PV SINDHU GOT STRANDED IN DUBAI

Sindhu was on her way to Birmingham for the All England Open, set to begin on Tuesday, with Dubai serving as her transit stop. However, the rapidly escalating conflict in the region brought air travel to a sudden halt, leaving one of the world's busiest aviation hubs paralysed and thousands of passengers — including the two-time Olympic medallist — stranded without clarity on when they could move. Earlier, Sindhu had shared visuals from inside the airport on Instagram, noting that all flights had been suspended until further notice. The update quickly gained attention, underlining how the ripple effects of geopolitical tensions were being felt far beyond the conflict zone. Dubai Airports later confirmed that operations at both Dubai International and Al Maktoum International Airport had been paused, advising travellers to avoid heading to the terminals.

When cricket took a backseat as cringe ads and influencers took over

T20 World Cup: This is not about influencers versus journalists. It is about why access is being decided by follower count instead of understanding of the game.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The T20 World Cup is happening in India. The stands are packed, the buzz is real, and the energy is exactly what you would expect from one of cricket's biggest tournaments. The people who spend their lives covering the game are stuck refreshing emails, waiting to find out if they can even enter the stadium. Getting accreditation as a journalist for a World Cup on home soil has turned into its own mini tournament.

You apply weeks in advance. Then you wait. Maybe you get approved. Maybe you don't. Maybe you get access to the press conference

but not the match. Maybe you get neither. And if your name isn't on the match day list, the security guard at the gate is not going to entertain your explanations.

It's a strange place to be in. IND vs WI, T20 World Cup Super 8 match: Preview

Because outside, fans are queuing for tickets. Inside, brands are hosting guests. And somewhere in between, the people whose job is to tell the story of the tournament are wondering whether they'll even be allowed to watch it from inside the stadium. Inside the same venue, however, there's another kind of access story playing out. Content creators are walking around pitchside, making reels with players, sitting in premium stands, and soaking in the experience as invited guests of global brands. They're filming from angles journalists aren't even allowed to stand near. "As accredited journalists, we can't shoot videos on match days, we can't record PTCs inside the stadium, we can't post practice footage, and we can't even share clips from press conferences. Exclusive access to players? Forget it. But if you're an

influencer, it's a different story. VIP access, brand deals, special treatment. What's truly appalling is that many of them have little sense or understanding of the game, while we, who cover it day in and day out, are treated like side characters by the



administrators," one of those frustrated journalists said. Another journalist shared that the system has started to feel random. It's been tough dealing with last-minute match-day approvals from the ICC. While the Delhi cricket board and Tamil Nadu cricket board are trying to coordinate with journalists before approvals, the matchday access for

other venues are handed out randomly. Rejections come just 48 hours before a match, making it almost impossible to plan coverage. It's frustrating to see people with no real interest in the sport getting pitch-side access while journalists waiting to write meaningful stories are left outside. "And yet, not everyone inside the VIP zones feels entirely comfortable with the setup either.

Because sometimes, even the invitees are unsure why they are there in the first place.

THE ROYAL INFLUENCER TREATMENT

Prachi Singla, a Mumbai-based content creator, told India Today how she landed at the India vs South Africa Super 8 match in Ahmedabad through a brand contest. "I entered the contest, created my look through Google Gemini, uploaded it on Instagram, and after a few days, I got a call from Google India saying I had been selected for the match." and just like that, Prachi, even to her biggest surprise, was at the stadium watching one of India's most vital matches in this T20 World Cup.

England Lions vs Pakistan Shaheens called off amid UAE security concerns

The ECB has cancelled the England Lions' second 50-over match in Abu Dhabi due to escalating security concerns in the Middle East. The situation has also delayed England Women's tour, although the senior men's team will continue with their T20 World Cup plans as scheduled



Bayamon. (Agency) The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has cancelled England Lions' scheduled second 50-over match against Pakistan Shaheens in Abu Dhabi due to escalating security concerns in the Middle East. The decision came on Saturday evening after the United States and Israel carried out what they described as a "pre-emptive" strike on Iran, targeting sites linked to Tehran's alleged nuclear weapons programme. Iran responded with retaliatory missile strikes, with reports

suggesting targets in Israel and other parts of the region were hit, triggering heightened security alerts across the Middle East. In light of the developments, the ECB confirmed that the match, which was due to be played at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi, would no longer take place following official Government advice. "The safety and security of our teams and staff is our top priority," the ECB said in a statement. "We are in contact with security experts and the Government in relation to current events in the Middle East, and are

planned tour of Abu Dhabi, with their travel arrangements now delayed as the board evaluates the evolving security situation. However, the ECB clarified that England Men's senior side will continue with their existing plans and travel to Mumbai for the semi-final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup as scheduled. The situation remains fluid, with sporting bodies across the region closely monitoring geopolitical developments before confirming further fixtures.

following official advice. "Tomorrow's second 50-over game between England Men's Lions and Pakistan Shaheens in Abu Dhabi will no longer go ahead, and we are delaying the departure of England Women for their proposed trip to Abu Dhabi next week.

"We will continue to monitor and assess the situation and official advice in relation to the future of these trips." The cancellation also impacts England Women's

T20 World Cup: Akhtar, Ahmed slam 'clueless' Pakistan management after early exit

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Pakistan pacer Shoaib Akhtar and out of favour opener Ahmed Shehzad tore into the team management after Pakistan failed to qualify for the semi-finals of the ongoing T20 World Cup, calling the setup "completely clueless" following a heartbreaking exit.

Pakistan, led by Salman Ali Agha, kept their hopes alive with a high-scoring win over Sri Lanka in Pallekele on Saturday. However, the victory did not come by the margin required to overhaul New Zealand on Net Run Rate, as England and New Zealand progressed to the last four. Speaking on PTV Sports' Game On Hai after the match, Akhtar launched a scathing assessment of the campaign, questioning the team selections made throughout the tournament. "Completely clueless. I think Pakistan management is completely clueless. By selecting the right team today, they proved that the team that they had been playing throughout the tournament was wrong," Akhtar said during the post-match discussion.

Akhtar's remarks reflected frustration over what he suggested was a belated correction in



combination — a change that came only when Pakistan's qualification chances were hanging by a thread. Shehzad, meanwhile, echoed similar concerns on his YouTube channel, questioning what the current setup has achieved in the three years it has been in place.

"This setup has been in place for three years now, and instead of moving forward, our vehicle is going in the reverse direction. There's no improvement to be seen. We were promised during the Asia Cup that youngsters will be developed and other areas will be strengthened. What area have they strengthened though? Did we not support you when you brought youngsters into the team in the Asia Cup?" Shehzad said. The 33-year-old also raised questions over tactical decisions, particularly the reshuffle at the top of the order. He pointed to the 84-run partnership between Fakhar Zaman and Sahibzade Farhan in the Asia Cup final against India and wondered why that opening combination was altered.

IND vs WI Preview: West Indies, at home in Kolkata, stand between India and semifinal

Kolkata. (Agency)

India's walk out of their dressing room feels pensive. There is a sense of urgency as they step onto the ground and settle into their rhythm at Eden Gardens, only 24 hours before their virtual knockout against West Indies. The team, spread across five nets in Kolkata, is focused on individual processes.

After their warm-ups, Axar Patel is hitting nonchalant shots off Kuldeep Yadav and Washington Sundar. Ishan Kishan is settling into his stride against Mohammed Siraj, while Abhishek Sharma is having a go at the net bowlers. Two others — Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy — are stationed far away, training on their own, sharpening their skills in isolation. The Indian team was jolted by a personal loss a day earlier, when Rinku Singh's father passed away in Greater Noida after battling Stage IV liver cancer. Rinku, who often

forms the heart of the team wherever he goes, has flown to Aligarh to perform the last rites of Khandchand Singh. When a figure like that leaves the group, the air weighs heavy. Even the usually jovial



Arshdeep Singh is training alone. He is stationed along the boundary line, taking catching practice from T Dilip, the fielding coach of the Indian team. But there is perhaps no time to dwell on any of that. That

is the nature of professional sport. It is merciless on the field and off it as well. So the Indian team looked switched on throughout their session, in sharp contrast to West Indies, who had trained at the venue earlier. Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate addressed the press and provided a glimpse of India's mindset.

"I think the important thing is to focus on ourselves, focus on what has got this group to this point, how well they've done. And now there's only quality players left in the tournament," he said at Saturday's pre-match press conference. (India will face West Indies in their T20 World Cup Super 8 fixture in Kolkata at 7 pm IST. The match will be broadcast on Star Sports and streamed live on JioHotstar.)

The former Kolkata Knight Riders player, who has spent ample time at this venue, gave West Indies full respect, fully aware of what they are capable of at this stage of the tournament.

Don't make the Washington Sundar mistake: Ex-India cricketer wants unchanged XI vs WI

T20 World Cup: Aakash Chopra warned India against tinkering with their Playing XI now. He stressed stability over experimentation ahead of the must-win clash vs West Indies

New Delhi. (Agency)

"India have found some rhythm at the right time, but the big calls are only getting tougher as they head into a virtual knockout clash against West Indies in Kolkata. Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra has now urged the team management to resist the temptation of tinkering with the playing XI, warning against bringing Washington Sundar or Kuldeep Yadav back into the side. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Chopra made it clear that stability should take priority over tactical experiments at this

stage of the tournament. "Should India make any change? They shouldn't. I am saying put the matchups in a box. The team that played at Chepauk, play exactly the same team at the Eden Gardens. Don't think at all about bringing Washington Sundar in or whether Kuldeep can be played because we can trap the opposition," he said. "Leave it now. All are knockout games now. This is a virtual quarterfinal, and then there will be a semi-final and a final. Why should you change now?" India head into the must-win clash against the West Indies on the back of a dominant 256 for 4 against Zimbabwe, the highest total of the tournament so far.

Contributions across the batting order finally brought balance to an otherwise inconsistent campaign. Sanju Samson's return at the top added intent early, Abhishek Sharma rediscovered touch with a half-century, and Tilak Varma's 44 not out off 16 balls at No.6 gave India the finishing punch

they had lacked earlier in the tournament. Yet, while the batting clicked, the bowling continues to throw up concerns, particularly



around the sixth bowling option and spin balance.

INDIA'S FAILED SUNDAR EXPERIMENT VSSA

India had earlier turned to Washington Sundar during the Super 8 opener against South

Africa in Ahmedabad in what was seen as a tactical move against left-hand heavy batting.

The decision did not quite deliver.

Sundar bowled only two overs, conceded 17 runs without taking a wicket, and managed 11 off 11 with the bat after being promoted up the order. His impact remained minimal, and India eventually suffered a crushing 76-run defeat. He was subsequently dropped for the Zimbabwe clash, with Axar Patel returning to the XI. The move brought greater balance and played its part in India's 72-run win that revived their semifinal hopes.

Chopra believes that with knockout cricket now underway, India cannot afford another experiment.

IND VS WI: PREDICTED XI

With the batting finally settling into roles and combinations working, Chopra suggested that continuity is key.



Ahaan Panday

Sharvari Wagh

To Kick-Start Ali Abbas Zafar's Next From March: Report

Ahaan Panday became a household name following the success of Saiyaara. Now, the actor is gearing up for his next with Ali Abbas Zafar. Ahaan and Ali's next is touted to be a romantic actioner, and an update has it that the film will go on floors in March. Ahaan Panday will be joined by Sharvari for a 24-27-day-long first schedule in Mumbai. As per Variety India, the makers are eyeing the last week of March to kick off the shoot, and a source close to the development confirmed, "Ahaan will kick off the London schedule in May 2026 with a massive action sequence that will be shot over five days. He has been vigorously preparing for the role and has undergone intense hand-to-hand combat and weapon training. This film will present him in a completely different avatar from 'Saiyaara.'"

The makers are expecting to wrap the shoot for the yet-to-be-titled film by July 2026, with a target to release it by early 2027. Ahaan and Sharvari will play the leads in the movie.

Meanwhile, Aaishvarya Thackeray, who made his Bollywood debut with Anurag Kashyap's Nishaanchi, is reportedly coming on board to play the antagonist in the film.

Ali Abbas Zafar's collaboration with Ahaan Panday will mark his return to YRF after a nine-year hiatus. The ace director has delivered some of his most loved films earlier in collaboration with the production house, including Mere Brother Ki Dulhan, Gunday, Sultan, and Tiger Zinda Hai.

