



# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### Partial results show losses for Starmer's Labour and wins for Reform UK in local elections

LONDON. (Agency)

Partial results from local elections in England on Friday showed big losses for Prime Minister Keir Starmer's governing Labour Party and gains for the hard-right party Reform UK. The votes are being widely seen as an unofficial referendum on Starmer, elected less than two years ago. Areas that counted their ballots overnight saw Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, win hundreds of local council seats in working-class areas in England's north such as Hartlepool. The picture will change throughout Friday as results come in from the majority of local councils, including Labour strongholds like London. Votes will also be counted in contests for semi-autonomous parliaments in Scotland and Wales. A Labour rout could trigger moves by restive party lawmakers to oust a leader who led them to power in July 2024. Even if Starmer survives for now, many analysts doubt he will lead the party into the next national election, which must be held by 2029. Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy cautioned the party not to topple the prime minister, saying "you don't change the pilot during the flight."

### UAE reports drone, missile attack as Iran ceasefire strains; US military says not seeking escalation

DUBAI. (Agency)

The Iran war's shaky ceasefire came under further strain on Friday as the United Arab Emirates responded to a missile and drone attack hours after the US said it thwarted attacks on three Navy ships in the Strait of Hormuz and retaliated against Iranian military facilities. The violence jeopardized the fragile truce between Iran and the US while the two sides considered a deal to end the fighting. On Thursday, Tehran said it was examining the latest US proposals for ending the war. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the Islamic Republic was reviewing messages from Pakistan, which is mediating peace negotiations, but Iran "has not yet reached a conclusion, and no response has been given to the US side," Iranian state TV reported. The Trump administration has sent mixed messages on its strategy to end the war. The ceasefire and previous declarations that military operations were over have given way to new threats of bombing if Tehran does not accept a deal that allows for resumption of oil and natural gas shipments disrupted by the conflict. Trump reiterated those threats after Thursday's exchange of fire involving the US Navy. "They have to understand: If it doesn't get signed, they're going to have a lot of pain," he told reporters in Washington. Asked how close the US was to a deal with Iran, Trump said: "It could happen any day," but quickly added, "And it might not happen." The ceasefire between the US and Iran has largely held since April 8. In-person talks between the two countries, hosted by Pakistan last month, failed to reach an agreement to end the war that began Feb. 28 when the US and Israel launched strikes against Iran. US military says it's not seeking escalation. The UAE's defense ministry advised residents not to approach, photograph or touch "any debris or fragments that have fallen as a result of successful air interceptions."

### WHO Warns Of More Hantavirus Cases In 'Limited' Outbreak

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

The World Health Organization said Thursday that more hantavirus cases could emerge after the disease killed three passengers from a cruise ship, but it expected the outbreak to be limited if precautions were taken. Another sick passenger from the MV Hondius landed in Europe earlier in the day, as the vessel headed to the Spanish Canary Islands and health officials scrambled to trace the outbreak of the potentially deadly human-to-human strain. The fate of the Hondius sparked international alarm after three people travelling on it died, though health officials have played down fears of a wider global outbreak from the rat-borne virus, which is less contagious than Covid-19. US President Donald Trump said Thursday he had been briefed on the situation. "It's very much, we hope, under control," Trump told reporters. "It was the ship -- and I think we're going to make a full report about it tomorrow. We have a lot of great people studying it... It should be fine, we hope."

A Dutch couple who had travelled around South America before boarding the ship in Ushuaia, Argentina on April 1 were the first fatalities.

Argentine health authorities said Thursday they had not yet been able to establish where the outbreak began. "With the information provided so far by the countries involved and participating national agencies, it is not possible to confirm the origin of the infection," the health ministry said after a meeting with authorities from all 24 Argentine provinces. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told journalists in Geneva that five confirmed and three suspected cases had been reported overall, including the three deaths. Given the incubation period of the Andes virus, which can be up to six weeks, it's possible that more cases may be reported, he said, referring to the rare strain detected aboard the Hondius, which can be transmitted between humans. The Leiden University Medical Centre in the Netherlands later announced another patient had tested positive.

But the WHO's emergency alert and response director Abdi Rahman Mahamud said he believed it would be "a limited outbreak" if "public health measures are implemented and solidarity shown across all countries." People thought or known to have contracted the virus are being treated or isolating in Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and South Africa.

## Alarmed ASEAN leaders discuss crisis plan to mitigate backlash from Middle East war

**The alarm by the heads of state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is underscored by their decision to focus discussions on a contingency plan to ensure their fast-growing region.**

CEBU. (Agency)

Southeast Asian leaders met in an annual summit Friday under intense pressure to mitigate the impact on their people and economies from the Iran war, which one top minister said, "should not have occurred in the first place." The alarm by the heads of state of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is underscored by their decision to focus discussions on a

contingency plan to ensure their fast-growing region, which imports most of its oil and gas from the Middle East, will have stable fuel and food supplies. The Philippines is hosting the summit on the central island province of Cebu. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered the summit to be stripped of the traditional pomp and pageantry in keeping with the economic headwinds worldwide.

A key dilemma of the ASEAN leaders is how to carry out large-scale evacuations from the Middle East, where more than a million of their citizens work and live, if widespread hostilities flare up again.

Several Southeast Asian citizens have been killed since the United States and Israel launched military strikes on Feb. 28 against Iran. The hostilities have continued sporadically despite a month-old ceasefire, especially in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. A draft of a joint declaration by the leaders which outlines a contingency plan and which was seen by The Associated Press, called on the regional bloc's 11 state members to share information and

strengthen coordination with international organizations "to ensure the safety and welfare of ASEAN nationals in affected areas." Known for their conservative and careful rhetoric, top delegates to the



ASEAN summit avoided blunt expressions of their disappointment over the continuing hostilities, but Thailand's foreign minister, Sihasak Phuanketkeow, was more emphatic and called for the current ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran to be indefinitely extended and the safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz

assured. "This war should not have occurred in the first place," Sihasak told AP in a brief interview and added that all ASEAN states were alarmed. "We don't know what the objectives are right?" The peace talks seem to be moving but we want the war to end," Sihasak said. ASEAN's contingency plan calls for actions including the ratification possibly this year of an agreement that will pave the way for coordinated emergency fuel sharing, planning a regional power grid, diversifying the region's sources of crude oil, promoting the use of electric vehicles and studying the use of new technologies, including civilian nuclear energy. Despite the focus on the Middle East and their shortened summit to cut costs, the leaders will take up major regional flash points, including the South China Sea territorial disputes involving Beijing, a five-year civil war in Myanmar and a recent border conflict between Thailand and Cambodia. In a separate statement by the leaders on maritime issues.

## A year in, what's on Pope Leo XIV's to-do list? And what has he done so far?

**Several upcoming appointments in the U.S. and at the Vatican will give Leo an opportunity to shape the church's hierarchy and central governance more to his liking and priorities.**

VATICAN CITY. (Agency)

Unlike Pope Francis, who shook things up early on with a flurry of reforms, appointments and new structures, Pope Leo XIV has sought to find his footing and take a longer view of his pontificate. Pope Leo has made some significant decisions so far, and has several challenges looming. Several upcoming appointments in the U.S. and at the Vatican will give Leo an opportunity to shape the church's hierarchy and central governance more to his liking and priorities. Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich turned 77 in March, two years over the normal retirement age for bishops, meaning Leo could soon

name an archbishop for his hometown. In December, Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez turns 75, giving Leo a chance to name a new leader for the largest U.S. archdiocese. He already has named Archbishop Ronald Hicks



to replace retiring Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, but that appointment "didn't ideologically code dramatically one way or the other... in keeping with Leo's overall kind of approach to a lot of these decisions," said Michael Moreland, professor of law and religion at Leo's alma mater, Villanova University. At the Vatican, British Cardinal Arthur Roche turned

76 and heads the liturgy office, which was responsible for enforcing Francis' controversial crackdown on the old Latin Mass. Roche's eventual successor will be scrutinized to see how Leo might address the divisive issue. Another Vatican heavyweight is American Cardinal Kevin Farrell, who at 78 is well beyond retirement age but still heads its family and laity office. He also serves as the camerlengo, who oversaw the conclave that elected Leo, and the most sensitive Holy See committees that are responsible for financial investments and the city state's highest court of appeal. Canadian Cardinal Michael Czerny's 80th birthday in July will not only make him the oldest Vatican prefect -- he heads the Vatican's office for migrants, the environment and development -- but also will exclude him from voting in the next conclave. That will reduce the number of voting-age cardinals to 117, below the threshold of 120 that is the usual cap for the number of cardinals under 80 who can vote.

## North Korea will deploy new artillery guns targeting Seoul and commission its first destroyer

**SEOUL. (Agency)** North Korea said Friday it will deploy new long-range artillery systems this year that are capable of striking South Korea's capital region and will commission its first naval destroyer in coming weeks. The announcement comes days after South Korea said North Korea's newly revised constitution drops all references to Korean unification, in line with leader Kim Jong Un's vows to terminate ties with South Korea and establish a two-state system on the Korean Peninsula. Kim visited a munitions factory Wednesday to inspect the production of 155-mm self-propelled gun-howitzers to be deployed at an artillery unit in the southern border area within this year, the North's official Korean Central News Agency reported. KCNA cited Kim as saying the striking range of this large-caliber rifled gun is

over 60 kilometers (37 miles). He said that "such a rapid extension of striking range and remarkable improvement of striking capability will provide a great change and advantage in the land operations of our army," according to KCNA. Kim said various operational and tactical missile systems and powerful multiple rocket launcher systems are also scheduled to be deployed along the border.

North Korea's artillery systems draw less outside attention than its ballistic missiles whose launches are banned under U.N. Security Council resolutions. But the country already deploys many artillery guns near the border with South Korea, posing a serious threat to Seoul, the South Korean capital that has 10 million people and is about 40 to 50 kilometers (25 to 30 miles) from the border. KCNA said Kim on Thursday rode on

the destroyer Choe Hyon to review its maneuverability off North Korea's west coast. Kim ordered authorities to hand over the ship to the navy in mid-June as scheduled, after appreciating the all the tests for the destroyer's operational commissioning progressed smoothly, according to KCNA. KCNA photos showed Kim's teenage daughter on the destroyer as well, in the latest public activity with her father. One photo showed her standing behind her father as he spoke to navy sailors, and another showed them eating a meal with the crew on the destroyer. South Korea's spy service said last month she could be considered Kim's heir. The destroyer, which was unveiled with great fanfare last year, is North Korea's largest and most advanced warship. North Korea later unveiled a second destroyer of the same class.

## Sudan was already at war and hungry, now its farmers are hit by another conflict

OMDURMAN. (Agency)

Two years after Sudan's war forced him from his land, Omer al-Hassan returned to rebuild his farm. But now a new conflict in the Middle East threatens to push him deeper into financial loss and food insecurity as fuel and fertilizer prices rise. Al-Hassan and other farmers in Sudan are bracing for an expensive planting season in the weeks ahead. Some told The Associated Press they are reducing production or not planting at all -- dangerous news for a country where three years of war have left millions hungry. The Iran war has "affected everything related to agriculture," al-Hassan said as he and others pulled onions from the ground. They had spent two months clearing the weed-choked land, "plowed the soil and we said God bless, and even then we struggled so much, one had to sometimes skip a meal." He and 10 other farmers who work his land said they can't handle agricultural costs without government support, forcing cuts in production and rationing of fertilizer on his farm that also produces potatoes and

tomatoes. Another farmer, Mohammed al-Badri, said he could afford to plant only half his farm because of the rising costs: "The rest of it is nothing." The Gulf region, where hundreds of commercial ships have been stranded for weeks because of Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz, provides over half of Sudan's fertilizer that's imported by sea. And fuel prices have shot up by around 30%. Experts warn of a "dangerous chain reaction" Sorghum, Millet, Sesame. These staple crops for Sudan are now at risk.

Farmers already stressed by the war at home between Sudan's military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces are now watching costs rise for fertilizer, gasoline to power farm equipment and diesel for irrigation pumps. The rising costs have created "a dangerous reality" for farmers who will struggle without government intervention, said Abdoun Bergawi, a farmer in Gezira, one of the country's main food-producing regions. Bergawi said a 50-kilogram (110-pound) bag of urea fertilizer now costs about \$50, up from \$11 the same period last year. Fuel for tractors has risen

from \$2.50 to \$8 per gallon. Officials in Sudan's agriculture ministry didn't immediately respond to requests for details on how they are addressing the crisis. A member of the military media



accompanied the AP during its visit, including during interviews. The AP retains full editorial control of its content. The Iran war has triggered a "dangerous chain reaction ... at the wrong moment" as farmers prepare for planting season, said Melaku Yirga, Mercy Corps vice president

for the Africa region, who recently visited Sudan's provinces of Kassala and Gedaref, another top food-producing region.

"People are buying less food, cutting or skipping meals, selling assets and taking greater risks just to survive," Yirga said. "Mothers are being forced to make painful choices about who gets to eat the little food that is available, while some families are resorting to leaves or animal feed just to get by." And farmers who took bank loans risk jail if poor crop yields leave them unable to repay, said Merghany Omar, a farmer in al-Matammah in River Nile province. He said onion farming, a local staple, no longer covers planting costs there. All of this is occurring alongside existing vulnerabilities including currency depreciation, said Samy Guessabi, country director for Action Against Hunger in Sudan.

People in some of the country's most remote areas, Kordofan, White Nile, Darfur and Blue Nile, are hurting the most where "agricultural zones are remote and poorly connected," he said.

## David Attenborough, the excited but hushed voice of nature programs, turns 100

DALLAS. (Agency)

The BBC is hosting a party for David Attenborough at the Royal Albert Hall. Cinemas are playing his nature films. Friends have spent weeks lavishing praise on the man and his work. But the world's most famous wildlife presenter is likely to be uncomfortable with all the attention as he celebrates his 100th birthday on Friday, said Alastair Fothergill, the producer of some of Attenborough's most well-known documentaries. "He's always been very clear to all of us that work with him: 'Remember, the animals are the stars, I'm not,'" Fothergill told The Associated Press. "So, yes, surprisingly for one of the most famous men on the planet, he doesn't like being famous at all."

Glorious gorillas But Attenborough has had to accept the accolades this week as scientists, politicians and conservationists celebrated the man who has brought frolicking gorillas, breaching whales and tiny poisonous frogs into living rooms around the world for more than 70 years. Through BBC programs such as Life on Earth, The Private Life of Plants and The Blue Planet, Attenborough has illuminated the beauty, ferocity and sometimes downright weirdness of nature in a hushed melodic voice that conveys his own awe at what he is witnessing. Viewers who might never leave their hometowns were transported to the Himalayas, the Amazon and the unexplored forests of Papua New Guinea. But behind the stunning images was an attention to scientific accuracy that helped teach people about complex subjects like evolution, animal behavior and biodiversity. And as the evidence mounted, he began to sound the alarm about climate change, ocean plastic and other human-caused threats to the planet. That helped people understand not only how life evolved but, more importantly, why we have to protect it, said Ben Garrod, an evolutionary biologist at the University of East Anglia and himself a broadcaster who has worked alongside Attenborough. Attenborough, Garrod believes, initially saw himself as a neutral observer but was compelled to speak out when he saw that politicians, business leaders and the public weren't taking the emergency seriously. "He is showing you the majesty, the ferocity, the fragility of the natural world. He shouldn't have ever had to have turned to policymaking and advocacy," Garrod said. "I think it's very easy for a lot of people to say, 'He should have done it sooner. Why didn't he act 20 years, 30 years, 40 years ago?'" Garrod then asked: "Why didn't we?"

Fond of fossils from the start Born in London on May 8, 1926, the same year as the late Queen Elizabeth II, Attenborough was raised on the grounds of what is now the University of Leicester, where his father was a senior leader.

## Suvendu Adhikari Elected BJP Legislature Party Leader, Set to Become Bengal CM; Oath today

**Kolkata:** Senior BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari is set to become West Bengal's first Bharatiya Janata Party Chief Minister after being unanimously elected leader of the BJP Legislature Party at a crucial meeting in Kolkata on Friday.

The decision was finalised in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who announced that all BJP legislators backed Adhikari's name for the top post. Adhikari is expected to take oath as Chief Minister on Saturday.

The development comes after the BJP scripted a historic victory in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, ending the 15-year rule of the All India Trinamool Congress and delivering a crushing defeat

to former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Adhikari emerged as one of the biggest architects of the BJP's Bengal breakthrough. He retained his stronghold of Nandigram with an emphatic margin of 9,665 votes and played a pivotal role in the party's aggressive campaign across the state. In a major political upset, Banerjee also lost the high-profile Bhabanipur seat by over 15,000 votes. The BJP's sweep in Purba Medinipur further cemented Adhikari's stature within the party, with the saffron camp winning all 16 Assembly constituencies in the district — widely seen as his political bastion.

Once considered one of Mamata Banerjee's closest confidants and a cen-



From TMC Rebel to Bengal CM: Suvendu Adhikari's Stunning Political Rise

tral figure in the Nandigram anti-land acquisition movement, Adhikari quit

the Trinamool Congress in 2020 amid growing internal differences and joined the

BJP shortly afterwards. Since switching sides, he has emerged as the BJP's

most aggressive face in Bengal politics, building his campaign around issues such as governance, border security, illegal immigration and law and order.

Adhikari's political journey spans grassroots politics in Purba Medinipur to national prominence. He served as a Member of Parliament before rising as one of Bengal's strongest opposition leaders after defeating Mamata Banerjee in the fiercely fought 2021 Nandigram contest.

His elevation as the BJP Legislature Party leader now marks the most dramatic phase of his political transformation — from a former Trinamool insider to the man leading the BJP's first government in West Bengal.

### Vijay Set to Take Oath as Tamil Nadu CM After Dramatic Majority Show



**Chennai:** Tamil Nadu appears headed for a dramatic political transition as actor-turned-politician Vijay moves closer to becoming the state's next Chief Minister after gathering enough legislative support to cross the majority mark in the Assembly.

Sources said Vijay met Governor R. N. Ravi and staked claim to form the government with the backing of 118 MLAs. The swearing-in ceremony is expected on Saturday, pending an official announcement from Raj Bhavan. In its electoral debut, TVK stunned Tamil Nadu politics by winning 108 seats and emerging as the single largest party, ending the long-standing dominance of the DMK and AIADMK.

Short of a majority initially, Vijay held intense negotiations with smaller parties and independents over the past two days. Sources said support came from sections of the Indian National Congress, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist) and independent MLAs.

The Left parties are expected to extend outside support, while Congress is likely to seek representation in the new cabinet.

If sworn in, Vijay's elevation would mark one of the biggest political shifts in Tamil Nadu in decades, with TVK emerging as a powerful new regional force within a single election cycle.

### K C Venugopal Emerges Frontrunner for Kerala CM Post After UDF's Big Win



**Thiruvananthapuram:** Senior Congress leader K. C. Venugopal has emerged as the leading contender for the post of Kerala Chief Minister after the Congress high command received feedback from party observers following the United Democratic Front's sweeping Assembly election victory. Congress observers Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik submitted their assessment to party president Mallikarjun Kharge after consultations with newly elected MLAs, alliance partners and senior leaders.

Sources said the party is keen to finalise the chief ministerial race quickly, with the swearing-in ceremony likely on Monday. Venugopal, currently Congress general secretary and Lok Sabha MP from Alappuzha, is understood to be ahead of other contenders, including V. D. Satheesan and veteran Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala.

As speculation intensified, Congress workers across Kerala put up posters hailing Venugopal as the key architect of the UDF's emphatic victory, projecting him as the "hero" of the campaign. The Congress-led United Democratic Front registered a massive win in the 140-member Assembly, securing 102 seats with allies. Congress alone won 63 seats, while partners including the Indian Union Muslim League and Kerala Congress boosted the alliance tally.

