

Air Surcharges if applicable
Delivery Charges applicable



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

World conflicts hit peak in 2025

OSLO. (Agency)

The world saw the highest number of state conflicts since the Second World War in 2025, a Norwegian study said on Tuesday, warning of a surge in attacks targeting civilians. The annual "Conflict Trends" report from the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) said 65 conflicts involving at least one state were recorded worldwide last year, a new high since 1946. Conflicts between states also hit a new 80-year peak, doubling from the year before to eight -- including border clashes between India and Pakistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Cambodia and Thailand, as well as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Israeli military operations against Syria. "Unfortunately there is not a lot of positive things," researcher Siri Aas Rustad told a group of media outlets, including AFP. "Usually I'm able to sort of squeeze something positive out of it, but this year it's shocking, the numbers." Last year was the third deadliest since the end of the Cold War, with around 245,000 deaths directly related to fighting or political violence -- nearly 76,500 of them attributed to attacks directly targeting civilians, compared with 14,200 in 2024. The sharp increase in civilian deaths is due to the conflict between the army and paramilitaries in Sudan, where the siege and massacres carried out in El-Fasher city in the Darfur region are estimated to have left some 60,000 people dead. Since the end of the Cold War, only 1994 and 2021 have seen more bloodshed, due to the Rwanda genocide and the war in Ethiopia's Tigray region respectively.

Africa worst affected
"What has happened in the past five or six years is that we have several big conflicts going on at the same time and they seem to take over from each other. The world doesn't get any break," Rustad said.
"And that's different from previously -- this continuous high intensity level of conflict globally."

US appeals court raises concerns about Alabama's use of nitrogen gas for executions

MONTGOMERY. (Agency)

Alabama's use of nitrogen gas to put people to death needs more study of whether it violates a constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment, a federal appeals court decided Monday.
The state first used nitrogen for capital punishment in 2024, and the ruling could upend Alabama's next scheduled execution on Thursday. The method involves strapping a respirator to the person's face and replacing breathable air with pure nitrogen, causing death from lack of oxygen. The three-judge panel on Monday night reversed a judge's May finding that the nitrogen method does not violate the U.S. Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment and remanded the case for additional consideration.
The ruling came in a lawsuit filed last year by Jeffrey Lee, a man on death row who is scheduled to be executed with nitrogen on Thursday at a south Alabama prison. The panel stopped short of staying Lee's planned execution. However, the panel asked the judge to consider whether his proposed alternative of a firing squad was feasible. The U.S. Supreme Court requires a two-prong test for people challenging the constitutionality of an execution method. They must show the method provides a substantial risk of superadded pain and that a feasible alternative method is available. The appeals court said Lee met the first test but sent it back to the trial court to consider the second. The appeals panel raised concerns about the nitrogen method and how long it might take the subject to lose awareness.

Sweden set to ban mobile phones in schools, joining trend of shelving screens for students

MALMÖ. (Agency)

Long championed as a leader in adopting digital technology, Sweden is set to ban mobile phones in schools beginning in the fall for the next academic year as part of a broad, international reversal on the use of screens in classrooms. Since 2023, the Scandinavian country's center-right coalition government has pursued a policy prioritizing more reading time and less screen time, particularly among preschool students, by favoring books and other traditional learning tools. Lawmaker Joar Forsell, chairperson of the Swedish parliament's education committee, said officials have seen a decline in the general ability to read and write in Sweden, especially among younger students. "We're rolling the screens back because we believe that books and more traditional ways of learning are better for kids," Forsell said. Sweden's plans are part of a broader shift and a digital reckoning against smartphones in schools internationally after countries outfitted their campuses with laptops, tablets and learning apps for their students. Classrooms have become saturated with screens and a growing number of parents, teachers and school districts say it is time to scale back. In the Nordics, Denmark looks set to implement a similar ban to Sweden, and a law restricting use of mobile devices in schools in Finland came into effect last August. Other countries from Spain to South Korea have taken a variety of steps that range from a ban of mobile phones in classrooms to limits on screen-based homework. The Los Angeles Unified School District, the second-largest school district in the U.S., has said it will ban screens until second grade, require daily caps for screen time per grade, ban YouTube and require an audit of all education technology contracts. Backing away from screens Tech-savvy Sweden, which is home to music streamer Spotify and telecoms giant Ericsson, has one of the most digitally advanced education systems in the world. But the mobile ban aims to foster learning environments with fewer distractions by building on restrictions on phones already

In 'final throes' of reaching West Asia peace deal, claims Trump

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that negotiators were in the "final throes" of talks for a peace deal in West Asia, after Iran and Israel halted fresh hostilities that threatened to reignite the months-long war. Trump has repeatedly said that a peace agreement with Tehran is imminent, but diplomacy has stalled and the two sides have traded fire despite a ceasefire in place since April 8. Iran and Israel "were going back and forth and now they both agreed through me to stop and we're in the final throes of what will be a very, very good deal," the US leader told reporters on his return from an NBA Finals game. Asked whether it would be matter of days or weeks, he said it would take "two or three days". Tehran has repeatedly stated any deal should include Lebanon -- where Israel has been pressing its war with Iran-backed Hezbollah -- and fired missiles at Israel on Sunday. That prompted Israeli retaliation, despite US pressure for restraint. Iran fired another salvo before announcing it was ceasing military action, and hours later Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the "fire on that front is contained". Tehran said on Monday it would attack again if Israel persisted with its strikes in Lebanon, while Netanyahu warned in turn that should Iran "make the mistake of

resuming attacks against us, we will respond with full force". Earlier, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz insisted that the campaign in Lebanon would carry on regardless and said Israel would strike the Hezbollah-dominated southern suburbs of Beirut in retaliation for each attack on northern Israel by the militant group. Trump, who has reportedly grown increasingly exasperated with Netanyahu, had earlier urged both sides to stop "shooting" and said that "final negotiations" towards peace would proceed "subject to ignorance or stupidity getting in its way". The Israeli premier, though, said in a televised statement he had told Trump that "Israel has a full right to self-defence, and we are exercising it as required". According to Axios, Israel was preparing for a major wave of strikes on Iran before Trump personally called Netanyahu and urged him to stop. "I said, 'Bibi, you better be careful, or you will be on your own very soon,'" Trump told Axios. US Vice President JD Vance told Fox News on Monday that while the United States and Israel shared interests, their positions did not always align. "The Israelis

and the United States, we have a lot of shared interests," Vance said. "But we also have some situations where our interests diverge." Deadly strikes in Lebanon/Iran fired nearly 30 missiles at Israel, according to the Israeli military, while Israel struck military sites in the Islamic republic. No casualties were reported in either Iran or Israel following the

some intercepted and another landing near soldiers without causing casualties.
Calm in Tehran

Despite fears of renewed conflict, Tehran appeared relatively calm on Monday, with the city's cafe terraces crowded. Traffic was lighter than usual for a weekday and queues formed at petrol stations. Maryam, 41, an accountant, described "a sense of uncertainty and confusion." "You don't know if there's going to be a war, nor do you know if the peace agreement will last," she said. In Israel's Tel Aviv, meanwhile, residents again headed to shelters as sirens sounded. I hope it will be short, but you can never know," said Jonathan Ariel, 30. "Last time we thought it would be short and then it was a month," he said. Iranian media reported early Tuesday that Tehran's international airport -- closed during the missile exchanges -- had reopened, allowing flights carrying hajj pilgrims from Saudi Arabia to land. The conflict has severely disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, while Washington has imposed a blockade on Iranian ports. Oil prices were down Tuesday after spiking more than five percent early the previous day, before paring their gains.



exchange. But violence continued in southern Lebanon, where Israeli strikes killed at least 14 people on Monday, according to the Lebanese health ministry. The Israeli military said projectiles had been launched towards troops operating in southern Lebanon, with

Xi and Kim push for greater ties between China and North Korea

Reports imply that the summit produced outcomes both leaders could portray as gains; Xi reaffirms influence on North Korea and Kim wins some economic and political benefits.

SEOUL. (Agency)

Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un underscored their commitment to deepen cooperation and rebuild their complicated traditional alliance, as Xi is on a rare visit to Pyongyang in a likely attempt to reassert Beijing's unique influence over its socialist neighbour. It's extremely difficult to independently verify reports released by state-controlled media outlets of North Korea and China. But their dispatches on the meeting touted a joint push for greater cooperation while not mentioning North Korea's banned

pursuit of nuclear weapons. This implies the summit produced outcomes both leaders could portray as gains; Xi reaffirms influence on North Korea and Kim wins some economic and political benefits. It was Xi's first visit to North



Korea in seven years. Xi and Kim last met in Beijing in September after viewing a military parade alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin and other foreign leaders. Xi was given pomp-filled, extravagant welcome ceremony upon arrival at Pyongyang's international airport on Monday, Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan were greeted by

Kim and his wife Ri Sol Ju, who broadly smiled and clapped. Xi later arrived at Pyongyang's main square, where a military honor guard and thousands of people, including children carrying balloons and hopping, staged a welcoming ceremony. Buildings surrounding the plaza were draped in the two countries' flags, giant portraits of Kim and Xi and red-and-yellow banners welcoming the Chinese leader and celebrating the nations' "friendship and unity." Kim calls North Korea-China ties "most important"

In a summit later Monday, Xi expressed China's willingness to expand cooperation in a wide range of areas including trade, agriculture, construction and technology, China's state broadcaster CCTV said in an online report. Xi said the two countries should strengthen strategic cooperation and firmly safeguard their respective sovereignty and security interests, according to the report.