Earlier, Pinkvilla reported, "Ahaan will need to prep in action for over 60 days to perfect the kind of raw action that Ali wants him to do on screen. It is a pure coincidence that the date when he starts action training is his birthday! So, it's no days off for Ahaan as he will have a working birthday this year."

About Ahaan Panday's Saiyaara

Saiyaara is a romantic drama directed by Mohit Suri and produced by Yash Raj Films. Loosely inspired by the 2004 Korean hit A Moment to Remember, the film stars newcomers Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda in the lead roles. It tells the story of Krish Kapoor, a troubled musician who forms a profound emotional connection with Vaani Batra, a reserved poet, exploring love, vulnerability, and destiny.



Shanaya Kapoor On Shelved Debut Film With Karan Johar: 'I'm Glad About The Whole...'



Shanaya Kapoor, daughter of Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep Kapoor, was all set to make her debut under the wings of Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. Her debut project was announced with much fanfare. Karan and Shanaya had revealed that she would be making her debut with Bedhadak, alongside Lakshya and Gurfateh Pirzada. Posters of the film were also released. However, fate had other plans, and the film got shelved. In a recent interaction with SCREEN, Shanaya addressed her shelved films and reflected on how that incident helped her become a better actor. Shanaya said, "I feel everything happens for a reason. What's meant to be will be. I'm glad about the whole experience now that I sit here and look back at it. It's shaped who I am today. The film getting shelved, and certain projects happening and then not happening, made me who I am today. It made me work on my craft much more during the time I wasn't facing the camera."

Besides Bedhadak, Shanaya Kapoor was also confirmed for Vrusshabha with Mohanlal, which also didn't happen. Shanaya shared that her father encouraged her to focus on becoming a better actor, rather than worrying about her shelved projects. Sanjay advised Shanaya to keep working and told her that there was no point in worrying about things which were beyond her control.

"So what's in your hands is that you can keep working and make yourself a better performer, a better actor. Working with a director like Bejoy sir, an actor like Adarsh (Gourav), and with Aanand L Rai sir backing a project I'm a part of makes you overwhelmed and helps you understand that the universe had its own plans and that it was supposed to happen the way it did," Shanaya said, referring to Tu Yaa Main.

Tu Yaa Main centres on a modern couple fighting for survival against a deadly creature. The film is directed by Bejoy Nambiar, known for Wazir (2016), Taish (2020), and Dange (2024). From a business standpoint, his previous projects have seen modest returns, and it remains to be seen whether this latest outing can stage a turnaround in the coming days.

Pushpa To Animal: 8 Rashmika Mandanna Films You Must Watch



Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda's marriage rumours are all over the internet. While neither of them has confirmed anything yet, the buzz is that the wedding might happen on February 26. While we wait for them to officially confirm the news, why not take a trip down memory lane with some of Rashmika's most loved films? Here's a list of her top performances to watch in the meantime.

- 1. Geetha Govindam, 2018**
Won't it be absolutely perfect to watch the film that actually started it all for Vijay and Rashmika? Geetha Govindam was the first time the two stars teamed up for a project. This love story, helmed by Parasuram, won the hearts of audiences and became a very massive hit.
- 2. Dear Comrade, 2019**
After the success of Geetha Govindam, Rashmika and Vijay reunited in 2019 for Dear Comrade which was a romantic drama directed by Bharat Kamma. Their chemistry once again captivated audiences in this intense and emotional story.
- 3. Pushpa: The Rise, 2021**
We're pretty sure you've already watched this one, but if not, you really should. While Allu Arjun stole the spotlight as Pushpa Raj, Rashmika Mandanna also left a strong mark with her role as Srivalli, who went on to become one of the most loved characters from the film.
- 4. Mission Majnu, 2023**
A spy action drama starring Sidharth Malhotra alongside Rashmika Mandanna, this film impressed audiences with its gripping storyline and intense chemistry between the leads. In the film, Sidharth plays an undercover spy, while Rashmika portrays a blind Pakistani woman who falls in love with him.
- 5. Animal, 2023**
Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, Animal turned out to be a massive blockbuster. Starring Ranbir Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol, and Rashmika, the film shattered all records at the box office. The chemistry between Rashmika and Ranbir was particularly praised as well. If you're a fan of period dramas, this historical action epic is a must-watch. Vicky Kaushal takes on the role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, while Rashmika portrays Yesubai Bhonsale. The film also features Akshaye Khanna as the antagonist.



Swara Bhasker

Slams Taliban Legalising Domestic Violence, Calls Them 'Absolute Monsters'

In a development that has sparked international outrage, Afghanistan's Taliban regime has formalised a new penal code that critics say effectively permits domestic violence under certain conditions. The move has drawn strong reactions from public figures, including actor Swara Bhasker, who sharply condemned the provisions in a series of social media posts. Sharing media reports about the newly introduced law on February 20, Swara Bhasker expressed her anger in unequivocal terms. Reacting to the provisions, she wrote, "Unfucking-believable!!!! Honestly among the worst specimens of the human race, relentlessly cruel and brutal, absolute monsters the Taliban. An insult to humanity and to the religion they claim to represent. Absolutely despicable."

Actor and host Gauhar Khan also responded to the reports, writing, "Disgusting." Actor Nandish Sandhu questioned the rationale behind the law, stating, "What sense does this make?"

The backlash follows the Taliban's formal adoption of a 90-page penal code, signed by its supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada. According to multiple reports, the document consolidates several restrictive measures introduced since the group regained control of Afghanistan and has raised fresh concerns among human rights organisations regarding the protection of women and children. As reported, the code permits husbands to physically discipline their wives and children, provided the punishment does not result in broken bones or open wounds. Human rights advocates

argue that such language effectively legalises domestic violence. The legislation also reportedly distinguishes between individuals classified as free and those considered slaves, thereby embedding inequality within the justice system.

The penal code does not explicitly criminalise psychological or sexual violence. It sets a maximum punishment of 15 days' imprisonment for abuse, and



only in cases described as involving "obscene force," such as visible fractures or serious injury. Even in such instances, a conviction requires the wife to present proof of injury before a judge.

Further provisions state that women must appear in court fully covered and accompanied by a husband or male guardian including in cases where the husband himself is the accused. Reports also indicate that a married woman may face up to three months in prison for visiting relatives without her husband's permission, even if she is attempting to escape abuse.

होली पर रेलवे ने चलाई विशेष ट्रेनें: दुर्ग-मधुबनी

मद्रास-बरोनी और तिरुपति-रक्सौल सेवाओं का परिचालन बढ़ाया गया

जामताड़ा एजेंसी। रेलवे ने होली के दौरान यात्रियों की अतिरिक्त भीड़ को देखते हुए विशेष ट्रेनें की घोषणा की है। इसमें दुर्ग-मधुबनी के बीच एक नई होली स्पेशल ट्रेन चलाई जाएगी, जबकि मद्रास-बरोनी और तिरुपति-रक्सौल साप्ताहिक स्पेशल ट्रेनें का परिचालन बढ़ाया गया है। दुर्ग-मधुबनी-दुर्ग के बीच 08753/08754 नंबर की एक जोड़ी होली स्पेशल ट्रेन चलेगी। ट्रेन संख्या 08753 दुर्ग-मधुबनी होली स्पेशल 1 मार्च 2026 को दुर्ग से रात 12:30 बजे रवाना होगी और अगले दिन सुबह 4:45 बजे मधुबनी पहुंचेगी। वापसी में, ट्रेन संख्या 08754 मधुबनी-दुर्ग होली स्पेशल 2 मार्च 2026 को मधुबनी से सुबह 6:15 बजे चलकर अगले दिन दोपहर 12:45 बजे दुर्ग



पहुंचेगी। यह ट्रेन दोनों दिशाओं में पूर्व रेलवे क्षेत्र के आसनसोल मंडल में चित्तंजन, मधुपुर और जसीडीह स्टेशनों पर रुकेगी। इसमें सामान्य द्वितीय श्रेणी, शयनयान श्रेणी

और वातानुकूलित कोच की सुविधा उपलब्ध होगी। यात्रियों की सुविधा और होली के दौरान यात्रा की बढ़ती मांग को पूरा करने के लिए रेलवे ने दो जोड़ी साप्ताहिक

स्पेशल ट्रेनें की सेवाओं का विस्तार किया है। इनमें मद्रास-बरोनी-मद्रास (06039/06040) और तिरुपति-रक्सौल-तिरुपति (07051/07052) शामिल हैं। ये ट्रेनें अपने मौजूदा मार्ग, समय और ठहराव के अनुसार ही चलेंगी। ट्रेन संख्या 06039 मद्रास-बरोनी जंक्शन साप्ताहिक स्पेशल, जिसकी सेवा 30 नवंबर 2025 तक अधिसूचित थी, को अब 22 फरवरी 2026 से 8 मार्च 2026 तक (3

ट्रिप) बढ़ाया गया है। इसी तरह, ट्रेन संख्या 06040 बरोनी जंक्शन-मद्रास साप्ताहिक स्पेशल, जो 3 दिसंबर 2025 तक अधिसूचित थी, की सेवा को 25 फरवरी 2026 से 11 मार्च 2026 तक (3 ट्रिप) बढ़ाया गया है।

ट्रेन संख्या 07051 तिरुपति-रक्सौल साप्ताहिक होली स्पेशल प्रत्येक शनिवार को 21 फरवरी 2026, 28 फरवरी 2026 और 7 मार्च 2026 को चलेगी।

तालाब में डूबने से तीन बच्चों की मौत, गांव में मातम

कोडरमा, एजेंसी। जयनगर प्रखंड के हीरोडीह पंचायत अंतर्गत ग्राम कोसमाडीह स्थित खोड़ा आहर में डूबने से शनिवार की देर शाम तीन बच्चों की मौत हो गई। जानकारी के अनुसार उक्त गांव के रोहित कुमार (7), प्रियांशु कुमारी (10) और संस्था कुमारी (9) शनिवार की शाम तालाब की ओर गए थे। ग्रामीणों के अनुसार बच्चे 4 बजे गए थे, इसी दौरान एक बच्चा तालाब के पास गया और डूबने लगा। अन्य बच्चे भी उसे बचाने के दौरान ही डूब गए। ग्रामीणों की मानें तो बच्चे मछली मारने गए थे, जबकि कुछ का कहना है कि वे शौच के लिए गए थे। ग्रामीणों को जानकारी हुई तो शव निकाला गया। इधर घटना के बाद परिजनों का रो रोकर बुरा हाल है।

टैकर ने सवारी गाड़ी और फुटपाथ पर चल रहे लोगों को मारी टक्कर, एक की मौत और 10 घायल

कोडरमा, एजेंसी। कोडरमा जिले के चंदवारा थाना अंतर्गत उर्वां मोड़ के समीप शनिवार को एक एलपीजी टैकर ने सवारी गाड़ी सहित फुटपाथ पर दुकान लगाने वाले कई दुकानदारों को अपनी चपेट में ले लिया। इससे एक युवक की मौत हो गई है, जबकि 10 अन्य लोग घायल हुए हैं। जानकारी के अनुसार हजारीबाग से कोडरमा होकर एक एलपीजी टैकर बिहार की ओर जा रही थी। वहीं ड्रमर/ड्राइवर से सवारी गाड़ी तिलैया डैम की ओर जा रही थी। जैसे ही सवारी गाड़ी उर्वां मोड़ के पास पहुंची, हजारीबाग की ओर से कोडरमा की ओर जा रही एलपीजी टैकर अचानक से सड़क के दूसरे लेन में घुस गई और वह अनियंत्रित होकर



तिलैया डैम के रास्ते में जाने लगी। इस दौरान पहले तो उसने सवारी गाड़ी को अपनी चपेट में लिया, उसके बाद फुटपाथ पर के कई दुकानदारों को भी अपने चपेट में ले लिया।

इस दौरान कुछ बाइक सवार भी उक्त टैकर की चपेट में आ गए।

सहयता से सभी घायलों को सदर अस्पताल कोडरमा भेजा, जहां घायलों का इलाज चल रहा है। वहीं इलाज के दौरान एक युवक की मौत हो गई है। मृतक की पहचान रूपलाल सिंह (70) के रूप में की गई है। घायलों में बरकट्टा हजारीबाग निवासी मोहिनी देवी (45), सारो देवी (40), मोहिनी देवी (40), धनेश्वरी देवी (35), प्रसादी सिंह (55), मनवा देवी (50), सावित्री देवी (40), उड्डुल मासोमात (60) और बुधनी देवी पति (55) के नाम शामिल हैं। घटना के बाद गैस टैकर का चालक मौके से फरार हो गया है, पुलिस उसकी खोजबीन कर रही है। वहीं पुलिस की ओर से गैस टैकर को कब्जे में ले लिया गया है।