The ruling Left Democratic Front, led by outgoing Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was reduced to just 35 seats in one of the biggest electoral setbacks for the Left in the state. Sources said Rahul Gandhi is expected to attend the swearing-in ceremony, while Pinarayi Vijayan may also be invited as part of the formal transition of power.

### Govt Intensifies Surveillance After Hantavirus Cases Reported on Cruise Ship

**New Delhi:** The Union Health Ministry has stepped up surveillance and precautionary monitoring following reported hantavirus infections aboard the cruise ship MV Hondius, even as global health authorities continue to assess the overall risk as low. Officials said the Centre is closely tracking the situation in coordination with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), the World Health Organization and other international agencies.

### High-Level Probe Intensifies Into Bokaro Treasury Withdrawal Scam



**Bokaro:** The investigation into alleged illegal withdrawals from the Bokaro Treasury under the salary head gathered pace on Friday as a high-level state government inquiry team launched an extensive probe into the suspected financial irregularities.

The team, led by Amitabh Kaushal, Principal Secretary of the Excise and Prohibition Department, conducted inspections across multiple offices, including the Bokaro Treasury, SP office and Circuit House, while examining a large volume of official records linked to the case. Officials said thousands of pages of certified documents were collected and taken to Ranchi for detailed scrutiny. The records include salary memos, master rolls, bank account details, Temporary Identification Number (TIN)-related documents and files connected to Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and other officials.

The inquiry team closely inspected the Accounts Section, General Branch and offices of clerical and accounting staff at the SP office before moving to the treasury, where sections handling bill receipts and salary processing came under scanner.

Sources said the probe is being conducted under provisions of the Jharkhand Treasury Code, Police Manual and Jharkhand Finance Rules to trace possible procedural violations and identify accountability in the suspected scam. Officials indicated that the team may revisit Bokaro if further examination of the seized records reveals additional irregularities or financial links.

### ECI lifts MCC in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Puducherry

**New Delhi:** The Election Commission of India has lifted the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry following the declaration of Assembly election results. In an official communication issued to the Union Cabinet Secretary, Chief Secretaries of states and Chief Electoral Officers, the Commission stated that the MCC has ceased to operate with immediate effect in all states and Union Territories where elections and Assembly bypolls were conducted. However, the poll body clarified that the Model Code of Conduct will continue to remain in force in Falta Assembly Constituency after fresh elections were ordered there. Polling in the Falta constituency will be held on May 21, while counting of votes is scheduled for May 24.

## DRDO, Indian Air Force Successfully Test Indigenous TARA Glide Weapon

**New Delhi:** In a significant boost to India's indigenous defence capabilities, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) have successfully carried out the maiden flight trial of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon system off the coast of Odisha.

The successful test marks a major milestone in India's efforts to strengthen its precision-strike arsenal with homegrown technology. TARA is India's first indigenous glide weapon system designed to convert conventional unguided bombs into precision-guided weapons capable of accurately striking ground targets from extended ranges.

Developed by Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat (RCI) along with other DRDO laboratories, the system uses advanced low-cost technologies to significantly enhance the accuracy, lethality and operational ef-



fectiveness of conventional warheads.

Defence officials said the weapon system is aimed at improving the combat capability of the Indian Air Force by enabling low-cost precision attacks against enemy ground-based targets. The glide kit can transform standard bombs into smart munitions, reducing dependence on expensive imported systems.

The maiden trial was conducted successfully with support from the Indian Air

Force, marking an important achievement for India's rapidly expanding indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, the IAF, Development-cum-Production Partners (DePP), and Indian industry stakeholders associated with the project. He described the successful flight trial as a major advancement towards strengthening India's self-reliant defence capabilities. DRDO Chairman Samir V

Kamat also praised the scientists, engineers and industry partners involved in the project, calling the successful test a key milestone in India's defence research and innovation journey.

Officials said production activities linked to the TARA system have already begun with the participation of Indian industry partners, underlining the government's push for indigenous defence production under the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative.

## Supreme Court directs setting up of special courts for pending NIA trials

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court today directed that at least one special court be established to deal with 10 to 15 pending trials in cases probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The apex court. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the special courts should be set up within a month.

The top court, hearing a



suo motu case, directed that no other cases shall be entrusted to the special courts and the trial

would be conducted on a day-to-day basis. The bench said the special court judges would en-

sure that at least one trial is concluded within a month. It said two special courts would be set up if the number of pending trials were above 15. The bench highlighted that early disposal would balance the rights of the accused and victims both. The suo motu petition was initiated following concerns that NIA trials were languishing for years.



**Creative Interiors**  
www.creativeinteriorsranchi.com

Reimagine Your Heaven

We turn dreams into reality.

+91 99391 09311 | 79039 57387  
8th Lane, Netaji Nagar, Kantatoli, Ranchi

**For Advertisements**  
call : 9431744001  
mail4daily@gmail.com

**Research Assistance**  
# Research Paper writing  
# Journal Publication  
# Thesis writing  
# Book Publication

# Thesis to Book conversion  
CALL : 9334220098 ; 9431744001

**Research Assistancess**  
**Thesis Writing**  
NO PROBLEM!  
(Any possible Subject/Topic)  
Research Paper writing / Publication  
Call / Whatsapp/Message  
+91-9334220098 / 9431744001

# "From Ruin To Renewal": PM Modi On Somnath Temple's 75th Anniversary

**PM Modi marks 75 years of Somnath Temple restoration highlighting unity and civilisational spirit.**

**Tamil Nadu.(Agency)**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that every part of Bharat is sacred, bound together by a sense of oneness that transcends geography, and in a world often marked by divisions, this spirit of unity is more relevant than ever. PM Modi, in a signed article marking 75 years since the restored Somnath Temple was reopened to devotees, said the struggles and sacrifices of those who laid down their lives to protect the temple in Gujarat and those who rebuilt it time and again will never be forgotten. He said in a world often marked by divisions, this spirit of unity is more relevant than

ever and Somnath will continue to stand tall in all its glory because the sense of unity and shared civilisational consciousness lives on in the hearts of every Indian.

"Countless individuals from different corners of India contributed to restoring its glory. They saw every part of Bharat as sacred, bound together by a sense of oneness that transcended geography. In a world often marked by divisions, this spirit



of unity is more relevant than ever," he said. He said as a tribute to this, remembering the extraordinary courage of a thousand years, there will be special pujas at Somnath for the next thousand days. It is gladdening to see several

people donating for these pujas as well, he said. "I urge my fellow Indians to travel to Somnath in this special time. When you stand on the shores of Somnath, let its ancient echoes speak to you. You will not only be overwhelmed by devotion but will also feel the strong pulse of a civilisational spirit that refuses to fade, that is unbroken and unyielding," he said.

PM Modi said the devotees will experience Bharat's unconquerable spirit and understand why, despite every effort, the Indian culture remained undefeated and the people will have the opportunity to behold the vision of eternal triumph, which will surely be unforgettable.

The prime minister said that at the start of 2026, he had gone to Somnath for the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, marking a thousand years since the first attack on the Somnath Temple.

Now, he said, he will be back in Somnath on May 11 to mark 75 years since the inauguration of the restored temple by the then President of India, Rajendra Prasad. He said that in less than half a year, it is a privilege to be attending two important milestones relating to Somnath and its journey from ruin to renewal or what everyone describes as from Vidhvans to Srijan.

## Vande Mataram row: Owaisi opposes Cabinet move on legal protection

**Asaduddin Owaisi has objected to the Union Cabinet's move to give Vande Mataram the same statutory protection as Jana Gana Mana. He cited the Constitution, while the BJP said the objection reflected resistance to cultural integration.**



**Hyderabad.(Agency)**

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday objected to the Union Cabinet's decision to grant 'Vande Mataram' the same statutory protection as the national anthem 'Jana Gana Mana', saying the song cannot be treated on par with the anthem, as it is an ode to a goddess. The nation does not run in the name of a god or goddess and it does not belong to one god or goddess, he said.

In a post on X, he said, "Jana Gana Mana celebrates India and its people, not a particular religion. Religion nation. The man who wrote Vande Mataram was sympathetic to the British Raj and despised Muslims. Netaji Bose, Gandhi, Nehru, and Tagore all rejected it."

Referring to the Constitution of India, he said the Preamble begins with "We, the People" - not "Bharat Maa". It promises "liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship". The very first provision of the Constitution, Article 1, describes "India, that is Bharat" as a Union of States, he said. In the Constituent Assembly, some members wanted the Preamble to begin in the name of a goddess and they specifically invoked Vande Mataram. Others wanted it to begin "In the name of God" and to replace "its citizens" with "her citizens". However, all these amendments were defeated, Owaisi said. "India, that is Bharat, is its people. The nation is not a goddess; it does not run in the name of a god or goddess, and it does not belong to one god or goddess," he said.

Meanwhile, Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao took exception to Owaisi's objections to the government's decision and said the AIMIM leadership views any form of cultural integration as a threat to religious exclusivism. It is not just limited to Owaisi, even Jinnah followed the same trajectory, he said.

Jinnah had not objected to Vande Mataram during the early phase of his political career as a Congress member and his opposition emerged only after he left the Congress, he said. "What does this tell us? Once politics becomes dependent on religious exclusivism, every civilisational symbol is portrayed as a threat," Rao said in a post on X. Suggesting a pattern, the BJP leader said the AIMIM opposes not just Vande Mataram, but also the Uniform Civil Code, the abolition of Triple Talaq and every attempt at creating a common framework.

# Mamata Banerjee Stays Defiant, Assembly Dissolved: What Are Her Options Now?

**As Mamata Banerjee continues to claim wrong doing in Assembly Elections, it has been anticipated the legal battle over Bengal might escalate to courts.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

After outgoing Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee refused to resign from her post, Governor RN Ravi has officially dissolved the state's legislative assembly. The term of the assembly was due to expire at 12 am on Thursday. Last evening, the Raj Bhavan made public a letter "for general information". The single-line communication read: "In exercise of the power conferred on me by sub-clause (b) of Clause (2) of Article 174 of the Constitution of India, I hereby dissolve the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal with effect from 07th of May 2026". As Banerjee continues to claim wrong doing in Assembly



Elections, it has been anticipated the legal battle over Bengal might escalate to courts.

Swapnil Tripathi, Lead at Charkha, the Constitutional Law Centre, at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy told NDTV that the constitutional position is relatively clear. Once the Assembly has been dissolved under Article 174(2)(b), its tenure comes to an end, and with it, the institutional basis of the Council of Ministers. "In such a situation, the outgoing Chief Minister may, at best, continue in a caretaker capacity-ideally at the Governor's request-until a new government is sworn in. However, this is a matter of constitutional convention rather than an enforceable rule, and the Governor retains a degree of discretion in managing this transitional phase," Tripathi explained.

## Not ones who abandon: Akhilesh's veiled dig at Congress with pics of Mamata, Stalin

**Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav took a swipe at the Congress after it snapped ties with the DMK in Tamil Nadu and extended support to actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) to form the government in the state.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav took a sharp swipe at the Congress after it snapped ties with the DMK in Tamil Nadu and extended support to actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) to form the government in the state. In a pointed message on X, Akhilesh Yadav posted a photograph with Mamata Banerjee and MK Stalin and wrote, "We are not the ones who abandon each other in times of difficulty," in an apparent jibe at the Congress amid the political turmoil in Tamil Nadu.



The dramatic fallout unfolded after the Tamil Nadu Assembly election results produced a hung assembly, with no party crossing the majority mark. The TVK emerged as the single largest

party with 108 seats in the 234-member Assembly and later decided to ally with the Congress, which has five MLAs, significantly changing the post-poll political equations in the state.

Upset over the Congress move, the DMK on Thursday declared that the "INDIA bloc is gone" after the grand old party broke its alliance with the MK Stalin-led party and backed the TVK in its bid to form the government.

On Thursday, Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar again turned down Vijay's claim to form a government in the state. The TVK chief met the Governor at Lok Bhavan to stake claim, but was reportedly asked to return only after securing the support of 118 MLAs.

## In Contest For Kerala Top Post, A New Frontrunner In Congress

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

As the political battle over government formation continues in Tamil Nadu continues to grab eyeballs, another southern state is witnessing intense political activity over leadership selection. With the Congress-led UDF securing a massive mandate, hectic discussions are in progress both in Thiruvananthapuram and New Delhi over who will become the next Chief Minister. Multiple names are emerging as frontrunners for the top post, with senior Congress leader and AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal being seen as one of the strongest contenders. Venugopal, who was holding meetings in Kerala, returned today and met party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

Congress office, Youth Congress office and Kerala House. Supporters raised slogans demanding that Venugopal be made the next Chief Minister.

The Alappuzha MP has made a strong pitch for the role, highlighting his



contribution in strategizing and coordinating the campaign. But he said the party high command will evaluate leadership capability, administrative experience and the views of MLAs before taking a final call. Another major contender is VD Satheesan, who led the Congress campaign in Kerala and played a key role in the election.

## Centre authorises J&K LG to exercise telecom powers during emergencies, public safety situations

**SRINAGAR.(Agency)**

The Centre has empowered the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise telecom-related powers in the interest of public safety and during emergencies in the Union Territory. According to a gazette notification issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the President in pursuance of clause (1) of Article 239 of Constitution, directed the Lt Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, shall until further orders exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the State government under sub section (2) of Section 20 of the Telecommunication Act, 2023 (44 of 2023) within the Union Territory.

The LG will exercise these powers under the control of the President of India and shall remain valid till further orders.

The notification has defined the authority to exercise telecom-related powers in the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and authorises the LG to exercise telecom-related powers on behalf of the government in J&K.

Earlier, when J&K was a state, such powers used to vest with the state government. LG Manoj Sinha, by using the Telecom powers, can order monitoring of telecom communication, temporarily block transmission when required by law, allow interception of calls and messages during any public emergency or in the interest of public safety.

## AIADMK-DMK Tie-Up Buzz Amid Vijay Suspense: What's Next For Tamil Nadu?

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

**Vijay's TVK won 108 seats in the April election but fell 10 short of majority, the scenario leading to chaos in Tamil Nadu as the actor tries to rally the extra numbers while his rivals - the DMK and AIADMK - plot a historic alliance to keep him out of power.**

The stand-off between Tamil Nadu Governor RV Arlekar and superstar actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam - which won 108 seats in last month's election to finish as the single-largest party, though 10 short of majority - seemed to have opened the doors for an unprecedented Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam alliance.

But hours later NDTV was told "nothing has been decided on outside support to the AIADMK". Sources insisted the party would honour the governor's decision to give Vijay time till May 10. On Friday afternoon, sources said the AIADMK had been asked to cut ties with the Bharatiya Janata Party, a 'communal party' - with which it had allied for the election - before any discussion. The DMK indicated it could only



then consider external support, though with additional conditions, such as ministerial berths for smaller allies like the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi.

The DMK reportedly hopes this will persuade the VCK to deny Vijay two more seats as he tries to put together a post-poll coalition. And that plan

seems to be working; separately, sources said the VCK - which seemed to be leaning towards Vijay - is now back with the DMK and is talking to the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Communist Party of India. The CPM and CPI were also approached by Vijay, who seems to be working off a Congress + Left + VCK formula to pick up nine extra seats to put the TVK inches from the majority mark of 118. But the Left, which has four seats, is not seen to be in favour of a DMK-AIDMK alliance, preferring to stay neutral or, as some within want, move to ally with Vijay and the TVK.

CPI General Secretary D Raja told reporters Arlekar must follow "established practices, conventions" and invite Vijay to have first shot at forming the government. On a possible DMK-AIADMK deal, he said: "I do not know."

## Op Sindoor enforced our red lines

ONE year ago, on the night of May 6-7, 2025, India carried out precision strikes on nine terrorist targets in Pakistan, including the headquarters of Lashkar-e-Taiba at Muridke and of Jaish-e-Mohammed at Bahawalpur. This came in response to the horrific massacre of Indian tourists in Pahalgam by terrorists linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba. Code-named Operation Sindoor, it marked a new phase in India's resolve to enforce its counterterrorism red lines. The crisis escalated as Pakistan launched hundreds of drones into Indian airspace. As the fighting continued, the Indian Air Force carried out damaging strikes on Pakistani airbases at Chaklala, Rafiqi, Rahim Yar Khan, Sargodha, Bholari and Jacobabad on the night of May 9-10. On May 10, Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations called up his Indian counterpart with a request for a ceasefire, which was accepted. Operation Sindoor lasted only 88 hours, but its brevity should not be confused with limited significance. It offers important lessons for how the Indian military should prepare for the next crisis with Pakistan. Four imperatives stand out.

The first is an intense and compressed battle cycle. Operation Sindoor demonstrated how quickly a crisis can escalate, both vertically through the expanding use of force and horizontally across a wider geography. While the operation was largely confined to the land and air domains, the next crisis could extend to the maritime domain, with naval forces playing a more active role. The geography of conflict will also expand into the digital realm, with cyber operations targeting critical infrastructure. In such a conflict, war will no longer unfold in a neat sequence. Intelligence, targeting, precision strike, air defence, drone warfare, escalation management, diplomatic outreach and information operations will occur almost simultaneously. This demands a high state of military readiness as the side that enters the crisis with prepared options will enjoy a decisive advantage over the side that improvises under pressure. This is also where jointness will be tested. In a short, high-intensity conflict, delays caused by service silos can become strategic vulnerabilities. What is essential is integrated planning, common target folders, interoperable communications, shared situational awareness and pre-agreed escalation options. Jointness, therefore, must not be treated as a fashionable slogan but the fundamental operational grammar of the compressed battle cycle. Second, new technologies are no longer lessons to be drawn from distant wars but are already present on our battlefields. Operation Sindoor was described as South Asia's first drone war. In the year since, we are seeing a much greater induction of drones in the inventories of both militaries. Drone warfare will be central in the next conflict. Future crises are also likely to see greater use of long-range standoff weapons and precision missiles, allowing air forces to strike without crossing borders. Because such attacks are launched from a distance and viewed on screens far from the battlefield, they can appear controlled, clinical and almost risk-free. That makes them politically attractive. But this perception is dangerous. When both sides believe they can strike from afar without paying an immediate price, the threshold for using force may lower, and escalation can become faster.

Third, information warfare is no longer a sideshow, but a central theatre of conflict. In Operation Sindoor, even as kinetic strikes were being carried out, a fierce parallel battle of perceptions unfolded across television screens, media outlets and social networks. The information space was flooded with fake news, exaggerated claims, misinformation and disinformation.

## State verdicts redraw India's political map

After the defeat of the TMC and the DMK, the

The verdict in the four states (Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal) and Puducherry has resulted in a change in governments in three states (West Bengal, Kerala and TN) and the retention of the governments in two states (Assam and Puducherry). These verdicts will have deep implications for national politics. They indicate that for winning elections, parties need a combination of factors: leadership, party workers on the ground, strategy of political mobilisation, picking up the right issue to connect with the voters, work done by the government and a credible promise to voters. The results indicate that welfare schemes or freebies alone may not guarantee the victory for a party. These victories have helped the BJP form the government in one more state and the party has moved ahead in establishing its political dominance. The defeat of two strong regional parties which had posed strong resistance to the BJP -- the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and the DMK in Tamil Nadu -- raises the bigger question about the future of regional parties in Indian politics in the coming years.