20,000 people displaced by the Philippine earthquake that killed at least 37

GENERAL SANTOS. (Agency)

Rescuers searched ruined buildings in the southern Philippines on Tuesday to ensure no one was still trapped a day after one of the strongest earthquakes to hit the country in a half-century killed at least 37 people and displaced more than 20,000. Only four people were considered missing on official records in the southern provinces near where the 7.8 magnitude quake struck Monday morning, but the Office of Civil Defense acknowledged several collapsed and heavily damaged buildings must be thoroughly inspected for possible survivors or casualties. The earthquake centered off Mindanao, the second most populous Philippine island, injured nearly 500 people and displaced more than 20,000, most of whom fled to emergency shelters. Many people who left their homes feared a tsunami. Waves up to 1.4-meter (4.6-foot) above tide level were measured in the Philippines, but the only tsunami damage reported was to six

shanties on stilts in a coastal village. Smaller waves washed ashore in Indonesia and Palau and as far away as southern Japan. Landslides and building collapses caused several deaths. The



earthquake left a trail of destruction, including in General Santos, a lively coastal city of more than 700,000 people known as the country's tuna capital, where at least 13 people were killed in collapsed buildings and due to falling debris. At least 18 died in Sarangani province mostly in a landslide that buried houses in the mountainside town of Glan, according to Rafaelito

Alejandro of the Office of Civil Defense. The other deaths were reported in the southern provinces of South Cotabato and Davao Occidental, and on Balut Island, disaster-response officials said. About 2,000 houses and 117 government buildings and facilities were damaged in several provinces, according to an initial government damage assessment. The international airport in General Santos remained shut, forcing the cancellation of 63 domestic flights except for those on humanitarian mission. About 6,000 public school buildings in quake-hit provinces must be assessed before classes can resume. The quake struck on the first day of classes nationwide after a two-month summer break and many who sustained injuries were young students who had gathered with excitement for morning flag-raising ceremonies. Authorities have warned that buildings that sustained cracks could collapse due to aftershocks, some of them dangerously powerful.



and Afghanistan continues to guide their modern-day relationship. "The proud people of Afghanistan have endured much in this century, and the Government of India will continue to stand for peace and stability in order to foster development in the country," he said. He also noted that India's capacity-building and humanitarian assistance initiatives for the Afghan people are present in all 34 provinces and across more than 500 development partnership projects. "Visits to India by Afghan ministers last year have ensured necessary planning and coordination so that our support reaches the intended beneficiaries. Generations of Afghans, having suffered years of active hostility, are now suffering neglect from the international community," he said.

Protesters, police clash in Bolivia after president signs law enabling a harsher crackdown

The renewed clashes erupted after President Paz signed a measure that could pave the way for a hard-line government crackdown on the demonstrations that have roiled Bolivia over the past five weeks.

LA PAZ. (Agency)

Protesters in Bolivia demanding the resignation of conservative President Rodrigo Paz hurled firecrackers, stones and sticks at police who responded with tear gas on Monday, leading to dozens of arrests as road blockades continue to paralyze the Andean nation. The renewed clashes in the central city of Cochabamba erupted after President Paz signed a measure that could pave the way for a hard-line government crackdown on the demonstrations that have roiled Bolivia over the past five weeks, disrupting transportation and causing shortages of food, fuel and medical supplies. Bolivia's national workers' union,

peasant farmers and Indigenous groups from the highlands -- outraged over Paz's scrapping of fuel subsidies and frustrated with his failure in the last seven months to resolve Bolivia's persistent economic problems -- have set up 90 blockades on key routes nationwide, effectively isolating major cities, especially La Paz, the seat of government and neighboring El Alto. Battered by rising inflation and low wages, many protesters accuse Paz of neglecting them since they helped vote him into office.

A report released over the weekend by the independent public ombudsman said that, from May 1 to June 2, the unrest resulted in 10 deaths, 37 injuries and 365 arrests. The government says seven of the deaths were caused by a lack of medical attention, but that all incidents are being investigated. Paz has tried to negotiate with the protesters and urged restraint in the use of police force against them. But demonstrators have largely refused to sit down with the president and continue to demand nothing short of his



resignation just seven months after he took office. His election last year ended nearly 20 years of uninterrupted rule by Bolivia's Movement Toward Socialism, or MAS, the party founded by charismatic ex-President Evo Morales. Pressure is growing on Paz to mount a more aggressive response to the unrest. On Monday, he signed legislation that eases the government's ability to impose a state of emergency that would suspend constitutional rights and empower the

military to restore order and clear the blockades. But for a state of emergency to come into force, Paz must issue a separate decree. It's unclear whether he'll decide to do so, as violent military crackdowns on protests have toppled Bolivian presidents before.

"This law is to protect the majority of the country from the narco-terrorism that is instigating the protests," Paz said in a national address after signing the law. "I extend my hand to the social organizations that have legitimate demands and reiterate my willingness to engage in dialogue." After his speech, crowds stormed a public transport union office in El Alto as tensions surged over fuel shortages, leading to at least 28 arrests, police said. Clashes engulfed the central city of Cochabamba, where protesting farmers attempted to cut off a bridge that connects the region to the west of the country. Police detained 23 people as they sprayed tear gas to disperse demonstrators throwing stones and dynamite.

India Operationally Deploys 12 Nuclear Warheads for First Time: SIPRI

New Delhi: India has operationally deployed a section of its nuclear arsenal for the first time, according to the latest report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), indicating a gradual shift in the country's strategic posture.

12 Warheads Classified as Operationally Deployed
SIPRI estimates that India possessed around 190 nuclear warheads as of January 2026, up from about 180 a year earlier.

Of these, 12 warheads have been classified as operationally deployed, marking the first instance in which a portion of India's nuclear arsenal has been assessed as ready for use rather than kept in storage.

The report suggests that some warheads may now be mated with delivery systems

or positioned alongside operational forces, reflecting a higher level of readiness.

Shift in Nuclear Force Posture

According to SIPRI, India may be moving away from its long-standing practice of storing nuclear warheads and launch systems separately during peacetime. The development is linked to the growing deployment of canisterised missile systems, which enable faster launch readiness and improved survivability of strategic assets.

SIPRI noted that India "could be shifting in the direction of mating some of its warheads with their launchers in peacetime."

Sea-Based Deterrent Gains Prominence

The report highlights the increasing role of nuclear-powered ballistic missile



India's Nuclear Arsenal Grows to 190 Warheads Amid Strategic Readiness Shift

submarines (SSBNs) in India's deterrence strategy. According to SIPRI, India has likely deployed a limited number of nuclear warheads aboard a ballistic missile submarine and conducted deterrence patrols, strengthening the sea-based leg of its nuclear triad. Military analysts regard

submarine-based nuclear forces as the most survivable component of a nuclear deterrent because they remain difficult to detect and target.

Nuclear Triad Continues to Mature

India's nuclear arsenal is assigned to a maturing nuclear triad comprising aircraft,

land-based missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles. The report notes that continued modernization of strategic forces, including longer-range missile systems and enhanced second-strike capabilities, is contributing to the country's evolving deterrence posture.

No Change in Nuclear Doctrine

Despite the reported operational deployment of some warheads, SIPRI observed that there has been no official change in India's nuclear doctrine.

India continues to adhere to its No First Use (NFU) policy, under which nuclear weapons would be used only in retaliation to a nuclear attack on Indian territory or armed forces.

The country's nuclear strategy remains anchored in the principle of credible minimum deterrence, aimed at maintaining an effective retaliatory capability rather than pursuing an expansive nuclear arsenal.

The Indian government has not announced any change to its stated nuclear policy.

Iran Shoots Down US Apache Helicopter Over Strait of Hormuz; Trump Vows Response



Washington: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said the United States would respond after an American Apache attack helicopter was allegedly shot down by Iranian forces while patrolling near the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said he had been briefed by the US military about the incident, claiming that Iran brought down a "highly sophisticated Apache helicopter" during a patrol mission. He added that both pilots survived and were rescued safely.

"The United States must, of necessity, respond to this attack," Trump said, signaling possible retaliatory action against Tehran.

US Military Yet to Confirm Iranian Role

Earlier, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) confirmed that an AH-64 Apache helicopter went down near the coast of Oman at around 3 a.m. local time while operating in regional waters.

However, the military did not disclose the cause of the crash and has not officially confirmed Trump's assertion that the aircraft was shot down by Iran.

Tensions Rise Amid Diplomatic Efforts

The incident comes at a sensitive time as Washington continues efforts to secure a broader agreement with Tehran aimed at reducing tensions in West Asia.

Any confirmed Iranian involvement could further complicate diplomatic negotiations and raise concerns about security in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy transit route through which a significant portion of the world's oil supplies passes.

The latest episode is expected to intensify scrutiny of US-Iran relations and could trigger fresh military and diplomatic developments in the region.

Over 30 Killed, 200 Injured in PoK Clashes After JAAC Ban



Muzaffarabad: At least 30 people were killed and nearly 200 injured in violent clashes between protesters and security forces across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) after authorities banned the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), a civil society group leading protests over economic and political issues.

The unrest intensified after JAAC supporters gathered outside a hospital mortuary following the death of an activist in an earlier police firing incident. Security forces attempted to disperse the crowd, triggering clashes that quickly spread to several areas.

Authorities accused protesters of attacking security personnel with petrol bombs and other projectiles, while demonstrators blamed the government for using excessive force. The JAAC had called for a strike against the reservation of 12 seats for refugees in the upcoming July 27 legislative assembly elections. The group has also been campaigning for subsidised flour, cheaper electricity and governance reforms.

The violence has drawn international attention, with members of the Kashmiri diaspora holding protests in the United Kingdom and reports suggesting that several British lawmakers have sought diplomatic intervention. Rawalakot has emerged as the epicentre of the unrest, with tensions remaining high despite heavy security deployment. Observers warn that the situation could worsen unless authorities engage with protesters over their economic and political demands.

RINL Steel Plant Blast Leaves 8 Dead, Several Workers Injured

Visakhapatnam: At least eight workers were killed and several others sustained severe burn injuries after a massive explosion rocked the Steel Melting Shop (SMS) unit of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) on Monday evening. According to reports, the blast occurred in a ladle containing molten steel at extremely high temperatures.

NDA Crosses 300-Mark in Lok Sabha as 20 Rebel TMC MPs Extend Support

New Delhi: The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has received a major boost in the Lok Sabha after a group of 20 rebel Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs formally expressed their willingness to support the ruling coalition, pushing the NDA's effective strength beyond the 300-seat mark. The development is being viewed as one of the biggest political setbacks for the TMC and its chief, Mamata Banerjee, in recent years.

Rebel TMC Bloc Writes to Speaker

The rebellion was spearheaded by senior TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, who claimed that 20 of the party's 28 Lok Sabha MPs had signed a letter addressed to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The letter reportedly sought recognition of the group as a separate bloc and conveyed its decision to support the BJP-led NDA in Parliament.

According to reports, the letter was submitted to the Speaker's office after a meeting attended by dissident TMC MPs in New Delhi. The



MPs are also said to have requested seating arrangements alongside NDA members in the Lok Sabha.

NDA's Parliamentary Position Strengthens

If the support of the rebel MPs is formally recognised, the NDA's strength in the Lower House would rise to around 312 seats, providing the ruling alliance with a far more comfortable majority. The BJP remains the coalition's largest constituent with 240 MPs. The expanded numbers would reduce the NDA's dependence on key allies such as the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janata Dal (United) for crucial legislative business, giving the government greater room to manoeuvre

on contentious policy issues.