इधर, घटना के बाद चंदवारा थाना की पेट्रोलिंग पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और वहां मौजूद ग्रामीणों की

कुएं में गिरने से दो सगी बहनों की मौत

पलामू, एजेंसी। जिले के छतरपुर अनुमंडल अंतर्गत नौडीहा बाजार प्रखंड के चराई टू के मनदोहर गांव में शनिवार को खेलने के क्रम में एक खंडहरनुमा कुएं में गिरकर डूबने से दो सगी बहनों की मौत हो गयी, जबकि एक बच्ची अचेत पायी गयी। उसे इलाज के लिए एमएमसीएच में भर्ती कराया गया है। उसकी हालत चिंताजनक बनी हुई है। लगातार बेहोश बतायी गयी है। मृतक बच्चियों की पहचान इसी गांव के उदेश यादव की पुत्री प्रीति कुमारी (08) और सोनम उर्फ बाबू (06) के रूप में हुई है। बेहोश बच्ची की पहचान छतरपुर के हानहे गांव के अखिलेश यादव की पुत्री अंशु कुमारी (05) के रूप में हुई है। अशु मनदोहर गांव में मामा के घर रहती थीं। मृत बच्चियों के परिजनों ने घटना को साजिश बताया है। उनका कहना है कि घटना से पहले एक युवक गांव में तस्वीरें ले रहा था। उसने ही तीनों बच्चियों को कुएं में डाला और भाग गया। घटना के बाद से युवक कहीं नजर



नहीं आ रहा है। हालांकि नौडीहा बाजार थाना प्रभारी अमित कुमार द्विवेदी ने इसे हादसा मानकर जांच शुरू कर दी है।

एच जानकारी के अनुसार दोपहर करीब दो बजे एक बच्चों के चिल्लाने की आवाज खंडहर कुएं के पास से रही थी। पास जाकर लोगों ने देखा तो दो बच्ची कुएं के पानी में मृत पड़ी थीं। एक बच्ची कुएं में हाथ पैर मार रही थी। बच्ची को पानी से निकाल कर इलाज के

लिए अनुमंडलीय अस्पताल छतरपुर ले जाया गया। नौडीहा बाजार पुलिस को सूचना दी गई। पुलिस ने घटना स्थल पर पहुंचकर शव को कब्जे में लिया और अत्यंतपरीक्षण के लिए मेदिनी राय मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल मेदिनीनगर भेजा। थाना प्रभारी ने कहा कि घटना में जो भी दोगी होंगे, उनको किसी भी परिस्थिति में बक्शा नहीं जाएगा। ग्रामीणों से आग्रह किया कि अफवाह में ध्यान न दें।

ससुराल आए युवक की हत्या



पलामू, एजेंसी। पत्नी को इंटर परीक्षा दिलाकर ससुराल आए युवक की गला दबाकर हत्या करके का मामला शनिवार को प्रकाश में आया है। युवक का निवस्त्र शव जिले के चैनपुर थाना क्षेत्र के चेड़ुबा-सिंगरा मुख्य मार्ग पर चेड़ुबा गांव के कोयल नदी से बरामद किया गया। शव मिलने की सूचना पर पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए एमएमसीएच में भेज दिया है। पुलिस पूरे मामले में छानबीन कर रही है। युवक की पहचान नावाबाजार थाना क्षेत्र के करचा गांव निवासी योगेंद्र सिंह (24) के रूप में हुई है। उसका ससुराल चैनपुर के चेड़ुबा में है। उसकी दो साल पूर्व शादी हुई थी। उसका दो महिने का एक बच्चा भी है। परिजनों के अनुसार योगेंद्र पत्नी को परीक्षा दिलाने के बाद बच्चा का दिन बनने पर उसे और पत्नी को लेकर शुक्रवार को ससुराल आया था। रात में घर से बाहर गया था। समय ज्यादा हो जाने पर परिजनों ने उसकी खोजबीन की, लेकिन कुछ अता पता नहीं चला। शनिवार को ग्रामीणों ने उसका शव ससुराल के समीप कोयल नदी में झाड़ू के बीच देखा और जानकारी दी। उसके गले पर दबावे के निशान मिले हैं। सूचना मिलने पर चैनपुर थाना प्रभारी श्रीराम शर्मा दल बल के साथ मौके पर पहुंचे और घटना की जाकारी

लेकर छानबीन में जुट गए। इधर, घटना के बारे में थाना प्रभारी ने बताया कि प्रथम दृष्टया लगा रहा है कि युवक के साथ मारपीट कर गला दबाकर हत्या की गयी है। मृतक के परिजनों की ओर से आवेदन देने पर प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर कार्रवाई की जायेगी। मृतक की पहचान रोड़ो गांव निवासी 50 वर्षीय कुदून पूर्ती के रूप में की गई है। बताया जा रहा है कि सभी लोग आँटो से बंदगांव के इँजिया गांव एक वैवाहिक समारोह में शामिल होने गए थे। कार्यक्रम समाप्त होने के बाद जब वे अपने घर लौट रहे थे, तभी सामने से आ रही एक मारुति कार ने टोकाद मैदान के पास उनके आँटो में जोरदार टक्कर मार दी। टक्कर इतनी भीषण थी कि आँटो में सवार सभी लोग घायल हो गए। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही बंदगांव थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और स्थानीय ग्रामीणों की मदद से घायलों को तुरंत अस्पताल भिजवाया गया। चिकित्सकों ने जांच के बाद कुदून पूर्ती को मृत घोषित कर दिया। घायलों में आगाथा पूर्ती, क्रिसैसिया पूर्ती, रंजीत पूर्ती, इलियस पूर्ती, रोशनी लागूरी, बिमल पूर्ती, क्रिसैसिया पूर्ती, रंजीत पूर्ती, इलियस पूर्ती, रोशनी लागूरी, बिमल पूर्ती, क्रिसैसिया पूर्ती, रंजीत पूर्ती, इलियस पूर्ती, रोशनी लागूरी, बिमल पूर्ती और सुडालेन पूर्ती शामिल हैं। इनमें से पांच का इलाज बंदगांव सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र में चल रहा है, जबकि चार घायलों को बेहतर इलाज के लिए खूंटी सदर अस्पताल रेफर किया गया है।

सड़क हादसे में एक महिला की मौत

पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले में रांची-चाईबासा मुख्य मार्ग एनएच-75 पर शनिवार को हुए भीषण सड़क हादसे में एक महिला की मौत हो गई, जबकि नौ लोग घायल हो गए। यह दुर्घटना बंदगांव थाना क्षेत्र के टोकाद मैदान के समीप मारुति कार और आँटो के बीच आमने-सामने की टक्कर में हुई। मृतक की पहचान रोड़ो गांव निवासी 50 वर्षीय कुदून पूर्ती के रूप में की गई है। बताया जा रहा है कि सभी लोग आँटो से बंदगांव के इँजिया गांव एक वैवाहिक समारोह में शामिल होने गए थे। कार्यक्रम समाप्त होने के बाद जब वे अपने घर लौट रहे थे, तभी सामने से आ रही एक मारुति कार ने टोकाद मैदान के पास उनके आँटो में जोरदार टक्कर मार दी। टक्कर इतनी भीषण थी कि आँटो में सवार सभी लोग घायल हो गए। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही बंदगांव थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और स्थानीय ग्रामीणों की मदद से घायलों को तुरंत अस्पताल भिजवाया गया। चिकित्सकों ने जांच के बाद कुदून पूर्ती को मृत घोषित कर दिया। घायलों में आगाथा पूर्ती, क्रिसैसिया पूर्ती, रंजीत पूर्ती, इलियस पूर्ती, रोशनी लागूरी, बिमल पूर्ती, पूरन पूर्ती, जोसेफ पूर्ती और सुडालेन पूर्ती शामिल हैं। इनमें से पांच का इलाज बंदगांव सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र में चल रहा है, जबकि चार घायलों को बेहतर इलाज के लिए खूंटी सदर अस्पताल रेफर किया गया है।

पिकअप वैन ने दंपति को मारी टक्कर, गंभीर

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। साकची थाना क्षेत्र सागर होटल के पास शनिवार सुबह एक सड़क हादसा हो गया। तेज रफ्तार पिकअप वैन ने स्कूटी सवार दंपति को जोरदार टक्कर मार दी। टक्कर इतनी भीषण थी कि दोनों सड़क पर दूर तक फिसलते चले गए। हादसे के तुरंत बाद इलाके में अफर-तफरी मच गई और बड़ी संख्या में स्थानीय लोग मौके पर जुट गए। प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों के अनुसार दंपति स्कूटी से सब्जी खरीदकर घर लौट रहे थे। इसी दौरान तेज गति से आ रही पिकअप वैन ने उन्हें अपनी चपेट में ले लिया। टक्कर लगते ही दोनों सड़क पर गिर पड़े और गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए। स्थानीय लोगों ने तत्परता दिखाते हुए एंबुलेंस की व्यवस्था की और दोनों को तत्काल टटा मेन हॉस्पिटल (टीएमएच) पहुंचाया। यहां उनकी स्थिति गंभीर बनी हुई है। हादसे के बाद पिकअप वैन का चालक मौके से फरार होने का प्रयास कर रहा था, लेकिन आसपास मौजूद लोगों ने उसे दौड़ाकर पकड़ लिया। इस दौरान लोगों ने चालक की पिटाई कर दी। सूचना मिलते ही साकची थाना पुलिस घटनास्थल पर पहुंची और पिकअप वैन को जब्त कर लिया। पुलिस ने चालक को हिरासत में लेकर पूछताछ शुरू कर दी है तथा दुर्घटना के कारणों की जांच की जा रही है। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही बंदगांव थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और स्थानीय ग्रामीणों की मदद से घायलों को तुरंत अस्पताल भिजवाया गया। चिकित्सकों ने जांच के बाद कुदून पूर्ती को मृत घोषित कर दिया। घायलों में आगाथा पूर्ती, क्रिसैसिया पूर्ती, रंजीत पूर्ती, इलियस पूर्ती, रोशनी लागूरी, बिमल पूर्ती, जोसेफ पूर्ती और सुडालेन पूर्ती शामिल हैं। इनमें से पांच का इलाज बंदगांव सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र में चल रहा है, जबकि चार घायलों को बेहतर इलाज के लिए खूंटी सदर अस्पताल रेफर किया गया है। चिकित्सकों के अनुसार सभी नौ घायलों की स्थिति फिलहाल खतरे से बाहर बताई जा रही है।

अचानक घर में आग लगने से सारा सामान जलकर राख

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। एमजीएम थाना के गाजाडीह इलाके में रविवार दोपहर अचानक एक घर में आग लग गई। पीड़ित भुनेश्वर प्रसाद के एम्बेस्टस निर्मित मकान में आग लगने से घर में रखा सारा सामान जलकर राख हो गया। घटना के समय भुनेश्वर प्रसाद और उनकी पत्नी लक्की प्रसाद मजदूरी करने बाहर गए हुए थे, जबकि घर में उनकी बेटी अकेली थी। बेटी ने बताया कि वह दूसरे कमरे में काम कर रही थी, तभी अचानक उसे आग की लपटें दिखाई दीं। आग किस कारण से लगी, इसका उसे पता नहीं चल पाया। कुछ ही देर में



धुआं और लपटें पूरे घर में फैल गईं। जल बचाने के लिए वह तुरंत बाहर निकली और जोर-जोर से चिल्लाकर मोहल्ले के लोगों को बुलाया। उसकी आवाज सुनकर आसपास के लोग मौके पर पहुंचे और आग बुझाने में जुट गए। लोगों

ने तुरंत पुलिस और अग्निशमन विभाग को सूचना दी, लेकिन गली संकरी होने के कारण अग्निशमन वाहन घटनास्थल तक नहीं पहुंच सका। इसके बाद स्थानीय लोगों ने लगभग दो घंटे की कड़ी मेहनत के बाद आग पर काबू पाया। लेकिन