It also raises the question about the path ahead for the INDIA alliance partners since two of its strong allies, the TMC and the DMK, are not as strong as they were before the elections. This fact is important as from INDIA alliance's point of view, two important states -- UP and Punjab -- go to the polls early next year and other states like Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh having elections later. The NDA retained power in Assam and Puducherry, where it was the incumbent party. Not only did the NDA register a massive victory in Assam, winning 102 of the 126 seats, the BJP alone managed to get a majority, winning 82 seats with a 37.8% vote share. Considering that the incumbent governments lost power (Kerala, TN and West Bengal), this is a significant achievement for the ruling NDA alliance in these two states. While many factors contributed to the victory of the NDA alliance in these two states, it should be seen as an endorsement of the work done by the ruling NDA alliance in these states. The defeat of the LDF government in Kerala, the DMK alliance government in TN and the TMC government in West Bengal is a clear sign of strong anti-incumbency due to increased dissatisfaction of the voters with the governance in these states. One should not forget that the TMC was in power in West Bengal for 15 years while both the LDF in Kerala and DMK alliance in TN were in power for the last one decade. But there is no thumb rule of anti-incumbency if a party has been in power for very long. We have seen governments being in power for very long periods. The Left front had been in power in West Bengal for a long 34 years (1977-2011). The BJP has been in power in Gujarat since 1998, the Sikkim Democratic Front ruled Sikkim



for 25 years ((1994-2019) and the Biju Janata Dal was in power in Odisha for 24 years (since 2000) before being defeated in 2024. But a big negative swing of votes against the TMC in West Bengal, the DMK alliance in TN and the LDF in Kerala is a sign of dissatisfaction with the incumbent parties in these states. In Bengal, the TMC vote share declined by 8.2%. In TN, the DMK alliance vote share declined by 13.9% while in Kerala, the vote share of the LDF declined by 7.6%.

### Impact on national politics

The victory in Bengal is extremely significant for the BJP as the party had faced strong resistance from the TMC in the past. This victory has also helped the BJP in expanding its political wings. Now, the BJP, either alone or with allies, is the ruling party in 22 states. These states account for nearly 78% of the country's population. This is not a small achievement for the BJP which had governments only in seven states when it formed the government at the Centre in 2014. In 2014, the Congress, either alone or with its allies, was in power in 14 states while the regional parties were in power in seven states.

Twelve years later, in 2026, the Congress and its allies have governments in six states while the regional parties have governments in three states. It is also important to note that except for Jharkhand, where the Jharkhand Mukti Morch, along with its allies, is in the government, none of the INDIA alliance partners are in government in any other state. Not that the parties can't play an important role in politics while being in the opposition. They can. But there is a huge difference in the morale of leaders and party workers when in government and in opposition. The Congress has lost elections in Assam, but there was very little hope for the party in Assam. In Bengal, it was almost a non-entity while in TN, it was a junior partner in the DMK alliance. But the victory in Kerala is important for the Congress for two reasons. One, the party will have a government in one more state. So these elections add to the tally of Congress's own governments. Second, after the defeat of the TMC and the DMK, the Congress's victory could help the INDIA alliance settle the question of who should lead the alliance, a question which keeps popping up now and then. At least for a few years.

## Heat and storms: Region grappling with a volatile climate cycle

The region is grappling with a volatile climate cycle, with early heat stress followed by erratic storms

A shower of hailstones in May in parts of Punjab, including Chandigarh, is a clear indication that shifting weather patterns are becoming the norm across North India. Unseasonal rain and high-velocity winds have once again exposed the fragility of the region's farm economy. Coming as wheat procurement peaks, the damage is not in the fields alone but also in mandis, where vast quantities of grain lie in the open, vulnerable to moisture and spoilage. For farmers, this is a cruel post-harvest blow: the crop is sold, but its value is suddenly uncertain. Procurement at MSP has expanded, but storage and logistics have not kept pace. Agencies such as the Food Corporation of India continue to rely on inadequate covered facilities, while delayed lifting leaves grain exposed to the elements. Temporary fixes



— tarpaulin sheets and ad hoc stacking — are no substitute for modern, weather-resilient infrastructure. The region is grappling with a volatile climate cycle, with early heat stress followed by erratic

storms. Such swings also threaten the upcoming paddy season, where soil conditions and power-dependent irrigation will be critical. Meanwhile, wind damage to rural power lines has added another layer of uncertainty ahead of peak agricultural demand. Soaring temperatures are already pushing up power demand and straining water resources. In the hills of Himachal, the same weather pattern carries different risks, including landslides, disrupted tourism and potential harm to horticulture, particularly fruit crops at a sensitive stage.

The region, heavily dependent on agriculture, stands particularly vulnerable. What is needed is a coordinated, forward-looking approach. State governments must invest in climate-resilient agriculture, strengthen localised forecasting systems and ensure that advisories actually reach farmers in real time. Inter-state coordination, too, is essential, given the shared ecological and economic landscape.

## Dent in Muslim vote bank hurt TMC

Some Muslims in Bengal seem convinced that voting for 'secular' parties will not protect them

WHEN Mamata Banerjee returned to power in 2021, with over 48.5% votes for the Trinamool Congress (TMC), it was clear that she had ridden a wave of support from West Bengal's Muslim voters. The BJP had garnered a vote share of 38%, almost all of which would have come from the state's 70% Hindu population. It meant that the TMC would have, at best, got 30% of its votes from Hindus and the remaining 18.5% from Muslims. This suggested that nearly 70% of the Muslim voters backed Mamata in 2021. This time, when the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls disenfranchised 27 lakh living, breathing voters in West Bengal, the TMC alleged that this was meant to target its supporters. The evidence indicated that Muslims might have been disproportionately affected in the final exercise, and it is highly likely that these people would have voted for the TMC in previous elections.

Despite SIR removing dead and living voters, the actual turnout was much higher than in 2021. Nearly 35 lakh more people voted in 2026. Both the BJP and TMC saw this as a sign of their impending victory. The BJP argued that the Election Commission of India (ECI) had made voting safe and people had come out in larger numbers to defeat the incumbent. The TMC claimed that the high turnout was because voters, especially Muslims, wanted to defeat the partisan SIR process.

Some of the highest turnouts were recorded in the very seats most affected by SIR deletions. One reason for this was that the number of voters had fallen, reducing the denominator. But several political pundits, and reporters on the ground, argued that Muslims had come out to vote in larger numbers because they were scared that a BJP victory would endanger their very existence as citizens of India. The general consensus was that the TMC's share of Muslim votes would rise further, as Muslims

had consolidated behind the party, most likely to keep the BJP out of Bengal. Some West Bengal watchers calculated that if another 15-16% of Muslims were to vote for Mamata, her overall vote share would rise by 5 percentage points, counteracting any potential slide in Hindu votes. As it turned out, the TMC's vote share slipped by 7.5 percentage points. If one assumes a Muslim consolidation behind Mamata, then it would follow that there was a drop of 10-11 percentage points in Hindu votes for the TMC. But a closer look at the voting pattern in the seats with high Muslim population punctures this picture. There are at least 32 seats in Bengal where Muslims account for more than 50% of the electorate. The estimate by pollsters is higher — 38-42 seats — but these 32 are on most lists. The TMC had won all 32 in 2021, and got an unassailable 57.7% vote share. This time, its vote share in these constituencies dropped to 41.4% — a massive decline of 16.3 percentage points. Was this because of the deletion of Muslim voters during the SIR process? That didn't affect the final turnout in these seats, which was 4.9 lakh — 7.6% higher than in 2021. Neither did the TMC lose its votes entirely to the BJP. In fact, the BJP's vote share in these seats rose by only 4.6 percentage points, from 22.1% in 2021 to 26.7%. If we assume that most of these were Hindus who had voted for the TMC last time, then there's still another 11-12% of the TMC's votes — mostly Muslim — which went to others. The largest chunk moved to the Congress and the Left-ISF (Indian Secular Front) combine. These three parties had fought together in 2021 and polled 15.9% of the votes in these 32 seats. This time, their combined vote share — although they fought

separately — rose to 23.3%. That's a gain of 7.4 percentage points, and most of this would have been Muslim votes that switched from the TMC. This points to a growing acceptance among Muslims, in these seats, of the ISF led by Pirzada Naushad Siddiqui of the Furfura Sharif shrine. The TMC also lost votes to

Murshidabad on the BJP ticket.

This time, he contested the elections as his own party's candidate. Just a few weeks before voting, the TMC alleged that it had caught Kabir in a sting operation, asking for money to get Muslim voters to back him. Although Kabir denied it, many believed that this was enough to defang the AJUP factor. The reality turned out to be very different. The AJUP won two of these 32 seats, and took away 3-4% of the TMC's Muslim votes.

It is tempting to put this down to Muslims being fed up of 'appeasement' and 'vote bank' politics. The truth could be much more worrying. Even though Siddiqui and Sharif claim to represent everyone, the thrust of their rhetoric is sectarian. Their success suggests that a section of Muslims have moved towards parties which focus only on their concerns as Muslims. That is where they feel safe, at a time when they are being threatened not just with disenfranchisement but also losing their citizenship. Even when they know that parties like the AJUP and the ISF cannot fight the BJP at the state level, they are willing to vote for them in places where Muslims are in majority. This is an unexpected collateral damage of the SIR process. A section of Muslims in Bengal appears to be convinced that voting for the so-called 'secular' parties will not protect them — they have to organise through overtly 'Muslim' parties. This is an unfortunate descent into ghettoisation that West Bengal had evaded till now.



Humayun Kabir's Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP). Kabir was part of the Trinamool till last December, when he was suspended for planning to build a 'Babri Masjid' in Bengal. Back then, the TMC had accused him of trying to cause communal polarisation in cahoots with the BJP. Indeed, Kabir had joined the BJP in 2018 and even fought the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from



# वेकेशन

## में अपने बच्चों को बिजी रखने के लिए अपनाएं ये तरीके

के लिए गर्मी की छुट्टियों में क्रिएटिव आर्ट क्लासेस जरूर ज्वाइन करवाएं। ऐसा करने से उनकी छुट्टियां बोरिंग नहीं होगी और वह मौज-मस्ती से अपने दोस्तों के साथ अपनी वेकेशन को बिता सकेंगे।

### - रूटीन एक्सरसाइज क्लासेस लगाएं

अगर आप अपने बच्चों को वेकेशन में कहीं घूमने के लिए नहीं लेकर जा सकते तो छुट्टियों में बच्चों को घर में बैठने की जगह रूटीन एक्सरसाइज जैसे कि योगा, कराटे, स्वीमिंग क्लासेस आदि लगाने के लिए प्रेरित करें।

### - घर में आपके साथ मदद करने के लिए कहें

छुट्टियों में बच्चों को बिजी रखना चाहते हैं तो आप अपने साथ घर के छोटे-छोटे कामों में बच्चों को मदद भी ले सकते हैं। जैसे कि आप बच्चों के कमरे में पड़ी बुक और टॉय को अच्छे से अरेंज कर सकते हैं। ऐसा करने से आपके बच्चे बिजी तो रहेंगे ही साथ ही वह क्लीनलीनेस और डिसिप्लिन भी सिखेंगे।

### - फैमिली ट्रिप पर साथ लेकर जाएं

बच्चों की वेकेशन में उन्हें घूमने के लिए फैमिली ट्रिप प्लान करें। ऐसा करने से आप अपने बच्चों के साथ क्वालिटी टाइम बिता सकते हैं और बच्चे इस फैमिली ट्रिप को हमेशा याद भी रखेंगे।

बच्चों को गर्मियों की छुट्टियां होते ही ज्यादातर पेरेंट्स अपने बच्चों के साथ वेकेशन मनाने की तैयारी पहले से ही करने लगते हैं। हर मां-बाप चाहते हैं कि उनके बच्चे अपनी छुट्टियां मौज और मस्ती से बिताएं। ऐसे में हर बच्चे का मन होता है कि वह अपने पेरेंट्स के साथ किसी वेकेशन पर जाएं। पर कुछ पेरेंट्स काम में बिजी होने के कारण बच्चों के साथ वेकेशन पर नहीं जा पाते। इसलिए आज हम पेरेंट्स को कुछ ऐसे टिप्स बताएंगे जिसे वह अपने बच्चों को वेकेशन में बिजी रख सकते हैं। तो आइए जानते हैं...

### - एक्टिविटीज़ में भाग लेने के लिए भेजें

माता-पिता को चाहिए कि वह अपने बच्चों को घर में बिठाने की जगह स्कूल में ऑर्गेनाइज की जानेवाली एक्स्ट्राक्यूरिकलर एक्टिविटी में भेजें। ऐसा करने से वह अपने स्कूल फ्रेंड्स के साथ एक्टिविटीज़ में भाग लेने के लिए आसानी से तैयार भी हो जाएंगे।

### - समर कैंप

गर्मी की छुट्टियों में समर कैंप लगाने के लिए बच्चों की एडमिशन करवा

### दें क्योंकि इन कैंप

को लगाने से आपके बच्चों को

अलग अनुभव मिलता है और साथ ही वह

स्वतंत्र रूप से चीजों को मैनेज करना भी सीख सकते हैं।

### - क्रिएटिव आर्ट क्लासेस

जो बच्चे क्रिएटिव आर्ट का शौक रखते हैं तो उन्हें उसका शौक पूरा करने के लिए

पेरेंट्स अपने काम में इतना ज्यादा व्यस्त रहते हैं कि उनके पास बच्चों के लिए टाइम ही नहीं होता। भागदौड़ की जिंदगी और बदलती जीवनशैली के कारण वह दिनभर तो बच्चों के साथ टाइम बिता नहीं पाते, पर इस दूरी को कम करने के लिए वह रात को बच्चों के साथ सोते हैं। आज हम आपको बच्चों के साथ सोने से फायदों के बारे में बताएंगे। तो आइए जानते हैं...

### - सुरक्षित महसूस करना

बच्चे अक्सर रात को अकेले सोने से डर कर उठ जाते हैं और उनकी नींद पूरी नहीं होती। ऐसे में स्वयं को असुरक्षित महसूस करते हैं। कभी-कभी तो बच्चे डर कर भी रोने लगते हैं। ऐसे बच्चों अक्सर अपने मां-बाप के

## बच्चे के साथ सोने के हैं बहुत सारे फायदे

साथ स्वयं को सुरक्षित महसूस करते हैं।

### - हेल्दी बैड टाइम रूटीन

समय पर सोने से नींद तो अच्छी आती ही है साथ ही हमारा स्वास्थ्य भी अच्छा रहता है। इसलिए पेरेंट्स को चाहिए कि वह बच्चों में हेल्दी बैड टाइम रूटीन डालने के लिए उनके साथ ही सोएं।

### - मानसिक रूप से करीब

रात को बच्चों के साथ सोने आप उनके दिन की हर हरकत के बारे में आसानी से पूछ सकते हैं। ऐसा करने से आपका बच्चा आपके साथ अपने दिल की सारी बातें बताएगा। अगर उसे कोई परेशानी है तो वह आपसे कहेगा और बिना किसी मानसिक परेशानी लिए आराम से सो पाएगा।

### - समय बिताना

यदि आपका बच्चा हर रोज आपसे कहानी सुन कर सोता है तो इसका मतलब है कि उसकी सोने की इच्छा नहीं है और आपके साथ कुछ वक्त बिताना चाहता है। इसलिए जो मां-बाप अपने बच्चों के साथ दिन में समय नहीं बिता पाते वह रात को बच्चों के साथ समय बिताने के लिए जरूर सोएं। - अच्छे संस्कार जो बच्चे रात के समय अपने पेरेंट्स के साथ सोते हैं उन्हें कहानियां सुना कर आप अच्छे संस्कार दे सकते हैं। इन कहानियों से उन्हें बहुत सारी सीख भी मिलती है जिन्हें वह हमेशा याद रखते हैं।

### - आत्मसम्मान में वृद्धि

जो बच्चे अपने पेरेंट्स के साथ सोते हैं उनमें आत्मसम्मान में वृद्धि होती है। ऐसे बच्चे किसी के दबाव में कम रहते हैं और वह ज्यादा खुश रहते हैं।

पहले मनोरंजन के नाम पर बच्चे बहुत सारे खेल खेलते थे, जिसमें ज्यादातर आऊटडोर गेम्स शामिल होते थे। वह अपना अधिकतम समय कहानी सुन कर या खेल-कूद में बिताया करते हैं लेकिन अब तो टैलीविजन, वीडियो गेम्स और कंप्यूटर ही उनकी पहली पसंद बन गए हैं। टैलीविजन और वीडियो गेम्स के सामने बैठे वह अपने शरीर को बिल्कुल भी हिलाना पसंद नहीं करते। लेकिन यह पेरेंट्स की जिम्मेदारी बनती है कि वह अपने बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य का पूरा ध्यान रखें। बच्चे के शरीर की तरह उनकी आंखें भी बहुत कोमल होती हैं। अगर छोटी उम्र में ही चश्मा लग जाएं तो पूरी उम्र उससे पिछ नहीं छुटता। यदि आपको यह लगता है कि आपके बच्चे की नजर कमजोर हो रही है तो नीचे दिए गए लक्षणों को ध्यान में रखें। अगर लक्षण दिखाई दे तो तुरंत आंखों की जांच करवाएं।

1. बार-बार आंखों को मलना यह बच्चों की कमजोर नजर की निशानी हो सकती है। वैसे कई बच्चों को वैसे भी आंखें मलने की आदत होती है।
2. लगातार सिर दर्द की होने के पीछे कई कारण हो सकते हैं लेकिन लेकिन अगर बच्चे को टीवी देखते या पढ़ाई करते समय सिर दर्द हो तो यह आई साइड विक की निशानी हो सकती है।
3. अगर बच्चा एक आंख बंद करके टीवी देखे या वीडियो गेम खेले तो समझ लें कि उसे चश्मा लगाने वाला है।
4. तेज रोशनी में पलके झपकना और धीमी रोशनी को ओर बढ़ते वक्त धब्बे नजर आते हैं तो यह लक्षण विटामिन की कमी के हैं। अपने बच्चे के आहार में विटामिन ए की मात्रा को बढ़ाएं और उसे रोज सुबह गाजर का जूस पिलाएं।
5. भंगापन कई बार बच्चे मजाक में भी अपनी नजरों को तिरछा करते हैं। यदि ये मजाक ना होकर हर दूसरे, तीसरे दिन की आदत बनती जा रही है तो अपने बच्चे की आंखों का इलाज कराएं।
6. सिर को बार-बार घुमाना भी कमजोर नजर का एक लक्षण है। यदि आपका बच्चा टी.वी. देखते समय बीच-बीच में आंखों को बंद करके सिर को हिलाता रहता है, तब इस लक्षण पर ध्यान दें।

## इन लक्षणों से पहचानें बच्चे की नजर कमजोर है

7. अगर बच्चे को दूर से कोई चीज साफ ना नजर आए और वह उसे देखने के लिए बहुत करीब आए तो बच्चे की नजर जरूर चैक करवाएं।
8. आई बॉल की गति से लक्षण को पहचानना मुश्किल हो सकता है। इस लक्षण को पहचानने के लिए बात करते वक्त आपको अपने बच्चे की आंखों को गौर से देखना होगा। यदि आई बॉल की गति में कुछ भिन्नता नजर आए तो तुरंत एक नेत्र विशेषज्ञ से संपर्क करें।
9. नींद पूरी ना होने के कारण भी बच्चों की आंखें लाल हो सकती हैं लेकिन रोज लालगी आती है तो नजर टेस्ट जरूर करवाएं।
10. आंखों में दर्द के कारण बच्चे को आंखों में चुबन महसूस होती है तथा उसके आंखों से पानी भी आने लगता है तो समझ लें आंखों की रोशनी कम हो



