



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

US brokers between Israel, Lebanon and says progress with China

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
The United States on Thursday sought to extend a shaky ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon as President Donald Trump voiced optimism at China's efforts on Iran. A ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel -- considered to still be in place despite hundreds of deaths in Israeli strikes -- ends on Sunday and violence again flared as the two governments met in Washington. Israel has pounded Lebanon and invaded its south in response to retaliatory fire from Shia movement Hezbollah following Israel's killing of Iran's supreme leader at the start of the war on February 28. Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors held the first of two days of talks at the State Department, with Israel bringing along military officers.

"We had a full day of productive and positive talks," a senior State Department official said, expecting more to say on Friday. A Lebanese official told AFP that the country would seek "the consolidation of the ceasefire" and said: "The first thing is to put an end to the death and destruction." The two sides last met on April 23 at the White House, where Trump announced a three-week ceasefire extension between the countries, which have technically been at war for decades. Trump at the time made the bold prediction that during the three-week extension he would welcome Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to Washington for a historic first summit between the countries.

The summit has not happened, with Aoun saying a security deal and an end to Israeli attacks were needed before such a landmark meeting. Israel has vowed to keep pursuing attacks against Hezbollah. The Israeli military said Thursday it struck more than 65 more Hezbollah sites across Lebanon. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported Israeli airstrikes on the south and east on Thursday, including on areas not mentioned in an earlier Israeli evacuation warning.

Hezbollah said it targeted Israeli troops in northern Israel with a drone. The Israeli military said several Israeli civilians were injured and evacuated for medical treatment. Hezbollah lawmaker Ali Ammar denounced the talks in Washington, calling them "free concessions" to Israel. Israeli attacks since March 2 have killed more than 2,800 people in Lebanon, including at least 200 children, according to Lebanese authorities, a toll Hezbollah says includes its fighters.

Former Oklahoma death row prisoner freed from jail as he awaits retrial in 1997 killing

world.(Agency)
Former Oklahoma death row prisoner Richard Glossip was released from incarceration for the first time in nearly 30 years Thursday after posting bond while awaiting retrial for a 1997 killing that put him on the brink of execution three separate times. Glossip wore a gray short-sleeved shirt and jeans as he walked out of the jail hand-in-hand with his wife, Lea Glossip.

"I'm just thankful for my wife and my attorneys. Just thankful," he said. "It's overwhelming, but it's amazing at the same time." Earlier Thursday, Judge Natalie Mai issued an order setting bond at \$500,000. Glossip must wear an electronic monitoring device and will not be allowed to travel outside Oklahoma. He also must not contact any witnesses in the case, or consume any drugs or alcohol. His attorney Donald Knight had suggested Glossip was counting on contributions to raise the money. "Mr. Glossip has many supporters and we are hopeful those supporters can afford the bail," Knight said. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out his conviction, and his longstanding claims of innocence have drawn support from Kim Kardashian and other prominent figures. Glossip had been sentenced to death over the 1997 killing in Oklahoma City of his former boss, motel owner Barry Van Treese, who was beaten with a baseball bat in what prosecutors have alleged was a murder-for-hire scheme. The Supreme Court ruled last year that prosecutors' decision to allow a key witness to give testimony they knew to be false violated Glossip's constitutional right to a fair trial.

Tensions flare near Strait of Hormuz as a ship is seized and another is sunk

World.(Agency)
A ship anchored off the United Arab Emirates was seized and taken toward Iran and another -- a cargo ship near Oman -- sank after being attacked, authorities said Thursday, as tensions escalated near the Strait of Hormuz. It wasn't immediately clear who was behind these incidents, but they happened as a senior Iranian official reiterated his country's claim of control over the waterway and another said it had a right to seize oil tankers connected to the U.S. The turmoil in the strait, which a fifth of the world's oil passed through before the war, has been a sticking point for weeks in talks between the U.S. and Iran to end the conflict. Iran's grip on the vital waterway has jolted the world economy and spiked fuel prices far beyond the Middle East. The ongoing instability in the region comes as U.S. President Donald Trump met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing. The White House said both sides had agreed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open. Just last week, tensions flared in the strait when U.S. forces fired on and disabled Iranian oil tankers that it said were trying to breach its blockade of Iran's ports.

Seizures and attacks in Hormuz ongoing
The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said it received reports that the ship seized Thursday was taken by unauthorized personnel while anchored 38 nautical miles (70 kilometers).

'Increasing insurgency': Study finds surge in violence followed Trump's USAID cuts in Africa

While the authors did not blame the USAID cuts for the increase in violence, they said the findings demonstrate that "large-scale, sudden aid cuts can destabilize fragile settings."

DAKAR. (Agency)
US President Donald Trump's decision last year to abruptly dissolve the US Agency for International Development -- once a leading global aid donor -- has been followed by a significant increase in violence in several African countries that the agency had supported, according to a study published on Thursday. While the authors did not blame the USAID cuts for the increase in violence, they said the findings demonstrate that "large-scale,

sudden aid cuts can destabilize fragile settings." They, however, added that this is not evidence that more aid reduces conflict, instead it only shows "the effect of a sudden and unexpected disruption."

For many years, USAID had provided crucial support to African countries wrecked by conflict and violence. By eliminating more than 90% of foreign aid contracts, the Trump administration effectively cut some \$60 billion in funding. The study by researchers from several universities in Europe and the United States said the abrupt withdrawal of USAID resources also interrupted contracts, staffing and aid procurement. "The abrupt withdrawal of USAID led to a significant and sustained increase in conflict across Africa's most USAID-dependent regions," said the study, published in the Science journal. The researchers said they examined whether the abrupt shutdown of USAID was followed by an increase in violence in regions of Africa that had historically received the most support and found that there was a correlation. Africa is facing a threat from

jihadis more than any other region in the world, conflict experts say. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data, or ACLED, said Wednesday in a new report



that jihadis in the region have been more involved in violence across the board and have been increasingly targeting civilians in the last four years. USAID had long been the key funding partner for many African countries, helping to provide funding that helped governments and aid groups respond to multiple crises across different sectors. In Nigeria for example, USAID support had helped victims of the militant Boko Haram group, which emerged in

2002. In Ethiopia's fragile Tigray region, officials relied heavily on US funds as full-scale recovery efforts were yet to start after the war there killed hundreds of thousands. And in northern Ivory Coast, a front line of the global fight against extremism, USAID had made significant financial commitments to counter the spread of al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. The findings from the study underscore the lasting impact of funding cuts, said Nathaniel Raymond, executive director of the Humanitarian Research Lab at the Yale School of Public Health, who was not among the authors of the study. "The lasting problem with the shuttering of USAID is likely going to be that for much of its conflict prevention work, even if you put back all the money... the experience is gone," Raymond said. Also, some USAID programs may have helped prevent spillover from conflict zones, said Ladd Serwat, senior Africa analyst at ACLED. "We now see increasing insurgency and spillover, so some of those programs may have supported."

Six passengers from hantavirus-hit ship arrive in Australia for three-week quarantine

MELBOURNE. (Agency)
Six passengers from a cruise ship hit by a hantavirus outbreak arrived Friday in Australia for a quarantine expected to last at least three weeks. The Gulfstream long-range business jet carrying them from the Netherlands landed at RAAF Base Pearce outside the Western Australia state capital, Perth. The passengers and crew were to be moved to the nearby Bullsbrook quarantine facility. Australian Health Minister Mark Butler said Thursday the government would implement "one of the strongest quarantine arrangements in response to this virus outbreak you'll find anywhere in the world." The five Australians and one New Zealand citizen are expected to spend the three-week quarantine

period in the facility that had remained largely unused since it was built in 2022 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A decision had yet to be made on what



precautions should be taken for the remainder of the 42-day period of potential incubation that the World Health Organization had identified, Butler said. Butler said passengers of

the cruise ship MV Hondius who returned to the United States and Britain would spend most of their quarantine periods at home.

The six passengers all tested negative for the virus before they left the Netherlands and none had displayed symptoms, Butler said.

Three people among the 11 cases in the hantavirus outbreak aboard the MV Hondius cruise ship have died.

The ship was on a cruise from Argentina to the Antarctic and then to several isolated islands in the South Atlantic Ocean when the outbreak was identified. With the evacuation of all passengers and many crew members completed, the MV Hondius is now sailing back to the Netherlands, where it will be cleaned and disinfected.

Israel threatens to sue NYT over report on sex abuse of Palestinian inmates

JERUSALEM. (Agency)
Israel on Thursday threatened to take The New York Times to court over a piece it published denouncing allegedly widespread sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Gideon Saar have ordered the "initiation of a defamation lawsuit against The New York Times", according to a joint statement issued by their offices. The offices said that the piece by Nicholas Kristof, a prominent opinion columnist, was "one of the most hideous and distorted lies ever published against the State of Israel in the modern press, which also received the backing of the newspaper." Kristof's investigation is based on testimonies gathered in the Israeli-occupied West Bank from 14 men and women who said that they had been sexually assaulted by Israeli settlers or members of the security forces. The report described "a pattern of widespread Israeli sexual violence against men,



women and even children -- by soldiers, settlers, interrogators in the Shin Bet internal security agency and, above all, prison guards". The New York Times responded that any legal claim over the "deeply reported opinion column" lacked merit. "This threat, similar to one made last year, is part of a well-worn political playbook that aims to undermine independent reporting and stifle journalism that does not fit a specific narrative," Danielle Rhoades Ha, a spokesperson for the newspaper, said in a statement. Kristof's piece said there was no evidence that Israeli leaders ordered rapes. The Israeli foreign ministry alleged that Kristof had based his piece "on unverified sources tied to Hamas-linked networks". It also accused the paper of deliberately timing the publication to "undermine" an independent Israeli report on Hamas sexual violence perpetrated during its October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, which was published on the same day. Israeli forces have detained thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank since Hamas's 2023 attack, which triggered the war in Gaza.

Trump says made 'fantastic trade deals' with Xi

BEIJING. (Agency)
President Donald Trump said he had made "fantastic trade deals" with China's Xi Jinping, as the pair met on Friday at final talks of a superpower summit that according to the US leader has also reaped a Chinese offer to help open the Strait of Hormuz. Trump had arrived in Beijing seeking to seal deals in sectors including agriculture, aviation and artificial intelligence, as well as to contain differences between the two sides in a number of tense geopolitical areas -- not least the Middle East war. Trump's overtures to Xi, whom he described as a "great leader" and "friend", have so far been met with more muted tones by the Chinese leader. But the US leader said "a lot of good" has come out of the visit.

"We've made some fantastic trade deals, great for both countries," he said after a walk with Xi among the rosebushes in the gardens of Zhongnanhai, a central leadership compound next to Beijing's Forbidden City. "We've settled a lot of different problems that other people wouldn't have been able to solve," he added, without providing details. Xi said it was a "milestone visit", and that the

two sides had to date established "a new bilateral relationship, which is a relationship of constructive strategic stability". Help on Hormuz. In an interview with Fox News after the first day of the summit wrapped, Trump said Xi had agreed to several US wishlist points. On the topic of the war in Iran, the US president said Xi had effectively assured his counterpart that China was not preparing to militarily



aid Tehran, which has essentially closed the Strait of Hormuz. "He said he's not going to give military equipment... he said that strongly," Trump told Fox. "He'd like to see the Hormuz Strait open, and said 'if I can be of any help whatsoever, I would like to help,'" Trump added.

Asked whether the two leaders had discussed Iran, the Chinese foreign ministry on Friday released a statement calling for "a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire". "Shipping lanes should be reopened as soon as possible in response to the calls of the international community," it added.

Taiwan policy 'unchanged'

The warm handshakes and pomp on Thursday were somewhat overshadowed by a blunt warning from Xi on a much longer standing geopolitical flashpoint, Taiwan.

Shortly after talks started, Chinese state media reported Xi had told Trump that missteps on the sensitive issue of Taiwan could push their two countries into "conflict". The Fox News interview did not touch upon Taiwan, and Trump did not comment to reporters when asked about the matter on Thursday. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told CNBC the president would say more "in the coming days".

Secretary of State Marco Rubio told NBC on Thursday though that "US policy on the issue of Taiwan is unchanged... as of the meeting".

Russia pummels Kyiv, killing at least 21 and denting peace hopes

KYIV. (Agency)
Ukrainian emergency services said early Friday that a massive Russian missile and drone attack that pummelled Kyiv the previous day killed at least 21 people, further shredding hopes of a halt to Moscow's grinding invasion. AFP journalists in the capital heard air raid sirens wailing across the city on Thursday before several hours of thunderous explosions and flashes in the sky sent Kyiv residents running to shelter in metro stations. The Ukrainian air force said Russia had launched 675 attack drones and 56 missiles, mainly at Kyiv, adding its air defence units had downed 652 of the drones and 41 missiles. "Everything was burning. People were screaming... people were shouting," Andriy, a Kyiv resident still wearing a nightgown and with blood stains on his shirt, told AFP near a collapsed Soviet-era residential building.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said 20 sites in the capital were damaged, including homes, a school, a veterinary clinic and

other civilian infrastructure. "Work is still ongoing in Kyiv at the site of the strike on the building -- a Russian missile strike that literally levelled a residential block, from the first to the ninth floor," he said in an evening address.

Twenty-one people including three children were killed in the attacks, Ukraine's emergency service said early Friday, updating a previously announced death toll of 16. Seven bodies were pulled from the rubble of a single destroyed residential building -- three men, three women and a young girl, police said.

Another 45 were wounded.

Ballistic challenge

Russian attacks also wounded people in the southern regions of Odesa and Kherson, and in the eastern region of Kharkiv.

"These are definitely not the actions of those who believe the war is coming to an end. It is important that partners do not remain silent about this strike," Zelensky said.

Ukraine said it shot down 94 percent of all drones and 73 percent of the missiles fired

by Russia. "The most difficult challenge is defending against ballistic missiles," he said. A slew of Ukraine's allies, including the United Kingdom, Estonia, Latvia, Finland, the Netherlands, Moldova and Slovakia, condemned the fatal attacks. "By bombing civilians, Russia demonstrates



less its strength than its weakness: it is running out of solutions on the military front and does not know how to end its war of aggression," French President Emmanuel Macron said. EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said the attacks on Kyiv showed that Russia "openly mocks" efforts

to end the war. Russia, which invaded Ukraine more than four years ago, said the wave of missiles and drones had targeted military-linked sites and energy facilities that support the Ukrainian army.

The conflict is the worst in Europe since World War II and has killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced millions more.

Chaotic rescue scenes

At daybreak Thursday, AFP journalists witnessed chaotic scenes as rescue workers dug through mounds of debris from a collapsed residential building.

Emergency service workers were seen hauling from the site those wounded and killed in the strikes, and residents cried as they waited for news of loved ones and neighbours. The barrage is the latest setback for efforts to end the conflict after US President Donald Trump raised faint hopes for peace by brokering a three-day ceasefire between Kyiv and Moscow last week. Russia's leader Vladimir Putin also suggested the war could be winding down.

India-UAE Sign Key Defence, LPG Agreements During PM Modi's Abu Dhabi Visit

Abu Dhabi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday concluded a crucial visit to the United Arab Emirates, with India and the Gulf nation signing major agreements on defence cooperation, energy security and infrastructure investment against the backdrop of rising tensions in West Asia and global oil market uncertainty.

The two sides signed multiple agreements covering:

- Strategic defence cooperation
Petroleum reserves
Long-term LPG supply arrangements
Shipping and infrastructure development
Advanced technology collaboration

The discussions also focused on trade, investment, fintech, blue economy and people-to-people ties.

UAE Announces Fresh \$5 Billion Investments

In a major boost to bilateral economic ties, the UAE announced fresh investments worth USD 5 billion in India. The investments are expected to support infrastructure expansion, strengthen India's financial sector and accelerate long-term economic cooperation between the two countries.



India and the UAE have significantly expanded trade and investment ties in recent years, especially after the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). West Asia Crisis Figures Prominently in Talks

INDIA-UAE TIES GET STRONGER
PM Modi's Abu Dhabi visit marks another major boost for India's global partnerships
Key Announcements & Agreements
Strategic Defence Partnership Framework signed.
ISPR & ADNOC signed an MoU on Strategic Petroleum Reserves to secure India's future energy needs.
Long-term LPG supply arrangements to support India's growing energy demand.
MOU signed for a Ship Repair Cluster at Vadinar, Gujarat, boosting maritime infrastructure & jobs.
UAE announced \$5 BILLION investment in India's infrastructure and financial institutions.

jets escorted Modi's aircraft as it entered Emirati airspace before landing in Abu Dhabi. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed personally welcomed the Prime Minister at the airport, highlighting the warmth in ties between the two nations. The military escort was widely seen as a symbol of the growing strategic partnership and close leadership-level engagement between India and the UAE. "Friendship Between India and UAE Is Very Strong" Reflecting on the visit, Modi described India-UAE relations as exceptionally strong and forward-looking. "The friendship between India and the UAE is very strong. Our nations will continue working together with the shared goal of building a better future for our planet," the Prime Minister said.

IIT-ISM Dhanbad Signs Startup Incubation Pact with IKN Innovation Foundation



Dhanbad: Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines- IIT-ISM) Dhanbad has signed a strategic co-incubation agreement with IKN Innovation Foundation to strengthen the startup and innovation ecosystem across Eastern and North-Eastern India.

The agreement was signed through the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE), the business incubator of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and startup development in the region. Under the collaboration, startups incubated at IKN Innovation Foundation will receive technical mentoring, research guidance and laboratory support from IIT (ISM), while startups associated with CIIE will gain access to business mentoring, industry connections, market access and funding opportunities through the Kolkata-based foundation. Dean (Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship) Prof. Alok Kumar Das said the partnership would help create a stronger and more inclusive startup ecosystem by combining technological expertise with business acceleration support.

Officials said the initiative aims to empower innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs with better mentorship, infrastructure and collaborative opportunities to scale ideas into commercially viable ventures and accelerate innovation-driven growth in the country.

CBSE Class 10 Second Board Exams Begin Smoothly in Bokaro, Nearly 3,000 Students Appear for Maths



Bokaro: The second phase of Central Board of Secondary Education Class 10 board examinations began smoothly in Bokaro on Friday, with 2,967 students appearing for Mathematics (Standard and Basic) exams across five centres. CBSE City Coordinator Dr. A.S. Gangwar said 3,184 students had registered for the exam, while 217 remained absent. He added that the examinations were conducted peacefully under strict security arrangements and no malpractice was reported.

The exams were held at Delhi Public School Bokaro, Delhi Public School Chas, Chinnmaya Vidyalaya, MGM Higher Secondary School and DAV CCL Dhori. The second board exams, introduced by CBSE this year, are optional and meant for score improvement or clearing failed subjects. The examination cycle will continue till May 21, ending with the Social Science paper.

NUSRL Ranchi Holds State-Level Consultation on 10 Years of Juvenile Justice System

Ranchi: The Centre for Child Rights at National University of Study and Research in Law organised a state-level consultation on "Reflecting on 10 Years of the Juvenile Justice System" on Thursday, bringing together academicians, legal experts and child rights stakeholders to discuss the implementation and future of the juvenile justice framework in India.

The programme was attended by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ashok R. Patil and Dean Prof. Dr. K. Syamala, along with experts from legal, academic and child protection sectors, including representatives from UNICEF.

The consultation focused on key provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, including child protection mechanisms, rehabilitation and reintegration of children, adoption regulations, institutional care and reforms needed to strengthen the child rights system in Jharkhand and across the country. Speakers stressed the need for stronger coordination among government bodies, legal institutions, civil society organisations and educational institutions to ensure effective implementation of child protection laws and policies. They also underlined the importance of continuous reforms and sensitisation to address emerging challenges in the juvenile justice system.