तब तक काफी देर हो चुकी थी। आगलगी में घर में रखा टीवी, कपड़े, बर्तन, आवश्यक कामजात तथा बहन की शादी के लिए रखा सामान पूरी तरह जलकर नष्ट हो गया। घर में रखी नकद राशि भी आग की भेंट चढ़ गई। पीड़ित वीरेंद्र कुमार ने बताया कि इस घटना में लगभग दो लाख रुपये तक की क्षति हुई है। घटना की सूचना मिलने पर पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और जांच पड़ताल कर रही है। थाना प्रभारी ने बताया कि आग को स्थानीय लोगों के सहयोग से बुझा लिया गया है। पुलिस आग लगने के वास्तविक कारणों का पता लगा रही है।

पेड़ से गिरे व्यक्ति की इलाज के दौरान मौत

गुमला एजेंसी। गुमला जिले के रायडीह प्रखंड क्षेत्र अंतर्गत सुरसांग पंचायत के पानंदन टोली निवासी 54 वर्षीय रूजू राम की पेड़ से गिरने के बाद इलाज के दौरान मौत हो गई। घटना शनिवार सुबह की बताई जा रही है। जानकारी के अनुसार रूजू राम सुबह बकरी चराने के लिए निकले थे। इसी दौरान वह बकरी के लिए चारा काटने के लिए एक पेड़ पर चढ़ गए। बताया जा रहा है कि डाल काटने के

क्रम में उनका संतुलन बिगड़ गया और वह अचानक नीचे गिर पड़े। गिरने से उनके सिर और शरीर के अन्य हिस्सों में गंभीर चोट आई। घटना के बाद स्थानीय ग्रामीणों ने तत्परता दिखाते हुए उन्हें सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र रायडीह पहुंचाया। प्राथमिक उपचार के बाद चिकित्सकों ने उनकी गंभीर स्थिति को देखते हुए बेहतर इलाज के लिए उच्चें सदर अस्पताल गुमला रेफर कर दिया। सदर अस्पताल में इलाज के दौरान उनकी मौत हो गई।

सड़क हादसे में इंटर के छात्र की मौत

खूंटी एजेंसी। खूंटी थाना क्षेत्र के भंडा इलाके में शनिवार को हुए सड़क हादसे में इंटर के एक छात्र की मौत हो गई। मृतक की पहचान रांची जिले के रांची अंतगत नामकुम थाना क्षेत्र के तुजु बोटपू गांव निवासी मंदिराय मुंडा (22) के रूप में की गई है। जानकारी के अनुसार मंदिराय मुंडा खूंटी जिले के मारंगहादा थाना क्षेत्र स्थित मारंगहादा में अपनी फुआ के घर रहकर पढ़ाई करता था। वह धरम दयाल इंटर कॉलेज का छात्र था और प्रतिदिन मारंगहादा से बिचना आना-जाना करता था। हाल ही में इंटरमीडिएट की अंतिम परीक्षा समाप्त होने के बाद अपने पैतृक गांव वापस हुआ था। बताया जा रहा है कि शनिवार को वह बाइक से अपने गांव से वापस मारंगहादा लौट रहा था। इसी दौरान ओंडरा डलान के पास तेज रफ्तार के कारण उसकी बाइक अनियंत्रित हो गई और सड़क किनारे एक पेड़ से जा टकराई। टक्कर इतनी जोरदार थी कि वह गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गया। हादसे के बाद स्थानीय ग्रामीणों ने तत्काल एंबुलेंस को सूचना दी और उसे अस्पताल भेजने की व्यवस्था की। हालांकि, अस्पताल पहुंचने से पहले ही उसकी स्थिति गंभीर हो चुकी थी और अलाइज के दौरान उसकी मौत हो गई। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही खूंटी थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और जल्दी कार्रवाई शुरू की। पुलिस की ओर से मृतक के परिजनों को हादसे की जानकारी दे दी गई है। शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमार्टम के लिए सदर अस्पताल भेज दिया।



कोडरमा में बंद खदान में डूबी महिला: कपड़ा धोते समय पैर फिसला

कोडरमा एजेंसी। कोडरमा जिले के डोमचांच थाना क्षेत्र के काराखुट में शनिवार सुबह एक बंद पड़ी पत्थर खदान में डूबने से 50 वर्षीय महिला की मौत हो गई। मृतका की पहचान संगीता देवी, पति विजय सिंह के रूप में हुई है। जानकारी के अनुसार संगीता देवी रोज की तरह खदान में कपड़े धोए गई थीं। काफी देर तक घर नहीं लौटने पर उनकी छोटी बेटी उन्हें खोजते हुए खदान के पास पहुंचीं। वहां कपड़े तो किनारे पड़े मिले, लेकिन संगीता देवी नजर नहीं आईं। घबराई बेटी ने तुरंत घर जाकर पिता और अन्य परिजनों को सूचना दी। परिजन दौड़ते हुए मौके पर पहुंचे और आसपास तलाश शुरू की।

60-70 फीट गहरा पानी, हलका पहुंची: परिजनों ने आशंका जताई कि कपड़े धोते समय उनका पैर फिसल गया होगा और वह सीधे गहरे पानी में जा गिरी होगी। सूचना मिलने पर डोमचांच थाना प्रभारी अभिमन्यु पंडित दल-बल के साथ घटनास्थल पर पहुंचे। उन्होंने बताया कि खदान काफी समय से बंद है। इसकी गहराई लगभग 60 से 70 फीट है। पानी से भरे इस खदान में उतरना जोखिम भरा है। शव की तलाश के लिए चौपाया से गोताखोरों को बुलाया गया है। इसके अलावा राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रतिक्रिया बल (एनडीआरएफ) की टीम को भी सूचना दी गई है। पुलिस ने उम्मीद जताई है कि जल्द ही शव को बाहर निकाल लिया जाएगा। घटनास्थल पर लोगों की भीड़ जुटी रही और पूरे इलाके में शोक का माहौल है।

बंद खदानें बनीं खतरा, पहले भी हो चुके हैं हादसे: कोडरमा जिले में कई पत्थर खदान वर्षों से बंद पड़े हैं, जिनमें बरसाती पानी भर चुका है। सुरक्षा इंतजाम न होने के कारण ये खदानें ग्रामीणों के लिए जानलेवा साबित हो रही हैं। पूर्व में भी ऐसे कई हादसे सामने आ चुके हैं, लेकिन अब तक ठोस कार्रवाई नहीं हो सकी है। स्थानीय लोगों ने प्रशासन से मांग की है कि बंद खदानों को चिन्हित कर घेरावदी ठंडी हवाओं ने रक्षा और चेतावनी बोर्ड लगाए जाएं, ताकि भविष्य में किसी और परिवार को अपूरणीय क्षति न झेलनी पड़े।

झारखंड में टंड का यू-टर्न; 3 डिग्री गिरा पारा: बंगाल की खाड़ी में निम्न दबाव का असर

रांची एजेंसी। झारखंड में जहां पिछले कुछ दिनों से गर्मी धीरे-धीरे पैर पसार रही थी, वहीं बीते 24 घंटे में मौसम ने अचानक करवट बदल ली। रात के तापमान में 2 से 3 डिग्री तक की गिरावट दर्ज की गई है, जिससे लोगों को एक बार फिर हल्की ठंड का एहसास हुआ। राजधानी रांची में न्यूनतम तापमान करीब 2 डिग्री तक लुढ़का। जबकि जमशेदपुर और बोकारो में 3 डिग्री तक की गिरावट रिकॉर्ड की गई। हालात ऐसे रहे कि जहां कुछ दिन पहले तक स्वेटर पहनना भी मुश्किल लगा रहा था, वहीं देर रात लोगों ने फिर से रजाई तलाशनी शुरू कर दी। कई इलाकों में सुबह हल्की सिहरन महसूस की गई। मौसम में आए इस अचानक बदलाव ने लोगों को चौंका दिया है।

बंगाल की खाड़ी में निम्न दबाव का असर: रांची मौसम केंद्र के अनुसार बंगाल की खाड़ी में बने निम्न दबाव का असर पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों के साथ-साथ झारखंड में भी दिख रहा है। वहां से आने वाली ठंडी हवाओं ने रात के तापमान को नीचे धकेल दिया है। पहले जहां न्यूनतम तापमान 13 से 14 डिग्री के आसपास बना हुआ था, वहीं पिछले 24 घंटे में लोहरदगा का तापमान 9.4 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। यहां करीब 4 डिग्री की गिरावट देखी गई, जो राज्य में सबसे कम रही। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि यह बदलाव अस्थायी है, लेकिन रात के समय ठंड का असर अगले एक-दो दिन रह सकता है।

होली तक 36 डिग्री पहुंचेगा पारा: मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक देवघर, धनबाद, पाकुड़, जमशेदपुर, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम और सिमडेगा जैसे जिलों में न्यूनतम तापमान 17 से 18 डिग्री तक रह सकता है। इन इलाकों में रात के समय अपेक्षाकृत कम ठंड महसूस होगी। वहीं दोपहर में अधिकतम तापमान 34 से 35 डिग्री तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है। विशेषज्ञों ने लोगों को दिन में पर्याप्त पानी पीने और हाइड्रेट रहने की सलाह दी है। रांची मौसम केंद्र का कहना है कि आने वाले दो दिनों में, यानी होली तक, न्यूनतम तापमान में 3 से 4 डिग्री की बढ़ोतरी होगी। पारा 18 से 20 डिग्री तक जा सकता है, जबकि दिन का तापमान 36 डिग्री तक पहुंचने की संभावना है। ऐसे में इस बार होली गर्मी के बीच मनाए जाने के संकेत मिल रहे हैं।

संथाल-कोल्हान में चढ़ेगा पारा: रांची मौसम केंद्र की ओर से जारी पूर्वानुमान के अनुसार आज अधिकांश जिलों में दिन का तापमान 30 से 35 डिग्री सेल्सियस के बीच रहने की संभावना है। संथाल परगना क्षेत्र में गर्मी का असर अधिक दिखेगा। देवघर और धनबाद में अधिकतम तापमान 33 डिग्री, दुमका व साहिबगंज में 34 डिग्री तथा गोड्डा में 35 डिग्री तक पहुंचने का अनुमान है। गिरिडीह, जामताड़ा और पाकुड़ में भी पारा 32 से 33 डिग्री के बीच रहेगा। इन जिलों के मुकाबले कोडरमा में अधिकतम 31 डिग्री, चतरा व गढ़वा में 34 डिग्री, जबकि लातेहार में सिर्फ 25 डिग्री रहने का अनुमान है। लोहरदगा में अधिकतम 29 डिग्री और न्यूनतम 12 डिग्री तक जा सकता है। पलामू में अधिकतम 34 डिग्री और न्यूनतम 15 डिग्री रहने की संभावना है। रांची में अधिकतम तापमान 30 डिग्री, बोकारो में 34 डिग्री, रामगढ़ व हजारीबाग में 31 डिग्री तथा पूर्वी व पश्चिमी सिंहभूम में 3 से 4 डिग्री तक पारा पहुंच सकता है। झारखंड में जहां पिछले कुछ दिनों से गर्मी धीरे-धीरे पैर पसार रही थी, वहीं बीते 24 घंटे में मौसम ने अचानक करवट बदल ली। रात के तापमान में 2 से 3 डिग्री तक की गिरावट दर्ज की गई है, जिससे लोगों को एक बार फिर हल्की ठंड का एहसास हुआ। राजधानी रांची में न्यूनतम तापमान करीब 2 डिग्री तक लुढ़का। जबकि जमशेदपुर और बोकारो में 3 डिग्री तक की गिरावट रिकॉर्ड की गई। हालात ऐसे रहे कि जहां कुछ दिन पहले तक स्वेटर पहनना भी मुश्किल लगा रहा था, वहीं देर रात लोगों ने फिर से रजाई तलाशनी शुरू कर दी। कई इलाकों में सुबह हल्की सिहरन महसूस की गई। मौसम में आए इस अचानक बदलाव ने लोगों को चौंका दिया है। रांची मौसम केंद्र के अनुसार बंगाल की खाड़ी में बने निम्न दबाव का असर पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों के साथ-साथ झारखंड में भी दिख रहा है।