बच्चों के व्यवहार पर उसके माता-पिता के व्यवहार की छाप दिखाई देती है। यह बात बहुत सारी रिसर्च में भी कहीं गई है कि बच्चे के व्यवहार में 90 प्रतिशत असर उसके अभिभावकों के व्यवहार का ही होता है। उनके स्वभाव और सोच पर आपको वैसे ही झलक दिखाई देगी जैसा माहौल उसे बचपन से लेकर बड़ा होने तक मिला होगा। अगर माहौल खुशनुमा है तो बच्चा खुश मिजाज होगा लेकिन अगर माहौल लड़ाई-झगड़े से भरा पड़ा है तो बच्चे का स्वभाव गुस्सेल, चिड़चिड़ा और ईर्ष्या वाला होगा। बहुत सारे मातापिता ऐसे हैं जो अपने बच्चों के सामने ही लड़ाई, बहस और मारपीट शुरू कर देते हैं लेकिन क्या उन मां-बाप ने कभी सोचा है कि ऐसा करने पर बच्चे के मन पर क्या बीतती होगी या इस लड़ाई का उनके दिमाग पर कैसा असर पड़ता होगा। ऐसे माहौल से बच्चे की लाइफ में कई तरह की समस्याएं उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं। वह मानसिक रूप से बीमार पड़ सकते हैं। \* माता-पिता के झगड़ों का बच्चों पर बुरा असर

### - डिप्रेशन

बच्चे डिप्रेशन का शिकार हो जाते हैं क्योंकि उन्हें खुशहाल माहौल और प्यार नहीं मिलता।

-सहमें रहना बच्चों के सामने मारपीट, बहस और गाली-रलौच करते हुए पेरेंट्स इस बात को भूल जाते हैं कि उनकी इन हरकतों की वजह से उनके बच्चे सारी उम्र डरे सहमें रहते हैं। उन्हें किसी भी रिश्ते को निभाने में डर लगता है।

### - मानसिक रूप से परेशान

ऐसे माहौल में रहने वाले बच्चों को मानसिक विकास अच्छे से नहीं हो पाता। वह बचपन की मस्तिष्कों को खो देते हैं। कई बार तो बच्चा खुद को ही उन झगड़ों की वजह मानने लगता



है।

### - चिड़चिड़ा और गुस्सेल

झगड़े को देखकर उसका स्वभाव भी चिड़चिड़ा और गुस्सेल हो जाता है, जिसका असर जीवन भर उसकी जिंदगी में देखने को मिलता है। यही स्वभाव आगे चलकर उसकी लाइफ में बहुत सारी प्रॉब्लम खड़ी कर देता है।

### - पढ़ाई में कमजोर

ऐसे बच्चे का दिमाग कभी फ्रेश नहीं होता। वह न तो ढंग से किसी दूसरे बच्चे से बात कर पाता है और न ही पढ़ाई।

### \* इन बातों का रखें ध्यान

-माता-पिता आपसी मन-मुटाव की बातें बंद कमरे में ही निपटाएं।

-बच्चों के सामने ऐसी कोई बात न करें जो उन्हें तनाव दें।

- बच्चों को बड़ों की आपसी बातचीत से दूर रखें।

- बच्चे को खुशनुमा माहौल दें।

## मां-बाप की लड़ाई में क्यों पिसे बच्चा?

NEWS BOX

**IPL on honey-trap alert, BCCI cracks down on players' hotel room access**

New Delhi. (Agency) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Thursday, May 7, issued an eight-page directive for all the IPL teams, raising concerns about the serious breach of protocols during the ongoing tournament. BCCI also rolled out diktats for both players and teams, which will need to be adhered to in the future and with immediate effect. This comes after the various controversies, including RR manager Romi Bhinder using a phone inside the dugout and the vaping row involving Riyan Parag. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia wrote to all ten franchises on Thursday, highlighting the protocol breaches this season and urging the teams to reinforce professionalism and discipline. "The advisory has been issued in light of certain incidents observed during ongoing season and is intended to reinforce the standards of professionalism, discipline, security



awareness and protocol compliance expected from all stakeholders associated with IPL," wrote Saikia, according to PTI. The directive sets the record straight with the teams, owners and the players, pointing out the breaches that have been reported by the Anti Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) of BCCI. "It has come to the attention of the BCCI that certain incidents of misconduct and protocol violation have occurred involving players and support staff and team officials during the course of the current IPL season. These incidents if left unaddressed, carry the potential to cause significant reputational harm to the tournament, the Franchise concerned and the BCCI as the Governing Body. They may further expose individuals and franchises to legal liability and security risks of serious nature," read the statement. The message from the BCCI also pointed out the visits from unauthorised people in the players' hotel rooms as a major area of concern. "It has been observed that certain players and support staff members have permitted unauthorised persons to access their hotel rooms without the knowledge or approval of the concerned IPL franchise Team Manager. In a number of instances, Team Manager was entirely unaware of the presence of such visitors.

**Not money or parades, just want to know India is watching us: Badminton star Satwik**

MADRID. (Agency) Former men's doubles World No.1 Satwiksairaj Rankireddy clarifies the remarks that he made after India's Thomas Cup bronze medal win. Satwik felt that his comments may have been misunderstood. In an exclusive chat with India Today, Satwik vented out his frustrations and highlighted the limited support system available to Indian athletes, who compete globally in their quest for excellence and to bring pride to the nation. The Indian ace sparked buzz on social media when his Instagram story went viral, as no representative from the badminton body or the government was present at the airport to welcome the bronze medal-winning squad on their return from Denmark. In an open letter, Satwik clarified his intent behind his comments, saying that he wasn't looking for fame or taking credit away from other athletes. The last few days have brought a lot of attention to my recent comments regarding the lack of a reception for our Thomas Cup bronze medal. While I



am grateful for the overwhelming support and encouragement, I want to clarify my intent because I see many people deviating from the original point. "My words did not come from a place of wanting personal fame or taking credit away from anyone else's achievements. I have the utmost respect for every athlete who brings glory to India, regardless of the sport," said Satwik. JUST WANT TO KNOW OUR COUNTRY IS WATCHING' Satwik said that he wanted to put across a message that would start encouraging and celebrating such wins in the country, regardless of its magnitude. The Indian ace said he felt disheartened seeing that the Thomas Cup team was welcomed with silence, something he claimed would discourage young talent as well.

**Beyond Kohli's wicket: Prince Yadav reveals what he cherished most in LSG vs RCB**

**How many wickets did Prince Yadav take against RCB in IPL 2026?**

**What role has Virat Kohli played as an Impact Player for RCB in 2026?**

**What viral moment occurred between Virat Kohli and Mohammed Siraj after RCB vs GT?**

New Delhi. (Agency) When it comes to an international game or a match in the IPL, nothing is sweeter than getting the wicket of Virat Kohli in a must-win clash. Kohli had ensured that RCB got over the line in four chases, scoring 222 runs at an average of 111. But Prince Yadav changed everything with an incredible delivery at the Ekana. The Delhi pacer bowled a beauty to beat Kohli all ends up and send his off-stump for a walk as the RCB star



was dismissed for a 2-ball duck. But despite this, Prince was more happy with seeing his team win. Speaking at the press conference after the game, the LSG pacer said that Kohli's wicket wouldn't have mattered had they lost the match. "I felt good about Kohli's

wicket, but what makes me happiest is that we won the match. If I had taken the wicket and we still lost, it wouldn't have felt the same. The best feeling for me is when my team wins," said Prince.

**USING VARIATIONS PERFECTLY**

A feature of Prince's bowling in the IPL this season has been the way he has varied things up in different phases with the ball. With the new ball, 73.8% of his deliveries have consistently hit the good-length or back-of-a-length areas, the traditional control zones. When it comes to the middle overs, the LSG pacer goes for a hard length more often than not. And at the death, he leans more on full length deliveries.

But Prince remained coy on the use of variations and more happy about the fact that he was able to get the wickets at the right time to script LSG's win.

"Whether it happens in different ways or one way, as a bowler you do feel good when you take a wicket. But like I said earlier, in that situation we could only win the match by getting that wicket, and that's exactly what happened. So yes, it feels really good, absolutely," said Prince.

**Rishabh Pant's final over dilemma: Why Digvesh was picked over Shahbaz Ahmed**

Lucknow. (Agency) With 20 runs to defend in the final over against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Rishabh Pant found himself staring at the kind of decision that can define a captain's night. Lucknow Super Giants had done the hard work to stay ahead in the contest, but with Romario Shepherd and Krunal Pandya at the crease, the match was still very much alive. What made the decision trickier was the tactical corner LSG had backed themselves into. The Lucknow surface had offered enough assistance for spin through the evening, making that the logical route for the final over as well. But logic only goes so far when two powerful finishers are capable of launching even decent deliveries into the stands. Pant's choice came down to two spinners with very different appeals. Shahbaz Ahmed brought experience and control. Digvesh Rathi brought unpredictability, deception and the kind of mystery that can unsettle a batter under pressure.

A captain's toughest conversation Just before the final over began, the cameras picked up an intriguing exchange in the middle. Pant made his way in for a conversation with both Shahbaz and Digvesh, with the two bowlers appearing

more than ready to take responsibility. Captains often have the luxury of reading hesitation in moments like these. A bowler unsure of himself can make the choice easier. But there was no such signal here. Both Shahbaz and Digvesh looked convinced they were the right man



for the job, with Shahbaz particularly animated as the discussion unfolded. Pant remained composed through it all, even taking a moment to consult Mitchell Marsh before arriving at his decision. In the end, the ball went to Digvesh, a call that immediately raised eyebrows given Shahbaz's greater experience in pressure situations.

Why Romario Shepherd changed the equation This was not just about defending 20 runs. It

was about defending 20 against one of the most dangerous hitters in the competition. Romario Shepherd had already shown enough to suggest that one over was more than enough time to swing the game, while Krunal Pandya was beginning to settle into his innings at the other end. The challenge was not whether spin was the right option. The challenge was which spinner had the better chance of disrupting the batters' rhythm. Pant's explanation after the game suggested the decision was rooted in match-up thinking rather than pure instinct. "It was a tough call (to go with Rathi over Shahbaz). We were under pressure. But at the same time you've got to trust your bowler. Rathi was the right matchup for sure against Shepherd. He trusted himself and got the job done for the team." That trust was clearly central to the decision. Pant was not simply choosing between two bowling styles. He was choosing the bowler he believed could handle the moment.

The gamble that paid off As it turned out, Pant's call could not have worked out much better. Digvesh kept his composure brilliantly, conceding just 10 runs in the over and ensuring LSG closed out a memorable victory.

**Now or never for misfiring Delhi as rejuvenated Kolkata await in must-win showdown**

BARCELONA. (Agency) Delhi Capitals are back to square one. A strong auction had given them one of the most balanced squads on paper, but baffling selection calls, Axar Patel's inconsistent captaincy and an inability to read conditions at home have dragged them back into must-win territory once again. Nothing has worked consistently for DC this season. Flat pitches have not guaranteed victories, difficult surfaces have exposed their batting, big totals have slipped away, and collapses have become an alarming pattern. With their IPL 2026 campaign now hanging by a thread, Delhi head into Friday's clash against Kolkata Knight Riders knowing there is no room left for another mistake. For both teams, the playoff race is still alive only in theory. The reality is far harsher. Another defeat could leave either side staring at elimination. When Delhi Capitals and Kolkata Knight Riders meet at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Friday, it will be about far more than just two points. It will be about survival. There is no margin for error left now.



One more slip-up could effectively shut the door on the season for either side, and only one team is likely to walk away from Friday's clash still feeling in control of its playoff destiny.

Delhi Capitals are seventh on the table with eight points from 10 matches and must win all four of their remaining games to stay in contention for the playoffs. KKR are only slightly better placed in eighth with seven points from nine matches. The biggest difference between the two sides at the moment is momentum. After stumbling badly at the start of the season, Kolkata have finally found some rhythm and arrive in Delhi on the back of three straight wins. Their poor start has left them with almost no breathing space, but there is at least a sense that they are building momentum at the right time. KKR still need to win all five of its remaining matches to reach 17 points and remain alive in the playoff race. Delhi, meanwhile, still look like a side searching for clarity. That uncertainty is expected to shape one of the biggest decisions ahead of Friday's game: the pitch.

**Is Varun Chakravarthy's IPL blip a case of T20 World Cup fatigue?**

SEVILLE. (Agency) Varun Chakravarthy's inconsistent IPL 2026 season could be linked to the mental and physical toll of India's hectic T20 World Cup-winning campaign earlier this year. According to Dwayne Bravo, the Kolkata Knight Riders spinner probably needed a proper break after the World Cup before jumping straight back into another demanding tournament. This IPL season has seen several members of India's T20 World Cup-winning squad struggle for rhythm, including Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh. Speaking ahead of KKR's clash against Delhi Capitals on May 8, Bravo backed Varun and insisted the spinner's quality was never in doubt despite his uneven returns this season. "Yeah, I think in sports, especially when you play at

this level, everything is very result-oriented and sometimes people get very emotional," Bravo said. "A player like Varun, who is a



world-class spinner, has just come out of the World Cup, which was also a very hectic tournament." "So a break at the right time is always important, but no one ever questioned his ability because when you are

that good, it is only a matter of time before you come back into form."

Bravo also highlighted how mentally draining a tournament like the IPL can become, especially immediately after international duty. "The group is very supportive of him, and a mental break is also very important, especially in a tournament like the IPL where there are so many games, high pressure, and the best players competing against each other." No matter who you are as a player, you will go through these moments. There are so many other quality players struggling this season as well. "The conversation around fatigue has quietly become one of the bigger themes of IPL 2026, especially around players who were central to India's T20 World Cup triumph.

**Should DC roll the dice on Prithvi Shaw in their last-gasp IPL playoff push?**

**Delhi Capitals need a spark in their last-gasp playoff push. But should that spark come from a returning Prithvi Shaw? Here is why DC might just roll the dice.**

BENGALURU. (Agency) Delhi Capitals are running out of road. The playoffs are still theoretically within reach, but the margin for error has all but disappeared, and the decisions made in the next few days could define their entire season. Friday's clash with Kolkata Knight Riders is not quite a must-win. But it is close enough that the distinction barely matters. And in the middle of all this pressure, one question refuses to go away: is now finally the time to hand Prithvi Shaw a game?

The man who never quite got going There is something almost poetic and painful about Shaw's story. He arrived in senior cricket with everything. The footwork, the instinct, the swagger at the crease that you simply cannot coach. He looked like the real deal, and for a while, he was.

But somewhere along the way, it all got complicated. The discipline questions, the form slumps, the sense that a generational talent was slowly slipping through the cracks. Now, at a stage in his career where every opportunity feels like it could be his last in the IPL, Shaw has not played a single game for Delhi this season.

When DC brought him back to where it all started, there was a quiet optimism about it. A second chance at the franchise that first believed in him. So far, that chance has not come.

The case for and against It is completely fair to wonder why Shaw over

Abishek Porel. In DC's last game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Porel was the only batsman who showed up. He played with freedom and intent on a day when



almost everyone else went through the motions. He also offers something increasingly valuable in T20 cricket: a right-left combination at the top of the order that keeps the opposition guessing.

When a team is struggling and morale is low, sometimes what you need is not the safest option. You need a spark. Shaw, for all his recent struggles, is a player who genuinely wants to prove people wrong right now. That kind of hunger, that desperation to succeed, can be infectious in a dressing room that badly needs something to rally around. It is fair to say that Shaw might've not shown that hunger to succeed as the many other generational talents we have seen in Indian cricket. But the situation dictates that the current combination is clearly not working. The top order has been the biggest problem, and if Pathum Nissanka makes way, Shaw coming in at the top allows David Miller to slot into the middle order where his big-match experience is worth its weight in gold. The bowling has been decent enough. It is the batting that needs fixing, and it needs fixing now.

# Kritika Kamra

On Falling In Love With Gaurav Kapur: 'Never Discussed Who Fell First'

**K**ritika Kamra and Gaurav Kapur recently tied the knot in an intimate wedding ceremony at the latter's Mumbai residence on March 11, in the presence of their close friends and family members. Now, a month after their marriage, the actress has opened up about their love story and how she decided that he is the one.

#### Kritika on falling in love with Gaurav Kapur

Speaking to Miss Malini, Kritika Kamra spoke about how their relationship started with friendship and shared, "People say friendship is very important in love. I absolutely agree. It's a great feeling to be with someone who feels like your best friend." Kritika, while dismissing the idea that opposites attract, shared, "I think you need more in common to enjoy someone's company, to live with them and understand them. Attraction doesn't always consider that, but alignment is



important. Your heart and your head need to be aligned, it's not just fun and games."

"I don't know. We've never discussed who fell first. It kind of grew naturally. It started with a great friendship and instant chemistry, but the realisation that this is someone I want to be with for life took time. As the relationship evolved, that happened almost simultaneously for both of us," Kritika added, revealing that their relationship evolved over time and they never discussed who fell first.

#### More about Kritika and Gaurav's wedding

Kritika and Gaurav got married on March 11 in an intimate wedding setting with their families and a close circle of friends in attendance. They had a registered wedding at home. Kritika made her acting debut in 2007 with Yahan Ke Hum Sikandar. In 2009, she played a singer, Arohi, in Kitani Mohabbat Hai opposite Karan. She was then seen in Pyaar Ka Bandhan, Kitani Mohabbat Hai 2, and Kuch Toh Log Kahenge.

#### Kritika Kamra on work front

In 2015, Kritika played a reporter, Ananya Kashyap, opposite Rajeev Khandelwal in Reporters. She was then seen as Princess Chandrakanta in Prem Ya Paheli - Chandrakanta. She made her film debut in 2018 with Mitron. In 2021, she played a college student, Sana, in the web series Tandav.



Aamir Khan Compares Junaid Khan To Himself, Says 'Voh Lambi Race Ka Ghoda Hai, Failures Don't Faze Him'



**A**amir Khan, who is backing his son Junaid Khan's upcoming film, has opened up about how his son is a "lambi race ka ghoda". Junaid Khan made his acting debut with Maharaj, and his performance was largely appreciated in the film. He was then seen in Loveyapa, which proved to be a box office disaster. Now, he will be seen in Ek Din alongside Sai Pallavi.

In a recent chat with Radio City India, Aamir Khan spoke about how he doesn't shield Junaid. He said, "Junaid aisa nahi hai, vo mujhe kabhi kuch karne nahi dega. He is a very independent guy, very strong-willed and doesn't give up easily. Voh lambi race ka ghoda hai, jo mere baare mein bhi bola jaata tha jab main pehle pehle aaya tha. Failures don't faze him, and he's very honest with himself."

Aamir also said, "He has also followed his character in Ek Din with full honesty. Although it's not a very heroic character, he has never tried to step out of it. That shows his honesty towards his work." Aamir said that Junaid fully becomes the character he is playing on screen.

Meanwhile, Aamir Khan Productions' upcoming film, Ek Din, is gradually building strong anticipation among audiences. Touted as a tender and heartfelt love story, the film has already resonated with viewers, thanks to its captivating trailer and soulful music.

Ek Din reunites Aamir Khan with filmmaker Mansoor Khan after a significant hiatus, reviving one of Hindi cinema's most cherished creative partnerships. Together, they have gifted audiences unforgettable films like Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak, Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar, Akele Hum Akele Tum, and Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na.

With Ek Din, the duo returns to the romance genre, sparking fresh excitement among fans. Their coming together once again has heightened curiosity, with audiences keen to witness the charm they recreate on screen.

Produced under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions, Ek Din stars Sai Pallavi and Junaid Khan. The film is directed by Sunil Pandey and produced by Aamir Khan, Mansoor Khan, and Aparna Purohit. The film is set to release in theatres on 1st May 2026.

Akshay Oberoi Reuniting With Siddharth Anand In King: 'I Feel More Confident; The Scale, Discipline...'