The programme concluded with a collective call to strengthen the child rights ecosystem and promote a more inclusive and child-centric justice framework in the country.

First UCC Prosecution in Uttarakhand: Man Charged Over Forced Halala

Haridwar: In a first-of-its-kind action under the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Uttarakhand Police have filed a criminal case against a Muslim man accused of pronouncing triple talaq and forcing his wife to undergo halala before taking her back. The accused, identified as Mohammed Danish from Haridwar's Buggawala area, was chargesheeted after his wife Shaheen alleged prolonged dowry harassment, forced divorce and repeated coercion into halala.

Woman Alleges Dowry Harassment, Forced Separation

According to the complaint, Shaheen alleged that Danish and his family members subjected her to mental and physical harassment over dowry demands soon after marriage. She claimed that Danish later dissolved the marriage by publicly pronouncing triple talaq. Despite wanting to continue the relationship, Shaheen alleged that she was



told she could return to her husband only after undergoing halala with another man chosen by him. FIR Claims Repeated Coercion Into Halala

The FIR registered at Bugawala Police Station on April 4 stated that the alleged practice was repeated several times in the past as well. Shaheen accused her husband of forcing her into halala arrangements and exploiting her under the pretext of reconciliation. She also alleged sexual harassment linked to the practice. The complainant informed police that she has a seven-month-old son and has been living under financial and emotional distress at her parental home. UCC Sections Invoked for First Time

Initially, police booked Danish, his mother Gulshana, and other family members under sections related to dowry harassment, triple talaq and criminal intimidation. Following investigation and witness statements, police invoked Sections 32(1)(ii) and 32(1)(iii) of the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code Act, 2024, making it the first criminal prosecution under the state's newly implemented UCC law. The provisions deal with

unlawful dissolution of marriage and imposing conditions such as halala for remarriage. What the Uttarakhand UCC Says

The Uniform Civil Code, introduced by the BJP government led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, abolished practices such as triple talaq, halala and polygamy in the state. Under Section 30(2) of the Act, divorced couples can remarry each other without any requirement of marrying a third person beforehand, effectively outlawing halala. Chargesheet Filed Against Multiple Accused

Three-Day Chhau 'Mohuri' Workshop Begins at Chandankiyari in Bokaro

by Arun Pathak

Bokaro: A three-day workshop on Chhau music focusing on the traditional 'Mohuri' instrument began at the Sangeet Natak Akademi Chhau Centre under the aegis of Sangeet Natak Akademi. The workshop was inaugurated with a ceremonial lamp-lighting by Bhakta Ranjan Mahato, Dr. Sanjay Kumar Chaudhary, Dr. Santosh Prasad



and members of the advisory committee. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Chaudhary stressed the need to preserve and promote India's cultural heritage and also urged people to adopt energy conservation practices. The workshop has brought together participants from Odisha, Seraikela and Purulia, along with students

from local government schools. Expert trainers including Tarzan Garai, Jagaru Kalindi and Mihir Lal Mahato are providing training in Mohuri playing. The event was attended by noted Chhau personalities, including Guru Sadhucharan Mahato, Haradhan Mahato and Pagulu Jena, while Centre staff members assisted in organizing the programme successfully.

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Mehngai Man Modi's collection begins: Opposition hits out at PM after fuel price hike

Congress and other opposition parties accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of burdening the common man with fuel price hikes immediately after elections.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The opposition parties on Friday launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi after petrol, diesel and CNG prices were hiked, accusing the Centre of burdening the common man soon after the conclusion of elections. The Congress took a swipe at the Prime Minister, calling him "Mehngai Man Modi" and alleging that the government had begun its "collection" from the public after the assembly elections concluded. Mehngai translates to Inflation. "Elections over, Modi's collection begins," the Congress said, accusing the BJP-led Centre of imposing additional financial strain on citizens already grappling with inflation and rising living costs. Petrol and diesel prices were increased on Friday by Rs 3 per litre after state-owned oil firms ended a four-year record hiatus in rate revision. In Delhi, the petrol price was hiked to Rs 97.77 per litre from Rs 94.77. Diesel now costs Rs 90.67 as against Rs 89.67 per litre previously. The increase comes 16 days after assembly elections

concluded in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The Trinamool Congress slammed the move, calling it "pathetically predictable" that fuel



prices would rise after the polls, and questioned whether the newly sworn-in BJP government in West Bengal would reduce Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol to ease the burden on people. "First they loot your vote, then they kick you where it

hurts. Pathetically predictable. Diesel and petrol prices hiked. Will Bengal Govt reduce VAT on petrol & diesel now that there's a Delhi-controlled government which doesn't have to worry about funds being blocked by the Centre?" Trinamool MP Derek O'Brien asked.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav shared a sarcastic post, saying, "If you want to move forward, the bicycle is the only option". He shared a caricature of himself riding a bicycle, along with the caption, "We had already said that we will continue travelling by bicycle!" The bicycle is also the party symbol of the Samajwadi Party.

Fuel prices had remained unchanged throughout the polling period despite a sharp surge in international crude oil prices triggered by the conflict in West Asia.

The basket of crude oil imported by India averaged around USD 69 per barrel in February, before the outbreak of the war in West Asia. In the months that followed, prices climbed to an average of USD 113-114 per barrel.

Breach in chain of command: Government takes responsibility for NEET leak

Speaking at a press conference on May 15, the Education Minister acknowledged a "breach in the chain of command" and said the government was taking responsibility for the NEET paper leak controversy.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in a press conference held today, said the NEET re-examination will now be held on June 21 after the government concluded that the original paper had been leaked under the cover of so-called "guess papers".

Pradhan in his address said, "despite following the recommendations of the Radhakrishnan committee, there was a breach in command chain. We accept it and take responsibility to improve it." The Union Minister was referring to the high-level committee led by former ISRO Chairman K



Radhakrishnan and constituted after the 2024 NEET paper leak.

The committee had reportedly made 95 comprehensive recommendations for reforms in the exam process, but those were not followed as per instructions.

According to him, the exam was conducted on May 3, but by May 7, the NTA had received complaints that several questions circulating in guess papers matched the actual exam. The Higher Education Department then launched an enquiry and involved central agencies, which worked with state authorities before confirming by May 12 that the real question paper had indeed been compromised.

During the press conference, he was asked about the alleged involvement of insiders in the National Testing Agency (NTA), and he responded by saying, "CBI will investigate the matter thoroughly. CBI is a trustworthy agency, and it will probe matter smoothly."

'500, 600 Marks': NEET-UG Exam Paper Leak Accused's WhatsApp Guarantee

After Maharashtra, the leaked paper reportedly spread to several states, including Haryana's Gurugram, Rajasthan's Jaipur and Sikar - a major coaching hub - as well as Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, and Kerala.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shubham Khairnar, one of the key accused in the NEET-UG 2026 exam paper leak scam, would assure candidates between 500 and 600 marks, details from his WhatsApp chats have revealed. The CBI investigation spread to the NEET exam paper leak scam - which caused the results of the May 3 exam to be scrapped and the test rescheduled for June 21 - revealed that in April, Khairnar informed his supplier, Yash Yadav from Pune, that a copy of the paper was sought. Sources said the deal for the leaked paper was finalised by April 29, after which Khairnar and others lured candidates sitting for NEET - the national qualifying exam for undergraduate medical courses - with promises of high marks and admission to prestigious colleges. During the investigation, details of digital communications exchanged via WhatsApp between the prime accused and other accused individuals came to light.

Sources said Khairnar - arrested in Nashik - had assured others of the scheme's success and, in those messages, offered a 'guarantee' candidates would get between 500 and 600 marks.

The NEET-UG paper is graded on 720 marks.

Chats recovered from Khairnar's mobile phone indicated that he was in constant contact with a criminal syndicate for the purpose of sharing the leaked question papers. The CBI has seized chat logs, copies of the leaked question papers, and other crucial digital evidence from Shubham's mobile phone. After Maharashtra, the leaked paper reportedly spread to several states, including Haryana's Gurugram, Rajasthan's Jaipur and Sikar - a major coaching hub - as well as Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, and Kerala.



Who Is Shubham Khairnar And How He Was Arrested

Shubham Khairnar, a 30-year-old resident of the Indiranagar locality in Nashik, is a Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) student. He allegedly bought the leaked NEET-UG paper from a Pune-based suspect for Rs 10 lakh and sold it to a buyer in Haryana for Rs 15 lakh, earning a profit of Rs 5 lakh. Shubham was detained by the CBI on Tuesday afternoon while reportedly travelling to a temple for prayers. Investigators said he had changed his appearance by cutting his hair in an attempt to evade detection. However, officials allegedly identified him by comparing his current appearance with older photographs and using technical surveillance data.

Advisor to PM in race for Bengal Finance Minister's post, via Nandigram

Economist Sanjeev Sanyal has emerged as the leading contender for Bengal's finance portfolio. The buzz has grown amid speculation that the Suwendu Adhikari-led government lacks a strong finance hand to steer Bengal's economy.

New Delhi.(Agency)

"The Dark One, Goddess of Time, turns the Wheel of Epochs, slows but surely," popular economist Sanjeev Sanyal posted on May 4, the day the BJP scripted a historic win in the Bengal elections. The cryptic post was seen as a reference to the changing political landscape in Bengal. Some also viewed it as a harbinger of his own probable entry in the state's power circles, amid speculation that the BJP lacked a strong finance hand to steer Bengal's economy. After all, few know that Sanyal himself is a Bengali.

So far, only five ministers have taken oath along with Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari in Bengal. The key finance ministry for now is being

overseen by Suwendu along with Singh Puri. The signs are hard to miss. At Suwendu's swearing-in ceremony, the BJP mobilise support of women voters, was also seen with him. "Witnessed history," he tweeted.

BJP'S EXPERIMENT WITH BUREAUCRATS

In fact, the BJP is no stranger to bringing seasoned bureaucrats into top political roles. There is no need to look further than External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep

Singh Puri. The signs are hard to miss. At Suwendu's swearing-in ceremony,



Sanyal was spotted at the venue in a traditional Bengali dhoti-kurta. His wife, Smita Barooah, who is believed to have played a key role in helping

the BJP mobilise support of women voters, was also seen with him. "Witnessed history," he tweeted.

Since the election results were declared on May 4, Sanyal has given a spate of interviews and written op-eds for media houses on what he called Bengal's economic decline and how to bring it out of the present stagnation. "Kolkata didn't die, it was murdered, and I am a witness," Sanyal told Republic. He also posted about the murder of Chandranath Rath, Suwendu's PA, and the bomb attack in Bengal that left five BJP workers injured.

PM Modi On UAE, 4-Nation Europe Tour For Energy, Tech Ties Amid Iran War

New Delhi. (Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a five-nation tour starting in the United Arab Emirates Friday before heading to Europe - to the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Italy - for a trip overshadowed by energy and supply-chain worries due to the Iran war.

Disruptions around Gulf shipping routes and the Strait of Hormuz continue to drive volatility in oil and gas markets, increasing pressure on energy-importing economies, including India. But the trip also reflects India's wider effort to diversify economic and strategic partnerships -- while positioning itself as a major manufacturing and

technology hub.

UAE PM Modi will visit the UAE on May 15 to meet UAE President Sheikh



Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. PM Modi has visited the UAE seven times since 2014 and Sheikh Mohamed has visited India five times. His last

visit was in January, accompanied by the next generation of UAE leaders, marking the resilience of the bilateral relationship, which has only strengthened across generations. Through the current turmoil, the UAE has remained one of India's most reliable energy partners and continues to be so.

With long-term supply agreements in place, India's energy security has been bolstered. Enhancing energy cooperation will be a key agenda of the visit.

Sources said two important MoUs in the areas of LPG and Strategic Petroleum Reserves are likely to be concluded during this visit.

BJP seeks details of 'Rahul's undeclared 54 foreign trips' since Congress says 'tactic to divert attention' from setbacks

New Delhi.(Agency)

TERMING IT a matter of national security, the BJP on Thursday accused Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi of having made undeclared and "secret trips" abroad, and sought to know the reason for the visits and the source of the funds. The Congress hit back saying the BJP's allegations were a tactic to divert attention from "setback after setback" for the NDA government's foreign policy. BJP national spokesperson and Lok Sabha MP Sambit Patra, addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, alleged that Gandhi had made 54 personal foreign trips in 22 years of his public life. Approximately ₹60 crore was spent on his travels while his declared income over the past 10 years was only about ₹11 crore, said the BJP leader. "During his 22 years in public life (2004 to

2026), Rahul Gandhi has undertaken 54 foreign trips to countries such as Italy, United Kingdom, United States, Germany, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Bahrain, Maldives, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates," Patra said.

"According to the available details, in the past 10 years, Rahul Gandhi's total income was ₹11 crore. On one hand, there is an income of ₹11 crore, while on the other hand, ₹60 crore was spent on foreign trips," he said.

According to Patra, five "major mismatches" emerged with regard to his foreign trips: financial year 2014-15, when his total income was approximately ₹86 lakh, nearly ₹4.5 crore was spent on a single foreign trip; in 2017-18, his total income was around ₹1.2



crore, while approximately ₹6 crore was spent on foreign travel. Similarly, in 2019-20, Gandhi's income stood around ₹1.29 crore, whereas nearly ₹4.6 crore was spent on foreign travel, in 2021-22, against an approximate income of ₹1.03 crore, around ₹2.6 crore was spent on foreign travel, said Patra.

"So far, six of Rahul Gandhi's trips have been described as undeclared, and if the Oman trip is confirmed, it will be the seventh undeclared trip... No public programme related to this trip was announced, no host was disclosed, and it was not revealed who had invited him... No permission letter under FCRA Section 6 has been shown either," Patra alleged. "If Rahul Gandhi went on a foreign trip, he should have written to the Central government and the Ministry of Home Affairs to seek prior permission, because that is the rule for a Member of Parliament. The Congress should make that permission letter public by this evening," he said. Patra sought to know who hosted the visit, whether it was an Indian or a foreign entity, was permission obtained from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Congress hit back saying the BJP's allegations were a tactic to divert attention from "setback after setback" for the NDA government's foreign policy.

How BRICS can provide mortar for a new world order

India's foreign policy finds itself at a historical and strategic crossroads, navigating a geopolitical landscape far more complex than the binary choices of the 20th century. On one hand, New Delhi is a linchpin of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad, deeply entwined with a Western-aligned security architecture intended to ensure a "free and open Indo-Pacific". On the other hand, India currently holds the 2026 BRICS presidency. This bloc has spent two decades evolving from a Wall Street acronym into the most formidable institutional voice of the Global South. This dual identity—strategic partner to the West and champion of the developing world—is being tested like never before. As the 2026 BRICS presidency unfolds, the friction between these two roles is no longer a matter of abstract diplomatic theory; it is manifesting in missed joint statements, aggressive tariff threats from Washington and a fundamental disagreement over the future of the global financial order. For India, the challenge is no longer just about 'multi-alignment'; it is about whether it can lead a fractured Global South. The journey to this moment began on November 30, 2001. In the sombre immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, Jim O'Neill of Goldman Sachs published a seminal paper titled 'Building better global economic BRICS'. He argued that the G7 structure was an anachronism that failed to account for tectonic shifts in global productivity. O'Neill pointed out that, in terms of purchasing power parity, Brazil, Russia, India and China accounted for almost a quarter of global GDP. His thesis was simple: the world's economic governance was incomplete without these emerging giants. O'Neill was a banker, not a diplomat, and he viewed these nations through the lens of growth potential. Interestingly, he predicted India's initial hesitation, noting it might be the "least eager" to join a formal club. He sensed that New Delhi might view collective obligations as an unwelcome constraint on its domestic policy or its ability to provide independent advice based on its unique developmental trajectory. The transition from an economic concept to a political reality occurred in September 2006 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. India was represented by Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee standing in for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The resulting joint statement was a shot across the bow of the post-WWII order, asserting that in a shifting global scenario, "economic weight must equal political power". While Brazil and China were eager to frame the group as a counter-hegemonic force, India's approach was more nuanced. New Delhi stressed that this new formation was "complementary" to existing structures, and did not envisage it as a replacement. This middle path has been the hallmark of Indian diplomacy for decades. Yet, the 2008 global financial crisis eventually forced a more assertive stance. By the first formal summit in Russia's Yekaterinburg on June 16, 2009, the tone had shifted. The 'Great Recession' had exposed the fragility of Western financial dominance and the risks of a unipolar economic world. Prime Minister Singh, usually a soft-spoken economist, firmly advocated a multipolar vision and an end to G7-centric governance. He famously remarked that the global economic crisis had shown that the existing structures of international governance needed reform to ensure that the developing world's voice was heard.

Punjab's railway transformation is creating opportunities, boosting connectivity

The tracks being laid are not merely lines on the ground — they are pathways towards economic growth

Railways have always been more than a mode of transport for India. Wherever rail connectivity reaches, development follows. Industries grow, trade expands, tourism flourishes and the quality of life of ordinary citizens improves. Punjab is now witnessing exactly such a transformation — a railway renaissance that is reshaping the economic and social landscape of the state. For decades, Punjab suffered because several crucial railway projects remained trapped in files, delayed by bureaucratic hurdles, lack of coordination and absence of sustained political will. Many projects that were sanctioned years ago eventually entered a "freeze" stage and remained in cold storage for decades. Important regions such as Malwa, border districts, industrial belts and religious centres remained deprived of modern rail infrastructure despite repeated demands by the people. One of the biggest ironies was that Chandigarh, the capital city of Punjab, was not directly connected to the entire Malwa region through a modern rail corridor. The Rajpura-Mohali rail link, first envisioned in the 1970s, remained pending for decades despite continuous follow-ups by several leaders and public representatives over different periods. The Qadian-Beas line, another long-pending demand, also remained frozen because of land acquisition issues and administrative delays. The situation began to change under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Guided by the PM's vision of infrastructure-led growth and regional balance, Punjab's railway development received unprecedented attention. I was fortunate to receive constant support and encouragement from Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, whose proactive approach ensured that Punjab's pending railway aspirations were converted into executable projects. When I assumed responsibility as Minister of State for Railways, I reviewed every major pending project related to Punjab — from the divisional level to Railway Board headquarters. I found that many projects had effectively stalled because of issues related to state cost-sharing commitments, land acquisition disputes and prolonged procedural delays. Understanding Punjab's financial situation, I strongly advocated that the Railways should move ahead by bearing the project costs to ensure that development did not suffer. After extensive discussions, continuous follow-ups and coordination between divisions, zonal railways and the Railway Board, several projects that were once frozen were finally revived and fast-tracked. Punjab is witnessing railway development at a scale never seen before. The railway budget allocation for the state has increased to Rs 5,673 crore in 2026-27, nearly 25 times higher than the annual average

allocation during 2009-14. Projects worth over Rs 26,000 crore are currently under execution across the state. Major projects that were revived and accelerated include the Rs 13,770-crore Bhanupalli-Beri New Line project, the Rs 842-crore Qadian-Beas New Line, the Rs 443-crore Rajpura-Mohali rail line, the Rs 300-crore Ferozepur-Patti New Line and the Rs 449-crore Raman-Maur line. Important doubling projects such as Ludhiana-Kila Raipur and Ludhiana-Mullanpur are also progressing rapidly. The Nangal Dam-Talwara project, involving an investment of Rs 2,312 crore, is another landmark initiative that will strengthen connectivity in the region. One of the most historic achievements has been the sanctioning and advancement of railway connectivity to Talwandi Sabo, home to Takht Sri Damdama Sahib. For decades, there was a long-standing aspiration to connect all five Takhts of Sikhism through rail connectivity. Leaders across party lines raised this

connectivity has entered a new era with the introduction of premium train services. Today, six pairs of Vande Bharat Express trains and one pair of Amrit Bharat Express are operational in the state. The Ferozepur-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express was especially important for the Malwa region. I pursued the project to ensure that border districts and the Malwa belt received direct high-speed connectivity to the national capital. The train, inaugurated by the Prime Minister with great enthusiasm, has become a symbol of modern rail connectivity and a precious gift for Punjab.