High-Profile MPs Among Signatories

The rebel camp is said to include several prominent TMC faces, including Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, actor-MPs Dev, Rachana Banerjee, Satabdi Roy, June Maliah, Yusuf Pathan, Partha Bhowmik, Arup Chakraborty and others. The group has maintained that while it intends to support the NDA, it is not immediately merging with the BJP.

Mamata Banerjee Faces Major Challenge

The reported split has triggered a serious crisis within the TMC's parliamentary ranks. With the party holding 28 Lok Sabha seats, the backing of 20 MPs would amount

to more than two-thirds of its strength, a threshold that could have significant implications under anti-defection provisions.

Political observers describe the development as the most severe parliamentary rebellion faced by the TMC since its formation, raising fresh questions about Mamata Banerjee's control over the party following its recent electoral setbacks.

Political Fallout Ahead

The rebellion has set the stage for a major political and legal battle over the future of the dissident MPs and the TMC's parliamentary identity. While the Mamata Banerjee camp has branded the rebels as "traitors", the dissident faction insists its move reflects the political mandate and changing ground realities in West Bengal.

With Parliament's numbers now tilting further in favour of the NDA, the unfolding TMC crisis could reshape the national political landscape and alter the balance of power in the Lok Sabha in the months ahead.

PM Modi Embarks on Six-Day Europe Visit, Set for Talks with Macron & G7 Leaders

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a six-day visit to France and Slovakia from June 13, during which he will hold bilateral talks, attend the G7 Summit and participate in key technology and innovation events.

In France, Modi will meet President Emmanuel Macron in Nice to review the India-France Special Global Strategic Partnership and jointly inaugurate the Bharat Innovates event, aimed at boosting collaboration among startups and investors.



The Prime Minister will then undertake a State Visit to Slovakia from June 14-16, the first by an Indian Prime Minister since the country's independence in 1993. He is scheduled to hold talks with

engage with world leaders on major global issues.

The final leg of the tour will take him to Paris for the VivaTech Summit, Europe's largest technology and start-up event, besides meetings with members of the Indian community.

The Ministry of External Affairs said the visit will deepen India's engagement with France, Slovakia, the European Union and G7 nations, while highlighting the country's growing role in innovation, technology and global affairs.

After Japan, Nepal Bans Indian Mangoes Over Pesticide Concerns



RNS: India's mango export sector has suffered another setback after Nepal suspended imports of Indian mangoes, becoming the second country after Japan to impose restrictions on the fruit this season.

Nepalese authorities have cited concerns over pesticide residue levels and food safety compliance in imported consignments. The move affects several popular Indian varieties, including Alphonso, Kesar, Dasheri, Langra and Banganapalli, which enjoy strong demand in Nepal during the summer months.

The decision comes shortly after Japan halted imports of Indian mangoes following concerns related to quarantine and treatment procedures at export facilities. The back-to-back restrictions have raised concerns among exporters and agricultural experts about the need for stricter quality control measures in India's fruit export chain.

Nepal is one of the important overseas markets for Indian mangoes, importing substantial quantities every year due to geographical proximity and consumer preference for Indian varieties. Traders in Nepal have warned that the ban could lead to shortages in local markets and push up fruit prices during the peak consumption season. Exporters fear that prolonged restrictions could affect farmers and traders across major mango-producing states such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and West Bengal. Industry representatives have urged authorities to strengthen pesticide monitoring, improve traceability systems and ensure compliance with international food safety standards.

While India remains the world's largest producer of mangoes, the latest developments have highlighted growing scrutiny from importing countries regarding agricultural exports. Experts believe restoring buyer confidence through stricter inspections and certification processes will be crucial to preventing similar restrictions in other markets. Officials and export bodies are expected to engage with authorities in Nepal and Japan to address the concerns and facilitate the resumption of mango shipments in the coming weeks.

CID reaches TMC office, Kalighat

Kolkata: The West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Tuesday visited a Trinamool Congress (TMC) office in Kolkata's Kalighat area as part of its ongoing investigation into an alleged signature forgery controversy. The party office is located adjacent to the residence of former West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee. A team from the state investigative agency arrived at the premises along with personnel from Kalighat Police Station to carry out inquiries linked to the case.

BE A PART OF THE TRUTH.

GROW WITH THE RESEARCHERS'

India's Rising Independent **DAILY** Newspaper

For Franchises Editions:-

Call - 9334220098

Trusted Independent Journalism | Expanding Reach Across India | Be Your Own Business Owner | Make an Impact. Build a Legacy. Earn with Purpose.

Own a Franchise. Inspire Change. Build the Future.

CALL NOW

https://www.theresearchers.us | https://epaper.theresearchers.asia

www.creativeinteriorsranchi.com

Reimagine Your Heaven

We turn dreams into reality.

+91 99391 09311 | 79039 57387

8th Lane, Metaji Nagar, Kantatoli, Ranchi

For Advertisements

call : 9431744001

mail4daily@gmail.com

Research Assistance

- # Research Paper writing
- # Journal Publication
- # Thesis writing
- # Book Publication

Thesis to Book conversion

CALL : 9334220098 | 9431744001

Research Assistancess

Thesis Writing

NO PROBLEM !
(Any possible Subject/Topic)

Research Paper writing / Publication

Call / Whatsapp/Message
+91-9334220098 / 9431744001

'India My Second Home,' Says Iranian Engineer Working On Zojila Tunnel

Calling Zojila Tunnel an icon, Yousef told NDTV that he is proud to have been associated with the landmark project

Zojila Tunnel.(Agency)
While his own country was reeling under bombs and its bridges were being torn apart, Yousef Es'haghpour Rahimabadi was busy working on building a tunnel in India. From Iran, Yousef is the Authority Engineer for the Zojila Tunnel. Calling it an iconic tunnel, Yousef told NDTV that he is proud to have been associated with the landmark project. The Zojila Tunnel project successfully achieved its historic final excavation breakthrough on Tuesday. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, along with Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha witnessed the final ceremonial blast from the Kargil side to connect the excavation fronts from Baltal (Sonamarg) and Meenamarg (Drass-Kargil). Excited at the breakthrough, Yousef called Zojila the most challenging project of his career spanning over three decades. "I have worked in many countries on many tough projects. But this is the most challenging one due to the topography and weather. That's why I am proud to be part of the project," Yousef told



Nazir Masoodi.

Yousef, who is married in India, calls India his second home and describes himself as

Indo-Iranian. Talking about his experience of working on building something as iconic as the Zojila Tunnel while his country was under heavy bombing, Yousef said that engineers are also soldiers. And that's why he kept working on the tunnel. "I am happy and honoured to be part of a project that is for the good of people of India," he said, adding that every Indian must be proud of the tunnel. The Zojila Tunnel will become India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel, spanning a total project length of 30.18 km,

including a 13.153 km main tunnel and 17.030 km of approach roads. The project, estimated at Rs 6,809 crore, is part of a larger effort to strengthen all-weather connectivity along the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh corridor on National Highway-1. The tunnel, being constructed under the Zojila Pass between Sonamarg and Drass, aims to provide uninterrupted connectivity to Ladakh, which remains cut off during winter months due to heavy snowfall and avalanche risks. Once operational, it will reduce travel time on the stretch from over three hours to around 15 minutes, while also improving safety and strategic mobility for both civilian and defence purposes.

No disqualification: Speaker's relief for 21 rebel AIADMK MLAs who backed TVK

Chennai.(Agency)

In yet another setback to AIADMK General Secretary Edapaddi K Palaniswami, Tamil Nadu Speaker JCD Prabhakar on Tuesday dismissed the motion seeking disqualification of 21 party MLAs who had voted for Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay during the May 13 trust vote. For the uninitiated, at least 25 AIADMK MLAs of the camp led by "rebel" leaders Shanmugam and SP Velumani had voted in favour of the Vijay-led TVK, taking its eventual tally in the Assembly from 119 to 144, ensuring a comfortable majority for the actorn-turned-politician. On the other hand, the remaining 22 MLAs loyal to E Palaniswami voted against Vijay, confirming an open split within the party folds. The development significantly weakened



Palaniswami's position, leaving only 22 MLAs firmly in his camp. However, five among the AIADMK rebels had shifted their allegiance back to party chief EPS. With this, the number of MLAs backing Palaniswami in the Assembly rose to 27. Meanwhile, despite the rebellion, the dissident legislators did not have enough numbers to

formally merge with TVK under the anti-defection law, which required the support of at least two-thirds of a legislature party. In AIADMK's case, that threshold stood at 31 MLAs, leaving the rebel group short of the required strength. Following that, rival party factions approached Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker JCD Prabhakar, each seeking the disqualification of the other's MLAs under the anti-defection law. Notably, four of the 25 MLAs who had voted for TVK during the confidence motion formally joined the Vijay-led party just days ago. **TAMIL NADU ELECTIONS** In the recent Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, the AIADMK secured 47 seats, while Vijay-led TVK emerged as the single-largest party with 108 seats, falling.

UP Police exam sparks travel chaos, massive crowds at train stations

Uttar Pradesh .(Agency)

Railway stations across Uttar Pradesh witnessed unprecedented crowds following the conclusion of the UP Police Constable Exam 2026, with candidates heading towards Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur, Agra, Jaunpur and other districts. The surge in passenger movement led to severe congestion on platforms and inside trains, putting railway authorities on alert. Many aspirants were seen waiting for hours on station premises, while others spread bedsheets and plastic sheets on platforms to rest before boarding trains. **NIGHTS SPENT AT STATIONS** In Gorakhpur, one of the major examination hubs, candidates arriving from different parts of the state spent the night at the railway station ahead of their examinations. Several queued up at charging points to recharge their phones, while others battled the heat as they waited for trains or examination shifts. More than 1.16 lakh candidates were expected to appear for the three-day recruitment examination being conducted in two shifts. **'JUST DON'T LET THE PAPER LEAK'** Amid the crowds, many candidates spoke about the sacrifices made by their families and their anxiety over the possibility of another paper leak. "My father is a farmer and has somehow managed the expenses for my studies and coaching.



India 5th among global military spenders, has 190 nukes to Pakistan's 170: SIPRI

SIPRI said India spent USD 92.1 billion on its military in 2025 and held about 190 nuclear warheads at the start of 2026. The report also flagged the severe May 2025 India-Pakistan crisis as part of a wider rise in nuclear risk and military competition.