कांग्रेस ने भारतीयों की सुरक्षा और निकासी के लिए सरकार से की अपील

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे और महासचिव (संगठन) केसी वेणुगोपाल ने मध्य पूर्व में ईरान को लेकर बढ़ते सैन्य तनाव पर चिंता जताई है। दोनों नेताओं ने भारतीय नागरिकों को सुरक्षा और सुरक्षित निकासी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार से तुरंत कदम उठाने की अपील की है। खरगे ने एक्स पर कहा कि हालिया सैन्य कार्रवाई के बाद मध्य पूर्व की स्थिति बिगड़ रही है और शांति एवं स्थिरता बनाए रखना बेहद जरूरी है। कांग्रेस भारतीय नागरिकों की सुरक्षा को लेकर चिंतित है और सरकार से उनके संरक्षण के लिए हर संभव कदम उठाने की मांग करती है। वेणुगोपाल ने कहा कि इजरायल-अमेरिका की संयुक्त सैन्य कार्रवाई और बढ़ते तनाव ने भारतीय नागरिकों में आशंका पैदा कर दी है। उन्होंने केरल के नागरिकों का जिक्र करते हुए कहा कि बड़ी संख्या में भारतीय इस क्षेत्र में रहते और काम करते हैं। ऐसे में प्रधानमंत्री और विदेश मंत्रालय को तुरंत कूटनीतिक और लॉजिस्टिक कदम उठाने चाहिए। उन्होंने जोरिखिम में रह रहे भारतीयों की सुरक्षित निकासी और जो लोग लौटना चाहते हैं उनके लिए सुरक्षित मार्ग उपलब्ध कराने की मांग की।

फरक्का में नया चार लेन पुल जल्द होगा तैयार, दशकों पुरानी जाम की समस्या से मिलेगी राहत

नई दिल्ली। पश्चिम बंगाल स्थित फरक्का में गंगा नदी पर बन रहा नया चार लेन का पुल अब लगभग तैयार है और जल्द ही लोगों को दशकों से चली आ रही जाम को समाप्त करने से राहत मिलने वाली है। 5.468 किलोमीटर लंबे इस पुल का 96 प्रतिशत काम पूरा हो चुका है। इसे 622.04 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से बनाया जा रहा है। केंद्रीय सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय ने बताया कि फरक्का बैराज, जो 1960 के दशक में बना था, अब लगभग 70 साल पुराना हो चुका है और मालदा, मुर्शिदाबाद एवं उत्तर बंगाल को जोड़ने वाले भारी वाहन दबाव को सभालने में सक्षम नहीं है। योजना सफर करने वाले शिक्षक और छात्र बताते हैं कि उन्हें घंटों जाम में फंसना पड़ता है। नया पुल इस समस्या को दूर करेगा और लोगों का कीमती समय बचाएगा। यह पुल न सिर्फ यातायात को सुगम बनाएगा बल्कि उत्तर और दक्षिण बंगाल के बीच माल और कृषि उत्पादों की आवाजाही को भी आसान करेगा। मालदा और मुर्शिदाबाद के प्रसिद्ध आम और लीची अब देशभर और विदेशों तक ताजे और समय पर पहुंच सकेंगे। स्थानीय लोग भी पुल को लेकर उत्साहित हैं। फरक्का निवासी नफीसा ने कहा कि परीक्षा और मेडिकल इमरजेंसी के समय जाम से बड़ी परेशानी होती है, नया पुल इस चिंता को दूर करेगा। वहीं लॉजिस्टिक्स कारोबारी आसिफ हुसैन ने कहा कि पुल से कारोबार को नई गति मिलेगी, ट्रिप रोटेशन बढ़ेगा और मुनाफा भी मजबूत होगा।

एनएसयूआई ने 'संविधान संकल्प सभा' के रूप में आयोजित किया विनोद जाखड़ का शपथ ग्रहण समारोह

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय राष्ट्रीय छत्र संगठन (एनएसयूआई) ने अपने नए राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष विनोद जाखड़ के शपथ ग्रहण समारोह को एक 'संविधान संकल्प सभा' के रूप में आयोजित किया। जिसमें देशभर से आए हजारों विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया। कार्यक्रम में भारत के संविधान की रक्षा और छत्र अधिकारों की सुरक्षा का सामूहिक संकल्प लिया गया। कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए एनएसयूआई के नए राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष विनोद जाखड़ ने कांग्रेस नेतृत्व, विशेषकर राहुल गांधी के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया। उन्होंने कहा कि राहुल गांधी और कांग्रेस नेतृत्व का हृदय से आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ, जिन्होंने एक साधारण और संघर्षशील परिवार से आने वाले कार्यकर्ता पर विश्वास जताया। उन्होंने कहा कि यह सम्मान केवल मेरा नहीं, बल्कि उन सभी पश्चिमी परिवारों के बेटों और बेटियों का है, जो संघर्ष के माध्यम से आगे बढ़ने का सपना देखते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि यह कार्यक्रम केवल शपथ ग्रहण तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि संविधान और लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों की रक्षा का राष्ट्रीय संकल्प है। उन्होंने बेरोजगारी, परीक्षा प्रश्नपत्र लीक, शिक्षा के निजीकरण और छत्रसंघ चुनावों की बहाली जैसे मुद्दों पर राष्ट्रव्यापी आंदोलन को तेज करने की घोषणा की।

मानसून में नहीं होगी जलभराव की स्थिति, निगम प्रशासन पहले कर रहा है तैयारी : महापौर

नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के महापौर राजा इकबाल सिंह ने बताया कि दिल्ली नगर निगम (एमसीडी) ने राजधानी में नालों की सफाई का कार्य प्रारम्भ कर दिया गया है तथा निर्धारित समय-सीमा से पूर्व सभी नालों की सफाई पूर्ण कर ली जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि निगम प्रशासन मानसून से पहले सफाई स्तर पर तैयारी कर रहा है, ताकि मानसून के दौरान जलभराव की स्थिति उत्पन्न न हो और नागरिकों को किसी प्रकार की असुविधा का सामना न करना पड़े। महापौर राजा इकबाल सिंह ने महापौर कार्यालय में पत्रकार वार्ता को संबोधित करते हुए जानकारी दी कि एमसीडी के अधिकार क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत चार फुट से कम गहराई वाले कुल 12,892 नाले हैं, जिसकी कुल लंबाई 6,069.88 किलोमीटर है। जनवरी से अब तक इन नालों से 8,047 मैट्रिक टन गंद निकाली जा चुकी है। उन्होंने बताया कि इन नालों की नियमित रूप से सफाई की जाती है और गंद निकालने का कार्य निगम द्वारा सतत रूप से जारी है। उन्होंने बताया कि चार फुट से अधिक गहराई वाले कुल 800 नाले निगम के अधिकार क्षेत्र में आते हैं, जिसकी कुल लंबाई 530.82 किलोमीटर है। जनवरी से अब तक इन बड़े नालों से 16,966 मैट्रिक टन गंद निकाली जा चुकी है। महापौर ने कहा कि यह कार्य प्राथमिकता के आधार पर किया जा रहा है, ताकि वर्षा के दौरान जल निकासी व्यवस्था सुचारु बनी रहे।

नारी शक्ति से राष्ट्र निर्माण: दिल्ली में 7-8 मार्च को 'भारती' महिला विचारक सम्मेलन का आयोजन

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। महिला सशक्तिकरण और राष्ट्र के विकास में महिलाओं की भूमिका को रेखांकित करने के लिए यहां के विज्ञान भवन में 7-8 मार्च को दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय महिला विचारक सम्मेलन 'भारती' का आयोजन किया जाएगा। यह जानकारी राष्ट्र सेविका समिति, शरण्या और भारतीय विद्वत परिषद के पदाधिकारियों ने दिल्ली में कस्तूरबा गांधी मार्ग स्थित सिविल सेवा अधिकारी संस्थान में आयोजित संवाददाता सम्मेलन में दी।

इस सम्मेलन में आठ प्रमुख विषयों पर गहन विमर्श किया जाएगा। इनमें विद्या आत्मनिर्भरता सुक्ति चेतना प्रकृति संस्कृति सिद्धि और कृति शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा मुख्य सत्र पैनल चर्चा विशेषज्ञ शिक्षण सत्र



पोस्टर प्रदर्शनी और कलात्मक प्रस्तुतियां शामिल होंगी। राष्ट्र सेविका समिति की प्रमुख कार्यवाहिका सीता गायत्री ने हिन्दुस्थान समाचार को बताया कि दुनिया जहां महिला-पुरुष को प्रतिस्पर्धी मानती है वहीं भारत उन्हें एक-दूसरे का पूरक मानता है। आज समय है कि भारतीय महिलाएं अपने 'मातृत्व' और 'कर्तृत्व' के गुणों के साथ-साथ 'नेतृत्व' के गुण को भी विस्तार दें। इस कार्यक्रम का ध्येय विभिन्न क्षेत्रों की महिलाओं को एकजुट कर उन्हें एक ऐसा मंच प्रदान

करना है जहां से वे समाज के नव-निर्माण का नेतृत्व कर सकें। भारतीय विद्वत परिषद की सचिव प्रो. शिवानी वी ने कहा कि हमने महिलाओं के विकास और शिक्षा से जुड़े 8 खास विषयों को चुना है। इस चर्चा में कानून, शिक्षा, पत्रकारिता और प्रशासन जैसे हर क्षेत्र की अग्रणी महिलाएं जुटेंगी। हमारा मकसद सिर्फ चर्चा करना नहीं बल्कि उन ठोस सुझावों और नए विचारों पर काम करना है जो महिलाओं के भविष्य को संवारने में मददगार साबित हों। उन्होंने बताया कि कार्यक्रम में राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने आने के लिए अपनी सहमति दे दी है। बहुत सारे उच्च स्तर के पदों पर जो महिलाएं हैं उन्हें भी इस चर्चा सत्र के लिए बुलाया गया है।

जब क्षेत्र पहले से ही बहुत ज्यादा अस्थिरता और ईशान्यी मुश्किलों से गुजर रहा है, ऐसे जोखिम भरे सैन्य कार्य से सिर्फ तनाव बढ़ेगा और आम लोगों की तकलीफ बढ़ेगी। न्यूक्लियर प्रोग्राम या सुरक्षा से जुड़ी चिंताओं पर इगढ़ें बातचीत और कूटनीति से हल होने

चाहिए न कि मिसाइलों और जंगी जहाजों से। हमले का रस्ता अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून को कमजोर करता है और शांति बनाए रखने के लिए जिम्मेदार ग्लोबल संस्थाओं की अथांगिटी को कमजोर करता है। सैन्य सआदतल्लाह हुसैन ने कहा कि इस इलाके में इजराइल की बार-

दिल्ली में सेवा ही शासन का मूल मंत्र : रेखा गुप्ता

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने दक्षिणी दिल्ली लोकसभा क्षेत्र में आयोजित प्रवास कार्यक्रम में लोगों के बीच पहुंचकर सरकार के एक वर्ष के कामकाज का रिपोर्ट कार्ड पेश किया।

इस अवसर पर उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले एक साल में दिल्ली सरकार ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के 'सबका साथ, सबका विकास' के संकल्प को आगे बढ़ाते हुए विकास, सुशासन और समृद्धि की दिशा में कई महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए हैं। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि 27 वर्षों बाद दिल्ली में बनी भाजपा सरकार ने सेवा को ही शासन का मूल मंत्र मानते हुए सत्ता को सुख का साधन नहीं बल्कि जनसेवा का माध्यम बनाया है। प्रधानमंत्री के मार्गदर्शन और समर्पित कार्यकर्ताओं की अथक मेहनत के बल पर दिल्ली में विकास की नई गति दिखाई दे रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि

दिल्ली में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के कार्याकल्प पर बोले मनोज तिवारी बोले-पहले लूटपाट थी, अब सेवा भावना है

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भाजपा सांसद मनोज तिवारी ने दिल्ली सरकार की स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की तारीफ की। उन्होंने साथ बातचीत में कहा कि प्रदेश सरकार मेडिकल सुविधाओं को बेहतर बनाने के लिए पूर्ण मेहनत कर रही है और इसका अक्स साफ दिख रहा है। भाजपा सांसद मनोज तिवारी गुरु तेग बहादुर अस्पताल में आयोजित एचपीवी टीकाकरण कार्यक्रम में शामिल हुए। मनोज तिवारी ने कहा, 'यह बहुत खुशी की बात है कि प्रदेश सरकार स्वास्थ्य को बेहतर बनाने की दिशा में लगातार काम कर रही है। हमारे स्वास्थ्य मंत्री डॉ. पंकज कुमार सिंह भी यहां मौजूद हैं। आज मुख्यमंत्री ने स्वास्थ्य से जुड़ी पांच बहुत महत्वपूर्ण परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन किया है।'