The transformation is visible not only in passenger services but also in core infrastructure. Punjab has achieved 100% railway electrification. Hundreds of kilometres of new tracks have been laid, while over 400 ROBs (railway overbridges), RUBs (railway underbridges) and underpasses are being constructed or sanctioned to reduce congestion and improve safety. I intervened in several pending projects, including the Doraha and Dhuri ROBs, where procedural bottlenecks had delayed public convenience for years. Similarly, in Pathankot, we took immediate steps to reduce severe traffic congestion caused by multiple level crossings by reorganising rake movement and operational patterns. I have always believed that development should rise above political lines. Every proposal related to ROBs, RUBs or passenger facilities brought forward by leaders from any political party was taken seriously and pursued with equal commitment because the priority must always remain public welfare. Punjab's railway transformation is not merely about tracks and stations. It is about creating opportunities. Improved rail infrastructure will reduce logistics costs for industries, strengthen border-area connectivity, encourage tourism and pilgrimage, support agricultural trade and generate employment. Industrial centres such as Bathinda, Ludhiana, Patiala, Batala, Jalandhar and border districts will benefit immensely from enhanced freight and passenger movement. Better connectivity will also strengthen Punjab's role in national economic growth. The journey from frozen files to fast-tracked execution demonstrates what determined leadership, coordinated governance and continuous follow-up can achieve. I express my heartfelt gratitude to PM Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for his constant guidance and support, and all railway officials and engineers who worked tirelessly to turn these long-pending dreams into reality. Punjab's railway renaissance has begun. The tracks being laid today are not merely lines on the ground — they are pathways towards economic growth, social progress, regional connectivity and a stronger future for every citizen of Punjab.



issue over the years, but progress remained limited. Today, this dream is finally moving towards reality. This is not merely an infrastructure project; it is an emotional, cultural and spiritual milestone for millions of devotees worldwide. Punjab is also witnessing rapid modernisation of passenger facilities. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 30 railway stations are being redeveloped with world-class amenities. Among them are the holy city of Amritsar in Majha and Bathinda in Malwa. Major stations such as Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Mohali, Anandpur Sahib and Sri Muktsar Sahib are undergoing extensive modernisation. The redevelopment of Chandigarh Railway Station at a cost of Rs 462 crore is one of the flagship projects being executed by the Rail Land Development Authority. The station is being transformed into a modern transport hub with dual station buildings, a massive air concourse, foot overbridges, modern passenger lounges, retail areas, lifts, escalators and enhanced parking facilities. The project has already achieved substantial progress and will redefine the travel experience for the Chandigarh Tricity region. At the same time, Punjab's rail

BJP's game plan : Opposition parties need to close ranks

It seems that the Modi government is preparing the people for a crisis that it failed to anticipate

SUVENDU Adhikari has taken oath as West Bengal's first BJP chief minister — less than six years after he switched over from the Trinamool Congress (TMC). He has been rewarded for defeating TMC supremo and three-term CM Mamata Banerjee in her bastion, Bhabanipur (Adhikari also won the Nandigram battle against her in the 2021 Assembly elections, even though the BJP had finished a distant second). His elevation is in sync with the BJP's strategy of promoting turncoats to make inroads into states where its traditional cadre base has been weak. From Himanta Biswa Sarma in Assam to Samrat Choudhary in Bihar, the party has reposed faith in leaders known for their grassroots influence. Adhikari now joins this club of powerful converts who have become central to the BJP's expansion mission. In



Punjab, which will go to the polls in barely 10 months, the party has former Congress leaders Sunil Jakhar and

Ravneet Bittu among its ranks, besides AAP's Raja Sabha MPs who defected recently. The BJP's growing dominance is prompting its vanquished rivals to rethink their go-solo policy. Mamata Banerjee has called for a "joint platform" of Opposition parties, student unions and NGOs to resist the saffron surge. She seems to have finally realised that a fragmented INDIA bloc cannot match the BJP's might. The Congress-DMK rupture in Tamil Nadu has laid bare the conflict between regional and national priorities. The dual challenge for Opposition parties is to keep their flock together and present a united front. The BJP's relentless efforts to weaken regional forces are already putting the national alliance under great strain. The trend is set to gain momentum if there is little or no pushback from parties whose very survival is at stake.

Black economy stifles Punjab's growth

↳ Persistent ills such as drug menace and tax evasion are eroding the state's fiscal capacity

THE public policy shift in July 1991 promised that deregulation would eliminate the black economy. A decade ago, demonetisation raised similar hopes. However, the black economy is quietly thriving, particularly in Punjab, where it is creating a multidimensional crisis and severely impacting development. Punjab's woes are often discussed through the prism of familiar issues like the drug menace, debt burden, unemployment, tax evasion, illegal sand mining, illicit liquor and agrarian distress. These are not separate crises, but elements of a shadow/black economy that drains revenue, undermines governance, harms public health and hits economic activity. Punjab does not yet have a reliable official estimate of its underground economy. That absence is itself significant. Estimates of India's shadow economy vary widely, from around 14 per cent to more than 50 per cent of the GDP. More recent estimates tend to place it closer to 20-30 per cent. But the problem in Punjab cannot be understood only through the national average. The state's shadow economy is shaped by its geographical location, agrarian economy, real-estate practices, fiscal stress, GST leakages, illicit liquor networks and illegal sand mining. The most visible and socially devastating face of Punjab's shadow economy is the narcotic trade. The state shares a 553-km international border with Pakistan, making it vulnerable to cross-border trafficking. Official seizure data shows that narcotic trafficking has remained high. Total seizures stood at 49,422 kg in 2022 and 47,609 kg in 2023. The crisis is also reflected in cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, with Punjab accounting for more than one-tenth of all such cases registered in India in recent years. These figures capture only intercepted narcotics, not the full volume of the trade.

A drug economy of this magnitude generates cash flows, informal credit, patronage and laundering channels that can spill into real estate, consumption, small businesses and local politics. The scale of substance use shows how the narcotic trade feeds Punjab's wider shadow economy. The 2019 national report of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment estimated that Punjab accounted for 7.2 lakh opioid-dependent people, 2.1 lakh sedative-dependent people, 27,000 cocaine users and nearly 88,000 who injected drugs. A 2022 survey by the PGI, Chandigarh, reported substance use among 15.4 per cent of the population. Addiction turns the narcotic trade into a deeper economic crisis by weakening the labour force, raising household costs, increasing informal borrowing and embedding shadow networks in everyday life. The fiscal cost of this hidden activity becomes visible in revenue leakages, especially through GST evasion, real-estate undervaluation, illicit liquor and under-regulated extraction from natural resources. GST evasion illustrates this revenue-side pressure. GST was expected to reduce evasion, formalise transactions and widen the tax base. However, between July 2017 and December 2024, Central tax agencies registered 1,386 GST evasion cases in Punjab involving around Rs 6,454 crore, with 72 arrests linked to these cases. This indicates that tax evasion is not confined to non-compliance; it is an organised channel through which public revenue is hit hard. The persistence of such leakages shows how informal and fraudulent practices continue to erode Punjab's fiscal capacity even within a formal tax framework. Real estate is a major channel through which the shadow economy enters the formal economy. The gap between collector rates and actual market prices allows property transactions to be recorded at lower official values, while

part of the payment is settled in cash. This enables unreported income to be converted into property assets, while reducing stamp duty, registration revenue, capital gains visibility and income tax trails. Punjab's 2024 revision of collector rates was not merely a revenue



measure, but an attempt to reduce the space for undervaluation, cash settlement and informal wealth accumulation in property markets. The scale of the gap is visible in sharp local revisions. For instance, in Kheri Gujran (Patiala), residential collector rates have reportedly risen from Rs 3,445 to Rs 22,750 per square yard (560 per cent increase). Thus, real estate absorbs hidden income, weakens revenue collection and gives informal wealth the form of a durable asset. Agriculture adds a more complex layer to this pattern due to the uneven visibility of the agrarian economy. Procurement is formally recorded, but labour arrangements and income reporting often remain outside regular scrutiny. The exemption of agricultural income under Section 10(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, is necessary to protect small and marginal farmers. Yet it can also create space for large agricultural income, and sometimes non-agricultural income, to avoid a

closer examination. The same informality is visible in farm labour. A large share of agricultural workers reportedly works without written contracts. This keeps wages, working conditions and social security obligations inadequately recorded. Agriculture thus remains a grey zone, formally visible in procurement but ineffectively monitored in income reporting and labour relations. Illicit liquor and illegal sand mining show how unlawful activities can acquire an organised economic form. Private networks make gains outside formal regulation, while the state loses revenue and society bears the cost. The 2020 hooch tragedy in the Majha region flagged the human cost of illegal liquor — deaths, medical expenses, household distress and loss of productive labour. Illegal sand mining creates a parallel concern by weakening public revenue, distorting construction material markets and damaging riverbeds as well as groundwater systems.

With Punjab reportedly earning only around Rs 250 crore annually from mining, continued illegal extraction points to weak revenue capture, environmental harm and erosion of local regulatory authority. Across sectors, the outcome is evident in terms of revenue loss, governance problems and rising social cost. The policy response must therefore move beyond raids, seizures and arrests. Existing measures have improved detection, but have not addressed the conditions that allow these illegal activities to persist. Punjab needs more than leakage mapping. It requires a data-driven governance strategy that combines a state-level shadow economy estimate, AI-based GST risk profiling, real-time property valuation linked to market transactions, digital tracking of mining permits and transport, targeted scrutiny of high-value agricultural income claims, financial tracing of narcotics-linked assets.

चील को मिला चकमा



उड़ी, उस पर तुम हंस रहे हो।
ऐसी क्या बात हो गई 'भाई?' एक ओदरमा न पूछा। उसने खुशी-खुशी कहा, 'मैं तो उस चील की बेवकूफी पर हंस रहा हूँ। बेचारी चील कलेजी तो छिन ले गई। उसको बनाने की विधि जो मौसी ने लिखकर दी थी, वह तो मेरी जेब में ही रह गई। अब वह चील कलेजी का करेगी क्या?

बहुत दिन हुए एक सीधा-सादा, नाटा और बदसूरत देहाती रहता था। उसका नाम था- हाजी बगलोल। उसकी अजीब-सी बकरी जैसी दाढ़ी थी, जिसकी वजह से वह बिल्कुल बकरी जैसा ही दिखता था। उसने अपनी सारी ज़िन्दगी गाँव में ही बिताई थी। एक बार वह अपनी मौसी के घर दूसरे गाँव गया। उसकी मौसी ने उसे कलेजी खाने को दी, जो उसे बहुत स्वादिष्ट लगी। उसने अपनी मौसी से कलेजी बनाने की विधि पूछी। मौसी ने विधि एक कागज़ पर लिखकर हाजी को दे दी। हाजी बगलोल ने कागज़ को बहुत सम्भालकर अपनी जेब में रख लिया। रास्ते में उसने एक किलो कलेजी खरीदी और उसे पॉलीथिन में डालकर हाथ में लिए अपने गाँव की तरफ जा रहा था कि एक चील ने वह पॉलीथिन देख लिया। बेसब्र चील ने तोर से झपटा मारा और कलेजी को लेकर उड़ गई। पहले तो इस आकस्मिक हमले से हाजी बगलोल घबरा गए। जब उसने चील को ऊपर उड़ते देखा, तो ठहाका लगाकर हंस पड़ा। जिन लोगों ने यह पूरा वाकया देखा था, वे हैरान थे। उन्हें समझ नहीं आ रहा था कि गुस्सा करने के बजाए हाजी ठहाका मारकर हंस क्यों रहा है। मानो कोई बहुत खुशी की बात हो। 'एक तो चील तुम्हारे हाथ से कलेजी ले



बच्चों को बिगाड़ रहे हैं मोबाइल फोन

आज मोबाइल फोन हमारी ज़रूरत बन गए हैं। हाल ही में हुए एक अध्ययन से यह बात सामने आई है कि मोबाइल फोन से 8 साल के बच्चों की पहुंच अश्लील सामग्री तक हो रही है। यह अध्ययन से 15 साल के एक हजार बच्चों पर बेस्ड है। इसमें यह पाया गया कि इनमें से आधे बच्चों के पास आईफोन जैसे स्मार्टफोन थे। ज्यादातर बच्चों ने कहा कि ये फोन उन्हें उनके माता पिता ने दिए हैं।

ये बच्चे इन मोबाइलों का इस्तेमाल हिंसक और पॉर्न कंटेंट देखने में करते हैं। इससे पता चलता है कि ब्रिटेन के 12 लाख बच्चे मोबाइलों पर गलत सामग्री देखते हैं। कारफोन वेयरहाउस के सर्वे के मुताबिक दस में से करीब 9 बच्चों के मोबाइल पर सिक्योरिटी सेटिंग नहीं थी और 46 पर्सेंट इस बात से अंजान थे कि मोबाइल में सिक्योरिटी सेटिंग होना ज़रूरी है। इनमें 27 प्रतिशत बच्चों ने बताया कि उन्हें अनवॉन्टेड कॉल्स और मेसेज रिस्वीव होते हैं। चाइल्ड साइकॉलॉजिस्ट प्रोफेसर तान्या बायरॉन जो कि यूके सरकार को चाइल्ड इंटरनेट सेफ्टी लागू करने की सलाह दे चुके हैं, उनके मुताबिक इंटरनेट के जमाने में इस स्टडी से मुझे कोई हैरानी नहीं हुई। उन्होंने कहा कि अगर आपके बच्चे मोबाइल फोन यूज करते हैं, जिनमें इंटरनेट एक्सेस होता है तो आपको संभलने की ज़रूरत है।

कहां से आया फलों का राजा

आम को इसकी मिठास तथा गुणों के कारण भारत में फलों का राजा कहा जाता है। आपको यह जानकर भी आश्चर्य होगा कि पूरे विश्व में आम भारत से ही गया है। डी कन्डोले के अनुसार भारत में चार हजार वर्षों से भी पहले से इसकी खेती हो रही थी। फाहियान और हेनसांग का भी मत है कि यह फल राजा आश्रमिका ने गौतम बुद्ध को भेंट किया था।

कहा जाता है कि अपनी विश्वविजय के दौरान सिकंदर को इसका स्वाद इतना भाया कि वह आम की कलमें अपने साथ यूरोप ले गया। मुगल बादशाह बाबर तो आम का इतना दीवाना था कि उसने अपना ताज उतारकर आम के ऊपर रख दिया था, ताकि कोई अन्य इसका स्वाद न ले सके। सांची तथा भरहुत के स्तम्भों और अजन्ता के भित्तिचित्रों में भी आम का चित्रण पाया गया है। अमीर खुसरो ने भी आम को 'फल सम्राट' की उपाधि दी थी।

आपने आम की लंगड़ा, दशहरी, सफेदा आदि किस्मों के बारे में अवश्य सुना होगा। आम की यह किस्में संसारभर में मशहूर हैं। शरबती, कलमी, तोतापरी, नीलम, जाफरानी, चौसा, मल्लिका, केसर, फजली, लडू, पसेरा, माल्टा, अलफान्सो आदि आम की कुछ अन्य बेहतरीन किस्में हैं।

आम के इन विभिन्न नामों के पीछे का इतिहास भी कोई कम दिलचस्प नहीं है। लंगड़े आम के बारे में कहा गया है कि यह आम बनारस में विकसित हुआ है। वहां के एक विश्व मंदिर में एक लंगड़े साधु के पास आम के दो छोटे पौधे थे, जिनकी कलमें जंगल से उड़कर उसके पास आ गई थीं। साधु ने इन्हें बो दिया तथा जी-जान से उनकी देखभाल करने लगा।

कुछ वर्षों के पश्चात जब इन वृक्षों पर आम के फल लगे, तब साधु ने इन्हें शिव की मूर्ति पर चढ़ा दिया। कुछ समय के बाद उसने इन वृक्षों का कार्यभार पुजारी को सौंप दिया। पुजारी किसी को इनकी कलम न देता, पर प्रसाद के रूप में आम को भक्तजनों में बांट देता। भक्तजन इन रसीले आमों को खाकर तृप्ति का अनुभव करते।

धीरे-धीरे इन आमों

के अनूठे स्वाद की चर्चा काशी नरेश तक पहुंची। काशी नरेश स्वयं मंदिर पहुंचे। शिव की पूजा करके उन्होंने पुजारी से कलम मांगी। पुजारी ने उन्हें कलम दे दी। जिससे आम के पौधे बने। यह आम फैलता चला गया और लंगड़ा आम कहलाया।

इसी तरह दशहरी आम का नाम लखनऊ के दशहरी गाँव पर पड़ा है। मलीहाबादी आम का नामकरण भी मलीहाबाद नगर से हुआ है। दशहरी आम बादशाह कुतुबुद्दीन ऐबक के शासनकाल में विकसित हुआ।

आम की कई किस्में काफी अनोखी हैं। 'शरीफा' आम दूर से सचमुच शरीफा दिखता है। 'अंगूरा' आम पेड़ पर अंगूर के गुच्छे जैसे आकार में लगते हैं। 'करेला' आम का रूप-रंग करेले जैसा होता है। 'चितला' आम छिलके से ही हरा-सफेद नहीं होता। उसे काटने पर भीतरी गूदा भी हरा-सफेद होता है। 'नीमचढ़ा' का स्वाद कुछ-कुछ कड़वा होने के कारण ही इसका यह नाम पड़ा है। 'लैला-मजनु' नामक किस्म की खासियत यह है कि लैला तथा मजनु नामक आम के दो पेड़ साथ-साथ लगे होने पर ही फल देते हैं, अन्यथा नहीं।

'गुलदाना' खट्टा है तो 'छोटा जहांगीर' वाकई छोटा और बेहद

आम

मीठा है।

'ऐग मैंगो'

बिल्कुल अंडे जैसा लगता है। 'दानापुरी ककडन' की खासियत है कि यह अपने वृक्ष पर केवल एक ही पैदा होता है। महाराष्ट्र के 'कोंकण कृषि विद्यापीठ' में भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान के वैज्ञानिकों ने बिना गुठली का नाम विकसित करने में सफलता प्राप्त की है। इस आम को 'सिन्धु' नाम दिया गया है। इसके अलावा गोपाल भोग, इब्राहिम, कश्यपी, जुलेखा, हिलर, जालिम अंडा, ककडी, कंचन, अर्जुन, महबूबा, वेलियन, नवाब गुड़, बीरबल, महाराज, बादशाह, चांद बीबी, हिलर, केडी, हुस्नेआरा, लता, मोहन भोग, कालापानी, कोबरा, जेलर, फजरी जैसे आम अपनी बेमिसाल रूप-रंगत, निराले स्वाद के अलावा अपने नाम से भी लाजवाब कर देते हैं। भारत में आम की लगभग एक हजार किस्में पाई जाती हैं।

कृष्ण कहते हैं ये पेड़-पौधे हमारी धरती को हरी-भरी बनाने के साथ हमें ऑक्सीजन की सौगात देते हैं, जिसे हम प्राणवायु कहते हैं। बस इतना जानते हैं आप। इनके वो गुण भी देखिए, जिनसे अब तक आप अनजान थे।

आत्मनिर्भर- पेड़-पौधे अपने भोजन की स्वयं ही व्यवस्था करते हैं। मिट्टी से पोषक तत्व और पानी को सोखते हैं और फिर सूर्य के प्रकाश से ऊर्जा लेकर, भोजन बनाते हैं। आप इनसे आत्मनिर्भर बनने की सीख ले सकते हैं।

सुरक्षा-सहायता- पेड़ की छांव तेज धूप में आपको शीतलता प्रदान करती है। वहीं इसके

प्रकृति में पेड़-पौधे, सूरज, हवा, हिमकण और सितारे सब शामिल हैं। इनका वजूद हम सबके अस्तित्व के लिए बहुत ज़रूरी है। इस बात से तो आप भी इत्तेफाक रखते ही होंगे। अब आप सोच रहे होंगे, ये तो हमें मालूम है, तो फिर क्यों बताया जा रहा है। पर दोस्तो, क्या आपने अपने आस-पास मौजूद इन तत्वों से कुछ सीखने की कोशिश की है। क्या?..ये क्या सिखाएंगे!!! ये तो बोलते ही नहीं है। अरे ये बिना बोले ही काफी कुछ कह जाते हैं। बस ज़रूरत है इनको ध्यान से सुनने की। आइए हम लेकर चलते हैं आपको इन सबसे मिलवाने और इनसे दोस्ती भी करवाने..।

कुछ कहते हैं ये पेड़-पौधे हमारी धरती को हरी-भरी बनाने के साथ हमें ऑक्सीजन की सौगात देते हैं, जिसे हम प्राणवायु कहते हैं। बस इतना जानते हैं आप। इनके वो गुण भी देखिए, जिनसे अब तक आप अनजान थे।

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सुरक्षा-सहायता- पेड़ की छांव तेज धूप में आपको शीतलता प्रदान करती है। वहीं इसके

कितने सारे टीचर्स!!!