New Delhi .(Agency)

India was the fifth largest military spender in the world, with an expenditure of USD 92.1 billion in 2025, according to a report by an international think-tank, which also mentioned the "unusually severe military crisis" that erupted between India and Pakistan last year. In its annual assessment report launched on Monday, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) also said that India has approximately 190 nuclear warheads as of January 2026, compared to Pakistan's estimated stockpile of 170. "Key findings of SIPRI Yearbook 2026 are that states are increasingly relying on nuclear weapons as instruments of national power -- reversing decades of efforts to reduce the numbers and role of nuclear weapons -- even as the risks of miscalculation and escalation are rising," SIPRI said in a statement. The Stockholm-based think-tank said India is believed to have once again "slightly expanded its nuclear arsenal".



Trouble continues for DKS, ministers unhappy with portfolios rush to Delhi

The Ramalinga Reddy crisis may be over, but fresh signs of unease have emerged within the Karnataka Cabinet. With ministers heading to Delhi over portfolio concerns, new challenges are surfacing for Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

Karnataka .(Agency)

Days after Chief Minister DK Shivakumar declared the Ramalinga Reddy rebellion resolved, fresh signs of discontent have surfaced within the Karnataka government, with two ministers unhappy over portfolio allocations making their way to Delhi for discussions with the Congress leadership. Among them is Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who is yet to formally take charge of his department despite being allotted the portfolio. Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad has also reached the national capital, with sources saying he is seeking a place in the state Cabinet. The developments have fuelled speculation that the portfolio exercise in



Karnataka is far from over, even as the Congress leadership seeks to project unity following the recent crisis involving senior minister Ramalinga Reddy. **KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA SEEKS**

GREATER CONTROL

Sources said Krishna Byre Gowda is pressing the party leadership to place both the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) under the Bengaluru Development portfolio. The minister is understood to believe that the department would have limited authority without control over the two agencies, which play a central role in planning and development across Bengaluru and its surrounding regions. His Delhi visit has therefore triggered fresh discussion over whether the government may revisit aspects of the portfolio allocation announced after the formation.

Swing from secular to Hindutva: How BJP won over the Bengali Bhadrakol

New Delhi.(Agency)

"Where have all the Bhadrakol gone?" asked one of my editors sarcastically when I said that the BJP might sweep the 2024 Lok Sabha election in Bengal after watching the exit poll trends, which predicted a clear edge for the BJP over the Trinamool Congress (TMC). Although sarcastic, his voice reflected a concern as well as disbelief that the Bengali Bhadrakol, shaped by their century-long cultural practices, would accept BJP's Hindutva politics, which was largely considered alien on Bengal soil. However, the myth has now been busted. In the recently concluded 2026 assembly polls, the Bhadrakol largely swung to the BJP, marking a new beginning in Bengal politics. The state

witnessed an unprecedented Hindu consolidation, with the Bhadrakol playing a significant role. A look at the Presidency region adjoining Kolkata, which is considered the Bhadrakol bastion in the state, reveals the change. Long considered a TMC citadel, the Presidency region this time elected the BJP in a majority in four out of five districts. While the BJP won 208 of the 294 seats in the Assembly election, reducing the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC to 80 seats, it is the saffron party's victory in the Presidency region that is the most interesting. The victory of BJP candidate Swapan Dasgupta from Rashbehari, a Bengali Bhadrakol bastion and fortress of the TMC,



underlines the swing in this election. As a person who grew up in a middle-class Bengali family, this shift seemed interesting to me for two reasons. One, the Bhadrakol have had a long trajectory,

influenced by Congress's secular tradition, and later the Left's party system and cultural Marxism. Drawing influence from existing literary works, music, films, and theatre, the section formed the backbone of Bengal's politics. Although the TMC did not offer a major intellectual boost to them, a part of them witnessed the rise of a 'neo-left' with a bit of subaltern touch with Mamata Banerjee's emergence. Secondly, growing up in a middle-class family in the suburbs of Kolkata, I saw my family members, relatives, neighbourhood, and friends being sceptical of the BJP, partly because of its Hindutva push and partly because it was considered unfamiliar to Bengal's soil.

The BJP's 2026 breakthrough in West Bengal drew strong backing from the Bhadrakol, long seen as sceptical of Hindutva politics. The shift reflected anti-incumbency against the Trinamool Congress, anger over jobs and corruption, and the impact of RG Kar protests and RSS mobilisation.

Fighting El Niño | What Delhi can learn from Jakarta & Lima

Economists have a word for fraught global moments like the current one—polycrisis, when multiple shocks stop being separate problems and start feeding off one another. Into this tangle of wars and energy crises, the World Meteorological Organization has dropped a climate bombshell: there is an 80 percent chance a significant El Niño will take hold by mid-2026, with odds rising above 90 percent that it will persist well into winter. A few models go further, flagging a possible 'super' event—Pacific waters warming more than 2°C beyond normal. That has not happened since 2015-16. For most countries, this would be a headline. For India, it is a livelihood emergency in waiting. Roughly 42 percent of India's workforce earns their bread from farming, and the southwest monsoon accounts for 70 percent of the rain the country receives. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has already lowered its seasonal rainfall estimate twice. The probability of El Niño conditions prevailing through the June-September season now stands at 92 percent, with the phenomenon expected to gather muscle as the months go by. Walk into any rain-dependent village in Vidarbha or Kalahandi and ask what a 70-mm shortfall in rainfall means. It means the kharif sowing gets delayed, then gambled upon, then sometimes abandoned. It means a family already spending half its income on food watches prices climb. It means the moneylender's ledger grows thicker. Over 80 percent of Indian farmers work plots smaller than 2 hectares—patches that leave almost no room for error. Most have no canal or borewell to fall back on. When the monsoon stutters, their world stutters with it.

The physics behind the damage is straightforward, even if the consequences are not. El Niño warms the central Pacific, which in turn scrambles a vast atmospheric loop called the Walker Circulation. Normally, this loop helps pull moisture westward toward Asia. During an El Niño, it weakens. High pressure settles over the subcontinent, the humid updrafts that power the monsoon lose energy and rain-bearing systems thin out or stall. The IMD expects northwest, central and peninsular India to receive below-normal rainfall this year, with prolonged heat spells likely across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Gujarat. Past El Niño years—1987, 2002, 2009—are scars on India's agrarian memory. Research published in Nature warns that these hot-and-dry monsoon seasons may become half again as frequent as the planet continues to warm. Layer on the polycrisis and every pressure point gets worse. Higher crude means costlier diesel, costlier fertiliser, costlier transport—the three expenses a small farmer cannot avoid. If poor rains push up grain and vegetable prices at the same time that imported energy is stoking broader inflation, the squeeze falls hardest on those who can bear it least. The family in Marathwada or Bundelkhand is not tracking basis-point revisions to GDP forecasts. They are watching the sky and counting what is left in the grain bin. What Jakarta and Lima figured India is not alone in this predicament and there is no shame in looking outward. Indonesia's rice belt faces eerily similar risks every time the Pacific warms. What Jakarta has done differently is invested in making climate science legible to the people who need it most. Through a programme called Climate Field Schools—run jointly by its meteorological agency and the agriculture ministry—Indonesian farmers learn to read seasonal forecasts and adjust their planting calendars before the drought bites. When a UN team reviewed the programme after the 2023 El Niño, they found it had tangibly softened the blow in the country's most exposed communities. Indonesia has also rolled out a water-saving rice cultivation technique known as alternate wetting and drying (AWD), which trims irrigation needs by a fifth without hurting yields.

Questions about the chosen ones

UP template is being replicated in other BJP-ruled states such as Bihar and Odisha

The Central government promulgated an ordinance on May 16, increasing the strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges (including the Chief Justice of India). There are no apparent reasons why the circumstances warranted an emergent ordinance rather than introducing a Bill before Parliament, whose next sitting is barely a month away. What followed was the immediate filling up of five seats in the Supreme Court in remarkable cooperation between the Court and the government. On May 27, the Court sent the government its recommendations to appoint High Court Chief Justices Sheel Nagu, Shree Chandrashekhar, Sanjeev Sachdeva and Arun Palli, and a woman advocate of the SC, V. Mohana. This was cleared post-haste and on June 2, they took their oath of office. Across social media, there was a flurry of reservations and objections from prominent personalities and common folk. Three Chief Justices were said to have favoured godmen or people in high office; the fourth was said to have espoused regressive views on gender. The fifth, the sole woman appointee, was a direct appointment from the Bar to the Supreme Court, under Article 124 of the Constitution. Only exceptionally fine lawyers are supposed to make the cut; that number has not crossed a handful since 1950 and includes some of the greatest of the greats. It includes former Chief Justice of India (CJI) SM Sikri, who held the fort in the Kesavananda Bharati case to enunciate the concept of the Basic Structure of the Constitution, thus protecting the rights we hold most dear; as well as two of our finest judges in recent memory, Rohinton Fali Nariman and Indu Malhotra. Soon I will cross 50 years at the Bar, in service both as a professional and public interest lawyer and mediator. I have scoured several sources of information about Justice Mohana to find any traces of individual stellar achievement, but none were forthcoming. It is not as though there were no alternatives to these five. I will just give a couple of names. GS Sandhawalia, now Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, is one of the finest judges this country has produced and has repeatedly scored marks for decisive action underpinned by the highest judicial values. Revati Mohite Dere, Chief Justice of the

Meghalaya High Court, has won encomiums for her brilliant stint of 13 years at the Bombay High Court. Incidentally, in 2018, she vacated the gag order restraining media reportage of the Sohrabuddin Sheikh murder case. Another fine judge is Apareesh Kumar Singh, now heading the Telangana High Court. Let us shift to a lower court, and southward. On June 2, six names were approved by the Collegium for appointment to the Karnataka High Court, out of the 10 names sent by that Court. One of the names that did not find favour was Ms Poornima Hatti. To my knowledge, she is outstanding as a lawyer, was a partner at a prominent law firm and has played a vital role in a prominent international video which sought to capture the mediation styles and approaches across the globe. I can

host of other appointments? This will probably be Justice Maheshwari's last official act, for which he will bear no responsibility or consequence. So the question is: why the haste? The other aspect, which is a question now but may become disturbing after the answer, is the role of the consultee judges. Again, this is not a creation of statute. But then neither was the Collegium in the first place. The consultee judge is the judge who has served in the particular state's High Court to which the appointment is being made, either for a length or as a bird of passage. In particular relation to Karnataka, may we please know what each consultee judge opined about the relative merits and demerits of Poornima Hatti and the six chosen ones? From the answers to the above sets of questions, we will be able to judge for ourselves whether the chosen

ones meet our high expectations of those who adorn judicial office. Or whether the rejected ones would be far better choices. Crucially, we, the public of India, would also then be in a position to assess the working of the Collegium. Do we have the right to ask these questions, and to receive these answers? I ask as a Senior Advocate and a lawyer who has put in half a century serving the system. I ask on behalf of my colleagues at the Bar, which include not just the better-placed ones but, more importantly my junior colleagues, because they will bear the brunt of judges below par. But make no mistake; all of us are watching with dismay. And this is the input I have received from a law student as I write; he was enthusiastically ready to enter the profession. Today, he said: "Sir, I thought merit would carry the day. Now, I think merit is meaningless; it all depends upon who likes whom." All of us seek answers, My Lords. Your answers may disappoint us, but do not disappoint us by not answering.