उन्होंने बताया कि मुख्यमंत्री ने मिलकर 5-6 महत्वपूर्ण प्रोजेक्ट्स लॉन्च किए हैं। इसमें ओपीडी सेवकता का उद्घाटन भी शामिल है। उन्होंने कहा, 'इन सुविधाओं से मरीजों और उनके

किसानों को कृषि कैबिनेट में देंगे होली की सौगात : मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. यादव

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव ने कहा कि राज्य में पहली बार कृषि कैबिनेट जनजातीय अंचल बढ़वानी में 2 मार्च को आयोजित की जा रही है। इसमें हम किसानों को होली की सौगात देने जा रहे हैं।

मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. यादव ने नई दिल्ली में केन्द्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह से सौजन्य भेंट के बाद मीडिया से बातचीत करते हुए यह बात कही। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रदेश के सभी किसानों की बेहतरि के लिए हम कई प्रकार के नवाचार कर रहे हैं। हमारी सरकार वर्ष 2026 को किसान कल्याण वर्ष के रूप में मना रही है। राज्य सरकार के 17 अलग-अलग विभागों पशुपालन, उद्यानिकी, सहकारिता, कृषि, उद्योग को साथ

लेकर किसानों की समृद्धि के लिए बगीचे से लेकर बाजार तक विस्तृत योजना तैयार की गई है। किसानों को

विद्यार्थियों पर हुए लाठीचार्ज तथा प्रशासनिक अक्षमता के विरोध में अभाविप ने थाने के बाहर किया प्रदर्शन

नई दिल्ली।अखिल भारतीय विद्यार्थी परिषद (अभाविप) दीनदयाल उपाध्याय महाविद्यालय के कार्यकर्ताओं ने महाविद्यालय के वाणिज्यिक से दौरेन प्रशासन के पुलिस की लापरवाही के कारण छात्रों को हूँ परेशानी और दिल्ली पुलिस का छात्रों पर बर्बरतापूर्ण लाठीचार्ज किए जाने के विरोध में मदनगढ़ साबित हों। प्रदर्शन किया। उन्होंने उन पुलिसकर्मियों पर कार्रवाई करने की मांग की, जिन्होंने छात्रों पर बलप्रयोग किया। प्रदर्शन के बाद अभाविप प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने पुलिस अधिकारियों से वार्ता कर घटना की निष्पक्ष जांच करने की मांग की और पुलिस प्रशासन को दिए ज्ञापन में अभाविप ने कहा विद्यार्थियों की सुरक्षा की सुनिश्चिता प्रशासन की जिम्मेदारी है और उन पर ऐसी दमनात्मक कार्यवाही करना उस जिम्मेदारी के भागना है। जिसके बाद अधिकारियों ने दोषी पुलिसकर्मियों के विरुद्ध उचित कार्रवाई करने तथा भविष्य में ऐसी कोई भी घटना नहीं होगी ऐसा आश्वासन दिया।

सरकार द्वारा किए जा रहे कार्यों की जानकारी दी। मुख्यमंत्री ने केन्द्रीय गृह मंत्री शाह को अवगत कराया कि राज्य सरकार द्वारा विश्व के श्रेष्ठ शासकों में सर्वोच्च स्थान रखने वाले सम्राट विष्णुमण्डिक के जीवन पर आधारित कई आयोजन किए गए हैं। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि भोपाल में 40 साल पहले भीष्म गैस त्रासदी हुई थी, जिसमें 25 हजार से अधिक लोगों ने अपनी जान गंवाई। राज्य सरकार ने बीते साल यूनियन कार्बाइड कारखाने में जमा कचरे का सफलतापूर्वक निष्पादन कराया है। यूनियन कार्बाइड फैक्ट्री की खाली पड्डों जमीन पर एक भव्य स्मारक बनाये जाने के लिये केन्द्रीय गृह मंत्री शाह से मार्गदर्शन प्राप्त किया है। यहां 87 एकड़ भूमि पर भोपाल गैस त्रासदी स्मारक, साइंस पार्क,

राजधानी दिल्ली में सजेगा जनजातीय लोगों की कला-संस्कृति, गीत-संगीत और उद्यम का अनूठा मंच

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। जनजातीय समुदायों की सांस्कृतिक विरासत की अनूठी छटा के लिए राजधानी वासी तैयार हो जाए। मार्च के महीने में जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय ने पांच कार्यक्रमों का आयोजित करने जा रहा है। इनमें त्रावणकोर पैलेस में ट्राइब्स आर्ट फेस्ट (टीएफए), भारत ट्राइब्स फेस्ट 2026, लिविंग रूट्स फेस्टिवल , जनजातीय व्यापार सम्मेलन, राष्ट्रीय सीएसआर शिक्ष सम्मेलन शामिल है। नेशनल मीडिया सेंटर में आयोजित पत्रकार वार्ता में जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्रीनुएल ओराम ने कहा कि राजधानी में आयोजित होने जा रहे इन कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से जनजातीय विरासत को संरक्षित करने, रचनात्मक उत्कृष्टता को बढ़ावा देने, उद्यमशीलता को मजबूत करने, बाजार तक का विस्तार करने के साथ सतत जनजातीय विकास के लिए कॉर्पोरेट साझेदारी को बढ़ाने में मदद मिलेगी। इस अवसर पर केन्द्रीय

परिवहन, स्वच्छता और जनकल्याण की योजनाओं को गति दी गई है। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि सेवा ही संस्कार, सेवा ही संकल्प और सेवा ही हमारा लक्ष्य है। 'जनसेवा ही राष्ट्रसेवा' के मंत्र के साथ सरकार ने कार्य करते हुए जनता के विश्वास को विकास में परिवर्तित किया है। यह रिपोर्ट कार्ड केवल उपलब्धियों का दस्तावेज नहीं, बल्कि दिल्ली के उज्वल भविष्य की दिशा और दृष्टि का प्रतीक है। इस अवसर पर दक्षिणी दिल्ली के सांसद रामवीर सिंह बिधुड़ी, उत्तर-पश्चिमी दिल्ली के सांसद योगेंद्र चांवलिया, बिजवासन से विधायक कैलाश गहलोत, पालम से विधायक कुलदीप सोलंकी, छतरपुर से विधायक करतार सिंह तंवर, संगम विस्वास से विधायक चंदन चौधरी, पूर्व सांसद रमेश बिधुड़ी, पार्टी पदाधिकारी और बड़ी संख्या में क्षेत्रीय नागरिक उपस्थित रहे।

दिल्ली के मंच पर दिखेगा रूस और भारत की दोस्ती का 'महा-संगम'

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। रूस का 'कोस्मोमा रशियन नेशनल बैले' अपना अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रोजेक्ट 'ग्लोबल डांस ओवरचर को दिल्ली में 2-3 मार्च को आयोजित करेगा। यह आयोजन सिर्फ एक डांस शो नहीं बल्कि दोनों देशों के बीच कला और प्रेम के जरिए दिलों को जोड़ने की एक बड़ी अंतरराष्ट्रीय सांस्कृतिक पहल है। भारत में रूसी दूतावास के अनुसार यह दो दिवसीय कार्यक्रम दिल्ली के दो प्रमुख स्थानों पर आयोजित किया जाएगा। इनमें संगीत नाटक अकादमी (रवींद्र भवन) में 2 मार्च शाम 4-7 बजे तक रूसी और भारतीय कलाकार कार्यशाला आयोजित करेंगे। इसमें एक-दूसरे को अपनी नृत्य कला सिखाई जाएगी। वहीं 3 मार्च शाम 07:00 बजे कमानी सभागार में रूस का 'वैश्विक नेशनल डांस शो' शुरू होगा। साझे सांस्कृतिक और मानवीय मूल्यों पर आधारित इस प्रोजेक्ट का उद्देश्य दुनिया भर के लोगों को एक

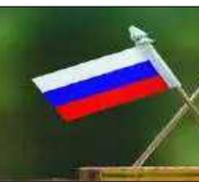
करना, सांस्कृतिक लेन-देन को बढ़ावा देना और सांस्कृतिक रिश्तों को बढ़ावा देना है। यह प्रोजेक्ट खास तौर पर ब्राजील, रूस, भारत, चीन, दक्षिण अफ्रीका (ब्रिक्स) देशों के बीच सांस्कृतिक रिश्तों को मजबूत करने के लिए बनाया गया है। शो में रूस के अलग-अलग इलाकों जैसे बर्नोले साइबेरिया और सुंदर

कन्वेंशन सेंटर, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए समर्पित आधुनिक प्रयोगशाला, विकास आधारित राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान केन्द्र स्थापित करने की योजना है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी और केन्द्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह के मार्गदर्शन में मध्य प्रदेश नक्सलवादी अभियान से मुक्त हो गया है। लाल सलाम को आखिरी सलाम करने वाला मध्य प्रदेश पहला राज्य है, यह हमारे लिए उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धि है। प्रदेश में हर तरह की नक्सल गतिविधियों पर नकेल कसी है। बालाघाट ने लंबे समय तक नक्सलवाद का दंश झेला है। क्षेत्र के समग्र विकास के लिए यहां बैगा महोत्सव आयोजित किया जाए, इस दिशा में गृह मंत्री शाह से मार्गदर्शन लिया गया है।

ईरान और खाड़ी देशों में जारी घटनाक्रम पर भारत ने जताई गहरी चिंता

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। । भारत ने ईरान और खाड़ी देशों में जारी घटनाक्रम पर अपनी गहरी चिंता व्यक्त की है। भारत ने एक बार फिर सभी पक्षों से संयम बरतने और संवाद एवं कूटनीति से समाधान तलाश की अपील की है। विदेश मंत्रालय की ओर से जारी बयान में कहा गया है कि हमारे दूतावास क्षेत्र में भारतीय नागरिकों से संपर्क बनाए हुए हैं और उन्हें जरूरी परामर्श दे रहे हैं। इसमें उनसे सतर्क रहने, दूतावास से जुड़े रहने और स्थानीय सुरक्षा निर्देशों का पालन करने के लिए कहा गया है। उल्लेखनीय है कि अमेरिका और इजरायल ने आज ईरान के सकारी और सैन्य नेतृत्व निशाना बनाते हुए हमले किए हैं। वहीं इसके जवाब में ईरान ने खाड़ी देशों में अमेरिकी सैन्य ठिकानों पर जवाबी हमले किए हैं। इसी बीच रूस ने अमेरिका और इजरायल

के सैन्य हमले को अंतरराष्ट्रीय नियमों का उल्लंघन और उकसाने वाला बताया है। मास्को ने वाशिंगटन और तेल अवीव पर पश्चिम एशिया को अस्थिर करने और क्षेत्रीय गतिरोध



बढ़ाने के आरोप लगाया है। रूस का कहना है कि इस तरह के हमले क्षेत्रीय परिस्थितियों को बिगाड़ सकते हैं। रूसी विदेश मंत्रालय ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र से जल्द स्थिति का जायजा लेने और रणनीति समाधान तलाशने का आग्रह किया है।

जॉर्ज सोरोस की धरती को 'मातृभूमि' मानने वाले नहीं समझ सकते पीएम का संदेश: प्रदीप भंडारी

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भाजपा नेता प्रदीप भंडारी ने राहुल गांधी और कांग्रेस पर जमकर निशाना साधा है। उन्होंने कहा कि जो लोग जॉर्ज सोरोस की धरती को अपनी 'मातृभूमि' मानते हैं, वे प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के इजरायली संसद में दिए गए ऐतिहासिक संदेश को कभी नहीं समझ सकते। उन्होंने कहा कि कांग्रेस का मानसिक संतुलन खो चुका है। उन्होंने कहा कि कांग्रेस के लोगों! कभी तो पढ़-लिख कर अपनी बात रखो। हमेशा राहुल गांधी की बालक बुद्धि वाली बात क्यों करते हो? पीएम मोदी ने कहा कि जो भारतीय यहूदी हैं, उनके लिए इंडिया इज देयर मदर लैंड, क्योंकि यहां पर उनका जन्म हुआ है और इजरायल इज देयर फादर लैंड। इसका मतलब यह है कि उन्होंने वहां पर अपना जीवन यापन किया है। इजरायल की इकोनॉमी में