**A**ctor Akshay Oberoi, who has reunited with Siddharth Anand after two years for "King," starring Shah Rukh Khan, has spoken about the comfort he shares with the filmmaker, and added that he feels more confident stepping into the sets of the upcoming film. Reflecting on their association, Akshay, who worked with the filmmaker in "Fighter," expressed gratitude for being called back for another project.

Akshay said: "It's been almost two years since Fighter, and collaborating with Sid again for King feels very special. With him, there's a certain level of trust that already exists. When Sid calls, I don't ask too many questions, I just arrive, because I know he will always look out for me as an actor and make sure I'm in the right place creatively."

"That's exactly what happened with King as well. He has this incredible ability to understand his actors and bring out something new in them," he added. Akshay said that working on Fighter really strengthened his wings as an actor.

"The scale, the discipline, and the kind of performance Sid expects from everyone pushes you to grow. I learned a lot during that film, and I feel more confident stepping into King now."

He says that to him it feels like the journey that began with Fighter has helped him evolve.

"I'm thankful to Sid for trusting me again and giving me another opportunity to be part of his cinematic world."

Fighter released in 2024. It stars Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone, Anil Kapoor, Karan Singh Grover, and Akshay Oberoi. The film follows Shamsheer Pathania as he fulfills his lifelong dream and becomes a member of the Indian Air Force. As he faces rigorous challenges, he must rise above his own limitations to become a true hero.

# Kangana Ranaut

Marks 20 Years In Bollywood, Shares Glimpses Of First Portfolio That Helped Her Land Gangster

**A**ctress Kangana Ranaut completed 20 years in the entertainment industry on Tuesday. Commemorating the occasion, Kangana dropped a glimpse of her first portfolio shoot on the Stories section of her Instagram handle. Kangana revealed that it was these pictures that helped her land her role in her debut movie, "Gangster". "Today I completed 20 years in the film industry, this is my first portfolio by @jatinkampani that landed me the role of Simran in Gangster," wrote the "Queen" actress on the photo-sharing app.

Marking 2 decades of "Gangster" release, Kangana also uploaded a picture from her first magazine shoot. Made under the direction of Anurag Basu, "Gangster" has been jointly produced by Mahesh Bhatt and Mukesh Bhatt of Vishesh Films.

The primary cast of the 2006 romantic thriller includes Kangana, Emraan Hashmi, and Shiney Ahuja in lead roles. The music from "Gangster", which still remains fresh in the memory of music lovers, has been composed by Pritam. Bobby Singh looked after the camera work of the drama, while Akiv Ali was the head of the editing department.

After a successful debut, Kangana went on to be a part of some exciting projects such as "Woh Lamhe..." (2006), "Life in a... Metro" (2007), "Fashion" (2008), "Raaz: The Mystery Continues" (2009), and "Once Upon a Time in Mumbai" (2010).

In 2011, she received a lot of praise for her comic timing in the movie "Tanu Weds Manu" (2011), co-starring R Madhavan. Kangana went on to bag not one, but two consecutive National Film Awards for 'Best Actress' for "Queen" in 2014 and "Tanu Weds Manu Returns" in 2015.

Following this, she went on to lead "Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi" in 2019 and "Panga" in 2020.



# एक लोटा जल, सब समस्याओं का हल : पंडित प्रदीप मिश्रा शिवमहापुराण कथा के तीसरे दिन उमड़ा आस्था का जनसैलाब

रांची, एप्रैल 9। श्री शिवाला सेवा समिति के तत्वावधान में रांची के सुकुलुहू स्थित फुटबॉल मैदान में आयोजित भव्य शिवमहापुराण कथा के तीसरे दिन गुरुवार को श्रद्धा, आस्था और भक्ति का अद्भुत संगम देखने को मिला। प्रसिद्ध कथावाचक पंडित प्रदीप मिश्रा के श्रीमुख से प्रवाहित शिवमहापुराण कथा को सुनने के लिए रांची सहित आसपास के जिलों एवं विभिन्न राज्यों से श्रद्धालु कथा स्थल पहुंचे। पूरा कथा परिसर 'हर हर महादेव', 'बोल बम' तथा 'श्री शिवाय नमस्तुभ्यं' के जयघोष से लगातार गुंजाता रहा। अपने ओजस्वी और सहज शैली में कथा वाचन करते हुए पंडित प्रदीप मिश्रा ने भगवान शिव की महिमा का वर्णन किया तथा कहा कि शिव ही सृष्टि के आधार हैं। उन्होंने श्रद्धालुओं को सत्य बोलने, माता-पिता एवं गुरुजनों का सम्मान करने, सनातन संस्कारों को जीवन में अपनाने तथा शिवभक्तिके माध्यम से जीवन को सकारात्मक दिशा देने का संदेश दिया। कथा के दौरान उन्होंने भभूत, बेलपत्र, शिवलिंग पूजन और सच्चे मन से की गई आराधना के महत्व को भी



विस्तारपूर्वक बताया। कथा के दौरान पंडित प्रदीप मिश्रा का मूल संदेश 'एक लोटा जल, सब समस्याओं का हल' श्रद्धालुओं के बीच विशेष आकर्षण का केंद्र रहा। उन्होंने कहा कि जब कोई व्यक्ति अपने घर से भगवान शिव के लिए एक लोटा जल लेकर निकलता है, तो उसके तीन दोष स्वतः समाप्त हो जाते हैं। इस संदेश को सुनते ही पूरा पंडाल 'हर हर महादेव' और 'श्री शिवाय नमस्तुभ्यं' के उद्घोष से गुंज उठा। श्रद्धालु पूरे समय मंत्रमुग्ध होकर कथा का श्रवण करते रहे।

कथा स्थल पर आस्था का जनसैलाब उमड़ा पड़ा। लगभग तीन लाख श्रद्धालु कथा में शामिल हुए। महिलाओं, युवाओं एवं बुजुर्गों में विशेष उत्साह देखने को मिला। कथा प्रारंभ होने से पूर्व ही पूरा पंडाल एवं आसपास का क्षेत्र श्रद्धालुओं से भर गया था। आयोजन स्थल को आकर्षक धार्मिक सजावट, भव्य मंच एवं सुव्यवस्थित व्यवस्था के माध्यम से पूरी तरह शिवमय वातावरण में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया है। कथा स्थल पर सुरक्षा, चिकित्सा, पेयजल, पाकिंग एवं यातायात

बाबूलाल मरांडी, भारतीय जनता पार्टी के प्रदेश अध्यक्ष आदित्य साहू, भाजपा नेता रमेश सिंह तथा रांची के डिप्टी मेयर नीरज कुमार विशेष रूप से उपस्थित हुए। सभी अतिथियों ने कथा का श्रवण किया तथा आयोजन समिति की ओर से की गई व्यवस्थाओं की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसे धार्मिक एवं आध्यात्मिक आयोजन समाज में सकारात्मक ऊर्जा, संस्कार और सामाजिक समरसता को मजबूत करने का कार्य करते हैं। कथा के मुख्य यजमान विवेक कुमार एवं उनकी पत्नी विनिता कुमारी ने पूरे विधि-विधान एवं श्रद्धा भाव के साथ पूजा-अर्चना में भाग लिया। वहीं श्री शिवाला सेवा समिति के अध्यक्ष शिरोधर कुमार लगातार आयोजन की व्यवस्थाओं की मॉनिटरिंग करते नजर आए। समिति के सदस्यों एवं स्वयंसेवकों की सक्रियता के कारण कथा स्थल पर श्रद्धालुओं को किसी प्रकार की असुविधा नहीं हुई। श्री शिवाला सेवा समिति की ओर से श्रद्धालुओं की सुविधा को ध्यान में रखते हुए व्यापक व्यवस्थाएं की गई हैं। कथा स्थल पर सुरक्षा, चिकित्सा, पेयजल, पाकिंग एवं यातायात

व्यवस्था को लेकर समिति के सदस्य एवं जिला प्रशासन लगातार सक्रिय नजर आए। कथा स्थल पर स्वयंसेवकों की टीम श्रद्धालुओं के मार्गदर्शन एवं सहयोग में जुटी रही, जिससे पूरे आयोजन में अनुशासन एवं व्यवस्था बनी रही। कथा के बाद आयोजित भंडारा में भी बड़ी संख्या में श्रद्धालुओं ने प्रसाद ग्रहण किया। देर शाम तक श्रद्धालुओं की लंबी कतारें प्रसाद वितरण स्थल पर देखी गईं। पूरे आयोजन के दौरान सेवा भाव एवं धार्मिक उत्साह का अद्भुत दृश्य देखने को मिला। समिति के पदाधिकारियों ने बताया कि शिवमहापुराण कथा केवल धार्मिक अनुष्ठान नहीं बल्कि समाज में आध्यात्मिक चेतना, संस्कार और एकता का संदेश देने का माध्यम है। कथा के आगामी दिनों में श्रद्धालुओं की संख्या और अधिक बढ़ने की संभावना को देखते हुए तैयारियों को और सुदृढ़ किया जा रहा है। कथा के समापन के पश्चात श्रद्धालुओं ने भगवान शिव की आरती में भाग लिया तथा पूरे वातावरण में भक्ति और आध्यात्मिक ऊर्जा का अद्भुत दृश्य देखने को मिला।



अज्ञात युवक का शव बरामद, हाथ पर मिला सांप काटने का निशान

धनबाद, एप्रैल 9। जिले के बरवाअड्डा थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत सहरजोरी काली मंदिर के पास नेशनल हाईवे किनारे झाड़ियों में एक अज्ञात युवक का शव मिलने से इलाके में सनसनी फैल गई। मृतक की उम्र लगभग 30 से 35 वर्ष बताई जा रही है। स्थानीय ग्रामीणों की सूचना पर बरवाअड्डा थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और शव को लेकर जांच शुरू कर दी है। फिलहाल मृतक की पहचान नहीं हो पाई है। घटना बरवाअड्डा थाना क्षेत्र के सहरजोरी काली मंदिर के पास की है, जहां नेशनल हाईवे किनारे झाड़ियों में एक युवक का शव पड़ा होने की सूचना ग्रामीणों ने पुलिस को दी। सूचना मिलते ही पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और आसपास के लोगों से पूछताछ की। पुलिस जांच के दौरान मृतक के दाहिने हाथ में सांप के काटने जैसा निशान पाया गया। वहीं उसके पास से गांजा की एक पुड़िया भी बरामद की गई है। पुलिस हर पहलू को ध्यान में रखकर मामले की जांच कर रही है। आशंका जताई जा रही है कि युवक की मौत सांप काटने से हुई हो सकती है, हालांकि इसकी पुष्टि पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट आने के बाद ही हो सकेगी। पुलिस ने शव का पंचनामा कर उसे पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज दिया है। फिलहाल मृतक की पहचान कराने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। बरवाअड्डा थाना पुलिस मामले की जांच में जुटी है।

## महिला से छेड़छाड़ और अमदरात मामले में आरोपित गिरफ्तार

पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, एप्रैल 9। जिले के किरिवरु थाना क्षेत्र में एक महिला के साथ छेड़छाड़ और अभद्र व्यवहार करने के आरोप में पुलिस ने त्वरित कार्रवाई करते हुए आरोपित युवक को गिरफ्तार कर न्यायिक हिरासत में भेज दिया है। मामले को लेकर किरिवरु थाना में गुरुवार को मामला दर्ज किया गया। पुलिस ने आरोपित के खिलाफ प्रार्थमिकी दर्ज की है। गिरफ्तार आरोपित की पहचान रजनीश कुमार उर्फ रॉकी के रूप में हुई है। वह रंजीत कुमार सिंह का पुत्र है और मेधाहालुबुरु न्यू कॉलोनी स्थित क्वार्टर नंबर 105/6 का निवासी बताया गया है। जानकारी के अनुसार आरोपित पर एक महिला के साथ छेड़छाड़ करने, अभद्र व्यवहार करने और आपत्तिजनक शब्दों का इस्तेमाल कर मानसिक रूप से प्रताड़ित करने का आरोप है। घटना के बाद पीड़िता ने किरिवरु थाना पहुंचकर शिकायत दर्ज कराई थी। शिकायत मिलते ही पुलिस ने त्वरित कार्रवाई करते हुए आरोपित को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। पुलिस ने गुरुवार को आरोपित को न्यायालय में प्रस्तुत किया, जहां से उसे न्यायिक हिरासत में जेल भेज दिया गया।

## हाई वोल्टेज बिजली के तार की चपेट में आने से वृद्ध की मौत

खूंटी, एप्रैल 9। मुरहू थाना क्षेत्र के गोड़टोली गांव में गुरुवार को 11 हजार वोल्ट के हाई वोल्टेज विद्युत तार की चपेट में आने से पांडा मुंडा (62) नामक वृद्ध की मौत हो गई। घटना उस समय हुई जब पांडा मुंडा गांव के पास खेत में मवेशी चरा रहे थे। जानकारी के अनुसार गुरुवार शाम करीब पौने चार बजे तेज हवा के बाद बूटाबादी के दौरान अचानक 11 हजार वोल्ट का बिजली तार टूटकर पांडा मुंडा के ऊपर गिर गया। करंट की चपेट में आने से उनकी मौत पर ही मौत हो गई। बताया गया कि बारिश से बचने के लिए उन्होंने छाता ओढ़ रखा था। स्थानीय लोगों के अनुसार घटना से कुछ देर पहले इलाके में तेज हवाएं चली थीं, जिससे बिजली का तार टूट गया। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही मुरहू थाना की पुलिस घटनास्थल पर पहुंची और शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए सदर अस्पताल भेज दिया।

## पेयजल संकट को लेकर 132 जलश्रोतों की हुई मरम्मत

रामगढ़, एप्रैल 9। जिले में गर्मी के मौसम को देखते हुए ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्र में नियमित जलापूर्ति होगी। जिला प्रशासन की ओर से पहले की गई है। डीसी त्रतुराज की ओर से जिला स्तर पर टास्क फोर्स का गठन किया गया है। इसके जरिए प्रतिदिन बड़ी संख्या में जलापूर्ति योजनाओं की मरम्मती होगी। विशेष जल पखवाड़ा शिविर के तहत अब तक जिले में कुल 132 जल स्रोतों की मरम्मती कराई गई है। जिनमें 100 चापानल, 28 जल मीनार, 01 पानी टैंकर और 03 अन्य जलापूर्ति योजनाएं शामिल हैं। शहरी क्षेत्र में जलापूर्ति करने के लिए नगर परिषद को कार्यकारी एजेंसी नामित किया गया है। 19 जल मीनारों की मरम्मती के लिए डीएमएफटी मद से कुल 29 लाख 38 हजार 500 रुपए की स्वीकृति दी गई है। वहीं ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जलापूर्ति करने के तहत 626 चापानलों की मरम्मती के लिए डीएमएफटी मद से 92 लाख 27 हजार 240 रुपए की स्वीकृति दी गई है। जिले वासियों को जलापूर्ति करने के तहत डीसी ने जिला प्रशासन की ओर से आयोजित किए जा रहे शिविरों में मुखिया और जनप्रतिनिधियों से बह-चर्चकर हिस्सा लेने की अपील की है। इस दौरान सभी से अपील की गई है कि वे अपने-अपने क्षेत्र में जलापूर्ति संबंधित समस्याओं को शिविर के माध्यम से या जिला प्रशासन तक पहुंचाने का कार्य करें। ताकि समस्याओं के निराकरण पर तीव्र गति से कार्य किया जा सके। उल्लेखनीय है कि अब तक आयोजित किए गए जल पखवाड़ा शिविर के तहत जिले में कुल 287 चापानलों की मरम्मती के लिए चिन्हित किया गया है। इनमें 100 चापानलों की मरम्मती की जा चुकी है। वहीं 166 जल मीनारों को मरम्मती के लिए चिन्हित किया गया है। इनमें 28 जल मीनारों की मरम्मती की जा चुकी है।

## तालाब में गिरी कार, शादी से लौट रहे दो लोगों की मौत

रांची, एप्रैल 9। रांची के तमाड़ थाना क्षेत्र में बुधवार देर रात एक सड़क हादसे में दो लोगों की जान चली गई। यह घटना चालाडी गांव के पास घटी जब एक कार अनियंत्रित होकर तालाब में जा गिरी। हादसे के वक्त कार में तीन लोग सवार थे, जिनमें से एक युवक तैरकर बाहर निकलने में सफल रहा। कार सवार सहित सभी लोग रामगढ़ जिले के बरलंगा ओपी क्षेत्र के रहने वाले थे और एक शादी समारोह से वापस लौट रहे थे। लौटने के दौरान चालाडी गांव के समीप अचानक कार का स्तूलन बिगड़ गया और



वाहन सीधे तालाब में जा गिरा। हादसे के बाद कार तेजी से पानी में डूबने लगी। कार में मौजूद शुभम गुप्ता किसी तरह बाहर निकल आया।

उसने स्थानीय लोगों और पुलिस को घटना की सूचना दी। इसके बाद ग्रामीणों की मदद से राहत और बचाव कार्य शुरू किया गया। सूचना मिलते ही तमाड़

थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और तालाब में फंसे लोगों को बाहर निकालकर तमाड़ सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र पहुंचाया गया। जहां डॉक्टरों ने 42 वर्षीय करमजीत और 40 वर्षीय रिकी गुप्ता को मृत घोषित कर दिया। घटना के बाद इलाके में शोक का माहौल है। स्थानीय लोगों ने आशंका जताई है कि कार सवार लोग नशे की हालत में हो सकते हैं, हालांकि पुलिस ने इस संबंध में कोई आधिकारिक पुष्टि नहीं की है। पुलिस का कहना है कि हादसे के कारणों की हर पहलू से जांच की जा रही है।

## पत्नी की हत्या का आरोपित पति गिरफ्तार

खूंटी, एप्रैल 9। अड़की थाना क्षेत्र के रुमचू गांव में बुधवार को रंगामनी देवी (23) की हत्या उसके पति दसाय मुंडा ने की थी। हत्या की वारदात को अंजाम देने के बाद आरोपित मुंबई भागने की फिराक में था, लेकिन पुलिस ने त्वरित कार्रवाई करते हुए उसे गिरफ्तार कर मामले का खुलासा कर दिया। यह जानकारी पुलिस अधीक्षक ऋषभ गर्ग ने गुरुवार को आयोजित प्रेस वार्ता में दी। एसपी ने बताया कि पूछताछ में आरोपित दसाय मुंडा ने अपना अपराध स्वीकार कर लिया है। उसने पुलिस को बताया कि उसका किसी अन्य युवती से अवैध संबंध था, जिसके कारण वह अपनी पत्नी से छुटकारा पाना चाहता था।

इसी उद्देश्य से उसने हत्या की योजना बनाई। पुलिस के अनुसार आरोपित बुधवार को गांव पहुंचा था। उसने अपनी पत्नी रंगामनी देवी को रुमचू स्थित नदी में नहाने के बहाने बुलाया। वहां सुनसान



स्थान पर मौका पाकर उसने दुपट्टे से गला घोटकर उसकी हत्या कर दी। घटना को अंजाम देने के बाद वह दोबारा मुंबई भागने की तैयारी में था, लेकिन पुलिस ने तकनीकी सहायता और गुप्त सूचना के आधार पर उसे गिरफ्तार कर लिया। गिरफ्तार आरोपित को पास से पुलिस ने एक मोबाइल फोन, रेलवे का जनरल टिकट और मृतका का कपड़ा बरामद किया है। उल्लेखनीय है कि बुधवार को अड़की थाना क्षेत्र के रुमचू गांव स्थित नदी किनारे पुलिस ने रंगामनी देवी का शव बरामद किया था। मामले में मृतका के पिता के बयान पर अड़की थाना में हत्या की प्रार्थमिकी दर्ज की गई थी। जांच के दौरान पुलिस को तकनीकी साक्ष्य और गुप्त सूचना के आधार पर महत्वपूर्ण सुराग मिले। इसके बाद आरोपित को गिरफ्तार कर पूरे मामले का खुलासा किया गया। इस कार्रवाई में अनुमंडल पुलिस पदाधिकारी वरुण रजक, अड़की थाना प्रभारी प्रवीण कुमार तिवारी सहित अन्य पुलिस पदाधिकारी एवं जवान शामिल थे।