And then it came to my mind, the extraordinary special remedy; the help of the helpless. In vain, I looked to Earth's vain shadows, then Heaven's morning broke (borrowed from that great hymn Abide with Me). And there shone the Ultimate Judge, who will judge us all, the judged and the judges on earth. Our Heavenly Father and my Uparwala Bade Bhai. In Thee we trust. Thy Will be done. Render your Judgment and your Divine Retribution. To Him, I can say only this: "As your Lordship pleases".

As for the Collegium, as an institution, a requiem to it may well be found in the memorable words of Winston Churchill addressed to Neville Chamberlain, who will go down in history as a constant appeaser: "In God's name, Go."



speak to the quality of her contribution because I was the chosen mediator for India in that endeavour. If appointed now, and remember she is a woman, she would be in line to be the CJI one day. Was that the reason, pray? Two other aspects merit consideration, the first of which is particularly disturbing on its face. The Collegium of the three senior most judges for making appointments to the High Courts presently comprises the CJI and Justices Vikram Nath and JK Maheshwari. Justice Maheshwari demits office on June 28; Justice BV Nagarathna, who hails from Karnataka, then enters the Collegium. Do we not detect a sign of haste in pushing through these, and a

Gaming addiction : SC upholds anti-betting laws

The promise of quick money traps users in cycles of addiction, debt and psychological distress

THE Supreme Court's scathing observation that every mobile phone has become a "virtual gambling house" is a stark warning about the menace of online betting and gaming addiction in India. Upholding state laws banning online gambling and betting in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the apex court has highlighted a disturbing truth: what was once considered harmless entertainment has evolved into a widespread social and public health crisis. The rapid expansion of online gaming platforms, aided by smartphones, digital payments and aggressive advertising, has normalised betting among millions, especially the youth and economically vulnerable groups. The fast-growing Indian gaming market was valued at \$3.7 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach \$9.1 billion by 2029. The Court rightly noted that many players came from rural and lower-income backgrounds, where dreams of instant wealth often outweigh awareness of financial risks. The promise of quick money traps users in cycles of addiction, debt and psychological distress. Online

gaming addiction is also linked to rising incidents of



depression and suicide. Gaming disorder is recognised

by the World Health Organisation as a medical condition under the International Classification of Diseases. Unlike traditional gambling dens, digital betting platforms operate silently within homes, accessible 24x7 through mobile phones. This unrestricted access has blurred the line between recreation and exploitation. Recent police crackdowns in the National Capital Region have revealed that online betting networks are intertwined with cyber fraud, fake transactions and organised crime. Such activities undermine public trust in the digital economy. Technology should empower society, not exploit human vulnerability. While innovation and digital entertainment cannot be stopped, stricter regulation, stronger cyber policing and public awareness are urgently needed. The Court's warning must serve as a wake-up call before online gaming addiction becomes an even deeper national crisis.

How Indian cities failed the bicycle

India abandoned the bicycle to look modern, while Europe built its vision of the modern city around it

THIS week, the world marked two global occasions: World Bicycle Day on June 3 and World Environment Day on June 5. Their proximity is more than mere coincidence. It is a policy signal that mobility, ecology, and public health belong in the same conversation. The United Nations asks us to be "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." It is a stirring call. It is also, for those of us who have watched India's ecological inheritance quietly unravel, a call laced with irony. We do not need to be newly inspired by nature. We were, and then we were told to stop. For centuries, nature was India's culture. Sacred groves or dev-vans, orans and kovils dotted every state, functioning as community-protected biodiversity reserves long before that phrase existed. Stepwells harvested rainwater; natural dyes and clay vessels left no trace. The jugaad ethic of repair over replacement was a way of being. These were not the practices of a people indifferent to progress, but practices of a civilisation that instinctively understood, only now articulated in policy documents: you cannot separate human prosperity from ecological health.

What changed was not development itself, but the model adopted. Liberalisation brought aspiration bundled with a particular image. By the 1990s, the bicycle had been quietly reclassified from transport to a symbol of poverty. Cycling's national modal share collapsed from nearly 30% in 1994 to 11% by 2007. The ecological costs compounded: third most polluted country in the world, lost forest cover, over four million tonnes of plastic waste annually, and 54 of the world's 100 most polluted cities within India's borders. The bicycle had not failed the Indian city. Rather, the Indian city had decided the bicycle was embarrassing. India is a growing economy with a vast population, and the need for motorised transport for industry, freight and urban expansion is real and legitimate. The question is not

whether India needs vehicles on its roads, but which vehicles, powered how and supplemented by what. The answer lies in a deliberate mix: expanding metro and bus rapid transit networks, promoting electric vehicles, incentivising carpooling and building last-mile infrastructure that makes cycling genuinely viable. Industrialised societies carry a familiar set of costs: air pollution, congestion, carbon emissions and road fatalities. India faces all of these simultaneously. It ranks among the world's highest in road accident deaths. More than 1.7 lakh fatalities in 2022 alone reflect not just driver behaviour but systemic failures in road design and safety infrastructure. Answering calls of the UN means recognising that greener transport cannot succeed on intent alone. It requires roads safe enough to cycle on, and cities designed for people rather than vehicles. Other nations offer instructive models. Japan's concept of 'mottainai', rooted in cultural regret over waste, has been woven into packaging law and daily governance, demonstrating that tradition and progress need not be in conflict. The Netherlands, not initially a cycling nation, offers a sharper lesson today: bicycles outnumber people, cycling accounts for 27% of all trips and is estimated to prevent 6,500 deaths annually, delivering health benefits worth over 3% of the Dutch GDP. The irony cuts deep. India abandoned the bicycle to look modern, while Europe built its vision of the modern city around it. India can learn from both models, but cannot import either. Its population scale

and social landscape are distinct. Here, cycling is still coded as a marker of poverty. The person who cycles to work is seen as someone who had no choice. This prejudice is more than merely attitudinal. Chandigarh



illustrates it precisely. The city has one of India's finest cycling path networks, yet those lanes remain largely empty. Safety concerns, inadequate lighting, encroachment, and social prejudice all conspire against utilisation. A population stuck between inherited preconception and the aspiration to appear modern will not shift through awareness campaigns alone. Four shifts are needed, in policy rather than aspiration. First, cycling infrastructure must be treated as core transport

policy with protected lanes, secure parking and integrated public transit. Second, road safety must be elevated to the status of a public health emergency. Safer street design and dedicated corridors for cyclists and

pedestrians are prerequisites for any cycling culture to take hold. Third, cycling corridors must include shade structures, tree canopies and heat-reflective surfacing as functional requirements. Fourth, we must bring tree preservation into road infrastructure policy, rather than trading it away. Every urban road-widening project that slashes a mature tree removes decades of cooling, air filtration and canopy cover that no replanting programme meaningfully replaces in a human lifetime. Tree-lined cycling corridors are an efficient infrastructure that provides shade for the rider and cools the asphalt. If we are serious about being 'inspired by nature,' the least we can do is stop cutting it down to make way for another lane of traffic. The two occasions this week do not ask us to invent a new relationship with nature or mobility. They ask us to repair the one we severed. For India, that repair does not begin at a climate conference. It begins with the honest acknowledgement that we walked away from a way of living (and moving) that worked, and that the path back is not retreat.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said: "The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed." We knew that once. The question is whether we are ready to follow it.

पर्यटन का खास मुकाम डल झील

डल झील श्रीनगर, कश्मीर में तो प्रसिद्ध है ही लेकिन दुनिया भर के सैलानियों के लिए भी यह पर्यटन का एक खास मुकाम है। कहा जाता है कि इसमें खोतों से जल आता है एवं यह झाल खुद ही कश्मीर घाटी में काफी झीलों से जुड़ी हुई है।

यह दुनिया भर में शिकारों या हाऊस बोट के लिए जानी जाती है और सैलानी खासतौर पर इनका आनंद लेने के लिए यहां आते हैं। यह 18 किलोमीटर क्षेत्र में फैली हुई है। तीन दिशाओं से पहाड़ियों से घिरी डल झील जम्मू कश्मीर की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी झील मानी जाती है और भारत की सबसे सुंदर झीलों में इसे शामिल किया जाता है। पर्यटक जम्मू-कश्मीर आएँ और डल झील देखने न जाएँ ऐसा हो ही नहीं सकता।

डल झील के पास ही मुगलों के सुंदर एवं प्रसिद्ध पुष्प वाटिका से झील की आकृति और उभरकर सामने आती है। मुख्य रूप से इस झील में मछली का काम होता है। डल झील के मुख्य आकर्षण का केंद्र है यहां के हाऊसबोट। सैलानी इन हाऊसबोटों में रहकर इस खूबसूरत झील का आनंद उठा सकते हैं।

झील, कश्मीर की घाटियों की अन्य धाराओं के साथ मिल जाती है। झील के चार जलाशय हैं गगरीबल, लोकट डल, बोड डल तथा नागिन। लोकट डल के मध्य में स्प लंक द्वीप स्थित है, तथा बोड डल जलधारा के मध्य में सोना लंक स्थित है। वनस्पति डल झील की खूबसूरती को और निखार देती है। कमल के फूल, पानी में बहती कुमुदनी, झील की सुंदरता को दुगुना कर देती है।

सैलानियों के लिए झील के सौंदर्य के अलावा भी विभिन्न प्रकार के मनोरंजन के साधन यहां पर उपलब्ध हैं। जैसे कि कायाकिंग, केनोइंग डोंगी

पानी पर सर्फिंग करना व ऐंगलिंग मछली पकड़ना आदि से सफर और ज्यादा रोमांचक हो जाता है। कश्मीर के प्रसिद्ध विश्वविद्यालय झील के तट पर स्थित है। हाऊसबोट में रहकर सैलानी इस झील के खूबसूरत वातावरण से भावविभोर हो जाते हैं।