रूसी और भारतीय लोक नृत्यों का ऐसा अद्भुत तालमेल दर्शकों को देखने को मिलेगा। इस प्रोजेक्ट का एक हिस्सा 'एजुकेशनल एक्सचेंज' है। रूस का मशहूर 'गवर्नेट बैले स्कूल' और भारत की 'संगीत नाटक अकादमी' मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं। शो में रूस के अलग-अलग इलाकों को रूसी डांस की बारीकियां सिखाई



जाएगी। वहीं रूसी कलाकारों को भारतीय कोरियोग्राफर सुभाष नकारो भारतीय नृत्य के तत्वों से रूबरू कराएंगे। भविष्य में, चुनिंदा भारतीय कलाकारों को रूस के प्राचीन शहर कोस्त्रोमा में जाकर प्रशिक्षण लेने का मौका भी मिलेगा।

योगदान दिया है। प्रदीप भंडारी ने कहा कि भारत और इजरायल के बीच में एक क्लोज और क्लचरल रिवालाइजेशन टाइज की बात पीएम मोदी ने की है। उन्होंने कहा कि पीएम मोदी की ये बात दुनिया समझ गई, लेकिन ये कांफ्रेंसी नहीं समझे, क्योंकि खबर फैला रहे हैं। इसीलिए ये हर चुनाव के बाद देश की जनता द्वारा पीटे जाते हैं। देश की जनता इनको सुकन सिखाती है, तब भी ये नहीं धरते हैं। उन्होंने कहा शापद कांफ्रेंसियों को इस बात की जलन है और नफरत है कि इनके पूरे गांधी-वाड़ा परिवार से एक भी व्यक्ति को इजरायल का सर्वोच्च सम्मान नहीं मिला। उन्होंने कहा कि पीएम मोदी को इजरायल का सर्वोच्च सम्मान मिला। नरेंद्र मोदी इजरायली ऐसे प्रधानमंत्री हैं, जिन्होंने इजरायल के संसद को संबोधित किया।

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जमात-ए-इस्लामी ने ईरान पर अमेरिका-इजराइल के संयुक्त हमले की निंदा की, क्षेत्रीय तनाव बढ़ने के प्रति सावधान किया

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। जमात-ए-इस्लामी हिंद के अध्यक्ष सैयद सआदुल्लाह हुसैन ने ईरान पर अमेरिका और इजराइल के कथित संयुक्त सैन्य हमले की कड़ी निंदा की। उन्होंने इसे एक गंभीर और खतरनाक पहल बताया है, जिससे पूरे

पश्चिम एशिया में शांति और स्थिरता को खतरा है। मीडिया को जारी एक बयान में उन्होंने के अन्धधन्य ने कहा कि ईरानी क्षेत्र पर अमेरिका और इजराइल के संयुक्त सैन्य हमले देश की सम्प्रभुता का गंभीर उल्लंघन है और एक व्यापक क्षेत्रीय युद्ध के लिए लापरवाह कदम है। ऐसे समय में

जब क्षेत्र पहले से ही बहुत ज्यादा अस्थिरता और ईशान्यी मुश्किलों से गुजर रहा है, ऐसे जोखिम भरे सैन्य कार्य से सिर्फ तनाव बढ़ेगा और आम लोगों की तकलीफ बढ़ेगी। न्यूक्लियर प्रोग्राम या सुरक्षा से जुड़ी चिंताओं पर इगढ़ें बातचीत और कूटनीति से हल होने

चाहिए न कि मिसाइलों और जंगी जहाजों से। हमले का रस्ता अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून को कमजोर करता है और शांति बनाए रखने के लिए जिम्मेदार ग्लोबल संस्थाओं की अथांगिटी को कमजोर करता है। सैन्य सआदतल्लाह हुसैन ने कहा कि इस इलाके में इजराइल की बार-

बार की सैन्य कार्रवाई, जो अब ईरान पर सीधे हमले तक बढ़ गई है, टकराव के एक ऐसे पैटर्न को प्रदर्शित करती है जो पश्चिम एशिया को अस्थिर करता है। उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिका ने बातचीत को बढ़ावा देने के बजाय सैन्य कार्रवाई का समर्थन करना चुना है जिससे बड़े पैमाने

पर संघर्ष बढ़कर का खतरा है और इसके अत्यापारित नतीजे निकले। उन्होंने तेहरान और दूसरे इलाकों में धमाकों, आम लोगों की जिंदगी में रूकावटों और बदले की कार्रवाई की संभावना पर गहरी चिंता जताई, जिससे कई देशों में लाखों लोगों को खतरा हो

सकता है। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि इस इलाके में युद्धों की वजह से पहले भी बड़े पैमाने पर आम लोगों की मौत हुई है, लोग बेघर हुए हैं, आर्थिक दिक्कतें आई हैं और लंबे समय तक अस्थिरता रही है। उन्होंने अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय से अपील की कि वे सभी पक्षों पर तुरंत

तनाव कम करने और आपसी तालमेल बनाने के लिए दबाव डालें। जमात-ए-इस्लामी हिंद के अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि भारत को स्वतंत्र एवं सैद्धांतिक स्टैंड अपनाना चाहिए, जो गुणनिश्चयता, सम्प्रभुता और विवादों को शांति से सुलझाने के अपने पुराने प्रतिबद्धता पर आधारित है।

Aggressive H3N2 variant prompts changes to this year's flu shot

NEW DELHI, Agency: After a year marked by an early and sharp rise in flu cases in several countries, India is set to update its seasonal influenza vaccine to deal with a fast-spreading new strain, reports Anuja Jaiswal.

The WHO has issued its annual recommendations for the 2026-27 northern hemisphere flu season, based on global surveillance data that showed a new A(H3N2) variant, known as sub-clade K, becoming dominant. India, as part of the northern hemisphere, follows this guidance each year to decide which strains are covered in the flu shot. The new strain appears to spread more easily than the earlier versions. While it is not necessarily more severe for each infected person, its higher transmissibility has led to increased case numbers and earlier-than-usual flu activity in many regions.

"The updated recommendations are timely, given the rapid global spread of the new variant," said Dr Rommel Tickoo, director of internal medicine at Max Hospital, Saket. "H3N2 strains are often linked to more severe illness, especially in the elderly and those with medical conditions. Since influenza viruses keep changing, updating the vaccine each year is critical. High-risk groups' early vaccination can reduce complications and hospital admissions." WHO has recommended updated components for H1N1, H3N2 and B/Victoria strains. Indian vaccine manufacturers will now align production to match these strains so that doses are available before peak transmission. Doctors advise getting the flu shot before winter.

SC: Make prisons reformatory, give women right to open jails

NEW DELHI, Agency: In an effort to transform India's punitive prison system into reformatory centres, Supreme Court has mandated radical reforms and ruled that women inmates, like male prisoners, have a fundamental right to be lodged in open correctional institutions (OCIs), which must change character from labour camps to vocational training centres and allow inmates to have regular access to their families. Penning a 138-page magnum opus of a judgment on what ails the Indian prison system and the judicially devised antidotes, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta appointed former SC judge S R Bhat as chairperson of a high powered committee with a honorarium of Rs 10 lakh per month along with other facilities to frame within six months a nationally consistent common minimum standards for "Reforms and Governance of Open Correctional Institutions". It asked states, which do not have open jails, to establish these institutions and mandated setting up of multi-layered monitoring systems to ensure that its series of directions are scrupulously complied with in a time bound manner. It posted the next hearing on the matter on Sep 1. It directed state committees to file quarterly reports on implementation of SC directed reforms in open prisons before the jurisdictional HCs, which in turn will file yearly reports before SC every March 31.

Can J&K's Ranji triumph heal old wounds?

Jammu, Agency: Jammu and Kashmir have become India's cricketing champs by thrashing favourites Karnataka in the Ranji Trophy finals. This is a fantastic, heart-warming Cinderella tale in a small state long viewed as a no-hoper in cricket. Experts say nobody watches Ranji Trophy cricket because it is not exciting and lacks top stars. But I followed the Ranji semi-final and the final avidly and, by the end, was cheering myself hoarse for J&K. There must have been many more viewers like me.

Before this season, J&K had played 334 Ranji Trophy matches over 67 years and won only 45 of them. It took 44 years to win its first match, against the Services in 1982-83. But this year, it steadily eliminated one tough opponent after another-Rajasthan, Hyderabad, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and finally seven-time champions Karnataka.

Karnataka had five Test players-KL Rahul, Mayank Agrawal, Devdutt Padikkal, Karun Nair, and Prasad Krishna. J&K had none. A year ago, you would have been hard-pressed to name a single member of its team. Yet it won in commanding style.

This is more than a cricketing story. Out of the blue, it provides a non-political avenue to help alienated Kashmiris feel part of the Indian mainstream.

'India reliable': PM woos global investors at chip plant launch

AHMEDABAD, Agency: Amid intensifying geopolitical conflicts and trade tensions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch on Saturday for India as a preferred investment destination.

"India is capable, India is competitive, and India is committed. Today, India has only one message for investors worldwide: India is ready, India is reliable, and India will deliver," Modi said.

Speaking after inaugurating US-based chip giant Micron Technology's ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging) plant at Sanand, the first such facility in the country, Modi said Gujarat would provide the lifestyle and social life that international companies desire.

"A small town (Sanand) suddenly found its place on the global map. Development and systems are needed;



perhaps even today you may have thoughts like, 'It would be nice if this were there, it would be nice if that were there.' I assure you, friends, the lifestyle you desire, the social life you desire, the way you live your life, Gujarat will create that too. We will not let you feel anything is lacking." He said after establishing itself as a software powerhouse, the country is "firmly establishing its identity" in the hardware sector too. The PM said that until 10-11 years ago, discussions about data and chips in India were confined to very close circles, and these often revolved only around IT services. Speaking about the speed of project approvals, he said, "Today's India is moving forward with this approach - from policy to production. It is visible. Remember, the MoU for this facility was signed in June 2023. Subsequently, the groundbreaking for this facility took place in Sept 2023 in Sanand. In Feb 2024, machines began to be installed in the pilot facility, and today, in Feb 2025, commercial production has begun at this facility. Anyone who follows this sector can understand the meaning of this speed.

HM Shah reviews border security in Seemanchal all post-SIR deaths to be verified

NEW DELHI, Agency: A high-level meeting chaired by home minister Amit Shah in Purnea, Bihar on Friday to examine security-related concerns in border districts of the state, decided that all death cases reported after special intensive revision (SIR) will be thoroughly verified and matching deletions and updates carried out in all official records including aadhaar, driving licence and PAN databases etc, to ensure accuracy and prevent any misuse. A door-to-door survey will be undertaken to verify individuals reported as migrated but absent during verification, while ensuring that no genuine voter is erroneously deleted, Central govt sources told Media.

The review meeting examined -- attended by the district magistrates and superintendents of police of seven border



districts of Seemanchal -- called for stricter border management, enhanced vigilance against illegal activities, and coordinated inter-agency action to address concerns such as illegal constructions near border areas, illegal migration, circulation of fake Indian currency notes (FICN), encroachment, and unauthorised financial flows.

Shah, during the meeting, called for strict enforcement of a zero-tolerance policy against illegal constructions, particu-

larly in forest and uninhabited areas, and ordered the immediate removal of encroachments in 'no man's land' adjoining the international border. District magistrates of border districts have been tasked with ensuring legal and financial compliance by all banks, including cooperative banks, within their jurisdictions. All banks have been directed to follow compliances issued by RBI, including reporting of cash transactions of high value and PAN linkage with bank accounts.

Bihar chief secretary will review compliance, particularly concerning cooperative banks. Strict action will be taken against sub registrar offices (SROs) that fail to report or resort to defective reporting of high-value property transactions or violations involving cash transactions beyond prescribed norms.

India could soon get its first openly queer MP

New Delhi, Agency: When Menaka Guruswamy walks into Parliament building for the Rajya Sabha election in mid-March, she will possibly be the first openly queer person on the ballot. From the Sept 2018 Supreme Court verdict decriminalising Article 377 to a possible seat in the Upper House has been a long journey. The Trinamool Congress has nominated her as its Rajya Sabha candidate.