फल बहुत मीठे और रसीले होते हैं। पेड़ अपने फल तो आपके और हमारे लिए ही होते हैं।

खुद पर नाज- इनकी सबसे बड़ी खासियत यह होती है कि ये चाहें कैसे भी टेढ़े-मेढ़े हों, दूसरे पेड़ ही तरह नहीं बनने की कोशिश करते। यानी आप जो भी हो जैसे भी हो, वही रहना चाहिए। आत्मविश्वास से भरपूर बने रहना चाहिए। यही तो है आपकी पहचान।

नहीं करते बर्बाद- ये कुछ भी बर्बाद नहीं करते, अपने पोषक तत्वों को धरती से सोख लेते हैं। समय को बिना गंवाए अपने विकास के लिए लगातार लगे रहते हैं।

कैसी थी दुनिया की पहली पेंसिल

क्या आप जानते हैं कि आपकी पढ़ाई की साथी आपकी पेंसिल का सबसे पहला रूप कैसा था? दुनिया की पहली पेंसिल ग्रेफाइट छड़ों का एक गुच्छा मात थी जिन्हें एक डोरी से बांधा गया था। इसके बाद किसी ने सोचा कि ग्रेफाइट छड़ को एक लकड़ी की खोखली छड़ के अंदर रखना चाहिए। जोसेफ रिचेंडरफर पहले व्यक्ति थे जिन्होंने पेंसिल के टप पर रबर लगाने के बारे में सोचा। ताकि लिखते वक्त हुई गलतियों को आसानी से ठीक किया जा सके। एक पेंसिल से आप 35 मील लंबी लाइन खींच सकते हैं या अंग्रेजी के 50,000 शब्द लिख सकते हैं।

NEWS BOX

Sanju Samson next India T20I captain? Ravi Shastri gives his seal of approval for CSK star

New Delhi. (Agency)
Former India coach Ravi Shastri feels that Sanju Samson is a serious contender for being the next T20I captain for the national team after his impressive performances this year. Samson was the Player Of The Tournament as India retained their crown at home. In the final three matches, Samson hit match-winning knocks, ending the competition with 321 runs from just five matches. There has been speculation around Suryakumar Yadav's position in the team as he has struggled for form with the bat in recent times. Shreyas Iyer has been a name rumoured to be in the running but Shastri has given his seal of approval to wicketkeeper-batter. Speaking to ICC, the former Indian coach said that Samson is a certainty in the T20I side for the next few years. Shastri also pointed out to Samson having experience leading Rajasthan Royals in the past. "India,



come the next (T20) World Cup (in 2028), might be looking for a new captain, depending on how Surya goes over the next couple of years," Shastri said, speaking to Sanjana Ganesan on The ICC Review. "But Sanju Samson has put himself there for a leadership role because he's done that in the past for Rajasthan (Royals). "And he's a certainty in the side, at the top of the order, extremely destructive. So I see him, this is just the start of something more you'll see from Sanju over the next two or three years." "NO LONGER QUESTIONS ON ABILITY" Samson has carried his form into the IPL, where he has scored 430 runs from 11 matches for CSK, including two hundreds. Shastri said that Samson has answered his critics and there are longer questions about his ability. "I think he (Samson) has put a lid on all those question marks.

Mumbai Indians players are happier when Hardik Pandya is not there: Kris Srikkanth



NEW DELHI. (Agency)
Are the Mumbai Indians happier when Hardik Pandya isn't playing? Former India captain and selector Kris Srikkanth feels that is the case after seeing how MI played and celebrated during their win over Punjab Kings in Dharamsala on Thursday, May 14. With Hardik still on the sidelines, and with Suryakumar Yadav also missing the match, Jasprit Bumrah was installed as the stand-in skipper. Immediately, there seemed to be a new energy within the bowling group as Mumbai were able to wreck Punjab during the middle overs with Shardul Thakur picking up four wickets. In the end, Tilak Varma's blitz ensured they got the win in the final over, leading to massive celebrations in the Mumbai dugout, with Rohit Sharma leading the way. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Srikkanth said firstly it was a good move to have Bumrah as the captain as he was proactive with his calls.

"It is a good call. I think Bumrah coming in as captain is a fantastic move," said Srikkanth. Srikkanth said that there was a noticeable shift in energy within the side as Hardik wasn't there, and they showed the will to succeed. "Definitely, definitely there is some issue. Definitely, the team's mood was more lighter. The team suddenly looks more united overall." "Surya too didn't play in that match. He was not playing the match for personal reasons, he did not play the match. But whatever it is, the young side suddenly like you are saying. They come and Deepak Chahar is bowling well. That Raj Agad Bawa fellow is bowling decently. Everyone is performing. Tilak Varma performed brilliantly. Ryan Rickleton smashed and dominated with aggressive shots early on." "Overall, like you said, the will to win, they will to succeed. Even though they were down in the dumps, they showed the will to succeed. That is the key in cricket. That energy was there," said Srikkanth.

Kylian Mbappe captain, Camavinga out as France announce FIFA World Cup 2026 squad

Didier Deschamps has named France's 2026 World Cup squad with Kylian Mbappe as captain and Eduardo Camavinga omitted. It sharpens the focus on France's depth ahead of what is expected to be Deschamps' final World Cup in charge.

New Delhi. (Agency)
France unveiled a talent-packed squad for the upcoming World Cup on Thursday, though one major name was missing from Didier Deschamps' final selection — Real Madrid midfielder Eduardo Camavinga. Ranked No. 1 in the latest FIFA Men's World Rankings, France head into the tournament as one of the strongest contenders.

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 COVERAGE
Captain Kylian Mbappe headlines the squad alongside attacking stars Ousmane Dembele and Michael Olise. The midfield will feature Aurelien Tchouameni and veteran N'Golo Kante, while the defence includes William Saliba, Jules Kounde and Theo Hernandez. Mike Maignan will serve as the team's first-choice goalkeeper. Despite being part of France's runner-up squad at the 2022 World Cup and featuring in the March international fixtures, Camavinga failed to make the final 26-man list. At club level, he has recently fallen behind Thiago Pitarch in Real Madrid's midfield pecking order.

"He had a difficult season for him where he played less. He also had injuries," Deschamps said, as quoted by Reuters. "It's true that he's a player who came very early with us. He is still a young player." Because I have choices to make the squad structure also has to be even

among the defenders, the midfielders and the forwards. But I understand and I imagine his enormous disappointment this evening." Deschamps selected Brice Samba and Robin Rissler as Maignan's understudies,



with the latter earning recognition after an impressive Ligue 1 campaign. Their inclusion meant there was no place for Lucas Chevalier, who lost his starting role at Paris Saint-Germain earlier this year to Matvei

Safonov. Before heading to their World Cup training base in Boston, France are scheduled to play warm-up matches against Ivory Coast and Northern Ireland. Their Group I campaign begins against Senegal on June 16, followed by fixtures against Iraq on June 22 and Norway on June 26. Other high-profile omissions included Tottenham forward Randal Kolo Muani and Rennes striker Esteban Lepaul, who finished as Ligue 1's top scorer this season. Meanwhile, Jean-Philippe Mateta earned a recall despite missing the March friendlies while recovering from a knee injury. He is expected to help cover for the absence of Hugo Ekitike, who has been ruled out with a ruptured Achilles tendon. The tournament is also expected to mark Deschamps' final World Cup in charge of France. The manager guided Les Bleus to World Cup glory in 2018 and is widely tipped to hand over the reins to French icon Zinedine Zidane after the competition. France previously lifted the trophy on home soil in 1998 as well.

Why has BCCI picked Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for India A and not India

UPDATED. (Agency)
For months, Indian cricket has been locked in one debate: is Vaibhav Sooryavanshi ready for the senior team? Some believe throwing a 15-year-old into international cricket is a risk not worth taking. Others feel the Bihar prodigy has already shown the temperament and fearlessness that most senior players spend careers chasing. Either way, the debate itself speaks to the extraordinary impact Sooryavanshi has made in so little time. Robin Uthappa had wondered aloud whether Sooryavanshi's stunning IPL 2025 campaign was a one-season burst. The teenager came back in 2026 and lit up the tournament all over again. The doubters went quiet. The question grew louder. Now, Indian cricket has dropped its biggest hint yet. On Thursday, Sooryavanshi earned his maiden India A call-up for the upcoming tri-series in Sri Lanka — a clear sign that the BCCI sees him as a serious long-term prospect, but is unwilling to fast-track him recklessly into senior cricket just yet. The Sri Lanka



assignment, scheduled between June 9 and 21, gives the youngster a platform to don the India colours without the crushing weight of senior international expectations. It also, on the surface, appears to keep Sooryavanshi away from India's tour of the United Kingdom — seven T20Is across Ireland and

England. But here is the thing: the UK series does not begin until June 28. Sri Lanka ends June 21. The window exists, and the BCCI knows it. If Sooryavanshi lights up the tri-series the way he has lit up everything else he has touched, the selectors may find the argument for leaving him behind increasingly difficult to make. THE SMOOTH PATHWAY

Let's get one thing straight: not everyone is Sachin Tendulkar. More importantly, just because one pathway worked for Tendulkar does not mean it will work for everyone else. Prithvi Shaw, once hailed as the next Tendulkar, is currently struggling to find a place even in an IPL playing XI. That is precisely why the BCCI deserves credit for the measured approach it has taken with Sooryavanshi. Instead of getting swept away by the hype surrounding the teenager, Indian cricket's decision-makers have chosen to move him through the system gradually, step one, then step two, rather than throwing him straight into level five.

I only listen to Rohit Sharma: Tilak Varma's heartfelt tribute after MI's win vs PBKS



Dharamsala. (Agency)
Mumbai Indians batter Tilak Varma was in a fantastic mood following his sensational match-winning performance to take down Punjab Kings in Dharamsala on Friday, 15 May. The youngster single-handedly anchored a massive 201-run chase, but rather than soaking in all the personal glory, he chose the immediate aftermath of the victory to pay a deeply heartfelt tribute to the legendary Rohit Sharma. Right after hitting the winning runs to complete a thrilling six-wicket victory for his side, Tilak was seen celebrating on the field by gesturing the number 45 with his hands. This was a clear and deliberate nod to the iconic jersey number worn by Rohit, showcasing the immense respect the young prodigy holds for the former skipper. A Cheeky Dig and Fierce Loyalty

Following the conclusion of the high-stakes game, the Mumbai Indians franchise released a behind-the-scenes video on social media that perfectly captured the camaraderie between the two players. In the clip, both Tilak and Rohit were seen having a relaxed chat with Murtuza Hussain, the team's sidearm specialist. During the light-hearted conversation, Rohit praised the youngster's brilliant knock, mentioning how he genuinely needed to go back and watch Tilak's innings properly. The senior opener also showed his humorous side by taking a cheeky dig at his own performance in the same game, where he struggled for timing during a scratchy stay at the crease. However, Tilak stayed fiercely loyal to his senior teammate and refused to let Rohit downplay his value. Making a distinct heart symbol gesture with his hands, the left-handed batter expressed his absolute devotion to Rohit's guidance, stating, "Hamesha RS45, unka hi sunta hu," which translates to "Always Rohit Sharma, I only listen to him." "Finding Positives Amid Franchise Speculation
This emotional public display of unity comes at a very crucial juncture for Mumbai Indians, who have endured an incredibly tough season.

Sreejesh was insulted: Former captain Jude Felix tears into Hockey India

LOS ANGELES. (Agency)
It was March 27 at the Hockey India Awards. Every Indian team and coaching staff member was present under one roof. It was a day of celebration, with players and coaches freely interacting with the media. Yet one man seemed detached from it all, unusually withdrawn for someone known for his warmth and energy around the media. The often talkative PR Sreejesh stayed away from the spotlight, avoiding questions throughout the evening. When we finally got a brief chance to speak to him, the legendary goalkeeper politely said he did not wish to interact with the media that day. There was a quiet sense that something was simmering beneath the surface. But the event moved on, and so did everyone else. And then May 13 arrived. The storm that had been building inside Sreejesh finally broke over Indian hockey. In an explosive social media post, the 38-year-

old revealed that he was no longer the head coach of the Indian junior men's hockey team — a role he had taken up immediately after India's emotional bronze medal



triumph at the Paris Olympics. Despite delivering five medals, including a podium finish at the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup, Sreejesh was suddenly out. He slammed Hockey India, claiming the

federation had removed him in favour of a foreign coach, later revealed to be Frederic Soyez. Hockey India quickly attempted damage control, insisting Sreejesh had not been "sacked" and had instead been offered the role of coaching the development squad — a position they described as crucial to preparations for the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028. Sreejesh explained his reasons behind not accepting the role in another explosive tweet. The federation also argued that it was time for greater experience to come into the junior setup, suggesting Sreejesh still needed more exposure as a coach. Another point Hockey India highlighted was their focus on fostering grassroots and homegrown coaches, claiming they already had over 600 such talents within their coaching pathway system.

MI batting coach Pollard cops hefty fine after outburst at umpire in PBKS clash

PBKS vs MI: Mumbai Indians batting coach Kieron Pollard has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for using abusive language towards the fourth umpire. The penalty came during a tense six-wicket victory over Punjab Kings in Dharamsala.

Dharamsala. (Agency)
Mumbai Indians batting coach Kieron Pollard has been fined 15 per cent of his applicable match fee for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct by using abusive language for the fourth umpire. The legendary former West Indies all-rounder also accumulated one demerit point for the Level 1 offence. According to an IPL press release issued on Friday morning, Pollard was found to have breached article 2.3 of the Code of Conduct, which relates to the use of an audible

obscenity during a match. The flashpoint occurred in the 19th over of the second innings during Mumbai Indians' match against Punjab Kings on Thursday night. Pollard admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction imposed by match referee Pankaj Dharmani. This is not the first time the long-time associate of Mumbai Indians has been penalised for breaching the code of conduct in the past.

Tilak Varma Stars in Last-Ball Thriller
The disciplinary incident took place during a dramatic last-ball thriller in the hill town of Dharamsala, where Mumbai Indians emerged winners by six wickets. The defeat severely dented the playoff hopes of Punjab Kings, who have now slumped to their fifth straight defeat and must win both of their remaining matches to stay in contention for a top-four finish. Chasing a competitive target of 201, Ryan Rickleton came out blazing for Mumbai Indians. He single-handedly propelled his side to 59 for no loss during an

explosive 23-ball 48, tearing into the attack despite Rohit Sharma's scratchy 25 at the other end. Arshdeep Singh delivered two outstanding overs with the new ball for



Punjab, conceding just eight runs, but lacked support as Rickleton took toll of Azmatullah Omarzai, Marco Jansen, and Xavier Bartlett. Punjab Kings fought back with three wickets for 57 runs between the seventh and 13th overs, with Yuzvendra Chahal bowling a

superb spell to pull things back and castle Rohit. However, Tilak Varma anchored the chase superbly with an unbeaten 33-ball 75. Varma first stitched a 61-run stand off 42 balls with Sherfane Rutherford and later combined with Will Jacks to steer Mumbai home in 19.5 overs, hitting two sixes in the final over to knock off the winning runs. Shardul's Four-Wicket Haul Limits PBKS
Earlier in the evening, Punjab Kings were asked to bat first and crossed the 200-run mark for the eighth time this season. Prabhsimran Singh smashed 57, adding a 33-ball 50-run opening stand with Priyansh Arya and a further 57 runs with Cooper Connolly to take Punjab past the 100-run mark in the 12th over. Shardul Thakur brought Mumbai Indians back into the game with a four-wicket burst, finishing with figures of 4 for 39. Shardul struck twice in three balls to remove the well-set Prabhsimran and stand-in skipper Shreyas Iyer.

Janhvi Kapoor

To Marry BF Shikhar Pahariya In Jamnagar This Year? Boney Kapoor Reacts

Janhvi Kapoor often makes headlines due to her rumored relationship with Shikhar Pahariya. The couple, reportedly dating for several years, has never shied away from showing affection in public. From temple visits to cozy dinners and glamorous events, they are often seen together, with their social media posts further fueling speculation about their relationship. Recently, rumours surfaced suggesting that Janhvi and Shikhar were planning to marry later this year in Jamnagar. However, Janhvi's father, Boney Kapoor, has shut down the rumours, confirming there's no truth to them.

Janhvi Kapoor And Shikhar Pahariya to Marry Soon?

Recently, rumours surfaced suggesting that Janhvi and Shikhar might be planning to get married later this year, possibly between September and October. A few reports on the Internet claimed that a traditional wedding was on the cards in Jamnagar. The speculations

quickly spread across entertainment portals and social media, sparking excitement among their fans. However, Janhvi's father, Boney Kapoor, shut down these rumors. In an interview with ETimes, he firmly stated, "No, this is not true," putting an end to the wedding buzz for now.

Janhvi had subtly confirmed her relationship with Shikhar when she wore a customized 'Shiku' necklace, a nickname for

Shikhar, during the screening of Maidaan in 2024. The gesture immediately caught the attention of fans and was seen as her quiet way of acknowledging the relationship without making a formal announcement.

Janhvi Kapoor And Shikhar Pahariya's Relationship

Rumours about their relationship first emerged in 2016, however, neither party confirmed nor denied them back then. Reports suggest the couple briefly parted ways after Janhvi's Bollywood debut in 2018, something she hinted at on Koffee with Karan. However, they reportedly rekindled their romance in 2022 and have been inseparable since, regularly appearing together in public. Shikhar is also known to share a close relationship with Janhvi's family and is often seen at their gatherings and celebrations.

Janhvi Kapoor's Upcoming Film

Meanwhile, on the professional front, Janhvi will next be seen in Peddi, opposite Ram Charan. After several changes in release plans, the film is now scheduled to arrive in cinemas on June 4, 2026. She was last seen in Shashank Khaitan's Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, co-starring Varun Dhawan. The film released in theatres in October last year.



Huma Qureshi

Rachit Singh Set To Marry Later This Year, Wedding Prep Begins

Looks like wedding bells might be on the way for Huma Qureshi and this time, it's not just rumours doing the rounds. Something real seems to be quietly coming together behind the scenes. As per a report by Hindustan Times, Huma and her partner Rachit Singh are planning to get married later this year. The couple, who have mostly kept their relationship private, have already begun preparations for their big day. A source told Hindustan Times, "They are planning an October end or November wedding as of now. The preparations have begun."