## जमशेदपुर में कार में लगी आग:साई मोटर्स परिसर में बड़ा हादसा टला, शॉर्ट सर्किट से गाड़ी में आग लगने की आशंका



जमशेदपुर (पूर्वी सिंहभूम), एप्रैल 9। जमशेदपुर के गोलमुरी थाना क्षेत्र स्थित टूलाडुंगरी में गुरुवार को साई मोटर्स सेल-पचेस प्रतिष्ठान के

परिसर में खड़ी एक कार में भीषण आग लग गई। इस घटना से इलाके में अफरातफरी मच गई, हालांकि समय रहते एक बड़ा हादसा टल गया। प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों ने

बताया कि पहले कार से धुआं निकलता देखा गया, जिसके बाद आग की लपटें तेजी से फैल गईं और पूरी गाड़ी को अपनी चपेट में ले लिया। आग लगने वाली जगह

पर कई अन्य वाहन भी खड़े थे, जिससे बड़े पैमाने पर नुकसान की आशंका बढ़ गई थी।

काफी मशक्कत के बाद आग पर काबू पाया: स्थानीय लोगों ने तुरंत गोलमुरी थाना और दमकल विभाग को सूचित किया। पुलिस और फायर ब्रिगेड की टीम मौके पर पहुंची और काफी मशक्कत के बाद आग पर काबू पाया। तब तक कार पूरी तरह जलकर खाक हो चुकी थी। राहत की बात यह रही कि इस घटना में किसी के हताहत होने की कोई खबर नहीं है। हालांकि, इस आगजनी ने साई मोटर्स परिसर की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था पर सवाल खड़े कर दिए हैं। स्थानीय लोगों ने अग्निशमन सुरक्षा के पुख्ता इंतजामों की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया, क्योंकि यहां प्रतिदिन बड़ी संख्या में वाहन खड़े रहते हैं।

## तेज रफ्तार बोलेरो की टक्कर से युवक की मौत

खूंटी, एप्रैल 9। जरियागढ़ थाना क्षेत्र के लिमड़ा गांव में बुधवार रात हुए सड़क हादसे में युवक सुंदरू कच्छप (18) की मौत हो गई। घटना के बाद पूरे गांव में शोक की लहर दौड़ गई। जानकारी के अनुसार, सुंदरू बुधवार को बाइक से गोंदपुर रेलवे स्टेशन घूमने गया था। लौटने के दौरान रात करीब साढ़े सात बजे लिमड़ा गांव के समीप विपरीत दिशा से तेज रफ्तार में आ रही एक अनियंत्रित बोलेरो ने उसकी बाइक को जोरदार टक्कर मार दी। टक्कर से सुंदरू गंभीर रूप से घायल होकर सड़क पर गिर पड़ा। घटना के बाद जरियागढ़ पुलिस ने स्थानीय लोगों और परिजनों की मदद से



घायल युवक को तत्काल सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र करी पहुंचाया, जहां चिकित्सकों ने जांच के बाद उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया। बताया गया कि सुंदरू के पिता का पहले ही निधन हो चुका है। परिवार में उसकी मां और दो भाई हैं। जवान बेटे की असमय मौत से परिवार सदमे में डूब गया है। गुरुवार को पुलिस ने शव का पोस्टमार्टम सदर अस्पताल खूंटी में कराने के बाद परिजनों को सौंप दिया।

## गुमला में दो बाइक की टक्कर, तीन घायल दो गंभीर रूप से जख्मी, रिस्स रेफर किए गए; किसी ने नहीं पहना था हेलमेट

गुमला, एप्रैल 9। गुमला जिले के घाघरा-गुमला मुख्य मार्ग पर मसूरिया मोड़ के पास गुरुवार को दो बाइक की सीधी टक्कर में तीन लोग घायल हो गए। स्थानीय लोगों की मदद से तीनों को एंबुलेंस 108 द्वारा सदर अस्पताल गुमला भेजा गया, जहां गंभीर रूप से घायल दो लोगों को बेहतर इलाज के लिए रिस्स रेफर कर दिया गया। बताया जा रहा है कि यह दुर्घटना तेज रफ्तार और तीखे मोड़ के कारण हुई। टक्कर इतनी भीषण थी कि बाइक सवार तीनों लोग सड़क पर जा गिरे और दोनों बाइकें बुरी तरह क्षतिग्रस्त हो गईं। घटना के तुरंत बाद राहगीरों और स्थानीय लोगों ने बचाव कार्य शुरू किया। उन्होंने तत्काल एंबुलेंस 108



को फोन कर बुलाया। घायलों की गंभीर स्थिति को देखते हुए उन्हें प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र के बजाय सीधे सदर अस्पताल भेजा गया, जहां प्राथमिक उपचार के बाद दो युवकों को रिस्स रेफर किया गया। घायलों की पहचान गोया गांव निवासी रिपु उरांव (16),

आफताब खान (18) और मंदू उरांव (22) के रूप में हुई है। इनमें से रिपु और आफताब की हालत गंभीर होने के कारण उन्हें रिस्स भेजा गया है। तीनों बाइक सवारों को सिर, हाथ सहित शरीर के विभिन्न हिस्सों में गंभीर चोटें आई हैं।

किसी भी बाइक सवार ने हेलमेट नहीं पहना था, जिसके कारण उनके सिर में चोटें लगीं। घटना की सूचना मिलने पर घाघरा पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची। पुलिस ने दुर्घटनाग्रस्त दोनों बाइकों को जब्त कर थाने ले आई है और मामले की छानबीन कर रही है। उल्लेखनीय है कि जिला परिवहन विभाग और सड़क सुरक्षा टीम द्वारा सड़क दुर्घटनाओं को कम करने के उद्देश्य से लगातार वाहन जांच और जागरूकता अभियान चलाए जा रहे हैं। इसके बावजूद गुमला में सड़क दुर्घटनाएं थमने का नाम नहीं ले रही हैं और दुर्घटनाओं में मृतकों का आंकड़ा लगातार बढ़ रहा है, जिसमें ज्यादातर युवा वर्ग या किशोर शामिल हैं।

## दिल्ली पुलिस को मिली कामयाबी, ज्योति बाबा गैंग का सदस्य गिरफ्तार

**एजेंसी**  
नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली पुलिस की क्राइम ब्रांच को एक बड़ी सफलता हाथ लगी है। हत्या के मामले में लंबे समय से फरार चल रहे और कुख्यात ज्योति बाबा गैंग के सदस्य राकेश उर्फ टिकू को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया है। आरोपी के पास से एक सेमी-ऑटोमैटिक ब्रेटा पिस्टल और दो कारतूस भी बरामद किए गए हैं। क्राइम ब्रांच के अनुसार, राकेश उर्फ टिकू दिल्ली के हरिनगर थाने में दर्ज हत्या के एक बड़े मामले में वाशित था। आरोपी को पहले अंतरिम जमानत मिली थी लेकिन वह कोर्ट में पेश नहीं हुआ और फरार हो गया। इसके बाद अदालत ने उसके खिलाफ गैर जमानती वारंट (एनबीडब्ल्यू) जारी कर दिया था। पुलिस अधिकारियों ने बताया कि संगठित अपराध और गैंगस्टर्स पर लागू लागने के लिए हाल ही में एक विशेष अभियान चलाया गया था। इसी अभियान के तहत क्राइम ब्रांच की टीम लगातार फरार और खतरनाक अपराधियों की तलाश में जुटी हुई थी। तकनीकी निगरानी के साथ-साथ मुखबिर तंत्र को भी सक्रिय किया गया था। इसी दौरान 5 मई को क्राइम ब्रांच की टीम को राकेश के बारे में खुफिया जानकारी मिली। सूचना मिलते ही एसआई अनिल, हेड कांस्टेबल जनक गिल और कांस्टेबल संदीप की टीम ने इंस्पेक्टर पंकज ठाकरण के नेतृत्व में जाल बिछाया।

## गुलामी की जंजीरों से मुक्त हुए बैगा जनजाति के 13 मासूम, 10 नरपिशाच गिरफ्तार

**नई दिल्ली।** छत्तीसगढ़ के कबीरधाम (कवर्धा) जिले के सुदूर और घने जंगलों में चल रहे एक बड़े मानव दुर्व्यापार (Trafficking) रैकेट का भंडाफोड़ हुआ है। एक संयुक्त रेस्क्यू ऑपरेशन में पुलिस और बाल संरक्षण विभाग ने संरक्षित बैगा जनजाति के 13 बच्चों को बंधुआ मजदूरी से मुक्त कराया है। ये मासूम बच्चे अमानवीय परिस्थितियों में मवेशियों की देखभाल करने के लिए मजबूर थे। पुलिस ने इस मामले में अब तक 10 आरोपियों को सलाखों के पीछे भिज दिया है। बचाए गए बच्चों की उम्र महज 8 से 15 साल के बीच है। आरोपियों ने इन बच्चों के परिजनों को चंद पैसें और सुख-सुविधाओं का लालच देकर करीब 7-8 महीने पहले अपने जाल में फंसाया था।

काम का बोझ : बच्चों से एक पशुपालन फार्म में रोजाना 10 घंटे कड़ी मजदूरी कराई जाती थी। मजदूरी के नाम पर मजकूर : एफआईआर के अनुसार, इन मासूमों को महीने भर के काम के बदले केवल एक से दो हजार रुपए ही दिए जाते थे। ऐसे चला ऑपरेशन बचपन : इस कार्रवाई को पुलिस अधीक्षक धर्मेन्द्र सिंह के नेतृत्व में पुलिस, चाइल्डलाइन, महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग और एसोसिएशन फॉर वालंटरी एक्शन ने संयुक्त रूप से अंजाम दिया।

## तरुण चुग ने भगवंत मान को दी मानहानि की चेतावनी, कहा-सात दिन में माफ़ी मांगें या कानूनी कार्रवाई झेलें

**नई दिल्ली।** पंजाब में हाल के बम धमाकों और सुरक्षा घटनाओं को लेकर राजनीतिक विवाद तेज हो गया है। भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) के राष्ट्रीय महासचिव तरुण चुग की ओर से वरिष्ठ वकील संकेत गुप्ता ने पंजाब के मुख्यमंत्री भगवंत मान को कानूनी नोटिस भेजा है। नोटिस में आरोप लगाया गया है कि मुख्यमंत्री ने हालिया बम धमाकों को भाजपा से जोड़कर अपराधिक मानहानि और गलत जानकारी फैलाने का काम किया है। कानूनी नोटिस में पंजाब के सीएम भगवंत मान से बिना शर्त माफ़ी मांगने और अपने बयान वापस लेने की मांग की गई है। साथ ही चेतावनी दी गई है कि यदि सात दिनों के भीतर ऐसा नहीं किया गया, तो उनके खिलाफ आपराधिक और दीवानी कार्रवाई शुरू की जाएगी। भाजपा का आरोप है कि मुख्यमंत्री का बयान न केवल राजनीतिक रूप से गैर-जिम्मेदाराना है बल्कि इससे जनता के बीच भ्रम और तनाव भी फैल सकता है। दिल्ली में आईएनएस से बातचीत करते हुए भाजपा के महासचिव तरुण चुग ने भगवंत मान के बयान को 'अनुचित, बेतुका और आपराधिक मानसिकता से प्रेरित' बताया।

## चंद्रनाथ हत्याकांड पर धर्मोद प्रधान का तीखा बयान, बोले- टीएमसी के गुंडों की काररतापूर्ण हरकत

**नई दिल्ली।** पश्चिम बंगाल में भाजपा नेता और विधानसभा में नेता प्रतिपक्ष सुबेद्रु अधिकारी के निजी सहायक चंद्रनाथ रथ की हत्या को लेकर देश की राजनीति में काफी तीखी प्रतिक्रियाएं सामने आ रही हैं। इस घटना पर केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मोद प्रधान ने गहरा दुख जताया है और इसे बेहद नदीनय और दर्दनाक बताया है। उन्होंने इसे टीएमसी के गुंडों द्वारा अंजाम दिया गया निर्माण, बर्बर और कायदापूर्ण हत्याकांड बताया। धर्मोद प्रधान ने अपने सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट एक्स पर पोस्ट कर कहा, 'सुबेद्रु अधिकारी के सहयोगी चंद्रनाथ रथ की नृशंस हत्या पश्चिम बंगाल में ममता बनर्जी और टीएमसी द्वारा फैलाई गई खूनखराबे वाली राजनीतिक संस्कृति की एक और भयावह याद दिलाती है। भाजपा कार्यकर्ताओं और समर्थकों को बार-बार निशाना बनाया गया है, उन पर हमले किए गए हैं और उनकी हत्याएं की गई हैं, सिर्फ इसलिए क्योंकि उन्होंने टीएमसी की डर और धमकियां वाली राजनीति के आगे झुकने से इनकार कर दिया। यह कोई इस्का-दुस्का हिंसा की घटना नहीं है बल्कि यह आतंक का एक सोची-समझी रणनीति के तहत बनाया गया तंत्र है।

## बंगाल में भाजपा सरकार बनते ही अपराधी कानून के सामने होंगे: शहजाद पूनावाला

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** भाजपा प्रवक्ता शहजाद पूनावाला ने बंगाल में भाजपा के वरिष्ठ नेता सुबेद्रु अधिकारी के पीए की हत्या मामले में ममता बनर्जी और टीएमसी सरकार पर जमकर निशाना साधा। उन्होंने कहा कि बंगाल में भाजपा की सरकार बनते ही अपराधी कानून के सामने होंगे। बातचीत में भाजपा प्रवक्ता शहजाद पूनावाला ने कहा कि टीएमसी अब 'पूरी तरह से माफिया संस्कृति' का प्रतीक बन गई है और टीएमसी शासन के तहत पिछले 15 सालों के 'जंगल राज' के कारण ही आज यह स्थिति पैदा हुई है। इसके चलते ही सुबेद्रु अधिकारी के करीबी सहयोगी को यह सुनिश्चित और सोची-समझी साजिश के तहत की गई हत्या, यह कुछ लोगों के बीच व्याप्त करने के स्तर को दर्शाती है। हमने यह भी देखा है कि सिर्फ यही नहीं बल्कि एक और भाजपा कार्यकर्ता रोहित रॉय को भी गोली मारी गई है और उनकी हालत गंभीर

## दिल्ली के द्वारका में 805.99 करोड़ की लागत से मेडिकल कॉलेज बनेगा : मुख्यमंत्री

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** दिल्ली सरकार द्वारका स्थित इंदिरा गांधी अस्पताल परिसर में अत्याधुनिक मेडिकल कॉलेज और छात्र-छात्राओं के लिए हॉस्टल की स्थापना करने का रही है। इस परियोजना की कुल अनुमानित लागत 805.99 करोड़ रुपये है। मुख्यमंत्री की अध्यक्षता में हाल ही में हुई वृत्त समिति (इंफ्रफ्रंसी) की बैठक में इसे मंजूरी दे दी गई। इस परियोजना को पूरा करने का लक्ष्य वर्ष 2028 तक रखा गया है। मुख्यमंत्री ने एक विज्ञप्ति जारी कर बताया कि इस परियोजना के तहत मेडिकल कॉलेज के साथ छात्र और छात्राओं के लिए अलग-अलग हॉस्टल, फैकल्टी आवास और एक आधुनिक अकादमिक ब्लॉक का

निर्माण किया जाएगा। यह परियोजना दिल्ली में डॉक्टरों की बढ़ती आवश्यकता को पूरा करने और



स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की गुणवत्ता में व्यापक सुधार लाने की दिशा में एक निर्णायक कदम है। मेडिकल कॉलेज को राष्ट्रीय आवुविज्ञान आयोग

(एनएमसी) के मानकों के अनुरूप विकसित किया जाएगा। इससे यहां प्रति वर्ष 250 एमबीबीएस सीटों की व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित की जा सकेगी। प्रारंभिक चरण में 150 छात्रों के साथ शिक्षण कार्य शुरू किया जाएगा। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि इस परियोजना को चरणों में पूरा किया जाएगा। पहले चरण में अकादमिक ब्लॉक, छात्रों के हॉस्टल और शिक्षकों के लिए आवास बनाए जाएंगे। उन्होंने बताया कि पहले चरण में करीब 1,17,246 वर्गमीटर क्षेत्र में निर्माण होगा। इसमें लगभग 34,000 वर्गमीटर का बेसमेंट बनाया जाएगा, जहां पार्किंग और अन्य जरूरी सुविधाएं होंगी। अकादमिक ब्लॉक बहुमंजिला होगा, जिसमें बलासरूम, लैब और अन्य

आधुनिक शैक्षणिक सुविधाएं विकसित की जाएंगी। हॉस्टलों में बड़ी संख्या में विद्यार्थियों के रहने की व्यवस्था होगी, जबकि फैकल्टी के लिए भी आधुनिक और सुविधाजनक आवास तैयार किए जाएंगे। निर्माण कार्य लोक निर्माण विभाग (पीडब्ल्यूडी) करेगा, जबकि स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग इसकी निगरानी करेगा। मुख्यमंत्री ने अधिकारियों को परियोजना की गुणवत्ता और समय सीमा के सख्ती से पालन का निर्देश दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि मेडिकल कॉलेज के संचालन के लिए आवश्यक उपकरणों की खरीद, स्टाफ की नियुक्ति, विश्वविद्यालय से संबद्धता और अन्य व्यवस्थाएं एनएमसी के मानकों के अनुरूप आगामी चरण में पूरी की जाएंगी।

## यमुना बाजार के घाटों पर बने 310 मकानों को खाली करने का निर्देश

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** दिल्ली सरकार ने यमुना बाजार के घाटों पर अतिक्रमण कर बने 310 मकानों को नोटिस जारी करते हुए 15 दिनों के अंदर किसी भी हालत में जगह को खाली करने का निर्देश दिया है। दिल्ली सरकार के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने विज्ञप्ति जारी कर कहा कि यमुना बाजार घाट क्षेत्र में 32 घाट हैं, इन घाटों पर अतिक्रमण कर लिया गया है। क्षेत्र में लगभग 310 आवासीय मकान हैं, जिनमें करीब 1100 लोग रहते हैं।

कि वह यमुना के बाढ़-मैदानों में किए गए ऐसे सभी अतिक्रमणों को हटा दे, इसी निर्देश के तहत पिछले कुछ वर्षों



यमुना बाजार की चारदीवारी के अंदर, यमुना नदी के किनारे स्थित यमुना बाजार के घाटों के बाढ़-मैदान वाले क्षेत्र 'ओ जेन' के अंतर्गत आते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि यह जमीन दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण (डीडीए) की है और यहां निर्माण कार्य पूरी तरह से प्रतिबंधित है। अधिकारी ने बताया कि एनजीटी ने डीडीए को निर्देश दिया है

2025) के दौरान यह जलमग्न हो जाता है, जिससे मानव जीवन, मवेशियों और संपत्ति के नुकसान का गंभीर खतरा पैदा हो जाता है। यहां राजस्व विभाग द्वारा अस्थायी स्थानांतरण और पुनर्वास करना पड़ता है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप जनता पर दबाव पड़ता है। बार-बार आने वाली बाढ़ के लिए संस्थापनों और सरकारी खजाने सहित आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया उपायों की आवश्यकता होती है इसलिए अब डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट एक्ट-2005 के सेक्शन 34 के तहत मिली शक्तियों का इस्तेमाल करते हुए यमुना घाट पर कब्जा किए हुए इलाके में कब्जा किए लोगों को नोटिस जारी किया गया है। मौके पर मौजूद पाए गए लोगों को कुल 26 नोटिस जारी किए गए हैं। यह नोटिस जारी होने की तारीख से 15 दिनों के अंदर और किसी भी हालत में उस जगह को तुरंत खाली करने का निर्देश देता है।

## मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे से मिले कांग्रेस सांसद शशि थरूर, केरल की राजनीतिक स्थिति पर की चर्चा

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** कांग्रेस सांसद शशि थरूर ने कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे से मुलाकात कर केरल की मौजूदा राजनीतिक स्थिति और पार्टी से जुड़े हालिया घटनाक्रमों पर चर्चा की। थरूर ने इस मुलाकात को लेकर कहा कि अनुभवों और स्पष्ट विचारों वाले वरिष्ठ नेता से विचार साझा करना हमेशा उपयोगी रहता है। शशि थरूर ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म 'एक्स' पर जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि उन्होंने खड़गे से मुलाकात कर राज्य की राजनीतिक परिस्थितियों पर अपने विचार साझा किए। उन्होंने पोस्ट में लिखा, 'कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे से मिलकर मैंने उन्हें केरल के हालात के बारे में अपनी राय बताई और हमारी पार्टी से

जुड़े हाल के राजनीतिक घटनाक्रमों पर चर्चा की। इस मजबूत, बेबाक और अनुभवी दिग्गज नेता के साथ



अपने विचार साझा करना हमेशा अच्छा लगता है।' इसके अलावा, थरूर ने कहा कि अनुभवों और स्पष्ट विचारों वाले वरिष्ठ नेता से विचार साझा करना हमेशा उपयोगी रहता है। शशि थरूर ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म 'एक्स' पर जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि उन्होंने खड़गे से मुलाकात कर राज्य की राजनीतिक परिस्थितियों पर अपने विचार साझा किए। उन्होंने पोस्ट में लिखा, 'कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे से मिलकर मैंने उन्हें केरल के हालात के बारे में अपनी राय बताई और हमारी पार्टी से

विजयी विधायक सी.पी. जॉन को उनकी जीत पर बधाई दी। थरूर ने एक अन्य पोस्ट में विधायक सी.पी.