Perhaps cognizant of the enormity of the moment, Guruswamy on Saturday posted on X, "I am deeply honoured to be nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the All India Trinamool Congress. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal Ms Mamata Banerjee for reposing her faith in me. Our Constitution's values of equality, fraternity & non-discrimination have guided my life & work, I



hope to carry these ideals forward into Parliament. I look forward to representing the interests of the people of West Bengal & to serve 'We the People' of India."

Guruswamy has been public about her relationship with fellow lawyer Arundhati Katju. In 2023, former diplomat Vivek Katju wrote a personal piece on his journey in accepting his daughter Arundhati and her partner, expressing his initial shock and despair when he found out about her sexuality.

For 61 lakh 'doubtful' voters, it's a race against time to get on electoral roll

NEW DELHI, Agency: Around 60 lakh electors in West Bengal have been categorised as 'doubtful' by Election Commission, and their cases have been sent for adjudication by judicial officers appointed by the Kolkata high court. This is in line with the Supreme Court's directive dated Feb 20. With assembly elections in the state likely to be announced in the second half of March, this means that it would be a race against time for the "doubtful" voters to be made a part of the electoral list.

Sources said that the final electorate of Bengal is around 6.4 crore, with a total 1.2 crore deletions since Oct 27, 2025 (15.9%). Of these, around 61.8 lakh were deleted on account of being deceased, shifted, migrated and registered at multiple



places and another 60 lakh categorised as 'doubtful' voters under adjudication.

Such 'doubtful' electors, as and when their cases are approved by the court-appointed judicial officers, shall be added back to the state's roll by way of supplementary lists to be published later. Until then, these voters will not be eligible to vote in any election. A senior EC functionary told Media that the majority of these 'doubtful' electors are likely to be

illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. "Despite stiff resistance, the SIR exercise in Bengal has been a huge success," said another EC official. According to the rules, the electoral roll of a state is frozen 10 days before the last date for nomination in Lok Sabha or assembly elections. So only those 'doubtful' voters whose cases are disposed of within the prescribed deadline can vote in the upcoming Bengal assembly elections.

India walks tightrope amid Iran conflict

NEW DELHI, Agency: India is deeply concerned over the recent developments in Iran and the Gulf region, govt said Saturday, hours after US-Israel joint military action against Iran and the latter's retaliatory targeting of Gulf states where Washington has military assets. While seeking safety of civilians in a region that is home to a nearly 10-million-strong Indian diaspora, the govt also stressed in its tough balancing act that sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be protected.

External affairs minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Iranian and Israeli counterparts, Seyed Abbas Araghchi and Gideon Sa'ar, respectively, to express deep concern and to reiterate India's call for dialogue and diplomacy to de-escalate tensions. Late in the evening,



Jaishankar also spoke to his counterparts from the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain and sought their cooperation in ensuring the well-being of the Indian community.

India's response in the form of a statement by the ministry of external affairs was carefully calibrated as it said that dialogue and diplomacy should be

follow local security guidance. There are close to 40,000 Indian citizens in Israel and anywhere between 6,000 and 10,000 in Iran.

With the US and Israel reportedly looking to precipitate a regime change in Iran, India was again forced to walk a diplomatic tightrope, caught between its steady ties with Iran that are based on common regional interests and strong signs of improvement in the critical relationship with the US after a period of extreme turbulence.

The attack on Iran also came barely 48 hours after a bilateral meeting between PM Narendra Modi and his counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel that saw the leaders discussing US-Iran tensions and Modi offering, if required, India's support for any efforts

towards a peaceful resolution. Significantly, in his media remarks during the visit which took place amidst mounting US-Iran friction, Modi said that peace and security in West Asia is directly linked to India's security interests. The Gulf region is also one of India's most significant and reliable sources of oil and gas. The diaspora, whose well-being is a major priority for the govt, is one of the largest sources of remittances for India. The GCC countries - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates - are together also India's largest trading partner bloc. While India has deepened its strategic partnership with Israel in the past decade or so, its ties with Gulf states have also undergone a complete transformation during this period.

National Old Stuff Day

Finding New Meaning in Old Memories

Rediscovering Value in the Forgotten



Every year on March 2, people around the world observe National Old Stuff Day, a unique occasion that encourages individuals to revisit, reuse, and reimagine old possessions. In a fast-paced world driven by constant upgrades and consumerism, this day serves as a gentle reminder that "old" does not mean "useless." Instead, it often carries stories, memories, and untapped potential.

Modern lifestyles have conditioned us to discard items the moment they lose novelty. Whether it is outdated gadgets, clothes that are no longer in fashion, or furniture that seems worn out, the tendency to replace rather than repair has become deeply ingrained. National Old Stuff Day challenges this mindset by inviting people to pause and reflect on what they already own.

At its core, the day is about rediscovery. That old box in the attic may contain childhood photographs, handwritten letters, or forgotten souvenirs that reconnect us with our past. These objects often hold emotional value far greater than anything newly purchased. Revisiting them

can evoke nostalgia, strengthen family bonds, and offer a sense of continuity in an ever-changing world.

Beyond sentiment, the day also promotes sustainability. The culture of disposability has led to environmental concerns, with landfills overflowing and resources being depleted. By repairing, repurposing, or donating old items, individuals can reduce waste and contribute to a more sustainable future. For example, an old shirt can be turned into cleaning cloths, and unused furniture can be refurbished or donated to someone in need. Another important aspect of National Old Stuff Day is its potential to spark creativity. Many artists and DIY enthusiasts find inspiration in old objects. Broken items can be transformed into decorative pieces, vintage clothing can be restyled, and discarded materials can become works of art. This process not only saves money but also encourages innovation and personal expression. The day also holds relevance in today's digital age. Old devices such as phones or computers often contain valuable data—photos, documents, or memories—that

might otherwise be forgotten. Taking time to organize and revisit digital archives can be just as meaningful as sorting through physical belongings.

On a broader level, National Old Stuff Day reflects a deeper cultural shift. As minimalism and conscious living gain popularity, people are beginning to question the need for constant consumption. The idea is not just to own less, but to value what we already have. This mindset fosters gratitude and reduces the pressure to keep up with ever-changing trends.

Families can use this day as an opportunity to bond. Cleaning out storage spaces together, sharing stories about old belongings, or working on DIY projects can create meaningful experiences. It is also a chance to teach younger generations about the importance of resourcefulness and sustainability.

In workplaces and communities, the day can inspire initiatives such as donation drives, recycling programs, or creative workshops. These activities not only benefit the environment but also strengthen social connections.



From Clutter to Treasure

The Hidden Potential of Old Belongings

National Old Stuff Day offers a powerful message: what we often consider clutter may actually be hidden treasure. As homes fill with unused items over time, it becomes easy to overlook their potential. However, with a shift in perspective, these forgotten belongings can be transformed into something valuable, useful, and even beautiful.

One of the biggest challenges people face today is decluttering. Closets overflow with clothes that no longer fit, shelves are packed with outdated gadgets, and storage spaces become repositories of things we rarely use. Instead of immediately discarding these items, National Old Stuff Day encour-

ages a more thoughtful approach. The first step is evaluation. Not everything old needs to be thrown away. Some items can be repaired, others repurposed, and many can be donated. For instance, old books can be given to libraries or schools, while unused kitchen utensils can benefit families in need. This process not only clears space but also extends the life of these items.

Repurposing is where creativity truly shines. A worn-out ladder can become a bookshelf, glass jars can be turned into decorative lights, and old jeans can be converted into bags. Such transformations highlight the idea that value is not inherent in an object

but in how it is used. There is also a growing market for vintage and second-hand goods. Items that may seem outdated to one person can be highly desirable to another. Antique furniture, retro clothing, and old vinyl records often carry a charm that modern products cannot replicate. Selling or exchanging these items can even provide an additional source of income.

Environmental benefits are another significant aspect. The production of new goods requires resources such as water, energy, and raw materials. By reusing existing items, we reduce the demand for new production and minimize environmental impact. National Old

Stuff Day thus aligns closely with global efforts to promote sustainability.

On a personal level, the process of sorting through old belongings can be therapeutic.

It allows individuals to reflect on their past, revisit memories, and make conscious decisions about what to keep and what to let go. This practice can lead to a more organized and stress-free living environment. The day also encourages community engagement.

Organizing garage sales, swap events, or donation drives can bring people together while promoting the reuse of goods. These activities foster a sense of community and shared responsibility.

Nostalgia and Memory: The Emotional Power of Old Things



Old things are more than just physical objects—they are vessels of memory and emotion. National Old Stuff Day highlights this deeply human connection, reminding us that our belongings often carry stories that define who we are.

Every object has a history. A faded photograph captures a moment frozen in time, a handwritten letter preserves emotions that words once struggled to express, and a childhood toy reflects innocence and joy. These items act as emotional anchors, connecting us to people, places, and experiences that might otherwise fade from memory.

In today's digital era, where most memories are stored on devices, physical objects hold a unique significance. Unlike digital files, they can be touched, felt, and experienced in a tangible way. This sensory connection often

makes memories more vivid and meaningful.

National Old Stuff Day encourages people to revisit these emotional connections. Opening an old album or rediscovering a long-forgotten keepsake can evoke powerful feelings of nostalgia. While nostalgia is often associated with longing for the past, it can also provide comfort and a sense of identity.

Psychologists suggest that nostalgia can have positive effects on mental well-being.

It can reduce feelings of loneliness, increase self-esteem, and provide a sense of continuity. By reconnecting with our past, we gain a deeper understanding of our present.

The day also emphasizes the importance of storytelling. Sharing the stories behind old objects with family members can strengthen relationships and pre-

serve cultural heritage. For example, a piece of jewelry passed down through generations may carry stories of love, resilience, and tradition.

In many cultures, old items are seen as symbols of heritage and legacy. They are preserved not just for their material value but for their cultural significance. National Old Stuff Day aligns with this perspective by encouraging people to value their belongings beyond their functional use.

However, the emotional attachment to old things can also make it difficult to let go.

While it is important to cherish memories, it is equally important to avoid holding onto items that no longer serve a purpose. The key is to strike a balance—keeping what truly matters and letting go of what does not.

Creative solutions such as digitizing photographs or repurposing sentimental items can help preserve memories without accumulating clutter.

For instance, old clothes can be turned into quilts, allowing memories to be preserved in a practical form.

Ultimately, National Old Stuff Day reminds us that our belongings are more than just objects—they are reflections of our journey. By revisiting them, we reconnect with our past, appreciate our present, and gain insight into our future. In a world that often prioritizes the new, this day invites us to pause and appreciate the beauty of the old.

Sustainability Starts at Home

The Environmental Impact of Reusing Old Items

As environmental concerns continue to grow, National Old Stuff Day takes on a new level of importance. It serves as a reminder that small actions at home can have a significant impact on the planet.

The modern consumer culture is built on convenience and constant consumption. Products are designed to be replaced rather than repaired, leading to an increase in waste. Landfills are filled with items that could have been reused or recycled, contributing to pollution and resource depletion.

National Old Stuff Day challenges this cycle by promoting sustainable practices. Reusing old items reduces the need for new production, conserving resources such as water, energy, and raw materials. For example, repairing a broken appliance instead of replacing it can significantly reduce environmental impact.

Upcycling is another important aspect of sustainability. Unlike recycling, which often involves breaking down materials, upcycling transforms old items into something of higher value. This process not only reduces waste but also encourages creativity.

Clothing is one of the biggest contributors to waste. Fast fashion trends lead to frequent disposal of garments, many of which end up in landfills. National Old Stuff Day encourages individuals to rethink their approach to fashion by repairing, restyling, or donating clothes.

Electronic waste is another major concern. Old gadgets often contain harmful materials that can damage the environment if not disposed of properly. Recycling or repurposing these devices can help mitigate their impact.

The day also highlights the importance of mindful consumption. Before purchasing something new, individuals are encouraged to consider whether they already have something that can serve the same purpose. This approach not only saves money but also reduces environmental strain.

Communities can play a crucial role in promoting sustainability. Initiatives such as repair cafes, recycling drives, and second-hand markets can make it easier for people to reuse and recycle items. These efforts create a culture of responsibility and awareness.