The celebrations are expected to reflect Huma's personal style – simple, warm, and close-knit. Sharing more details, the source added, "Knowing Huma she will have a good intimate wedding party and then throw a reception for the industry. May be not a lavish wedding but something that only her close friends and family will attend, followed by a big reception. As of now its most probably looking like Mumbai."

Speculation about their relationship had been growing for a while. The two were spotted together at a screening of Thamma and later attended Sonakshi Sinha's wedding, which caught attention. In September 2025, Hindustan Times had earlier reported that the

couple got engaged in the US.

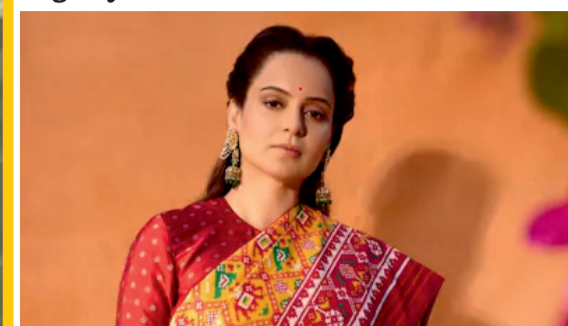
Speaking about the proposal, a source had shared, "Huma and Rachit have been going strong for a while as a couple and on Sunday, he proposed to her in an intimate proposal and she said yes. It was a close-knit affair that took place in the US. They are yet to decide when they want to



make it official by announcing it publicly."

The two were also recently seen travelling together from the Mumbai airport, one of the rare times they've been spotted publicly as a couple. Rachit Singh, originally from Varanasi, moved to New Delhi in 2012 and briefly explored modelling before shifting to Mumbai in 2016 to pursue a career in entertainment, according to his IMDb profile.

Kangana Ranaut Slams Fake News About Marrying Rahul Gandhi: 'No Dignity For Women Even In Politics'



Kangana Ranaut is quite vocal about her thoughts, and she is someone who knows how to shut trolls. The actress has called out a meme page for making derogatory remarks about her and put the record straight that she isn't someone who will take such remarks as jokes. Following Raghav Chadha joining the BJP, all sorts of conversations are happening on social media, and a meme page has now put out a post featuring a fake comment by Kangana Ranaut that reads, "Agar Rahul Gandhi BJP join karenge toh main unse shaadi karne ke liye tayar hoon." This post caught Kangana's attention, and she isn't ready to let it go.

Kangana reshared this meme on her Instagram story and wrote, "How pathetic is this fake news. No dignity for women even in politics. Shame on those who are spreading this fake news." This clarification came after several reports claimed that the 40-year-old actress had supposedly said she would marry the Congress leader if he decided to join the BJP.

Kangana Ranaut on the work front

The actress is currently busy working on the sequel to her hit film Queen. Vikas Bahl, who is handling writing, direction, and co-production duties, has reportedly planned a tightly packed three-month schedule from start to finish. Meanwhile, Kangana is also juggling her responsibilities as a Member of Parliament from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, alongside the shoot.

According to Mid-Day, "In the last 10 days, Kangana has been flying in and out of the city to attend Parliament sessions. There have been times when she went to Delhi for the day, came back at night, and shot till the next morning."

What we know about the Queen sequel so far

The report further states that the second part is not a direct continuation of the original, but it will retain its core themes of self-discovery and self-reliance. "This time too, Rani is a small-town woman from North India, but her look is entirely different.

Deepika Padukone Will Not Be Attending MET Gala 2026; Here's Why



Deepika Padukone, currently expecting her second child with husband Ranveer Singh, has been balancing her personal and professional life with grace. The actress has been busy shooting for King alongside Shah Rukh Khan in Cape Town, and several glimpses from the sets recently went viral on social media. The much-loved duo's reunion on screen has sparked excitement, but it's her dedication to her work, even during her second pregnancy, that's truly shining through. With the MET Gala 2026 just around the corner, many are wondering—will Deepika make an appearance this year?

Deepika Padukone To Skip MET Gala 2026

Now as per reports, sources have clarified that Deepika Padukone will not be attending the Met Gala this year. According to the source, "Her priority has always been and continues to be films. With King slated to release at the end of this year and Raaka scheduled to release next year, her priority at the moment is to complete the shoot for these two films." Yes, the audience across the globe will miss her serving some iconic looks this year, but with two of the biggest films of the country in production right now, Deepika is busy fulfilling her professional commitments.

A few days ago, reports revealed that Deepika plays a significant role in Atlee's film Raaka and she already has wrapped the shooting sequences, which includes a grand entrance and a major action sequence alongside Allu Arjun. Meanwhile, leaked glimpses from the sets of King, featuring Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone, have further amplified anticipation among fans.

The Met Gala 2026 is set to take place on May 5 (IST) at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. This year's theme is "Fashion Is Art," and a diverse mix of global celebrities from film, music, fashion, and sports are set to attend the prestigious event.

High-profile attendees and co-chairs for the event include Beyoncé, Nicole Kidman, Venus Williams, and Anna Wintour. Meanwhile, stars like Rihanna, Kim Kardashian, Bad Bunny, and Kendall Jenner are also anticipated to grace the red carpet. From India, filmmaker Karan Johar will reportedly make his MET Gala debut this year. According to industry buzz, the filmmaker will attend fashion's biggest night alongside regular Met Gala attendee Natasha Poonawalla and close friend, couturier Manish Malhotra.

जमशेदपुर में पेट्रोल-डीजल को लेकर फरातफारीपों पर वाहनों की लगी लंबी कतारें, घंटों बाद मिल रहा पेट्रोल;



जमशेदपुर (पूर्वी सिंहभूम), एजेंसी। झारखंड में पेट्रोल-डीजल की आपूर्ति कम होने के कारण पंपों पर ताले लटकने लगे हैं। जहां खुले हैं, वहां राशनिंग हो रही है। दोपहिया को 200 और चार पहिया को 500 रुपए का पेट्रोल दिया जा रहा है। सबसे खराब स्थिति जमशेदपुर की है। यहां 36 पेट्रोल पंप हैं, जिनमें से 32 यानी 90% बुधवार की रात तक ड्राई हो चुके थे। हालांकि पेट्रोल-डीजल की आपूर्ति होने के बाद इनमें से कई पंप गुरुवार को खुले। इसके बाद स्थिति और भयावह हो गई। गाड़ी में पेट्रोल भरवाने के लिए लोगों की भीड़ उमड़ रही। जमशेदपुर के तकरीबन सभी पेट्रोल पंप पर वाहनों की लंबी कतारें देखने को मिली। घंटों इंतजार के बाद लोगों को पेट्रोल मिल पा रहा है। कई पंप बंद रहे, जबकि खुले पंपों पर ईंधन भरवाने के लिए लोगों को घंटों इंतजार करना पड़ा। पिछले दो दिनों से शहर के अधिकांश पेट्रोल पंपों पर अचानक भीड़ बढ़ गई है। कतारें इतनी लंबी हो गई कि सड़कों तक पहुंच गईं, जिससे यातायात व्यवस्था भी प्रभावित हुई। कई लोग बंद पंपों के बाहर भी खुलने की उम्मीद में खड़े नजर आए।

पुलिस बल की तैनाती आवश्यक: एसोसिएशन : पेट्रोल पंपों पर बढ़ती भीड़ और अव्यवस्था को देखते हुए जमशेदपुर पेट्रोल पंप एसोसिएशन ने प्रशासन से सुरक्षा व्यवस्था की मांग की है। एसोसिएशन का कहना है कि भीड़ को नियंत्रित करने और किसी भी अप्रिय घटना से बचने के लिए पुलिस बल की तैनाती आवश्यक है। कुछ पंप संचालकों ने स्पष्ट किया है कि पर्याप्त सुरक्षा मिलने के बाद ही बंद पंपों को खोला जाएगा। इधर, ईंधन को लेकर मची इस अफरातफरी के बीच बुधवार को शहर में रिकॉर्ड लगातार 3 लाख लीटर ईंधन की बिक्री दर्ज की गई। सुबह से देर रात तक पेट्रोल पंपों पर वाहनों की लंबी कतारें लगी रहीं, जिसके कारण कई पंपों का स्टॉक अस्थायी रूप से खत्म हो गया और उन्हें बंद करना पड़ा।

पेट्रोल-डीजल की मांग अचानक कई गुना बढ़ गई: अध्यक्ष जमशेदपुर पेट्रोल पंप एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष कुणाल कुमार ने बताया कि शहर में पेट्रोल और डीजल की कोई वास्तविक कमी नहीं है। ईंधन की आपूर्ति लगातार हो रही है, लेकिन लोगों में घबराहट के कारण मांग अचानक कई गुना बढ़ गई है। उन्होंने कहा कि बड़ी संख्या में लोग एक-दो दिन का नहीं, बल्कि एक महीने तक का ईंधन एक साथ खरीद रहे हैं। हालांकि, गुरुवार को नई खेप पहुंचने के साथ ही स्थिति सामान्य होने की उम्मीद जताई जा रही है।

धनबाद में भी पेट्रोल पंपों पर उमड़ी भीड़ : वहीं, धनबाद में भी पेट्रोल-डीजल को लेकर पेट्रोल पंपों पर भारी भीड़ उमड़ पड़ी। स्थिति को देखते हुए कई पेट्रोल पंपों पर सीमित मात्रा में तेल दिया जा रहा है। बाइक सवारों को 100 से 200 रुपए तक और कार चालकों को 500 से 1000 रुपए तक का ही पेट्रोल-डीजल मिल रहा है। तेल भरवाने के लिए पेट्रोल पंपों पर सुबह से ही लंबी कतारें लगी रहीं, जिससे लोगों को काफी परेशानी हो रही है। पेट्रोल पंप संचालकों का कहना है कि सभी लोगों तक तेल पहुंच सके, इसलिए सीमित मात्रा में वितरण किया जा रहा है।

धनबाद में डीजल संकट से आँटो के पहिए थमे पंपों पर भारी भीड़, सड़कों पर बड़ी ई-रिक्शा की संख्या;



धनबाद, एजेंसी। धनबाद में ईंधन की कमी के कारण पेट्रोल पंपों पर भारी भीड़ उमड़ रही है। शहर के अधिकांश पंपों पर सुबह से ही लंबी कतारें देखी जा रही हैं, जहां लोग पेट्रोल और डीजल के लिए घंटों इंतजार कर रहे हैं। इस स्थिति का सबसे अधिक असर डीजल से चलने वाले आँटो चालकों पर पड़ा है। आँटो चालकों के अनुसार, कई पेट्रोल पंपों पर डीजल सीमित मात्रा में दिया जा रहा है। कुछ पंपों पर तो दो लीटर से अधिक डीजल नहीं मिल रहा, जिससे उन्हें काफी परेशानी हो रही है। पहले जहां चालक दिनभर में चार से पांच ट्रिप लगाकर अच्छे कमाई कर लेते थे, वहीं अब डीजल की समस्या के कारण वे मुश्किल से एक या दो ट्रिप ही चला पा रहे हैं। इससे उनकी दैनिक आय पर सीधा असर पड़ा है। शहर की सड़कों पर डीजल आँटो की संख्या में कमी आई है। इसके विपरीत, ई-रिक्शा (टोटो) की संख्या बढ़ गई है, क्योंकि वे ईंधन संकट से प्रभावित नहीं हैं। लोग अब छोटी दूरी तय करने के लिए ई-रिक्शा का अधिक उपयोग कर रहे हैं। प्रशासन और पेट्रोल डीलर लोगों से अपवाहों पर ध्यान न देने की अपील कर रहे हैं। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि ईंधन की आपूर्ति सामान्य है और घबरावने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। इसके बावजूद, पेट्रोल पंपों पर भीड़ कम होने का तमाम नहीं ले रही है।

बकरी चोरी करते दो युवक रंगे हाथ पकड़े गए: गिरिडीह के महेशमुंडा स्टेशन पर ग्रामीणों ने पिटाई कर पुलिस को सौंपा

गिरिडीह। गिरिडीह जिले के बेंगाबाद थाना क्षेत्र स्थित महेशमुंडा रेलवे स्टेशन पर शुक्रवार को बकरी चोरी के आरोप में दो युवकों को ग्रामीणों ने रंगे हाथ पकड़ा। ग्रामीणों ने दोनों आरोपियों को बकरी सहित दबोक लिया और बाद में रस्सी से बांधकर एक खेपे से बांध दिया। सूचना मिलने पर पहुंची पुलिस ने दोनों को हिरासत में लेकर थाने ले गई। प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार, दोनों युवक दारपहरी क्षेत्र से ट्रेन द्वारा महेशमुंडा स्टेशन पहुंचे थे। स्टेशन पर उतरने के बाद उनकी नजर स्टेशन परिसर के पास चर रही एक बकरी पर पड़ी। आरोप है कि उन्होंने मौका देखकर बकरी को उठाया और तुरंत ट्रेन में चढ़कर भागने का प्रयास किया। इसी दौरान आसपास मौजूद ग्रामीणों को उनकी गतिविधियां संदिग्ध लगीं। हल के दिनों में इलाके में लगातार हो रही बकरी चोरी की घटनाओं के कारण ग्रामीण पहले से सतर्क थे। लोगों ने तुरंत दोनों युवकों को घेर लिया और पकड़कर पूछताछ शुरू कर दी। ग्रामीणों के अनुसार, पूछताछ के दौरान दोनों ने बकरी चोरी करने की बात स्वीकार कर ली। इससे लोगों में आक्रोश फैल गया और बड़ी संख्या में ग्रामीण स्टेशन परिसर में जमा हो गए, जहां उन्होंने दोनों की पिटाई कर दी।

महिला की गला रेतकर हत्या, बेटे ने देखी लाश कोडरमा में पति के बाजार जाने पर घर पर थी अकेली

कोडरमा, एजेंसी। कोडरमा जिले के सदर थाना क्षेत्र स्थित मिटको कॉलोनी में गुरुवार को एक महिला की गला रेतकर हत्या कर दी गई। महिला का शव घर में पड़ा था और स्कूल से वापस आने पर बेटे ने सबसे पहले लाश देखी। मृतका की पहचान 30 वर्षीय नेहा राज के रूप में हुई है, जो शंभू राणा की पत्नी थीं। नेहा ने 9 साल पहले शंभू राणा से प्रेम विवाह किया था। घटना का खुलासा तब हुआ, जब नेहा राज का बेटा दोपहर करीब 12:30 बजे स्कूल से घर लौटा। कमरे में प्रवेश करते ही उसने अपनी मां को खून से लथपथ देखा और चीखते हुए घर से बाहर भागा। उसकी चीख सुनकर पड़ोसी जमा हो गए। पड़ोसियों ने बच्चे से जानकारी ली, जिसने बताया कि उसकी मां के गले से खून बह रहा है और वह

9 साल पहले किया था प्रेम विवाह



बोल नहीं पा रही है। **फैक्ट्री से कॉपी पहुंचाने बाजार गए थे पति :** इसके बाद पड़ोसियों ने नेहा के पति शंभू राणा को सूचना दी, जो उस समय अपनी फैक्ट्री से कॉपी पहुंचाने एक दुकान पर गए हुए थे।

खून बह रहा था। पड़ोसियों ने तत्काल महिला को सदर अस्पताल पहुंचाया, जहां डॉक्टरों ने उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही कोडरमा थाना प्रभारी सदर अस्पताल पहुंचे और जांच शुरू कर दी। एसडीपीओ अनिल कुमार सिंह भी अस्पताल पहुंचे और मामले की छानबीन में जुट गए हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि प्रथम दृष्टया यह हत्या का मामला लग रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि मामले की सभी पहलुओं पर जांच की जा रही है। मृतका के परिजनों से इस मामले में पूछताछ की जा रही है। जो भी इस मामले में लिप्त होंगे उन्हें बख्शा नहीं जाएगा। मायके वालों को शादी से थी आपत्ति बताते चलें कि नेहा राज का मायके झुमरीतलैया के पानी टंकी रोड में स्थित है।

पलामू में आंधी-पानी ने ली दो लोगों की जान

इलाज करा कर लौट रहे बाइक सवारों पर गिरा पेड़

● डीज ऑपरटर की पेड़ से दबकर मौत

पलामू, एजेंसी। पलामू जिले में बुधवार देर शाम आए तेज आंधी-पानी ने जनजीवन को बुरी तरह प्रभावित कर दिया। हैदरनगर थाना क्षेत्र के हाई स्कूल-शिवालय रोड स्थित मरुघटिया के पास एक दर्दनाक हादसा हुआ, जहां तेज

घायल हो गए। जानकारी के अनुसार, दोनों इलाज कराकर बाइक से लौट रहे थे, तभी अचानक आए तेज झोंके के कारण पेड़ उखड़कर उनके ऊपर गिर पड़ा। स्थानीय लोगों की तत्परता से दोनों को अस्पताल पहुंचाया गया, जहां डॉक्टरों ने कामदेव को मृत घोषित कर दिया। घायल अनिल का इलाज

एक बारात में डीजे साउंड सिस्टम लेकर जा रहे 18 वर्षीय पप्पू कुमार की जान चली गई। बताया गया कि पप्पू बारात में साउंड सिस्टम पहुंचाने के लिए जा रहा था, तभी तेज आंधी के बीच एक पेड़ अचानक उस पर गिर गया। हादसे के बाद मौके पर अफरा-तफरी मच गई। ग्रामीणों ने तुरंत जेसीबी मशीन को मदद से उसे पेड़ के नीचे से निकालने का प्रयास किया, लेकिन तब तक काफी देर हो चुकी थी और उसकी मौत हो चुकी थी। इस घटना से पूरे गांव में शोक का माहौल है, वहीं परिजनों का रो-रोकर बुरा हाल है।

कई इलाकों में नुकसान, रेल परिचालन भी प्रभावित : तेज आंधी और बारिश के कारण जिले के कई हिस्सों में व्यापक नुकसान हुआ है। कई घरों की छतें उड़ गईं, एम्बेस्टर शीट और सोलर प्लेटें क्षतिग्रस्त हो गईं। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में पेड़ गिरने से आवागमन भी बाधित हुआ। इसके अलावा डाल्टनगंज रेलवे स्टेशन के पास सिंगरा इलाके में रेलवे का तार टूटने से करीब एक घंटे तक रेल परिचालन प्रभावित रहा।



तूफान के दौरान एक विशाल पीपल का पेड़ बाइक सवारों पर गिर गया। इस दुर्घटना में बिहार के औरंगाबाद निवासी 50 वर्षीय कामदेव चंद्रवंशी की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई, जबकि उनके रिश्तेदार अनिल चंद्रवंशी गंभीर रूप से

एमएससीएच मेडिनीनगर में चल रहा है, जहां उसकी हालत गंभीर बताई जा रही है। बारात में जा रहे डीजे ऑपरटर की गई जान दूसरी घटना लेस्लीगंज थाना क्षेत्र के नौडीहा गांव में सामने आई, जहां

धनबाद में दीवार गिरी, बोरवेल मजदूर की मौत

ईस्ट बसुरिया ओपी क्षेत्र में बोरिंग कार्य के दौरान हुआ हादसा

धनबाद, एजेंसी। धनबाद के ईस्ट बसुरिया ओपी क्षेत्र में गुरुवार को एक दर्दनाक हादसे में बोरवेल गाड़ी में काम करने वाले मजदूर की मौत हो गई। घटना के बाद इलाके में अफरातफरी का माहौल बन गया। बताया जा रहा है कि क्षेत्र में जल निकासी को लेकर बोरिंग का कार्य चल रहा था। इसी दौरान बोरवेल गाड़ी में कार्यरत मजदूर लक्ष्मण हंसदा पास में शौच के लिए गया था। तभी वहां मौजूद करीब 30 फीट ऊंची दीवार अचानक भस्मभंगकर गिर गई और मजदूर मलबे में दब गया। घटना की आबाज सुनकर आसपास मौजूद लोग और अन्य मजदूर मौके पर पहुंचे। स्थानीय लोगों और मजदूरों ने काफी मशकत के बाद मलबे में दबे मजदूर को बाहर निकाला।