शिकारों के माध्यम से सैलानी नेहरूपार्क, कानुदूर खाना, चारचिनारी, कुछ द्वीप जो यहां पर स्थित हैं, उन्हें देख सकते हैं। श्रद्धालुओं के लिए हजरतबल तीर्थस्थल के दर्शन करे बिना उनकी यात्रा अधूरी रह जाती है। शिकारों के माध्यम से श्रद्धालु इस तीर्थस्थल के दर्शन कर सकते हैं। एक शिकारों पर सवार होकर विभिन्न प्रकार की कश्मीरी चीजें भी खरीद सकते हैं और दुकानें भी शिकारों पर ही लगी होती हैं। यह मात खरीददार तक ही सीमित नहीं है, परन्तु एक रोमांचित कर देने वाला खेल भी होगा।



कैसे जाएँ:

यदि पर्यटक डल झील पहुंचना चाहते हैं, तो श्रीनगर जिले से 25 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर बडगाम जिले में स्थित एयरपोर्ट पर पहुंच सकते हैं। नजदीक रेल सेवा जम्मू में स्थित है, तथा वहां का नेशनल हाईवे एनएच कश्मीर घाटी को देश के अन्य भागों से जाड़ता है। इन पहाड़ी इलाकों पर यात्रा करने के लिए दस से बारह घंटे लगते हैं। इस सफर के दौरान पर्यटक यहां के प्रसिद्ध जवाहर टनल को निहार सकते हैं।

धर्मशाला में उठायें बर्फली पहाड़ियों का रोमांच

पहाड़ियों में चीड़ व देवधर के घने जंगलों और बर्फ को करीब से देखने का अनुभव धर्मशाला में मिलता है। यहां सीधे-सादे और बौद्ध धर्म के बिरले चिन्ह भी यहां आसानी से देखने को मिलते हैं। धर्मशाला में झरने व सुहाने नजारे इस जगह को सभी की पसंद बनाते हैं। हालांकि अब यहां तिब्बत के लोग ज्यादा रहते हैं, लेकिन ब्रिटिश काल का प्रभाव इस छोटे शहर पर आज भी महसूस किया जा रहा है।

खूबसूरत पहाड़ी शहर धर्मशाला को यूं तो अंग्रेजों ने बसाया था, लेकिन अब तिब्बतियों की संख्या ज्यादा होने से इस पर वहां के कल्चर का इतना प्रभाव पड़ा है कि इसे लिटल लहासा के नाम से जाना जाता है। हिमाचल प्रदेश में धौलाधार की पहाड़ियों में बसा धर्मशाला देश-विदेश के सैलानियों का पसंदीदा हिल स्टेशन है। इसे साल 1855 में अंग्रेज ने इसे बसाया था। दरअसल, यह उन 80 रिजॉर्ट्स में से था, जिन्हें अंग्रेजों ने गर्मी से बचने के लिए तैयार करवाया था।

गद्दी, तिब्बती, टेकर्स, टूरिस्ट और लोकल वैंडर्स, सब मिलकर निचले धर्मशाला यानी कोतवाली बाजार में एक अलग ही माहौल बनाते हैं। यह जगह समुद्र तल से 1250 मीटर की ऊंचाई पर है। लोगों का खूब आना-जाना होने की वजह से यहां खासी हलचल रहती है। समुद्र तल से 1768 मीटर की ऊंचाई पर बसे ऊपरी धर्मशाला यानी मैकलॉडगंज में दलाई लामा का निवास है। दोनों जगह की दूरी 10 किलोमीटर है। जहां तक घूमने की बात है, तो धर्मशाला में आपको अडवेंचरस व स्प्रिचुअल माहौल मिलेगा। ठंडी पहाड़ी हवाओं में गूंजती प्रार्थनाओं की आवाजें मन को एक ठहराव देती हैं। ऐसे में बेशक धर्मशाला जाना दलाई लामा से मुलाकात के बिना अधूरा है और यकीन मानिए इस माहौल में उनका साथ किसी भी इंसान को कुछ देर के लिए एक अलग ही दुनिया में ले जाता है। वैसे, धर्मशाला की तमाम मोनेस्ट्रीज एक बार देखने लायक जख है और अलग-अलग समाधियों में भगवान बुद्ध की तांबे की प्रतिमाएं भी दर्शनीय हैं। अब जब इतना कुछ एक ही जगह पर मौजूद है तो देश-विदेश के पर्यटकों का सहज ही धर्मशाला की ओर खिंचे आना हैरानी की बात नहीं है। अगर आप मेडिटेशन करते हैं तो यहां के तुशिता मेडिटेशन सेंटर में मॉक्स द्वारा दी जाने वाली क्लासेज जाँइन

धौलाधार की पहाड़ियों में ट्रेकिंग व रॉक क्लाइंबिंग जाने के लिए धर्मशाला शुरूआती पॉइंट है। यहां कई नदियों व झरनों में ऐंगलिंग व फिशिंग का मजा लिया जा सकता है। यहां का नजदीकी एयरपोर्ट गगला है, जिसकी यहां से दूरी 13 किलोमीटर है।

की जा सकती है। यहां आपको साफ-सुथरे आवास की सुविधा भी मिलेगी। मेडिटेशन सीखने के बाद नेचुग मोनेस्ट्री में 3किलोमीटर बना म्यूजियम देख सकते हैं। नोबर्लिंगा इंस्टीट्यूट में आप नए आर्टिस्ट्स को थंका पेंटिंग्स सीखते देख सकते हैं। अगर आप दाल, चावल, रोटी और सैंडविच खाकर बोर हो गए हैं तो यहां आप बेहतरीन तिब्बती खाने का मजा ले सकते हैं।

यहां के कई रेस्तरांओं में आपको लजीज मोमोज व थुकपा खाने को मिलेंगे। खाने का लुफ लेने के बाद आप लंबी वॉक, ट्रेकिंग और खूबसूरत नजारों में पिकनिक का मजा ले सकते हैं। यहां से 8 किलोमीटर आगे आपको ब्रिटिश राज का मेमोरियल चर्च ऑफ सेंट जॉन-इन-द विल्डरनेस देख सकते हैं। इसे ब्रिटिश वायसरॉय लॉर्ड एलगिन के नाम पर बनाया गया है। निचले धर्मशाला में बना कांगड़ा आर्ट म्यूजियम कांगड़ा के सालों पुराने इतिहास को दिखाता है।

म्यूजियम की एक गैलरी में आपको कांगड़ा की मशहूर पेंटिंग्स, स्कल्पचर्स, मिट्टी के बर्तन और एंथ्रोपॉलजी से जुड़ी तमाम चीजें देखने को मिलेंगी। धर्मशाला के एंटी पॉइंट पर आपको एक वॉर मेमोरियल देखने को मिलेगा, जिसे स्वतंत्रता की लड़ाई में शहीद होने वाले जवानों की याद में बनवाया गया है। धर्मशाला में धर्मकोट व डल लेक जैसे पिकनिक स्पॉट्स भी हैं और यहां सितंबर के महीने में हर साल एक बड़ा मेला भी लगता है। इसी के पास भगसुनाथ की श्राइन भी है। इस पुराने मंदिर के पास से बहते ताजे पानी से झरने इस जगह को एक अलौकिक नजारा बना देते हैं। देवी कुषान पथरी को समर्पित मंदिर, ततवानी के गर्म पानी के झरने और मछरैल के बड़े वॉटरफॉल भी देखने लायक जगहें हैं। अगर बुढ़ वक में दिलचस्पी रखते हैं तो नॉर्बुलिका इंस्टीट्यूट जख जाएँ। यहां हो रहे काम की आर्ट को देखकर निश्चित तौर पर आप हैरान रह

जाएंगे। स्वामी चिन्मानंद द्वारा बनाया गया चिन्मय तपोवन भी एक दर्शनीय जगह है। बिंदु सारस के किनारे बसे इस आश्रम में आपको नौ मीटर ऊंची हनुमान जी की मूर्ति, राम मंदिर, मेडिटेशन हॉल वगैरह दिखेंगे।

धौलाधार की पहाड़ियों में ट्रेकिंग व रॉक क्लाइंबिंग जाने के लिए धर्मशाला शुरूआती पॉइंट है। यहां कई नदियों व झरनों में ऐंगलिंग व फिशिंग का मजा लिया जा सकता है। यहां का नजदीकी एयरपोर्ट गगला है, जिसकी यहां से दूरी 13 किलोमीटर है।

यहां से नजदीकी रेलवे स्टेशन पटानकोट है, जहां से धर्मशाला 85 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। सड़क मार्ग से यहां चंडीगढ़, कोरतपुर और बिलासपुर होते हुए पहुंचा जा सकता है। तिब्बती नए साल यानी मार्च के आस-पास यहां बहुत टूरिस्ट आते हैं। वैसे, मई से अक्टूबर के बीच ट्रेकिंग सीजन रहता है। धर्मशाला में हैंडीक्राफ्ट मसलन तिब्बती कार्पेट, टेक्स्टाइल, टूडिशनल, हैट्स, बैग्स, ट्राउजर्स, मेटलवर्क, जूलरी, जैकेट व हाथ से बने कार्डिगन आदि के शौकीनों के लिए ढेर सारी जगहें हैं।

यहां से नजदीकी रेलवे स्टेशन पटानकोट है, जहां से धर्मशाला 85 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। सड़क मार्ग से यहां चंडीगढ़, कोरतपुर और बिलासपुर होते हुए पहुंचा जा सकता है। तिब्बती नए साल यानी मार्च के आस-पास यहां बहुत टूरिस्ट आते हैं। वैसे, मई से अक्टूबर के बीच ट्रेकिंग सीजन रहता है। धर्मशाला में हैंडीक्राफ्ट मसलन तिब्बती कार्पेट, टेक्स्टाइल, टूडिशनल, हैट्स, बैग्स, ट्राउजर्स, मेटलवर्क, जूलरी, जैकेट व हाथ से बने कार्डिगन आदि के शौकीनों के लिए ढेर सारी जगहें हैं।

यहां से नजदीकी रेलवे स्टेशन पटानकोट है, जहां से धर्मशाला 85 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। सड़क मार्ग से यहां चंडीगढ़, कोरतपुर और बिलासपुर होते हुए पहुंचा जा सकता है। तिब्बती नए साल यानी मार्च के आस-पास यहां बहुत टूरिस्ट आते हैं। वैसे, मई से अक्टूबर के बीच ट्रेकिंग सीजन रहता है। धर्मशाला में हैंडीक्राफ्ट मसलन तिब्बती कार्पेट, टेक्स्टाइल, टूडिशनल, हैट्स, बैग्स, ट्राउजर्स, मेटलवर्क, जूलरी, जैकेट व हाथ से बने कार्डिगन आदि के शौकीनों के लिए ढेर सारी जगहें हैं।