पिछली बार चुनावों में हमें निराशा हाथ लगी थी, लेकिन इस बार जीत मिली है।' उन्होंने नवनिर्वाचित विधायकों एन. शक्नत और वी.टी. बलराम से भी मुलाकात की और उन्हें उनकी जीत पर शुभकामनाएं दीं। थरूर ने लिखा, 'तिरुवनंतपुरम में विजयी विधायकों एन. शक्नत और वी.टी. बलराम से मिलकर उन्हें उनकी जीत पर बधाई देना बहुत अच्छा लगा। केरल को एकजुट होकर आगे ले जाने के लिए अनुभव और युवा शक्ति का मेल जरूरी है।' इसके अलावा, थरूर ने वलियाथुरा में आयोजित 'पांच-र-साइड' फुटबॉल टूर्नामेंट के समापन सत्र में हिस्सा लिया। शशि थरूर ने पोस्ट में लिखा, 'हमारे युवाओं को अपनी प्रतिभा दिखाने के ऐसे अवसर मिलते देखकर बहुत खुशी हुई।'

## कुलपति ने किया एनसीसी और एनएसएस वालंटियर्स को किया सम्मानित

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय (डीयू) के पहले साहित्य महोत्सव में राष्ट्रीय कैडेट कोर (एनसीसी) और राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना (एनएसएस) वालंटियर्स द्वारा सराहनीय भूमिका निभाने पर कुलपति प्रो. योगेश सिंह ने उन्हें प्रशस्ति पत्र देकर सम्मानित किया। इस अवसर पर कुलपति ने कहा कि जब दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय साहित्य महोत्सव को डिजाइन किया तो यह बिल्कुल नया था। लेकिन वह अपने आप में एक सफल आयोजन साबित हुआ और डीयूएलएफ की उस सफर सटोरी में आप सबका बहुत बड़ा योगदान है। कुलपति ने विद्यार्थियों से कहा कि आप थे तो हम निश्चित थे। प्रो. योगेश सिंह ने कहा कि एनसीसी और एनएसएस का संयोजन बहुत अच्छा रहा और सबने मिलकर अच्छे से काम किया। कुलपति ने कहा कि एनसीसी और एनएसएस मनों को मजबूत बनाने का काम करते हैं। ये दोनों संगठन सेवा, करुणा और समर्पण का भाव पैदा करते हैं। इससे नेतृत्व की क्षमता का विकास होता है। उन्होंने कहा कि नेतृत्व केवल राजनीति तक ही सीमित नहीं होता, जब कोई गिरता है और उसे उठाने के लिए जो हाथ बढ़ता है वह नेतृत्व का हाथ होता है। कुलपति ने कहा कि बच्चों में नेतृत्व और देशभक्ति का भाव जरूरी है, इसकी देश को बहुत आवश्यकता है। इस अवसर पर डीयू लिट फेस्ट में एनसीसी और एनएसएस के योगदान पर एक बुकलेट का विमोचन भी किया गया। कुलपति ने फेस्ट रजिस्ट्रेशन कमेटी मेंबर्स और कॉर्डिनेटर्स को प्रशस्ति पत्र देकर सम्मानित भी किया। इस अवसर पर डीन ऑफ कॉलेजेज प्रो. बलराम पाणी, दक्षिणी परिसर की निदेशक प्रो. रजनी अंबवी और रजिस्ट्रार डॉक्टर विकास गुप्ता सहित अनेकों शिक्षक एवं विद्यार्थी उपस्थित रहे।

## आईपीयू में जेंडर सेंसिटाइजेशन कार्यशाला का आयोजन

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** गुरु गोबिन्द सिंह इन्द्रप्रस्थ विश्वविद्यालय (आईपीयू) के जेंडर चैंपियंस क्लब ने लैंगिक समानता, संवेदनशीलता और समावेशिता को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से 'जेंडर सेंसिटाइजेशन कार्यशाला' का आयोजन किया। इस कार्यशाला का उद्देश्य विद्यार्थियों, शोधार्थियों, शिक्षकों एवं कर्मचारियों के बीच संवाद और सहभागिता के माध्यम से जेंडर से जुड़े मुद्दों के प्रति जागरूकता और संवेदनशीलता विकसित करना था। सत्र के दौरान समानता, सम्मान, रूढ़िवादी धारणाओं को चुनौती देने तथा सकारात्मक सामाजिक परिवर्तन जैसे महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर चर्चा की गई। कार्यशाला की विशेषज्ञ वक्ता प्रो. रीना रामदेव ने प्रतिभागियों को जेंडर के संदर्भ में 'शब्दों से आगे बढ़कर व्यवहार में परिवर्तन' की आवश्यकता के प्रति संवेदनशील

बनाया। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारी दैनिक बातचीत, सोच और व्यवहार एक अधिक समावेशी एवं सम्मानजनक

मिला। कार्यशाला ने प्रतिभागियों को अपने विचार साझा करने, अनुभवों पर चर्चा करने तथा विभिन्न



समाज के निर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। डॉ. स्नेह के समन्वयन में आयोजित इस कार्यक्रम में विचारोत्तेजक चर्चाएं, सहभागितापूर्ण गतिविधियां तथा वास्तविक जीवन के अनुभवों को साझा किया गया। जिससे प्रतिभागियों में सहानुभूति, समझ और सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व की भावना को बढ़ावा

दृष्टिकोणों को समझने के लिए एक सकारात्मक और सुरक्षित मंच भी प्रदान किया। उन्होंने बताया कि इस कार्यशाला में विद्यार्थियों एवं शिक्षकों की उत्साहपूर्ण सहभागिता ने एक समान, समावेशी और सम्मानजनक समाज के निर्माण के संदेश को और अधिक सशक्त बनाया।

## उपराज्यपाल ने डीडीए के 1,647 नवनिर्वाचित कर्मचारियों को नियुक्ति पत्र सौंपे

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल तरनजीत सिंह संधू ने यमुना स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स में दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण (डीडीए) के एक समारोह में 1,647 नवनिर्वाचित कर्मचारियों को नियुक्ति पत्र सौंपे। इसमें 26 पदों पर 1,647 नवनिर्वाचित कर्मचारियों को पदभार ग्रहण कराया गया। इसके साथ ही प्राधिकरण के कर्मचारियों की संख्या में लगभग 55 फीसद की वृद्धि हुई है। उपराज्यपाल तरनजीत सिंह संधू ने नियुक्ति पत्र सौंपते हुए कहा कि ये नए कर्मचारी राष्ट्रीय राजधानी के विकास और भविष्य के लिए दीर्घकालिक दृष्टिकोण के संरक्षक हैं। केरल को एकजुट होकर आगे ले जाने के लिए अनुभव और युवा शक्ति का मेल जरूरी है।' इसके अलावा, थरूर ने वलियाथुरा में आयोजित 'पांच-र-साइड' फुटबॉल टूर्नामेंट के समापन सत्र में हिस्सा लिया। शशि थरूर ने पोस्ट में लिखा, 'हमारे युवाओं को अपनी प्रतिभा दिखाने के ऐसे अवसर मिलते देखकर बहुत खुशी हुई।'



## बंगाल में भाजपा सरकार बनते ही अपराधी कानून के सामने होंगे: शहजाद पूनावाला

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** भाजपा प्रवक्ता शहजाद पूनावाला ने बंगाल में भाजपा के वरिष्ठ नेता सुबेद्रु अधिकारी के पीए की हत्या मामले में ममता बनर्जी और टीएमसी सरकार पर जमकर निशाना साधा। उन्होंने कहा कि बंगाल में भाजपा की सरकार बनते ही अपराधी कानून के सामने होंगे। बातचीत में भाजपा प्रवक्ता शहजाद पूनावाला ने कहा कि टीएमसी अब 'पूरी तरह से माफिया संस्कृति' का प्रतीक बन गई है और टीएमसी शासन के तहत पिछले 15 सालों के 'जंगल राज' के कारण ही आज यह स्थिति पैदा हुई है। इसके चलते ही सुबेद्रु अधिकारी के करीबी सहयोगी को यह सुनिश्चित और सोची-समझी साजिश के तहत की गई हत्या, यह कुछ लोगों के बीच व्याप्त करने के स्तर को दर्शाती है। हमने यह भी देखा है कि सिर्फ यही नहीं बल्कि एक और भाजपा कार्यकर्ता रोहित रॉय को भी गोली मारी गई है और उनकी हालत गंभीर

## वंदे मातरम को राष्ट्रगान जैसा दर्जा देने पर भड़का मुस्लिम परसनल लॉ बोर्ड, केंद्र के फैसले को बताया असंवैधानिक

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** ऑल इंडिया मुस्लिम परसनल लॉ बोर्ड (एआईएमपीएलबी) ने केंद्रीय कैबिनेट के उस फैसले पर आपत्ति उठाई है, जिसमें वंदे मातरम को राष्ट्रगान जन गण मन के समान दर्जा देने, उसके सभी छह अंतराओं को अनिवार्य बनाने और सभी सरकारी व शैक्षणिक संस्थानों में राष्ट्रगान से पहले इसके गायन का निर्देश दिया गया है। बोर्ड ने इस कदम को भारतीय संविधान की मूल भावना, धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता और धर्मनिरपेक्ष मूल्यों का उल्लंघन करार देते हुए सरकार से निर्णय को तत्काल वापस लेने की मांग की है। बोर्ड के राष्ट्रिय प्रवक्ता डॉ. एसक्यूआर इलियास ने जारी बयान में कहा कि यह निर्णय न केवल असंवैधानिक और अलोकतांत्रिक है, बल्कि देश की धार्मिक व सांस्कृतिक विविधता के खिलाफ है। उनके अनुसार, एक धर्मनिरपेक्ष राज्य किसी एक समुदाय की धार्मिक अवधारणाओं को सभी नागरिकों पर थोप नहीं सकता।

## सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल 'एमईए प्रवक्ता' का वीडियो फर्जी, पीआईबी फैक्ट चेक ने किया खंडन

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** प्रेस इन्फॉर्मेशन ब्यूरो ने अपनी आधिकारिक पीआईबी फैक्ट चेक इकाई के से पाकिस्तान से जुड़े प्रोपेगेंडा अकाउंट्स के उन दावों को खारिज किया, जिसमें एमईए प्रवक्ता रणधीर जायसवाल के नाम पर भारत से जुड़े झूठे दावे किए जा रहे हैं। प्रोपेगेंडा अकाउंट्स की ओर से एक फर्जी वीडियो फैलाया जा रहा है, जिसमें दावा किया जा रहा है कि पाकिस्तान के साथ संघर्ष के दौरान भारत ने चार राफेल लड़ाकू विमान खो दिए। इस वीडियो को लेकर प्रेस सूचना ब्यूरो (पीआईबी) ने स्पष्ट किया है कि यह पूरी तरह गलत और भ्रामक है। पीआईबी ने अपने आधिकारिक सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट 'एक्स' के माध्यम से स्पष्ट करते हुए बताया, 'पाकिस्तानी प्रोपेगेंडा अकाउंट्स एमईए के प्रवक्ता रणधीर जायसवाल का वीडियो फैला रहे हैं, जिसमें वह कह रहे हैं कि

पाकिस्तान के साथ संघर्ष के दौरान भारत ने चार राफेल लड़ाकू विमान खो दिए। इस वीडियो में यह झूठ



दावा भी किया गया है कि भारत के पास पाकिस्तान को पानी का बहाव रोकने के अलावा कोई और विकल्प नहीं बचा था।' पाकिस्तानी प्रोपेगेंडा अकाउंट्स के माध्यम से ये झूठे दावे और भ्रम

फैलाने का हथकंडा ऐसे समय अपना रहा है जब पूरे विश्व में भारत के सफल 'ऑपरेशन सिंदूर'

'जीरो टॉलरेंस' स्पष्ट की है। विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने कहा कि भारत ने एक बार फिर साफ कर दिया है कि आतंकवाद के खिलाफ उसकी नीति पूरी तरह सख्त और 'जीरो टॉलरेंस' वाली है।

विदेश मंत्री एस जयशंकर ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट कर कहा, 'एक साल पहले 'ऑपरेशन सिंदूर' ने पाकिस्तान से होने वाले सीमा-पार आतंकवाद के खिलाफ खुद की रक्षा करने के देश के संकल्प को प्रदर्शित किया था। भारत ने अपने निर्णायक कदमों से आतंकवादी गतिविधियों के लिए जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित की, इस बात पर जोर दिया कि शांति और सुरक्षा के लिए ऐसे गंभीर खतरे का प्रभावी ढांसा मुकाबला किया जाएगा। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व में भारत आतंकवाद के प्रति 'जीरो टॉलरेंस' का संदेश देने के लिए मजबूती और दृढ़ता के साथ खड़ा है।'

## हिमाचल प्रदेश से एनसीआर तक फैला चरस तस्करी नेटवर्क ध्वस्त, दिल्ली पुलिस ने 5 आरोपियों को किया गिरफ्तार

**एजेंसी**  
**नई दिल्ली।** दिल्ली पुलिस ने हिमाचल प्रदेश से एनसीआर क्षेत्र में उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली मलाणा चरस की तस्करी करने वाले एक अंतरराज्यीय गिरोह का भंडाफोड़ किया है। इस मामले में पांच आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार

आधार पर की गई। पुलिस ने आरोपियों के पास से तस्करी में इस्तेमाल किए जा रहे 7 मोबाइल फोन भी बरामद किए हैं। पूर्वी जिला पुलिस की स्पेशल स्टाफ टीम नशा तस्करी पर लगातार नजर रख रही थी। इसी क्रम में 9 अप्रैल को पुलिस टीम गाजीपुर इलाके

के गांव गढ़वली स्थित शर्माना बांध के पास गश्त कर रही थी। तभी दो युवक पुलिस को देखकर बने की कोशिश करने लगे। शक होने पर पुलिस ने उन्हें एकड़कर तलाशी ली, जिसमें उनके पास से 115 ग्राम चरस बरामद हुई। गिरफ्तार आरोपियों की पहचान शबम

जैन और राहुल कुमार के रूप में हुई। पुष्टताछ और तकनीकी जांच के दौरान पुलिस को पूरे नेटवर्क के बारे में अहम जानकारी मिली। जांच के आधार पर 18 अप्रैल को पुलिस ने आरोपी विशाल भाद्राज को गिरफ्तार किया। उसके पास से 101.4 ग्राम चरस

बरामद हुई, जबकि गुरुग्राम स्थित उसके ठिकाने से 264 ग्राम और चरस जब्त की गई। पुलिस जांच में खुलासा हुआ कि इस नेटवर्क का मुख्य सप्लायर हिमाचल प्रदेश के कुल्लू जिले के मलाणा गांव का रहने वाला उर्मेश था, जिसे पुलिस टीम ने

आरोपी को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। जांच में 'हरदीप' की भूमिका भी सामने आई, जो मलाणा से दिल्ली तक चरस को खेप पहुंचाने वाले 'कूरियर' के रूप में काम करता था। 'हरदीप' पहलू से ही एनडीपीएस के एक अन्य मामले में न्यायिक हिरासत में था।

## MEA reacts to Dhaka's 'pushback' remarks after BJP's Bengal win, seeks faster repatriation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants

**New Delhi, Agency:** India on Thursday said Bangladesh's remarks on alleged "pushback" incidents must be viewed in the context of the repatriation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, while urging Dhaka to expedite pending nationality verification cases.



Responding to remarks made by Bangladesh foreign minister Khalilur Rahman following the BJP's victory in the West Bengal assembly elections, ministry of external affairs spokesperson Randhir

Jaiswal said India expects cooperation from Bangladesh on the issue.

"We have seen comments of this nature being made in the last several days. These comments must be seen in the context

of the core issue of the repatriation of illegal Bangladeshis from India. This obviously requires cooperation from Bangladesh," Jaiswal said. He added that more than 2,860 cases of nationality verification were pending with Bangladesh, with several awaiting clearance for over five years. "We expect that Bangladesh will expedite nationality verification so that the repatriation of illegal immigrants can take place in a smooth manner," he said. The remarks

came after Bangladesh home minister Salahuddin Ahmed expressed hope that people would not be "pushed" into Bangladesh after the BJP's victory in assembly elections in bordering Indian states. "I hope no such incident (push backs) will happen," Ahmed told reporters on Wednesday when asked if he feared a rise in cases involving people suspected to be illegal immigrants being sent across the border from India. He, however, said the Border Guard Bangladesh had been asked to "remain alert" along the frontier.

## Individuals challenging religious practices would break all religions & courts: SC



**New Delhi, Agency:** The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed grave apprehension over allowing individuals to challenge religious practices and said it would break every religion and constitutional court as thousands would clog courts with PILs, based on self-assessments of these customs, to seek quashing the customs and norms.

The remark came from a bench of CJI Surya Kant, Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, A Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, A G Masih, P B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi after senior advocate Raju Ramachandran said since the Constitution focuses on protecting an individual's fundamental rights, constitutional courts must step

in if a religious practice or custom violates the rights of an individual. Justice Nagarathna said, "If every individual is free to approach the constitutional court to question or challenge religious practices and customs in constitutional courts, what will happen to our civilisation, which is intrinsically linked to religion?"