हालांकि तब तक उसकी मौत हो चुकी थी। घटना के बाद मौके पर लोगों की भीड़ जुट गई। सूचना मिलते ही ईस्ट बसुरिया ओपी पुलिस घटनास्थल पर पहुंची और मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी। पुलिस ने शव को पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए धनबाद एसएनएमएमसीएच भेज दिया। मृतक की पहचान लक्ष्मण हंसदा के रूप में हुई है। वह पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के जोबा गांव का रहने वाला था और बोरवेल गाड़ी में मजदूर का काम करता था।

गिरिडीह में जमीन विवाद ने ली वृद्धा की जान

बाउंड्री बनाने के दौरान शुरू हुआ विवाद

गिरिडीह, एजेंसी। गिरिडीह जिले के पंचबा थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत सुंदरटांड में जमीन विवाद ने हिंसक रूप ले लिया, जिसमें 70 वर्षीय वृद्धा पोथवा देवी की मौत हो गई। घटना के बाद पूरे इलाके में तनाव का माहौल व्याप्त है। मृतका के पुत्र गिरधारी यादव ने बताया कि वे लोग अपनी खतियानी जमीन पर बाउंड्रीवाल का निर्माण करा रहे थे। इसी दौरान गांव के ही किशुन यादव, बासदेव यादव, मितान यादव समेत कई लोग वहां पहुंचे और जमीन पर अपना दावा जताते हुए निर्माण कार्य रुकवा दिया। देखते ही देखते विवाद बढ़ गया और दोनों पक्षों के बीच तीखी नोकझोंक शुरू हो गई। स्थिति बिगड़ने पर इसकी सूचना पंचबा थाना पुलिस को दी गई। पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और दोनों पक्षों को थाने बुलाकर शाम तक मामले के समाधान का आश्वासन



दिया, लेकिन परिजनों का आरोप है कि इसके बाद कोई ठोस पहल नहीं की गई। **देर शाम हमला, घर में घुसकर की गई मारपीट:** परिजनों के अनुसार, पुलिस की निष्क्रियता का फायदा उठाते हुए देर शाम को दर्जनों की संख्या में लोग लाठी-डंडे से लैस होकर अनुप महतो के घर पहुंच गए। आरोप है कि हमलावरों ने घर में

अस्पताल ले जाया गया, जहां डॉक्टरों ने जांच के बाद उन्हें मृत घोषित कर दिया।

पुलिस पर लापरवाही का आरोप : मृतका के परिजनों ने पंचबा थाना पुलिस पर एकतरफा रवैया अपनाने और समय रहते सुरक्षा नहीं देने का गंभीर आरोप लगाया है। उनका कहना है कि सुबह ही पुलिस को विवाद और संभावित तनाव की जानकारी दे दी गई थी, लेकिन इसके बावजूद कोई ठोस कदम नहीं उठाया गया, जिससे यह घटना घटी। इधर, घटना के बाद इलाके में दहशत का माहौल है। सूचना मिलने के बाद पंचबा थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और शव को लकड़ से लेकर पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए सदर अस्पताल भेज दिया। थाना प्रभारी राजीव कुमार ने बताया कि फिलहाल कोई लिखित आवेदन प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

शराब के नशे में पत्नी की पीट-पीटकर हत्या आरोपित पति गिरफ्तार

पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। जिले के मनोहरपुर इंतवार बाजार क्षेत्र में महिला का शव मिलने के मामले का पुलिस ने खुलासा करते हुए मृतका के पति को गिरफ्तार कर लिया है। मृतका की पहचान रीना मधुवा के रूप में हुई है। पुलिस जांच में सामने आया है कि शराब के नशे में हुए विवाद के दौरान आरोपित पति ने पत्नी के साथ मारपीट की, जिससे उसकी मौत हो गई। जानकारी के अनुसार 13 मई को पुलिस को सूचना मिली थी कि मनोहरपुर बाजार क्षेत्र में एक महिला का शव जमीन पर पड़ा हुआ है। सूचना मिलते ही पुलिस टीम मौके पर पहुंची और जांच शुरू की। मामले में वादिनी के बयान के आधार पर मनोहरपुर



थाना में मामला दर्ज किया गया। मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए पुलिस अधीक्षक अमित रेनु के निर्देश पर अनुमंडल पुलिस पदाधिकारी जय लकड़, थाना प्रभारी और अन्य पुलिस

रूप से रनियां थाना क्षेत्र के इंटाम गांव, जिला खूंटी का निवासी है और वर्तमान में मनोहरपुर बाजार में रह रहा था। गुरुवार को अनुमंडल पुलिस पदाधिकारी जय लकड़ ने बताया कि पूछताछ में आरोपित ने स्वीकार किया है कि उसने अपनी दूसरी पत्नी रीना मधुवा के साथ शराब के नशे में मारपीट की थी। इसी दौरान लात-घूस से हमला करने के कारण उसकी मौत हो गई। पुलिस ने शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए भेज दिया था। पोस्टमॉर्टम रिपोर्ट और अन्य साक्ष्यों के आधार पर मामले की जांच आगे बढ़ाई जा रही है। पुलिस ने बताया कि आरोपित को न्यायिक हिरासत में भेज दिया गया है।

सड़क हादसे में दो युवकों की मौत

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के कोवाली थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत बेगाडीह-पोटका मुख्य सड़क पर बुधवार देर रात हुए सड़क हादसे में दो युवकों की मौत हो गई। हादसा टाटा स्टील के कचरा निष्पादन के लिए निर्माणधीन प्लॉट के समीप हुआ, जहां बाइक और कार में लगे ट्रैक्टर की जोरदार टक्कर हो गई। मृतकों की पहचान बुकामडीह निवासी जोड़ो माहली उर्फ काला माहुरी तथा काला माहली के रूप में की गई है। बताया जा रहा है कि दोनों युवक एक ही बाइक पर सवार होकर भालकी की ओर से अपने गांव बुकामडीह लौट रहे थे। इसी दौरान निर्माण कार्य में लगे ट्रैक्टर से उनकी बाइक की टक्कर हो गई। टक्कर इतनी जबरदस्त थी कि दोनों युवक सड़क पर गिरकर गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए। घटना के तुरंत बाद आसपास के ग्रामीण मौके पर पहुंचे और दोनों घायलों को इलाज के लिए पहले स्थानीय स्तर पर सहायता पहुंचाई गई, फिर बेहतर इलाज के लिए जमशेदपुर भेजा गया। लेकिन इलाज के दौरान दोनों युवकों ने दम तोड़ दिया। कोवाली थाना प्रभारी मुकेश कुमार साव ने बताया कि दुर्घटना उस समय हुई जब क्षेत्र में नल-जल योजना के तहत पाइप बिछाने का कार्य चल रहा था। कार्य में लगे ट्रैक्टर से बाइक की भिड़ंत हो गई। पुलिस ने मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है और दुर्घटनाग्रस्त वाहनों को जब्त करने की प्रक्रिया चल रही है। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही मृतकों के परिजनों में कोहराम मच गया। गुरुवार सुबह गांव में मातमी सनटाटा पसरा रहा। पुलिस ने दोनों शवों को पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए भेज दिया है तथा आगे की कानूनी कार्रवाई की जा रही है।



कोल्हान के ग्रामीण इलाकों में हाथियों का उत्पात

घरों-फसलों को पहुंचा रहे नुकसान, ग्रामीण रातभर पहरा देने पर हुए मजबूर

जमशेदपुर (पूर्वी सिंहभूम), एजेंसी। कोल्हान क्षेत्र के ग्रामीण इलाकों में जंगली हाथियों का आतंक बढ़ गया है। जमशेदपुर, सरायकेला-खरसावां और पूर्वी सिंहभूम के कई गांवों में हाथियों के झुंड रात के समय बस्तियों में घुसकर घरों और फसलों को नुकसान पहुंचा रहे हैं। इससे ग्रामीणों में भय का माहौल है और वे रातभर जागकर अपने घरों की निगरानी करने को मजबूर हैं। चांडिल, ईचामड़ और कुकड़ प्रखंड में हाथियों की आवाजही में वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है। कई जगहों पर 20 से 25 हाथियों का बड़ा झुंड सक्रिय इसके अतिरिक्त, चाकुलिया, बरगोड़ा, घाटशिला और गुडवांथा क्षेत्रों में भी हाथियों के झुंड ग्रामीण इलाकों में घुसकर उत्पात मचा रहे हैं। कुछ स्थानों पर अकेला हाथी नुकसान पहुंचा रहा है, जबकि कई जगहों पर 20 से 25 हाथियों का बड़ा झुंड सक्रिय है।



ग्रामीणों के अनुसार, हाथियों ने कई घरों को क्षतिग्रस्त कर दिया है और घरों में रखा अनाज भी नष्ट कर दिया है। खेतों में लगी गरमा धान और सब्जियों की फसल को भी भारी नुकसान पहुंचा है, जिससे किसानों की चिंता बढ़ गई है।

हाथी ने ग्राम प्रधान के घर पर हमला किया : हाल की एक घटना में, आदरडीह चौका गांव में देर रात एक हाथी ने ग्राम प्रधान के घर पर हमला किया। हाथी ने दीवार तोड़कर घर में प्रवेश किया और चावल सहित अन्य खाद्यान्न को बर्बाद कर दिया। इस दौरान मलबा गिरने से एक महिला गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गई। परिवार के अन्य सदस्य किसी तरह अपनी जान बचाकर बाहर निकलने में सफल रहे। इसी तरह, डडनमारी गांव में 20 से 25 हाथियों के एक झुंड ने एक अन्य घर को क्षतिग्रस्त कर दिया। इस हमले में दीवार गिरने से एक महिला घायल हो गई। हाथियों ने घर में रखा धान भी खा लिया। इन लगातार बढ़ती घटनाओं के कारण ग्रामीणों में वन विभाग के प्रति नाराजगी बढ़ रही है। ग्रामीणों की मांग है कि हाथियों को आबादी वाले क्षेत्रों से दूर रखने और मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष को रोकने के लिए प्रभावी कदम उठाए जाएं।

अस्पताल ले जाया गया, जहां डॉक्टरों ने जांच के बाद उन्हें मृत घोषित कर दिया।

पुलिस पर लापरवाही का आरोप : मृतका के परिजनों ने पंचबा थाना पुलिस पर एकतरफा रवैया अपनाने और समय रहते सुरक्षा नहीं देने का गंभीर आरोप लगाया है। उनका कहना है कि सुबह ही पुलिस को विवाद और संभावित तनाव की जानकारी दे दी गई थी, लेकिन इसके बावजूद कोई ठोस कदम नहीं उठाया गया, जिससे यह घटना घटी। इधर, घटना के बाद इलाके में दहशत का माहौल है। सूचना मिलने के बाद पंचबा थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और शव को लकड़ से लेकर पोस्टमॉर्टम के लिए सदर अस्पताल भेज दिया। थाना प्रभारी राजीव कुमार ने बताया कि फिलहाल कोई लिखित आवेदन प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

घर पर गिरा पेड़, महिला की मौत

लातेहार, एजेंसी। जिले के बालुमाथ प्रखंड के बरवाटोला गांव में बुधवार रात आए तूफान की चपेट में आने से विशालकाय पेड़ एक ग्रामीण के घर पर गिर गया। इस घटना में महिला सीमा देवी (40) की मौत हो गई। जबकि घर को भी काफी नुकसान हुआ। इधर घटना की जानकारी मिलने के बाद प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों के साथ-साथ जनप्रतिनिधि भी घटनास्थल पर पहुंचकर पीड़ित परिवार से मिलकर घटना की जानकारी ली। मिली जानकारी के अनुसार बुधवार रात अचानक तेज आंधी तूफान आई थी। इस दौरान बरवाटोला गांव निवासी राजेंद्र गंडु का पूरा परिवार घर में ही था। तूफान के

चपेट में आने से घर के पास खड़ा पेड़ अचानक टूट गया और घर के ऊपर गिर गया। इसकी चपेट में आने से सीमा देवी भी आ गई और गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गईं। हालांकि बाद में उन्हें अस्पताल ले जाया गया परंतु चिकित्सकों ने उसे मृत घोषित कर दिया। इधर, घटना की जानकारी मिलने के बाद प्रशासन की टीम गुरुवार की सुबह मृतक के घर पहुंच कर पूरी वस्तुस्थिति का जायजा लिया। अंचल अधिकारी बालेश्वर राम और प्रखंड विकास पदाधिकारी सीमा उरांव ने मृतक के परिजनों से मुलाकात की और सरकारी प्रावधान के तहत सहायता उपलब्ध कराने का आश्वासन दिया।

मद्र के मुख्यमंत्री ने दिल्ली मेट्रो में सफर कर प्रधानमंत्री के पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट के उपयोग के आह्वान पर किया अमल

एजेंसी भोपाल। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट के उपयोग के आह्वान पर अमल करते हुए मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव ने दिल्ली प्रवास के दौरान मेट्रो ट्रेन से सफर कर मितव्ययता का उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया। उल्लेखनीय है कि देश में बढ़ते ट्रेफिक दबाव, प्रदूषण और वर्तमान वैश्विक संकट के दृष्टिगत भविष्य के लिए ईंधन की बचत और वर्तमान में की जा रही खपत को कम करने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने लगातार पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट और मेट्रो के अधिक उपयोग की अपील की है। इसी दिशा में एक सकारात्मक पहल करते हुए मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. यादव ने दिल्ली के शिवाजी स्टेडियम मेट्रो स्टेशन से एयरपोर्ट एक्सप्रेस लाइन मेट्रो में यात्रा की। मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. यादव ने आम यात्रियों के बीच रहकर सफर किया और सार्वजनिक परिवहन व्यवस्था के महत्व को रेखांकित किया। मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. यादव के मेट्रो सफर की सभी नागरिकों और जनप्रतिनिधियों के साथ ही प्रशासनिक क्षेत्र में काफी चर्चा रही। इसे एक प्रतीकात्मक और प्रभावशाली संदेश के रूप में देखा जा रहा है, जिसमें आम नागरिकों को भी यह प्रेरणा मिलती है कि यदि जनप्रतिनिधि और जिम्मेदार पदों पर बैठे लोग सार्वजनिक परिवहन का उपयोग कर सकते हैं, तो सभी इसे अपनी दिनचर्या का हिस्सा बना सकते हैं।

दिल्ली में बस्तर विकास मॉडल पर मंथन : अमित शाह से मुख्यमंत्री साय की अहम मुलाकात

नई दिल्ली। मुख्यमंत्री विष्णु देव साय ने नई दिल्ली में केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह से मुलाकात कर बस्तर में तेजी से बदल रहे हालात और विकास कार्यों की विस्तृत जानकारी दी। इस दौरान उपमुख्यमंत्री विजय शर्मा उपस्थित थे। केंद्रीय गृहमंत्री अमित शाह ने बस्तर में हो रहे विकास कार्यों और स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के विस्तार की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि, केंद्र और राज्य सरकार मिलकर यह सुनिश्चित कर रहे हैं कि विकास का लाभ अंतिम व्यक्ति तक पहुंचे। उल्लेखनीय है कि केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह का 18 और 19 मई को बस्तर प्रवास संभावित है।



बांसुरी केवल एक वाद्ययंत्र नहीं, हमारी श्वास है : चेतन जोशी

नई दिल्ली। बांसुरी वादक एवं संगीत नाटक अकादमी पुरस्कार से सम्मानित पं. चेतन जोशी ने कहा कि बांसुरी केवल एक वाद्ययंत्र नहीं, हमारी श्वास है। इसे बनाए रखना हमारी सामूहिक जिम्मेदारी है। पं. चेतन जोशी ने यह बात दिल्ली स्थित इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र (आईजीएनसीए) में 'भारतीय कला, सौंदर्य शास्त्र एवं सांस्कृतिक धरोहर' व्याख्यानमाला के अंतर्गत 'भारतीय कला धरोहर : बांसुरी के विशेष संदर्भ में' विषय पर एक विशेष व्याख्यान के दौरान कही। यह कार्यक्रम भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत की परम्परा में बांसुरी के आध्यात्मिक, सांस्कृतिक और कलात्मक आयामों पर केंद्रित था। उन्होंने कहा, पश्चिम में कला की अवधारणा 'आर्ट फॉर द सेक ऑफ आर्ट' (कला केवल कला के लिए) है, लेकिन भारत में ऐसा नहीं है। भारत में कला कभी निरुद्देश्य नहीं होती। यहां कला का उद्देश्य 'सत्यम्, शिवम्, सुंदरम्' है। पं. जोशी ने कहा कि बांसुरी मानव निर्मित प्राचीनतम वाद्यों में से एक है। इसका तीन प्रकार की कलाओं परफॉर्मिंग आर्ट, विजुअल आर्ट और साहित्यिक कला में प्रमुख स्थान है। इतिहास और अध्येतन दोनों में इसकी प्रमुखता है। अत्यंत प्राचीन काल से लेकर आधुनिक युग तक इसकी निरंतरता बनी हुई है।

ईरानी विदेश मंत्री ने ब्रिक्स देशों से अमेरिका-इजराइल की निंदा का किया आह्वान

नई दिल्ली। ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन में ईरान के विदेश मंत्री अब्बास अराघची ने सदस्य देशों से अमेरिका और इजराइल के कथित अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनों के उल्लंघनों की स्पष्ट निंदा करने की अपील की। उन्होंने कहा कि ईरान के खिलाफ की गई 'अवैध आक्रामक कार्रवाई' संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर के खिलाफ है और ब्रिक्स देशों को 'युद्धोन्माद' रोकने के लिए ठोस कदम उठाने चाहिए। ब्रिक्स देशों के विदेश मंत्रियों की भारत मंडप में आयोजित बैठक में अराघची ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं के 'राजनीतिक इस्तेमाल' को रोकने की भी मांग की। सम्मेलन के उद्घाटन सत्र में उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिका की दबाव और धमकी की राजनीति का सामना केवल ईरान ही नहीं बल्कि कई विकासशील देश कर रहे हैं।

दिल्ली शराब नीति: जज स्वर्णकांता शर्मा बोलीं- सोशल मीडिया पोस्टों पर शरू की जाएगी अवमानना की कार्यवाही

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने कहा कि वह अवमानना की कार्यवाही शुरू करेगा, क्योंकि आम आदमी पार्टी (आप) के नेताओं अरविंद केजरीवाल, मनोप सिंसोदिया और अन्य से जुड़े उत्पाद शुल्क नीति मामले की सुनवाई के संबंध में न्यायमूर्ति स्वर्ण कांता शर्मा के खिलाफ कथित तौर पर 'अत्यंत अपमानजनक और मानहानिकारक' सामग्री प्रसारित की गई थी। न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा की एकल-न्यायाधीश पीठ ने केंद्रीय जांच ब्यूरो (सीबीआई) द्वारा दायर एक याचिका की सुनवाई करते हुए ये टिप्पणियां कीं, जिसमें निचली अदालत के उस आदेश को चुनौती दी गई थी जिसमें मामले के सभी 23 आरोपियों को बरी कर दिया गया था, जिनमें दिल्ली के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री केजरीवाल, पूर्व उपमुख्यमंत्री सिंसोदिया, और आप नेता दुर्गा पाठक शामिल हैं। न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा ने खुली अदालत में कहा कि आम मुद्दे एमकेस क्यूरी (न्यायाधीश) की घोषणा करनी थी... कुछ वरिष्ठ न्यायाधीशों ने सहर्ष स्वीकार कर लिया था। हालांकि, कुछ प्रतिवादियों ने मेरे खिलाफ अत्यंत अपमानजनक और मानहानिकारक सामग्री पोस्ट की है। मैं चुप नहीं रह सकी। न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि कुछ आरोपियों के साथ-