यहां से नजदीकी रेलवे स्टेशन पटानकोट है, जहां से धर्मशाला 85 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। सड़क मार्ग से यहां चंडीगढ़, कोरतपुर और बिलासपुर होते हुए पहुंचा जा सकता है। तिब्बती नए साल यानी मार्च के आस-पास यहां बहुत टूरिस्ट आते हैं। वैसे, मई से अक्टूबर के बीच ट्रेकिंग सीजन रहता है। धर्मशाला में हैंडीक्राफ्ट मसलन तिब्बती कार्पेट, टेक्स्टाइल, टूडिशनल, हैट्स, बैग्स, ट्राउजर्स, मेटलवर्क, जूलरी, जैकेट व हाथ से बने कार्डिगन आदि के शौकीनों के लिए ढेर सारी जगहें हैं।

यहां से नजदीकी रेलवे स्टेशन पटानकोट है, जहां से धर्मशाला 85 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। सड़क मार्ग से यहां चंडीगढ़, कोरतपुर और बिलासपुर होते हुए पहुंचा जा सकता है। तिब्बती नए साल यानी मार्च के आस-पास यहां बहुत टूरिस्ट आते हैं। वैसे, मई से अक्टूबर के बीच ट्रेकिंग सीजन रहता है। धर्मशाला में हैंडीक्राफ्ट मसलन तिब्बती कार्पेट, टेक्स्टाइल, टूडिशनल, हैट्स, बैग्स, ट्राउजर्स, मेटलवर्क, जूलरी, जैकेट व हाथ से बने कार्डिगन आदि के शौकीनों के लिए ढेर सारी जगहें हैं।

यहां से नजदीकी रेलवे स्टेशन पटानकोट है, जहां से धर्मशाला 85 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। सड़क मार्ग से यहां चंडीगढ़, कोरतपुर और बिलासपुर होते हुए पहुंचा जा सकता है। तिब्बती नए साल यानी मार्च के आस-पास यहां बहुत टूरिस्ट आते हैं। वैसे, मई से अक्टूबर के बीच ट्रेकिंग सीजन रहता है। धर्मशाला में हैंडीक्राफ्ट मसलन तिब्बती कार्पेट, टेक्स्टाइल, टूडिशनल, हैट्स, बैग्स, ट्राउजर्स, मेटलवर्क, जूलरी, जैकेट व हाथ से बने कार्डिगन आदि के शौकीनों के लिए ढेर सारी जगहें हैं।

यहां से नजदीकी रेलवे स्टेशन पटानकोट है, जहां से धर्मशाला 85 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। सड़क मार्ग से यहां चंडीगढ़, कोरतपुर और बिलासपुर होते हुए पहुंचा जा सकता है। तिब्बती नए साल यानी मार्च के आस-पास यहां बहुत टूरिस्ट आते हैं। वैसे, मई से अक्टूबर के बीच ट्रेकिंग सीजन रहता है। धर्मशाला में हैंडीक्राफ्ट मसलन तिब्बती कार्पेट, टेक्स्टाइल, टूडिशनल, हैट्स, बैग्स, ट्राउजर्स, मेटलवर्क, जूलरी, जैकेट व हाथ से बने कार्डिगन आदि के शौकीनों के लिए ढेर सारी जगहें हैं।



NEWS BOX

Somali referee won't officiate in World Cup after being denied entry into the United States

New Delhi, (Agency)

Somali referee Omar Artan won't officiate in the World Cup after being denied entry into the United States. US Customs and Border Protection said Monday that a Somali national who was planning to referee in the World Cup had been denied entry after arriving to Miami International Airport from Istanbul on Saturday. While the CBP statement didn't mention the person by name, Artan is the only World Cup referee from Somalia. FIFA confirmed later Monday that Artan wouldn't be able to train and officiate at the World Cup, then released a statement on the referee's behalf: "Despite the circumstances, I am in a positive mood and I am focused on the next challenges in my refereeing career," Artan said in the statement. "I would like to thank FIFA and (the African federation) for all their support and I promise to keep my refereeing levels up as I concentrate on the future. I want to thank the football family for their messages and wish my colleagues all the best success during the World Cup and I look forward to joining them again in future competitions." In its own statement, FIFA said it was not involved in the immigration processes and was informed by authorities that Artan's "status



will not be changed at present." In line with previous FIFA events, a host government ultimately determines who receives a visa and who is admitted into their country," soccer's governing body said. CBP issued a release explaining why Artan was denied entry. "During processing, the traveler underwent additional inspection, a routine part of CBP's inspection process when officers need to verify information or determine admissibility," CBP said in its statement. "Following inspection, the traveler, a referee for the FIFA World Cup, was determined to be inadmissible due to vetting concerns and was denied entry." CBP noted that all travelers seeking entry into the US — including athletes, coaches and staff — are subject to CBP inspection and vetting. "Admissibility determinations are made on a case-by-case basis using law enforcement, national security, and immigration information available at the time of inspection," the CBP statement said. "CBP officers have the authority to question travelers, conduct inspections, and determine admissibility consistent with US law."

No rivals, beyond medals: How yogasana became more than a hunt for glory



Ahmedabad, (Agency)

As the first World Yogasana Championship got into full swing, I made my way to the arena wondering what angle I would take for a feature on the tournament. After spending some time understanding how yoga has evolved into a competitive sport and the technicalities involved in judging it, I realised the story needed to be about something else. My first thought was to explain the events and the intensity of the competition. But the task ahead of me seemed tougher than the asanas being performed on stage with remarkable precision. With close to 78 countries participating and battling for medals, it was never going to be easy to keep track of the action across six age categories and multiple disciplines. As I moved from one mat to another, trying to absorb everything happening around me, one moment quickly caught my attention.

A rhythmic pair event featuring athletes from Sudan was underway. While the athletes performed on stage, their coaches started dancing off it. Soon enough, athletes from different countries joined in and what began as a competition suddenly looked more like a celebration. One of those dancing off the stage was Alan Rakhman, the captain of the Uzbekistan team. He was hard to miss throughout the event, constantly cheering on young competitors regardless of which country they represented. When I caught up with him and asked why he wasn't looking at others as rivals, his answer was simple. "This isn't a sport for me, it's my lifestyle," said Alan to India Today. Suddenly, I started noticing how athletes were looking out for one another. Regardless of age, nationality or gender, everyone seemed invested in helping each other perfect their moves, improve their asanas or even work on something as simple as their breathing. It felt like I had stumbled upon the very essence of the sport.

Bangladesh T20 captain reacts to World Cup boycott: Can play in Pakistan, then why not India?

Liton Das has challenged Bangladesh's official line on pulling out of the T20 World Cup in India over security. His account raises fresh questions about why the call was eventually made.

New Delhi, (Agency)

Bangladesh T20I captain Liton Das has reignited debate over his country's withdrawal from the T20 World Cup in India, a decision that was initially attributed to security concerns. His latest comments directly challenge earlier explanations that the call was mutually agreed upon by players and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

The remarks have brought renewed attention to one of the more controversial administrative decisions in Bangladesh cricket, especially as the International Cricket Council (ICC) had found no credible security threats at the time of the tournament. Speaking to Bangladeshi outlet Prothom Alo, Liton Das questioned the reasoning behind the withdrawal and compared it with Bangladesh's experiences touring other nations. "They told us there was no safety in that country (India).



We told them, we have played in Pakistan too. They used to stand outside the room with guns. What can be more dangerous than that?" he said. "If we can play in Pakistan, why not India." Liton added, underlining his disagreement with the decision. Former interim

sports advisor Asif Nazrul had earlier stated that the players and the BCB collectively decided not to take part in the tournament. However, Liton has rejected that account, implying that the decision was not as consensual as suggested and that the players'

perspective may not have been fully reflected in the final call.

WHY BANGLADESH BOYCOTTED?

Bangladesh were originally scheduled to participate in the T20 World Cup co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. However, the BCB eventually opted out of playing matches in India, citing security concerns amid deteriorating political relations between the two countries at the time.

In response, the board reportedly pushed for a hybrid model, requesting that all of Bangladesh's matches be moved to Sri Lanka instead of being staged in India. The proposal was put forward as a compromise solution that would still allow Bangladesh to remain in the tournament. The ICC, however, after conducting its own assessments, found no specific or credible threat to Bangladesh's participation in India and rejected the request to relocate matches. With no resolution between the governing body and the BCB, the ICC reportedly issued an ultimatum requiring Bangladesh to either confirm participation under the existing arrangements or withdraw entirely. Ultimately, Bangladesh pulled out of the competition, and Scotland were drafted in as replacements to ensure the tournament could proceed as planned without disruption to the overall schedule or format.

US team settles into World Cup training base with optimism and gratitude for fan support

US coach Mauricio Pochettino entertained the crowd and got a "U-S-A!" chant going while his team was doing a brief gym workout before it got on the grass.

IRVINE, Calif. (Agency)

The US national team already knew it was in for a once-in-a-lifetime experience this month as the home team in a World Cup. But when the 26 players took the field at Orange County's Great Park on Monday to the cheers of several thousand fans who had turned out just to watch a mere practice, they were given yet another reminder of just how special this opportunity will be if they seize it. The Americans projected confidence and excitement as they settled into their training base for at least the next three weeks in Southern California. The team convened in

Georgia last month before playing two friendlies in the past eight days.

All three of the Americans' World Cup group stage matches are on the West Coast, starting with their opener Friday night against



Paraguay at SoFi Stadium, the palatial NFL arena about 50 miles away in Inglewood, California. "I think the group is in a really good place at the minute," US captain Tim Ream said. "We've all been, I wouldn't say overwhelmed, but pleasantly surprised by the excitement and the buzz around the team and

in the stadiums. Pulling up here with 5,500 fans ready to watch a training session is incredible. I just think we're in a good place mentally right now. It's been a long two weeks, a hard two weeks, but guys are in a great position mentally, physically and emotionally, and ready to get going."

The team was greeted in Irvine by rows of enthusiastic fans who won a multi-stage lottery among 32,000 applicants for the chance to watch practice and to get autographs at FIFA's Community Day event. US coach Mauricio Pochettino entertained the crowd and got a "U-S-A!" chant going while his team was doing a brief gym workout before it got on the grass.

"The facilities are amazing," Pochettino said. "It's more than we expect, and not only the facilities, but the people who are here working. Great facilities and great people are an amazing combination. We are grateful, and I want to say a big thanks."

Injured US defender Chris Richards goes through full practice in boost for World Cup availability

IRVINE, Calif. (Agency)

Top defender Chris Richards participated in his first full practice with the U.S. World Cup team on Monday when the Americans reported to their training base in Southern California.