Justice Sundresh said, "In such a scenario, every religion and constitutional court will break as thousands of individuals, with different views about religion and religious practices, will come to court clogging the system. A religious custom or practice may be regressive from the viewpoint of an individual, and the same could be an essential religious practice for another.

## ISI-linked module busted: Delhi temple, military camp, UP police stations were on target list

**New Delhi, Agency:** More than a year after the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI allegedly plotted attacks on a historic temple in Delhi, a popular dhaba on the Delhi-Sonapat highway and a military camp in Haryana through operatives linked to the Shahzad Bhatti module, sources said on Friday. The alleged conspiracy surfaced during the interrogation of nine suspected operatives of the module, arrested by the Delhi Police Special Cell under its 'Gang Bust Operation 2.0' from multiple states.



## FGM inflicts injury, is an offence under PoCSO Bohra woman in SC

**New Delhi, Agency:** A Dawoodi Bohra Muslim woman on Thursday questioned the denominational custom of female genital mutilation (FGM) and said the ritual inflicts bodily injury and irreversible physical and mental trauma on minor girls, which is aviolation of her health and dignity and an offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (PoCSO) Act.

Appearing for Masooma Rana, senior advocate Sidharth Luthra told a nine-judge bench led by CJI Surya Kant the FGM ritual is performed on seven-year-old girls, hence, there is no question of the act being consensual, and her parents cannot protest as it could invite the wrath of the religious head of the community, who could ex-communicate them. The fear of ex-communication, which ranges from social boycott to severance of all economic and social ties with other members of the community, forcibly silences protest against the ritual, Luthra said.

## New digital system to track every pregnancy, ensure no mother or child is missed

**New Delhi, Agency:** In a move that could change how maternal and child healthcare is delivered, the Centre has launched a new digital platform-JANANI (Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care)-to track pregnancies, deliveries and newborn care across the country. A key feature is a QR-based digital mother and child health card, which allows doctors to access medical records instantly-even if the patient moves to another state. This is expected to help migrant families, who often lose continuity of care.

The platform, developed



as an upgraded version of the government's Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal-which tracks pregnancies, deliveries and child health-creates a longitudinal digital health record for every woman during her reproductive years, covering the full cycle from pregnancy and deliv-

ery to postnatal and newborn care, along with family planning. Unlike the earlier RCH system, JANANI offers real-time tracking, QR-based digital records and integration with other health programmes, allowing continuous monitoring and timely intervention.

## Government starts free health check-ups for 40+ workers

**New Delhi, Agency:** Union govt on Thursday launched a nationwide free annual health checkup initiative for all workers aged 40 and above under the new labour codes, which were notified on Nov 21 last year. Labour minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the free checkups will be conducted yearly across the country as "early detection through health screenings can help prevent serious diseases, and treatment and medicines will be provided through ESIC facilities." He said workers



engaged in hazardous occupations and those working even in establishments with fewer than 10 workers are being brought under ESIC coverage. The minister said provisions for equal wages for men and women have been ensured, maternity leave increased from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, and work-from-home provisions for women incorporated.

## 'Not our policy': Government on Canada spy agency claims

**New Delhi, Agency:** Govt on Thursday rejected a report by Canada's intelligence agency that claimed foreign interference by India, saying India was a democracy that adhered to international norms and respected the sovereignty of other nations. The MEA said in response to media queries that India's position on this issue had been clear and consistent and it categorically rejected such baseless imputations.

"It is not our policy to interfere in issues of other countries. We believe that any concerns of this nature should be addressed through established mechanisms, rather than through public or politicised narratives," spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. The report, however, had acknowledged the threat to Canada from Khalistani extremism, something that India has repeatedly warned Ottawa about. The official said India has consistently spoken out about



concerns regarding the use of Canadian territory as a safe haven by extremist and separatist elements.

"The CSIS (Canadian Security Intelligence Service) assessment acknowledges the presence of supporters of the Khalistan separatist movement in Canada and notes that Canada-based Khalistani extremist groups continue to pose a national security threat not only to India but also to Canada," Jaiswal said. "India has repeatedly urged the Canadian govt to take effective action against anti-India extremist elements operating from its soil," Jaiswal added.

## Muslim law board rejects Centre's move on 'Vande Mataram'

**New Delhi, Agency:** All India Muslim Personal Law Board on Thursday rejected Union cabinet's decision to accord "Vande Mataram" a status equal to national anthem "Jana Gana Mana", make all six stanzas of the song compulsory and mandate its recitation before the national anthem in govt and educational institutions. In a statement, the board said if the govt does not immediately withdraw this decision, AIMPLB will be compelled to challenge it in court. AIMPLB has termed the move "direct violation of the basic spirit of Constitution, religious freedom, secular values and historic decisions



of the Constituent Assembly". AIMPLB spokesperson SQR Ilyas said, "Cabinet's decision is not only unconstitutional and undemocratic, but also contrary to the religious and cultural diversity and constitutional ethos of the country." Ilyas said a secular state cannot impose religious concepts or beliefs of one community upon all citizens by force.

"Several stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' contain invocations and glorification of Goddess Durga and other deities, which are in direct conflict with the Islamic doctrine of Tawheed (absolute oneness of God)." "Islam permits worship only of Allah, the One without partner, and doesn't accept any form of 'shirk' (associating partners with God)," Ilyas said

## DY Chandrachud to mediate in Kapurs' dispute



**New Delhi, Agency:** Former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has been roped in to settle the high-profile property dispute between late industrialist Sunjay Kapur's mother Rani Kapur and his wife Priya Kapur over the family trust, tied to his Rs 30,000 crore estate. As they expressed willingness for mediation, Supreme Court on Thursday appointed the ex-CJI as mediator and asked the parties to explore an amicable settlement. "It is a family dispute. Let it be confined among the family only. It should not be a source of entertainment," a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan told them.

# Maharana Pratap Jayanti

## Maharana Pratap – The Warrior King Who Refused to Bow

Every year, Maharana Pratap Jayanti is celebrated across India with immense pride, particularly in Rajasthan, where the legendary Rajput ruler continues to symbolize courage, sacrifice, and unwavering patriotism. The occasion commemorates the birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap, the fearless king of Mewar who resisted the expansionist policies of the Mughal emperor Akbar and became one of the most respected warriors in Indian history. Even centuries after his death, his life remains a shining example of self-respect, determination, and loyalty to one's motherland.

Born on May 9, 1540, in Kumbhalgarh Fort in present-day Rajasthan, Maharana Pratap was the eldest son of Maharana Udai Singh II and Maharani Jaiwanta Bai. From a young age, he displayed extraordinary bravery and leadership qualities. The environment in which he grew up was filled with tales of Rajput honor, sacrifice, and resistance against foreign domination. These values shaped his character and prepared him for the challenges that lay ahead.

Maharana Pratap ascended the throne of Mewar in 1572 dur-

ing a period of political uncertainty. At the time, much of northern India had either been conquered by the Mughal Empire or had accepted Akbar's supremacy. Many Rajput rulers entered into alliances with the Mughals for political survival and stability. However, Maharana Pratap chose a different path. He refused to surrender his independence and rejected Akbar's repeated offers of submission and diplomacy.

This decision was not merely political; it reflected his deep commitment to freedom and self-respect. For Maharana Pratap, sovereignty was more important than comfort or compromise. He believed that the honor of Mewar could not be traded for wealth, luxury, or political favor. His refusal to bow before Akbar turned him into a symbol of resistance and inspired generations of Indians.

One of the most famous chapters in his life was the Battle of Haldighati, fought on June 18, 1576. The battle took place between the forces of Maharana Pratap and the Mughal army led by Raja Man Singh of Amber. Although the Mughal army was larger and better equipped,

Maharana Pratap fought with unmatched courage and determination. The battle became legendary for the bravery displayed by the Rajput warriors and Maharana Pratap's loyal horse, Chetak.

Chetak occupies a special place in Indian folklore and history. During the battle, the horse carried the injured Maharana Pratap to safety despite being seriously wounded. According to popular accounts, Chetak leapt across a river before collapsing from exhaustion and injuries. The story of Chetak symbolizes loyalty and sacrifice, and it continues to be told to children across the country.

Although the Battle of Haldighati did not result in a decisive victory for Maharana Pratap, it was far from a defeat in spirit. He refused to give up and continued his struggle through guerrilla warfare. He retreated into the forests and hills of the Aravalli region, from where he launched attacks against Mughal forces and gradually regained large parts of Mewar.

The years following the battle were marked by immense hardship. Maharana Pratap and his family lived in forests, often sur-

living with limited food and resources. Stories from this period reveal the depth of his sacrifice. One famous incident recounts how his children had to eat bread made of grass because of extreme poverty. Yet despite these hardships, Maharana Pratap never accepted Mughal domination.

His resilience eventually paid off. By the later years of his reign, he managed to recover much of his kingdom, including important territories such as Gogunda, Kumbhalgarh, and Udaipur. He rebuilt administration, strengthened defenses, and restored economic activity in the region. His leadership demonstrated that determination and courage could overcome even the greatest challenges.

Maharana Pratap was not only a warrior but also an able administrator. He focused on the welfare of his people and encouraged agriculture, trade, and local governance. He understood that the strength of a kingdom depended not only on military power but also on the prosperity and unity of its people.

His respect for women and civilians during warfare is also noteworthy. Historical records



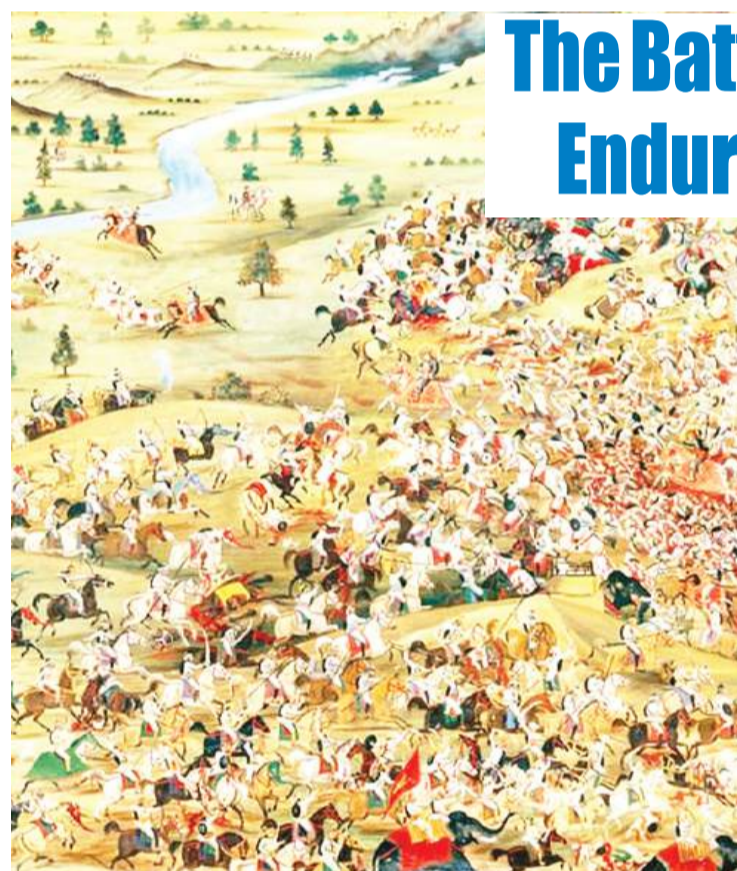
and folk traditions describe him as a ruler who maintained high moral standards even during conflict. He reportedly ensured that non-combatants were protected and treated with dignity.

Maharana Pratap died on January 19, 1597, due to injuries sustained during a hunting accident. However, his legacy never faded. In Rajasthan and across India, he is remembered not simply as a king but as a symbol of courage and patriotism.

Maharana Pratap Jayanti is celebrated with processions, cultural programs, speeches, and

educational events. Schools organize essay competitions and historical presentations to educate students about his life. Temples and community organizations hold special gatherings where people pay tribute to the warrior king.

In recent years, the celebration has also gained significance in discussions about national identity and cultural pride. Many people view Maharana Pratap as a representation of resistance against oppression and the importance of preserving dignity under difficult circumstances.



## The Battle of Haldighati and the Enduring Legacy of Courage

Among the many battles fought in Indian history, the Battle of Haldighati occupies a unique and emotional place. Fought on June 18, 1576, between Maharana Pratap of Mewar and the Mughal forces led by Raja Man Singh, the battle has become a symbol of resistance, bravery, and sacrifice. Every year during Maharana Pratap Jayanti, people revisit the story of this historic conflict and remember the courage of the Rajput warriors who fought against overwhelming odds.

The origins of the battle lay in the growing expansion of the Mughal Empire under Emperor Akbar. By the 1570s, Akbar had succeeded in bringing many Rajput kingdoms under Mughal control through diplomacy, military campaigns, and alliances. Several Rajput rulers accepted Mughal supremacy and even entered the imperial administration. However, Maharana Pratap of Mewar refused to submit.

Mewar held a special place among Rajput states because of its strong tradition of inde-

pendence and valor. Maharana Pratap believed that accepting Mughal rule would compromise the honor and sovereignty of his kingdom. Akbar made several attempts to negotiate with him through diplomatic missions, but Maharana Pratap remained firm.

As tensions increased, military confrontation became inevitable. The battlefield chosen was Haldighati, a narrow mountain pass in the Aravalli range near Gogunda in present-day Rajasthan. The area got its name from the yellow-colored soil that resembled turmeric, known as "haldi" in Hindi.

The Mughal army was commanded by Raja Man Singh of Amber and included experienced soldiers, cavalry, elephants, and artillery. Maharana Pratap's forces were comparatively smaller but highly motivated. His army included Rajput warriors, Bhil tribal archers, and loyal chiefs who believed deeply in the cause of Mewar's independence.

On the morning of June 18, the battle began with intense aggression from both sides. Maharana Pratap personally led his troops into combat, displaying exceptional bravery. Historical accounts describe

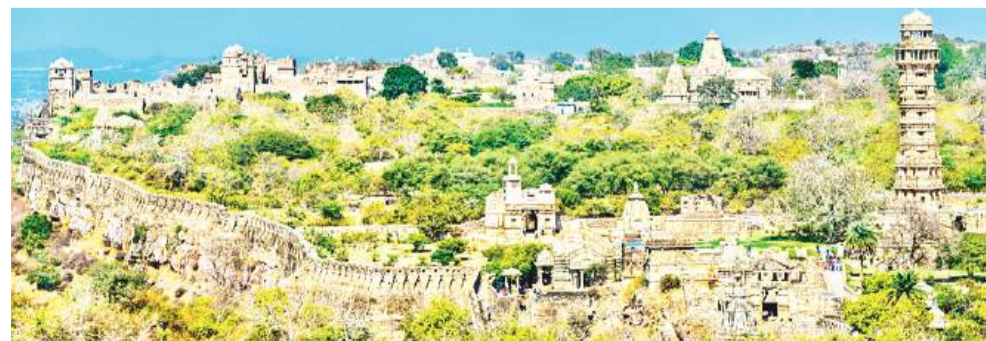
him wearing a blue-colored armor and riding his famous horse Chetak.

One of the most dramatic moments of the battle involved Maharana Pratap's direct attack on Raja Man Singh's elephant. According to traditional narratives, Chetak leapt onto the elephant, allowing Maharana Pratap to strike at the commander. Though Man Singh survived, the attack became legendary and demonstrated the extraordinary courage of both horse and rider.

Despite their bravery, Maharana Pratap's forces faced serious disadvantages. The Mughal army was larger and better equipped. As the battle intensified, many Rajput warriors sacrificed their lives while defending their ruler and homeland.

A significant figure in the battle was Hakim Khan Sur, an Afghan commander who fought alongside Maharana Pratap. His participation highlighted the broad support Maharana Pratap received from individuals who valued independence and opposed Mughal domination.

## Celebrating Maharana Pratap Jayanti – History, Traditions, and National Pride



Maharana Pratap Jayanti is one of the most significant cultural and historical observances in India, especially in Rajasthan. The occasion honors the birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap, the legendary ruler of Mewar who became a symbol of bravery, sacrifice, and resistance against foreign domination. Every year, people from different communities gather to celebrate his life and legacy through cultural programs, processions,

educational events, and tributes. The celebration is not only about remembering a historical figure but also about honoring values such as courage, patriotism, and self-respect. Maharana Pratap's story has inspired generations of Indians, and his birth anniversary continues to evoke feelings of pride and admiration. Maharana Pratap was born on May 9, 1540, at Kumbhalgarh Fort in Rajasthan. He belonged to the Sisodia dynasty, one of

the most respected Rajput lineages. His father, Maharana Udai Singh II, founded the city of Udaipur after the fall of Chittorgarh to Mughal forces. From childhood, Maharana Pratap received training in warfare, horse riding, and administration. He grew up listening to stories of Rajput bravery and sacrifice, which shaped his strong sense of duty toward his kingdom.

After becoming ruler of Mewar in 1572, Maharana Pratap faced increasing pressure from the Mughal emperor Akbar. Many Rajput rulers accepted Mughal authority during this period, but Maharana Pratap refused to compromise the independence of Mewar. His resistance led to the famous Battle of Haldighati in 1576. Though the battle did not produce a decisive military victory for Mewar, Maharana Pratap's courage and determination earned him lasting respect.



## Maharana Pratap Jayanti and the Spirit of Rajput Valor

Maharana Pratap Jayanti is not merely a historical observance; it is a celebration of courage, honor, sacrifice, and the enduring spirit of Rajput valor. Across Rajasthan and many parts of India, people gather to pay tribute to one of the country's greatest warrior kings, whose determination and patriotism made him a legendary figure in Indian history.

The Rajput tradition has long been associated with bravery and loyalty, and Maharana Pratap remains one of its brightest symbols. His life reflected the ideals of honor, independence, and duty toward one's people. In an era marked by political conflict and imperial expansion, he chose resistance over submission and hardship over compromise.

Born in 1540 at Kumbhalgarh Fort, Maharana Pratap belonged to the Sisodia dynasty of Mewar. The Sisodias were known for their fierce independence and refusal to surrender their sovereignty. From childhood, Maharana Pratap was trained in horse riding, sword fighting, military strategy, and statecraft.

Stories about his childhood often describe his physical strength, fearless personality, and sense of justice. These qualities later defined his leadership during one of the most challenging periods in Mewar's history.

When he became ruler in 1572, the Mughal Empire under Akbar was rapidly expanding. Many Rajput rulers accepted Mughal authority to secure political stability and economic benefits. However, Maharana Pratap believed that the independence of Mewar was sacred and could not be compromised.

His refusal to submit was rooted in Rajput ideals of honor and self-respect. For Rajputs, personal dignity

and loyalty to one's kingdom were considered more valuable than material wealth or political power. Maharana Pratap embodied these principles completely.

The Battle of Haldighati became the defining moment of his struggle. Though the battle did not produce a clear victory for Mewar, it immortalized Maharana Pratap as a symbol of courage. His willingness to fight against a much larger army inspired admiration even among his opponents.

Rajput valor is often associated with battlefield heroism, but Maharana Pratap's greatness extended beyond combat. His years of struggle in forests and mountains showed emotional strength and endurance. He endured poverty, separation from comfort, and constant danger without abandoning his principles.

One famous story from this period involves his family suffering from hunger while living in exile. According to folklore, his daughter once cried after a wild animal snatched away a piece of bread made from grass flour. The story reflects the difficult conditions faced by the royal family. Yet Maharana Pratap remained determined to continue his struggle for freedom.

The support he received from ordinary people also demonstrated the trust and respect he inspired. Farmers, tribal communities, warriors, and loyal chiefs stood beside him during difficult times. The Bhils of the Aravalli region became valuable allies in his resistance against the Mughals.

Maharana Pratap's relationship with the Bhils is an important aspect of his legacy.