साथ सोशल मीडिया पर अपमानजनक सामग्री प्रसारित करने में कथित रूप से शामिल अन्य लोगों के खिलाफ अवमानना की कार्यवाही पर विचार किया जाएगा। न्यायमूर्ति शर्मा ने कहा कि मैं अवमानना की कार्रवाई करने जा रही हूँ। मैं शाम 5 बजे विस्तृत आदेश पारित करूंगी। इससे पहले, दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने संकेत दिया था कि केजरीवाल, सिंसोदिया और पाठक द्वारा अपनी याचिका खारिज किए जाने के बाद कार्यवाही में भाग न लेने का निर्णय लेने पर वह वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों को एमकेस क्यूरी के रूप में नियुक्त करेगा। पिछले साता,

ब्रिक्स सम्मेलन में ईरान के विदेश मंत्री अराघची की पीएम मोदी से मुलाकात, द्विपक्षीय और वैश्विक मुद्दों पर चर्चा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। ब्रिक्स सम्मेलन में ईरान के विदेश मंत्री सैयद अब्बास अराघची ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से मुलाकात की। इस दौरान उन्होंने द्विपक्षीय संबंधों और क्षेत्रीय घटनाक्रमों को लेकर चर्चा की। बैठक में ब्रिक्स के अन्य प्रतिनिधियों के साथ भी क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक मुद्दों पर चर्चा हुई। भारत में ईरान के दूतावास के ऑफिशियल सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म 'एक्स' अकाउंट पोस्ट में बताया गया, 'दो दिवसीय ब्रिक्स सम्मेलन में शामिल होने भारत पहुंचे इस्लामी गणतंत्र ईरान के विदेश मंत्री डॉ. सैयद अब्बास अराघची ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी से मुलाकात की।' बैठक में शामिल होने के लिए ब्रिक्स के अन्य प्रतिनिधियों के साथ-साथ ईरान के विदेश मंत्री सैयद अब्बास अराघची भी बुधवार रात



कार्यक्रमानुसार शाम सात बजे विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर की ओर से भारत मंडप में रात्रिभोज का आयोजन किया गया। भारत मंडप में विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने दुनिया भर से पधारे विदेश मंत्रियों का विधिवत स्वागत किया। बैठक की अध्यक्षता करते हुए एस. जयशंकर ने वैश्विक मुद्दों पर भारत के स्पष्ट रुख का उल्लेख किया। उन्होंने कहा, 'शांति और सुरक्षा वैश्विक

व्यवस्था के केंद्र में हैं। हल के संघर्षों ने संवाद और कूटनीति के महत्व को और अधिक स्पष्ट किया है। इस जटिल और अनिश्चित दुनिया में चर्चाओं को समानता और साझा, लेकिन अलग-अलग जिम्मेदारियों के सिद्धांतों को बनाए रखते हुए सतत विकास की दिशा में आगे बढ़ना चाहिए। तकनीकी प्रगति, वैश्विक परिदृश्य को नया आकार दे रही है और इसका उपयोग सुरासन तथा समावेशी विकास के लिए किया जा सकता है। आतंकवाद के खिलाफ सहयोग मजबूत करने को लेकर भी साझा हित जुड़े हैं।' ईरान इस्लामिक रिपब्लिक की सरकार के ऑफिशियल 'एक्स' अकाउंट से साझा जानकारी के अनुसार, 'विदेश मंत्री अराघची ने नई दिल्ली में विदेश मंत्रियों की बैठक के दौरान मीडिया को बताया कि स्टेट ऑफ हॉम्लूज उन सभी

कर्मशैल जहाजों के लिए खुला है, जो ईरानी नौसेना के साथ सहयोग करते हैं। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि मौजूदा रुकावटें अमेरिका की ओर से लगाए गए प्रतिबंधों के कारण पैदा हुई हैं।' पोस्ट में बताया गया कि विदेश मंत्री अराघची ने नई दिल्ली में ब्रिक्स विदेश मंत्रियों की बैठक के दौरान मलेशिया के विदेश मंत्री मोहम्मद हसन से मुलाकात की। चर्चा द्विपक्षीय संबंधों और क्षेत्रीय सहयोग पर केंद्रित रही। इसके अलावा विदेश मंत्री अराघची ने ब्राजील के विदेश मंत्री मरियो विराए और क्षेत्रीय सहयोग पर केंद्रित रही। इसके अलावा विदेश मंत्री अराघची ने ब्राजील के विदेश मंत्री मरियो विराए और क्षेत्रीय सहयोग पर केंद्रित रही। इसके अलावा विदेश मंत्री अराघची ने ब्राजील के विदेश मंत्री मरियो विराए और क्षेत्रीय सहयोग पर केंद्रित रही।

दिल्ली में एसआईआर की घोषणा, 7 अक्टूबर को अंतिम मतदाता सूची होगी जारी

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। चुनाव आयोग ने मतदाता सूची के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (एसआईआर) के तीसरे चरण के तहत अन्य राज्यों के साथ दिल्ली में भी मतदाता सूची अपडेट करने से जुड़ी प्रक्रिया एसआईआर करने का निर्देश जारी कर दिया है। दिल्ली में एसआईआर की प्रक्रिया 20 जून से 7 अक्टूबर तक चलेगी। दिल्ली के लिए ड्राफ्ट रोल 5 अगस्त और अंतिम रोल 7 अक्टूबर को जारी होगा। इसके तहत दिल्ली में एसआईआर के लिए बूथ लेवल अधिकारियों (बीएलओ) को 20 से 29 जून तक प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा। इसके बाद 30 जून से 29 जुलाई तक बीएलओ के जरिए दिल्ली के मतदाताओं के घर-घर जाकर सत्यापन का कार्य किया जाएगा। मतदाता सूची के प्रारूप का प्रकाशन



सकेंगे। आपत्तियां का निपटारा 5 अगस्त से 3 सितंबर होगा। सभी दावों के निस्तारण के बाद 7 अक्टूबर को अंतिम मतदाता सूची प्रकाशित की जाएगी। दिल्ली में वर्तमान में मतदाताओं की कुल संख्या 1,48,23,234 है, जिनके पास बीएलओ घर-घर जाकर डेटा का सत्यापन करेंगे।

अब सूरज दिखाएगा तलख तेवर गर्मी का टॉर्चर ड्रेलने के लिए हो जाएं तैयार, 42°C तक पहुंचेगा पारा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली-एनसीआर में गर्मी से राहत का दौर खत्म हो गया। अब गर्मी के साथ ही तापमान में भी बढ़ोतरी होगी। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, अगले छह दिनों के दौरान अधिकतम तापमान में 3 से 5 डिग्री सेल्सियस की वृद्धि का अनुमान है। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, 15 से 20 मई के बीच तापमान में बढ़ोतरी देखने को मिलेगी और अधिकतम तापमान लगभग 38 से 42 डिग्री सेल्सियस तक पहुंच सकता है, जबकि न्यूनतम तापमान 26 से 29 डिग्री सेल्सियस के बीच रहने की संभावना है। इस दौरान शुरुआती दो दिनों में आंशिक बादल छाए रहने का अनुमान है, जबकि 16 मई से 19 मई तक मौसम मुख्य रूप से साफ रहने की संभावना जताई गई है। हवा की गति सामान्य से मध्यम रहेगी, जो ज्यादातर पश्चिम और उत्तर-पश्चिम दिशा से चलेगी।



तापमान चढ़ रहा है। साथ ही, सूरज अत्यंत तेवर दिखा रहा है। ऐसे में बृहस्पतिवार को दिनभर तेज धूप के चलते लोगों को गर्मी का अहसास हुआ। इस दौरान लोग पसीने से तरबतर दिखाई दिए। सुबह से ही निकल रही तेज धूप

ने लोगों को खासा परेशान किया हुआ था। साथ ही, गर्म हवाओं ने भी लोगों की परेशानी बढ़ा दी थी। इस दौरान

अधिकतम तापमान 40.6 और न्यूनतम तापमान 23.4 डिग्री दर्ज हुआ। दिल्ली में अधिकतम आर्द्रता 84 प्रतिशत और न्यूनतम आर्द्रता 37 प्रतिशत रही। वहीं, मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, बीते 24 घंटे में दिल्ली में दो एमएम बारिश दर्ज की गई।

नीट यूजी पेपर लीक मामले में सीबीआई की बड़ी कार्रवाई, दो और आरोपी गिरफ्तार

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। नीट यूजी 2026 परीक्षा में कथित पेपर लीक मामले की जांच कर रही सीबीआई को बड़ी सफलता मिली है। सीबीआई ने तेजी से कार्रवाई करते हुए दो और आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया है। इसके साथ ही देशभर में 14 अलग-अलग स्थानों पर छापेमारी भी की गई है। सीबीआई के अनुसार, इस मामले में अब तक कुल 7 आरोपियों को गिरफ्तारी हो चुकी है। इससे पहले 12 मई को इस केस को दर्ज किया गया था, जो कि शिक्षा मंत्रालय के उच्च शिक्षा विभाग द्वारा दी गई शिकायत के आधार पर किया गया। शिकायत में नीट यूजी 2026 परीक्षा के पेपर लीक से जुड़ी अनियमितताओं का उल्लेख किया गया था। गिरफ्तार किए गए नए आरोपियों की पहचान धनंजय लोखंडे (अहिल्यानगर) और मनीषा वाघमारे (पुणे) के रूप में हुई है।

सीबीआई की विशेष टीमों 12 मई से लगातार इस मामले में सक्रिय हैं और सभी संभावित कड़ियों की जांच कर रही हैं। सीबीआई ने यह भी बताया



कि कई अन्य संदिग्धों से पूछताछ जारी है और आगे की कार्रवाई लगातार की जा रही है। जांच एजेंसी ने बताया कि इससे पहले 5 आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया था, जिनमें से 3 जयपुर, 1 गुरुग्राम और 1 नासिक से पकड़े गए थे। वहीं, ताजा कार्रवाई में महाराष्ट्र के पुणे और अहिल्यानगर से दो और आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है। राऊज एवेन्यू कोर्ट में पांचों

आरोपियों को पेश किया गया, जहां सीबीआई की मांग को स्वीकार करते हुए कोर्ट ने आरोपियों को 7 दिनों की सीबीआई कस्टडी में भेजा। केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो (सीबीआई) ने आरोपियों को कोर्ट में पेश करते हुए उनकी रिमांड की मांग की। सुनवाई के दौरान कोर्ट ने सीबीआई को यह निर्देश दिया कि आरोपियों को एफआईआर की कॉपी उपलब्ध कराई जाए और गिरफ्तारी के आधार स्पष्ट रूप से बताएं। सीबीआई ने कोर्ट में यह दलील दी कि यह एक व्यापक साजिश है और इसमें किन-किन लोगों की भूमिका है, इसका पता लगाना जरूरी है। एजेंसी ने कोर्ट को बताया कि इस पूरे नेटवर्क में संभावित रूप से पब्लिक सर्वेंट, सरकारी कर्मचारी और प्रिंटिंग प्रेस से जुड़े लोगों की सहायता की जांच करनी है, जिसके लिए आरोपियों की कस्टडी आवश्यक है।

मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने अपने काफिले को चार वाहनों में सीमित किया

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की ईंधन बचत की अपील के बाद अपने आधिकारिक काफिले को चार वाहनों में सीमित कर दिया है। इसमें इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों (ईवी) एवं सार्वजनिक परिवहन को प्राथमिकता देने का भी निर्णय लिया गया है। मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. बी.आर. अंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय के 14वें दीक्षांत समारोह में शामिल होने के लिए भी न्यूनतम सुरक्षा और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन के जरिए पहुंचेंगी। उनका यह कदम न केवल पर्यावरण संरक्षण बल्कि वीआईपी संस्कृति से आगे बढ़कर जिम्मेदार एवं संवेदनशील प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण संदेश है। मुख्यमंत्री ने एक विज्ञापित जारी कर जानकारी दी कि वह अपने काफिले में अधिकतर चार वाहनों को रखेंगी। उन्होंने न केवल अपने काफिले की गाड़ियों की संख्या कम की, बल्कि



प्रार्थमिकता दें। उन्होंने सभी मंत्रियों, विधायकों, अधिकारियों और नागरिकों से भी सार्वजनिक परिवहन, कारपूलिंग और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों को प्राथमिकता देने की अपील की। उन्होंने कहा कि राष्ट्रनिर्माण केवल बड़े निर्णयों से नहीं, बल्कि नागरिकों के छोटे-छोटे

जिम्मेदार प्रयासों से होता है। अगर प्रत्येक व्यक्ति ईंधन, बिजली और संसाधनों की थोड़ी-थोड़ी बचत करे। हमने आज वही किया है। लेकिन अब क्या विपक्ष के नेता अपना 'लग्जरी मोह' छोड़कर सड़कों पर उतरने का साहस दिखाएंगे? विपक्ष का दोहरा चरित्र अब जनता के सामने उजागर हो चुका है। विपक्ष नेताओं के 'विफलता के सबूत' वाले बयानों पर पलटवार करते हुए मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री जैसे दूरदर्शी नेता आने वाले संकट के प्रति जनता को जागरूक करते हैं, जबकि अवसरवादी विपक्ष डर का माहौल बनाते हैं। पेट्रोल बचाना और स्वदेशी संसाधनों का उपयोग करना 'राष्ट्रनीति' है, न कि राजनीति। उन्होंने कहा कि विपक्ष की राजनीति केवल विरोध तक सीमित है, लेकिन राष्ट्र निर्माण के लिए त्याग की आवश्यकता होती है। हमने वीआईपी क्लब को पीछे छोड़कर 'ग्रीन मोबिलिटी' को चुना है, जो आने वाली पीढ़ियों के प्रति हमारी जिम्मेदारी है।

देश के 16 राज्यों और 3 केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में एसआईआर कराने की घोषणा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारत निर्वाचन आयोग ने 16 राज्यों और तीन केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में चरणबद्ध तरीके से मतदाता सूचियों के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (एसआईआर) की शुरुआत करने की घोषणा की। आयोग ने कहा कि यह एक बड़ा देशव्यापी अभियान होगा, जिसका उद्देश्य मतदाता सूचियों की सटीकता और पारदर्शिता को मजबूत करना है। आयोग के अनुसार, एसआईआर के तीसरे चरण का कार्यक्रम वर्तमान में जगनपट्टा के तहत चल रहे मकाओं की सूचीकरण प्रक्रिया में लगी साझा फ्रीड मशीनरी की उपलब्धता को ध्यान में रखते हुए तय किया गया है। तीसरे चरण के लिए विपक्ष के साथ एसआईआर प्रक्रिया पूरे देश में प्रभावी रूप से लागू हो जाएगी, हालांकि इसमें हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू कश्मीर और लद्दाख शामिल नहीं होंगे। आयोग ने

कहा कि इन तीन क्षेत्रों का कार्यक्रम बाद में घोषित किया जाएगा। यह निर्णय जनगणना के दूसरे चरण के पूरा होने और उंचाई वाले तथा बर्फ से ढके क्षेत्रों में मौसम संबंधी चुनौतियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए लिया गया है। बड़े पैमाने पर चलाए जा रहे इस संशोधन अभियान के तहत 3.94 लाख से अधिक बूथ लेवल अधिकारी (बीएलओ) गणना चरण में लगभग 36.73 करोड़ मतदाताओं का घर-घर जाकर सत्यापन करेंगे। इन बीएलओ की मदद विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों द्वारा नामित लगभग 3.42 लाख बूथ लेवल एजेंट (बीएएल) करेंगे। इसीसे न एसआईआर को एक 'सहभागी और पारदर्शी प्रक्रिया' बताया है, जिसमें कई स्तरों पर मतदाता, राजनीतिक दल और चुनाव अधिकारी शामिल होते हैं। राजनीतिक भागीदारी के महत्व पर जोर देते हुए आयोग ने सभी मान्यता प्राप्त राजनीतिक दलों से अपील की है।

रेलवे सुधारों से सीमेंट दुलाई में 170 प्रतिशत वृद्धि, अब प्लाई ऐश परिवहन पर फोकस

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। रेलवे में किए गए सुधारों के चलते पिछले चार महीनों में सीमेंट की दुलाई में 170 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है। रेलवे मंत्रालय ने गुरुवार को बताया कि गठ वष नवंबर में लागू किए गए सुधारों और आधुनिक बल्क सीमेंट टैंक कंटेनरों के इस्तेमाल से यह उपलब्धि हासिल हुई है। रेल मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने गुरुवार को कंटेनर क्षेत्र में किए गए सुधारों और उनके क्रियान्वयन की समीक्षा की। रेल मंत्रालय के अनुसार, सीमेंट परिवहन में सुधार का उद्देश्य सड़क परिवहन पर निर्भरता कम कर रेल आधारित, स्वच्छ और अधिक दक्ष लॉजिस्टिक्स को बढ़ावा देना है। इसके तहत रेलवे ने विशेष टैंक कंटेनर और बल्क सीमेंट टर्मिनल नीति लागू की है, जिससे मर्चेंटमॉडल परिवहन को प्रोत्साहन मिला है। रेल मंत्री ने कहा कि नई व्यवस्था से सीमेंट की लोडिंग और अनलोडिंग पहले की तुलना में आसान हो गई है तथा सामग्री को बर्बादी भी कम हुई है।

अंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय के दीक्षांत समारोह में शामिल हुए दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल और मुख्यमंत्री

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल तरनजीत सिंह संधू और मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता डॉ. बीआर अंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय के 14वें वार्षिक दीक्षांत समारोह में शामिल हुए। विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में आयोजित इस समारोह में दिल्ली के शिक्षा मंत्री अशीष सुद, विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति सहित बड़ी संख्या में विद्यार्थी, शोधार्थी, शिक्षक और अन्य गणमान्य अतिथि उपस्थित रहे। इस दौरान विश्वविद्यालय के न्यूजलेटर एवं रिसर्च कर्मांडेयम का विमोचन भी किया गया, जो संस्थान की शैक्षणिक प्रगति का जीवंत दस्तावेज है। आधुनिकता की ओर कदम बढ़ाते हुए डिग्री स्कॉलर को डिजिटलॉकर प्रक्रिया भी पूरी की गई। उपराज्यपाल ने समारोह को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि पिछले 17 वर्षों में अंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय ने सामाजिक विज्ञान, मानविकी और जनसंस्कारों के क्षेत्र में अपनी

विशिष्ट पहचान बनाई है। वर्ष 2008 में एक डिलेमा कार्यक्रम से शुरू हुई यह संस्था आज विभिन्न विषयों में

आवश्यकताओं से जोड़ना समय की आवश्यकता है। उपराज्यपाल ने कहा कि



अनेक शैक्षणिक पाठ्यक्रम संचालित कर रही है। उपराज्यपाल ने कहा कि दीक्षांत समारोह विद्यार्थियों के जीवन का एक महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव होता है, जो एक शैक्षणिक यात्रा के समापन और नई जिम्मेदारियों की शुरुआत का प्रतीक है। उन्होंने विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन, शोध कार्यों को बढ़ावा देने, भारतीय ज्ञान परंपरा के संवर्धन, ग्रामीण उद्यमिता, मानसिक स्वास्थ्य एवं छात्र सहायता से जुड़े प्रयासों की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि शिक्षा को समाज, नवाचार और भविष्य की

आपनाएँ तथा चुनौतियों और असफलताओं से भयभीत हुए बिना आगे बढ़ें। मुख्यमंत्री ने अपने संबोधन में मेडल एवं डिग्री प्राप्त करने वाले सभी विद्यार्थियों को हार्दिक बधाई एवं उच्चल भविष्य के लिए शुभकामनाएं दीं। उन्होंने कहा कि इस विश्वविद्यालय में 19 विद्यार्थियों से अपनी यात्रा शुरू कर आज 6,000 से अधिक विद्यार्थियों तक पहुंच बनाई है। यह विश्वविद्यालय वर्षों से बाबा साहेब के विचारों को आत्मसात करते हुए विद्यार्थियों में सामाजिक चेतना, संवेदनशीलता, समानता और राष्ट्रनिर्माण की भावना विकसित कर रहा है। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि यह उपलब्धि विद्यार्थियों के अथक परिश्रम, अनुशासन, समर्पण और दृढ़ संकल्प का परिणाम है। उन्होंने कहा कि दीक्षांत समारोह केवल डिग्री प्राप्त करने का अवसर नहीं, बल्कि समाज और राष्ट्र के प्रति नई जिम्मेदारियों के संकल्प का भी महत्वपूर्ण क्षण होता है।

शिकोहपुर लैंड डील मामला: दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट से रॉबर्ट वाड़ा को तत्काल राहत नहीं

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। सोनिया गांधी के दामाद और व्यवसायी रॉबर्ट वाड़ा को दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट से गुरुग्राम के शिकोहपुर गांव में 2008 के एक जमीन सौदे से जुड़े मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग मामले में तत्काल राहत नहीं मिली।

जस्टिस मनोज जैन की एकल-न्यायाधीश पीठ रॉबर्ट वाड़ा को उस याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रही थी, जिसमें उन्होंने राऊज एवेन्यू कोर्ट के उस आदेश को चुनौती दी थी, जिसमें कोर्ट ने मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग रोकथाम अधिनियम (पीएमएलए) के तहत ईडी

तहत मूल मामले में लगाए गए कुछ अपराधों को, 2008 और 2012 के बीच कथित तौर पर अपराध किए जाने से बाद पीएमएलए की अनुसूची में जोड़ा गया था। उन्होंने दलील दी कि अधिकार क्षेत्र और प्रावधानों के पूर्वव्यापी अनुप्रयोग से

जुड़ा मुद्दा टाटल कोर्ट के सामने उठया गया था, लेकिन उस पर कोई उत्तरा नहीं किया गया। याचिका का विरोध करते हुए ईडी के वकील जोहेब हुसैन ने कहा कि वाड़ा ने 467 आईपीसी अपने मूल रूप में ही मौजूद थी। साफ तौर पर,

कहा कि इस याचिका को जुमाने के साथ खारिज किया जाना चाहिए। मैंने सभी को दलीलें सुनने के बाद मामलों की अगली सुनवाई 18 मई के लिए दलीलें हैं। पीएमएलए की अनुसूची में धारा 467 आईपीसी अपने मूल रूप में ही मौजूद थी। साफ तौर पर,



PM Modi embarks on 5-nation tour to deepen India's strategic ties - what's on agenda

New Delhi, Agency: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday departed for the UAE as part of his five-nation tour from May 15 to May 20. After the UAE, the Prime Minister will also visit the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy.



The visit is expected to reinforce India's growing engagement with Europe and the Gulf region amid evolving geopolitical and economic ties.

PM Modi will begin his five-nation tour with a visit to the United Arab

Emirates on May 15, where he is scheduled to hold talks with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. According to ministry of external Affairs, discussions are expected to focus on energy coopera-

tion, trade, investment and regional issues of mutual interest.

UAE minister of state for international cooperation Reem Al Hashimy described PM Modi as a "true treasure" for the leadership and people of the Emirates, saying bilateral ties are set to scale "new mountain tops" in trade and technology.

Speaking to Media, Al Hashimy said the UAE was looking forward to the visit and described PM Modi as a central figure in the long-standing partnership

between the two countries.

She added that the visit would build on regular high-level engagements following the UAE President's trip to India in January and the Crown Prince's participation in the AI Summit in February.

Following his visit to the United Arab Emirates, PM Modi will travel to the Netherlands from May 15 to 17, where he is scheduled to hold talks with Dutch prime minister Rob Jetten and meet King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima.

Regulator bars 366 foreign-flagged ships from hiring Indian seafarers

New Delhi, Agency:

DG Shipping, the maritime regulator, on Thursday prohibited 366 foreign-flagged vessels from engaging Indian seafarers as they are accused of abandoning sailors - through nonpayment of wages, denial of compensation in death or missing cases, the subjecting of crew members to undue hardships and lack of assistance in repatriation of Indian seafarers.

This is a violation of national maritime regulations and international obligations, DG Shipping said while cautioning Recruitment and Placement Service Licence (RPSL) holders against placing seafarers on these vessels. In a circular issued to RPSL companies and all Indian seafarers, it put 278 vessels under "restricted" category and the remaining 88 under "blacklisted" category.

DG Shipping also directed all RPSLs to submit details of Indian seafarers engaged on these vessels within 14 days. "...in view of the grave violations of seafarer welfare, abandonment practices and non-compliance with international conventions, the 366 vessels are hereby prohibited from engaging Indian seafarers



through any RPSL company approved by DG Shipping with immediate effect, unless compliance with the foregoing provisions is duly ensured," the maritime regulator said in its order.

It said there are numerous vessels with Indian seafarers that have abandoned them. The vessels have been identified till 2026 in connection with abandonment-related cases, based on their "severity, recurrence and the challenges faced during enforcement and repatriation of Indian seafarers and recovery of their outstanding wages".

The regulator said that based on findings and observations of the director, Seamen's Employment Office in Mumbai, show-cause notices have been issued to several RPSL holders for their involvement in such cases. It has faced significant challenges in coordinating the repatriation of Indian seafarers from such vessels and payment of dues, the regulator added.



After PM's appeal, Centre proposes public transport use by govt officials

New Delhi, Agency: In the first policy move aimed at saving fuel, the Centre has proposed the use of public transport for all government officials. In an office memorandum issued here, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has called for "economic self-dependence" saying, "There is a need to adopt prudent mobility and efficiency measures in line with the call given by the Prime Minister on May 10 for economic self-dependence through reduced dependence on imported petroleum and greater use of sustainable public transport."

Titled "Integrated bus and metro connectivity to promote public transport in Delhi", the concept note also includes details of comprehensive vehicle bus routes and corresponding time tables for all colonies under government pool residential accommodation.

Minister: Govt to promote export of freshwater species

New Delhi, Agency: Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh on Thursday said the government was assessing export gaps in inland states and developing targeted strategies for promoting the exports of freshwater species, with a view to strengthen India's overall fisheries export ecosystem. Addressing a meeting here, he said steps were being taken for the promotion of fishery products, including value added products and facilitation of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) approvals in key international markets.



MP firecracker factory blast: Death toll rises to 5; CM Yadav orders detailed probe

New Delhi, Agency:

The death toll in the explosion at a firecracker factory in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district has risen to five after two more injured workers died during treatment, officials said on Thursday. Another 23 people are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dewas and Indore.

Dewas Additional District Magistrate Sanjeev Jain said the two workers, who had been admitted to a private hospital in Dewas with severe injuries, succumbed later in the day. Earlier, officials had confirmed four



deaths following the massive blast and fire at the factory in the Tonk Kalan area.

Police have arrested factory owner Anil Malviya under the stringent National Security Act (NSA). Officials also suspended the factory's firecracker licences, which had reportedly been

renewed only earlier this month. District authorities said the factory had started manufacturing small firecrackers around 15 days ago.

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav visited injured workers at hospitals in Indore and assured them of full support from the state government. He also announced a high-level inquiry into the incident.

"We are conducting a detailed investigation into the incident, and further action will be taken based on the investigation report," Yadav told reporters, adding that those responsible would not be spared.

Over 38 Kuki, Naga people held hostage by various groups: Manipur minister

New Delhi, Agency:

Manipur Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam on Thursday said over 38 persons belonging to the Naga and Kuki communities were held



hostage by various groups in the state.

Fresh violence gripped Manipur on Wednesday, as suspected militants shot dead three church leaders and injured four persons in Kangpokpi district, while a civilian was gunned down and his wife wounded in Noney district. On Thursday, Konthoujam said, "More than 38 people

from both the communities (Naga and Kuki) were detained by different groups. We are actively holding discussions with civil society groups and political leaders to secure their release." Konthoujam made the remarks while visiting the family of the civilian killed in the attack near Jouzangtek in Noney district.

'Peace can't be piecemeal': India voices concern over Strait of Hormuz, Gaza at BRICS conclave

New Delhi, Agency:

India on Thursday voiced strong concerns over the crisis in West Asia, warning that continued tensions threaten global energy supplies, maritime stability and economic security, as external affairs minister S Jaishankar urged BRICS nations to find "practical ways" to deal with geopolitical upheavals and "unilateral coercive" sanctions.

Addressing the opening day of a two-day BRICS conclave, Jaishankar said respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity must remain central to international relations, asserting that "dialogue and diplomacy" offer the only sustainable path to conflict resolution.

"The conflict in West Asia merits particular attention. Continuing tensions, risks to maritime traffic, and disruptions to energy infrastructure highlight



the fragility of the situation," Jaishankar said.

He stressed that safe and unimpeded maritime flows through international waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, remain vital for global economic well-being. The minister also voiced concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza and reiterated India's support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. "The wider region also gives rise to serious concern. The conflict in Gaza has grave humanitarian implications.

NEET UG exam 2026 rescheduled for June 21 after paper leak row

New Delhi, Agency:

The National Testing Agency on Friday announced that the re-examination for NEET (UG) 2026 will be held on June 21, Sunday.

The decision comes days after the agency cancelled the NEET-UG exam conducted on May 3 following allegations of irregularities, impacting lakhs of medical aspirants across the country. The government had also ordered a comprehensive probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the alleged malpractice linked to the examination.

While announcing the cancellation earlier, the NTA said the decision was taken "in the interest of students" and to preserve public trust in the national examination system.



"On the basis of inputs subsequently examined by NTA in coordination with central agencies, and the investigative findings shared by the law enforcement agencies, the National Testing Agency, with the approval of the Government of India, has decided to cancel the NEET (UG) 2026 examination conducted on 3 May 2026, and to re-conduct the examination on dates that

will be notified separately," the agency had posted on X.

"The inputs received by NTA, taken together with the findings shared by the law enforcement agencies, established that the present examination process could not be allowed to stand. The re-conducted examination dates, along with the re-issued admit-card schedule, will be communicated through the

official channels of the agency in the coming days," it added.

Protests erupted in several cities after the cancellation of the exam, with workers of the National Students' Union of India staging demonstrations against the alleged paper leak and examination irregularities. The controversy began after investigators found evidence suggesting that a so-called "guess paper" had been circulated among NEET aspirants weeks before the examination and allegedly contained questions closely matching the actual paper.

According to investigators, the document included around 410 questions and was reportedly shared among students between 15 days and a month before the May 3 exam.

Stardust trapped in Antarctic ice reveal years of Solar System's past



When you think of outer space, you're likely picturing stars, planets and moons. But much of space is filled with clouds of gas, plasma and stardust—known as interstellar clouds.

In the local parts of our galaxy alone there's a complex of roughly 15 individual interstellar clouds.

The Solar System is currently traversing one of them, aptly named the Local Interstellar Cloud.

The origin and history of these clouds are believed to be tightly connected to the birth and death of stars. But we can see their imprints right here on Earth, in a place you might not expect—Antarctic ice.

My colleagues and I have been studying stardust trapped in old Antarctic snow and ice to trace the history of our solar neighbourhood, including the Solar System itself.

In a new study published in *Physical Review Letters*, we found a subtle clue that reveals our Solar System's movement through the local interstellar environment over the past 80,000 years.

Looking down to see the sky

Astronomy usually looks outward. Telescopes collect light from distant stars and galaxies, allowing us to observe events across vast stretches of space and time.

From these observations, we infer how stars live and die, how elements are formed, and how the universe evolves.

Our approach turns that idea on its head.

Instead of observing the light coming to us, we study the debris of exploding stars right here on Earth.

As cosmic furnaces, stars forge many elements in their cores, from carbon and oxygen to calcium and iron. This includes rare isotopes (variants of chemical elements) such as iron-60.

When massive stars explode into supernovae at the end of their life, these elements are ejected into space and become interstellar dust.

Tiny grains of this dust then drift through the galaxy and occasionally find their way to Earth's surface. Radioactive iron-60, a fingerprint of stellar explosions, is embedded within these grains.

By searching for these atoms in geological archives on Earth, we can probe astrophysical events like supernovae long after their light has faded.

This is why Antarctica is so valuable. Its snow accumulates slowly and remains largely undisturbed, forming a layered record that stretches back tens of thousands of years.

Each layer captures a snapshot of the material that was present in our cosmic neighbourhood at the time.

Finding stardust in Antarctic ice. When we studied 500kg of recent snow in Antarctica, we unexpectedly found this rare radioactive isotope. Where did it come from? There was no recent near-Earth supernova.

But our solar neighbourhood is filled with 15 clouds, with the Solar System currently traversing at least one of them.

Is the stardust waiting in the clouds to be picked up by Earth? If yes, then the amount of stardust Earth collects should be related to their structure: the denser the clouds, the more iron-60 they con-

tain. This was our educated guess in 2019.

Soon, other explanations were brought forward. Millions of years ago Earth received large showers of iron-60 from massive supernovae.

Is the iron-60 in Antarctic snow the last remnant or an echo of this signal? A rain that became a drizzle? To find out, we analysed a 300kg section of Antarctic ice, dating from 40,000 to 80,000 years ago.

The process is painstaking. The ice needs to be melted and chemically treated to isolate tiny amounts of iron, including the iron-60 from the stardust.

Then, using the sensitive atom counting technique of accelerator mass spectrometry at the Heavy-Ion Accelerator Facility at Australian National University, we counted individual atoms of iron-60.

The expectation was straightforward: based on previous measurements from surface snow of Antarctica and several thousand-year-old ocean sediments, we anticipated a certain steady level of iron-60 deposition.

Instead, we found less. Not zero, but noticeably lower than expected.

This result suggests that less interstellar dust was reaching Earth during that period.

This is a remarkable change on a comparatively short astrophysical timescale and does not fit the long timescales of the iron-60 deposits that landed here millions of years ago. Instead, we needed to look for a smaller, more local source for the isotope.

A fitting story

Naturally, astronomers are also quite interested in the clouds around the Solar System. Last year, a study reconstructing the history of the clouds arrived at the conclusion that they most likely originated in a stellar explosion.

Furthermore, they found the Solar System has been traversing the Local Interstellar Cloud from sometime between 40,000 and 124,000 years ago.

If that's correct, we would expect that the amount of iron-60 collected on Earth should have changed sometime in the same time period—between 40,000 and 124,000 years ago.

This is exactly what our results showed in Antarctica.

The story doesn't fit perfectly, though. If these clouds did originate directly from an exploding star, we would expect way more iron-60 than we actually see in Antarctic ice.

Nevertheless, these clouds are imprinted in Earth's geological record.

If we look deeper and analyse even older ice, we might soon unravel the mystery of these local interstellar clouds, revealing their full history and uncertain origins.

NASA Reveals New Details About Artemis 3—and It's a Bit Weird



After the Artemis 2 astronauts returned from their historic journey around the Moon, NASA quickly shifted its attention to Artemis 3. Now, the agency has revealed some details from its preliminary flight plan. And, well, it's not exactly what we expected.

Artemis 3, launching no earlier than late 2027, will aim to test rendezvous and docking capabilities between NASA's Orion spacecraft and lunar landers built by SpaceX and Blue Origin, paving the way for the Artemis 4 crewed Moon landing. In a press release published Wednesday, the agency said engineers have been evaluating mission profile options and operational considerations since February, when NASA revamped the Artemis program architecture to reduce risk, increase launch cadence, and more effectively execute plans to establish a sustained lunar presence.

Officials still have key decisions to make, but this update provides the clearest insight into the Artemis 3 flight plan yet. Some of the choices are quite surprising.

SLS will fly without its upper

stage. During Artemis 3, NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket will launch the Orion spacecraft from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. A crew of four astronauts will be inside Orion. This is the same launch configuration NASA used for Artemis 2, but this time, SLS will fly without its Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (ICPS).

Before NASA began launching Artemis missions, United Launch Alliance manufactured three ICPS stages for the agency. Two of them were used during Artemis 1 and Artemis 2, respectively, and now NASA only has one left. This stage of the rocket boosts Orion to a high-Earth orbit such that it can set course to the Moon, so the agency will definitely need it for Artemis 4. Fortunately, Artemis 3 can launch without it because the mission will not leave low-Earth orbit.

For this mission, the SLS will launch with a "spacer," according to NASA. It's kind of like a dummy ICPS—it mimics the mass and overall dimensions of the

upper stage without the propulsive capabilities. This should allow the agency to meet its "test like you fly" objective without wasting its last ICPS.

No crewed lander test, no problem

Orion will launch separately from NASA's commercial landers, SpaceX's Starship Human Landing System (HLS), and Blue Origin's Blue Moon Mark 2 (MK2) lander. The final mission profile hinges on whether the two landers will be ready for a crewed demo flight by late 2027—both are still in development.

Plan A is to have Orion dock with each lander to allow the Artemis 3 astronauts to climb aboard and test them out. Plan B is to have them test only one if the other isn't mature enough yet. But the NASA release seems to suggest there is also a plan C.

"Informed by Blue Origin and SpaceX capabilities, NASA also is defining the concept of operations for the mission. While some decisions are yet to be determined, astronauts could potentially enter at least one lander test article," the release states.

New ultra-black coating could improve the search for life on exoplanets

The latest ultra-black coating combines extreme thinness with durability. It has an extremely high light absorption rate, which made it a perfect candidate for starshades, massive nanostructured devices designed to allow telescopes to see distant planets and, potentially, signs of life not of this Earth.

Detecting a planet beside a star would be like seeing a firefly next to one of those stadium floodlights: the light from the star is so very much brighter than that from the planet. Sunlight reflected off a spacecraft also causes unwanted haze, making observations more difficult.

One solution, a starshade, acts like a giant cosmic flower about half the size of a football field held between the telescope and the star. The shadow it casts is crisply defined, blocking nearly all starlight, yet allowing the gentle glow of the planet to slip around its edges and into our telescope's view.

For the last ten years, NASA engineers have been studying several techniques to reduce the path of solar light. They shaped the starshade's edges with ultrathin blades of amorphous metal, 300 nanometers thick, and even these scattered more light than was needed.

However, repeated tests with dark surfaces showed challenges: making the layers too thick would blunt edges and increase light scattering. Carbon nan-

otube coatings, for example, are on the order of a few microns thick, orders of magnitude wider than the extremely thin starshade edges. Likewise, >3D microstructured light-trapping coatings suffered from the increased thickness of the 2D Ca layer, which led to a suppressed clean shadow.

In 2004, David Sheik (of ZeCoat!) designed a "black mirror", which absorbs light rather than reflecting it. Using cutting-edge computation and a spiral glass-vapor deposition process, they fashioned an ultra-thin coating of stacked metal and glass layers, which trapped light in nanoscale cavities (kind of like the inverse physics of a Fabry-Perot laser cavity).

The coating was an order of magnitude thinner than the previously tested coatings. NASA's Exoplanet Exploration Program had reviewed it (as a starshade prototype) back in 2020. Engineers confirmed the ability of coated blades to reduce stray light by 20x using a custom scatterometer developed at JPL, thereby suppressing glare enough to allow telescopes to detect faint emission from distant worlds.

To further this success, ZeCoat developed the technology under a NASA SBIR contract in 2021. They developed a process suitable for roll-to-roll thin-film deposition that applies ultra-black coatings to large sheets of polyimide.