Richards tore two left ankle ligaments while playing for Crystal Palace on May 17, and he missed the Americans' two friendlies over the past week. He was included on the United States' 26-man roster for the World Cup, but injured players can still be replaced until Thursday evening. "We will see," U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino said. "Today is the first time with the team, and so it's good to have nearly everyone ready to be selected for the game." The Americans open their home World Cup against Paraguay at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, on Friday night.

The 26-year-old Richards had worked out on his own away from his teammates during U.S. practices in recent days, but he got through the full workout in front of more than 5,500 fans at Great Park in Orange County with no apparent problems. Richards then laughed and joked with



fans while signing autographs after practice. The Americans badly want Richards to be a key contributor at the heart of their defense, so they are giving him every opportunity to get fit. Richards is considered the best central defender among a thin U.S. pool at the vital position. Richards has previously said he fully expects to play in this World Cup despite the injury setback. He missed the event in 2022 in Qatar because of a hamstring injury. Tyler Adams was briefly on the field with his teammates but went back to the gym while practice continued. A spokesperson said the team is merely managing the Bournemouth midfielder's workload.

What really happened at London nightclub Ben Stokes and England teammate visited

New Delhi (Agency)

England's red ball captain Ben Stokes has come under scrutiny after the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed it is investigating an alleged breach of team

protocols following England's first Test win over New Zealand at Lord's. According to a Telegraph report, Stokes and teammate Gus Atkinson were involved in a nightclub altercation with a rugby player in London shortly after the match. The ECB has delayed the announcement of England's squad for the second Test while it determines whether disciplinary action, including possible suspensions, will be taken against the pair. The incident comes less than two years after the ECB introduced stricter behavioural guidelines and a midnight curfew for players following a series of off-field controversies. "Stokes and Atkinson breached the team's new midnight curfew and were embroiled in a melee with a

Saracens academy player," The Telegraph reported. Saracens is a leading rugby union development programme linked to the professional English Premiership club Saracens, which the involved player was part



of. According to the report, the confrontation began when the rugby player allegedly threw a punch at Atkinson but instead struck an ECB security guard who was accompanying the

players. The guard reportedly required stitches following the incident, while neither Stokes nor Atkinson sustained injuries. "The Saracens player caused this and has a rep. I would not want the England cricket captain to lose his job over this," a source was quoted as saying by the report. The ECB is understood to believe that neither Stokes nor Atkinson initiated the confrontation. However, it remains unclear whether additional punches were exchanged during the altercation that followed.

WHY THE ECB IS INVESTIGATING?

Following the Ashes, the ECB implemented a midnight curfew and introduced a revised code of conduct aimed at improving discipline within the national setup. While several England players returned home after the Lord's Test, which concluded around lunchtime, a group of approximately seven players reportedly went out in London to celebrate the victory.

FIFA World Cup in USA is a mess before kick-off: Footballer detained, referee deported

FIFA World Cup: Just days before the beginning of football's greatest spectacle, the FIFA World Cup has run into a myriad of controversies. The latest of those involves Africa's best football referee.

New Delhi, (Agency)

Just three days before the start of football's greatest spectacle, the FIFA World Cup continues to run into bizarre controversies. What started as a simple ticketing and logistical fiasco has taken a darker turn, where footballers and staff have been detained at airports for several hours, and one official has not even been allowed to enter the United States. The controversies are unending, with the latest one involving Africa's best football referee, Omar Abdulkadir Artan. The Somali official was turned away by authorities at

Miami International Airport and sent straight back on a flight to Istanbul, irking the entire football fraternity. The decision to deport the referee stunned the football world, especially since reports suggest that Artan was travelling on a diplomatic passport. The Somali Embassy in Nairobi had stepped in to help him secure his visa after initial delays, but US border control ultimately refused to let him into the country. The incident prompted the Somali Prime Minister to issue a public statement calling out the US administration. "I am deeply disappointed by the news that Omar Artan, Africa's finest referee and one of the best in the world, may be unable to officiate at the FIFA World Cup due to visa-related circumstances," Hassan Ali Khaire said. "Omar has earned his place through talent, hard work, professionalism, and integrity. Having officiated at the highest levels of African and international football, his credentials speak for themselves. He represents not only Somalia, but also the aspirations of millions of young Africans who

believe excellence should be recognized on the world stage," he added. America's growing conflict in West Asia has led to multiple problems ahead of the FIFA World Cup. Just



two days ago, on June 7, Iraq vice-captain and the country's top striker, Ayman Hussein, was detained and interrogated for seven hours. Hussein is a talismanic figure who scored the goal that secured Iraq's qualification for the finals. The striker was not alone in this

ordeal. One more footballer from the team, along with the team photographer, was held at the airport for questioning. While Hussein was eventually allowed into the country, the team's photographer was barred from entering the United States.

DONALD TRUMP'S OPEN THREAT TO IRAN FOOTBALLERS

The origin of the issue can be traced to a Donald Trump statement on March 12, months before the tournament. At the height of tensions between the United States and Iran, Trump openly questioned whether the Iran national team should be allowed to participate in the competition. "The Iran National Soccer Team is welcome to The World Cup, but I don't really believe it is appropriate that they be here, for their own life and safety. Thank you for your attention to this matter!" Trump wrote.

Despite the concerns raised by Iran, FIFA refused to entertain requests to move the team's matches outside the United States.



Poonam Pandey

Requests All Not To Abuse Her: 'Main Bhi Insaan Hu, Gaali Mat Do Yaar'

Poonam Pandey has dropped an emotional video on Instagram. On Friday, the controversial personality took to the social media platform and shared a clip in which she was seen talking about the constant judgment and criticism she faces online. She urged everyone not to abuse her and got emotional, saying, 'main bhi insaan hu yaar'.

"I was feeling a little emotional, socha aap se ek choti si request kar lu... I can't take so much. Mein bhi insaan hoon; mein iss industry mein 14 saal pehle aayi thi, kaam maangne aayi thi, kaam dhund rahi thi. Tabhi bhi dhund rahi thi, aaj bhi dhund rahi hoon. I still push myself ki mein aisa kya karu ki log mujhe notice karein aur kaam de. Theatre karti hoon," Poonam said.

"I am pushing myself jitna mera limit bann sake. Just stop judging; agar aapko meri backstory nahi pata hai, at least gaali mat do yaar. Meine kabhi kisi ko gaali di nahi hai, mujhe gaali mat dijiye. Mein aap se request karti hoon," the actress added.

Why Is Poonam Pandey Often Trolled?

Over the years, Poonam Pandey has become synonymous with controversies and is often trolled online. Recently, the actress faced criticism after she seemingly soft-launched her boyfriend on social media. She dropped a series of romantic pictures with a mystery man but did not reveal his face. However, soon after the photos were shared, netizens claimed that it must be another of her publicity stunts.

Prior to this, in April, the actress dropped another set of pictures in which she was seen flaunting her baby bump. However, she soon revealed that it was an April Fool's prank. Back then too, Pandey was heavily trolled online. While talking about Poonam Pandey and trolling, how can one forget about her shocking 2024 fake death stunt? She faked her death to create awareness around cervical cancer. However, she was massively trolled for stooping so low for publicity. Her team claimed she died from cervical cancer via her official Instagram account on February 1, 2024. On February 2, 2024, Poonam said it was a publicity stunt, done for a "good cause" aimed at raising awareness about the disease, which stirred significant controversy.



Jeena Dil Se Review: A Light-Hearted Entertainer Backed By A Fresh Cast And Feel-Good Moments



Jeena Dil Se feels like the kind of film that does not try too hard to be complicated. It embraces its colourful, loud, feel-good energy and sticks to what it promises – entertainment. Directed by Adhish Rana, the movie keeps things light, youthful and easy to enjoy, making it the sort of family-friendly entertainer you can simply sit back and have fun with.

What works surprisingly well is the ensemble cast. With around 15 major characters woven into the story, the film could easily have turned messy, but the screenplay keeps things moving smoothly. Almost every character gets a moment to shine, whether through comedy, emotional scenes or dramatic twists, and that helps the film maintain its energy throughout. Despite featuring relatively fresh faces, the cast delivers performances that feel sincere and easy to connect with. Lakshya Handa brings confidence to his role while also handling the emotional moments with restraint. Kunal Chhabra adds much of the film's lighter energy, with his comic timing working naturally in several scenes without feeling overdone. Ruma Sharma stands out particularly in the emotional portions, bringing warmth and sensitivity to her character.

What also works in the film's favour is the chemistry between the characters. Whether in scenes of friendship, romance or group interactions, the performances feel comfortable and believable, which helps the relationships on screen come across organically.

At the same time, the film does stay within a fairly familiar space narratively. Parts of the screenplay feel predictable and the storytelling occasionally maintains the same emotional tone for a little too long.

The film also scores well visually. The bright frames, lively settings and colourful presentation match the upbeat tone perfectly. The humour feels simple and relatable instead of forced, which makes many of the funny moments land naturally. At the same time, the emotional portions.

'I Used To Roam Around Carrying His Photos': Jackie Shroff Recalls Salman Khan's Debut Journey



Salman Khan does not need any introduction. The actor continues to rule on fans hearts with his performances and looks. Well, recently Jackie Shroff revealed an interesting story about how he helped Salman Khan land his first film in Bollywood. The actor recalled carrying Salman's photographs to filmmakers and producers long before the actor became one of the biggest stars in the country.

In a conversation with India Today, Jackie Shroff revealed how he helped Salman bag his first film. "I got Sallu Baba his first film, Biwi Ho Toh Aisi. But it was Maine Pyaar Kiya that came later and turned him into a star. I saw his pictures on the sets and thought he was very handsome. So, I took his photo to Subhash Ghai ji, but he said no. Then I took it to KC Bokadia, who told me to show it to his brother-in-law, and that's how Salman got the role. I used to roam around carrying his photos everywhere," the actor said. The actor is all geared up for the release of his upcoming movie The Great Grand Superhero on 29th May. The movie's teaser that released recently hinted at a world where a child's imagination takes the grandfather-grandson relationship to another level with a unique thrill of aliens! At the heart of it is Jackie Shroff, in a role that feels deeply warm and refreshingly different. Directed by National Award-winner Manish Saini, the film brings together an ensemble cast including Prateik Smita Patil, Bhagyashree Dasani, Sharat Saxena, Mihir Godbole, Durgesh Kumar, Saharsh Shukla, Shivansh Chorge, and Kumar Saurabh. 29th May 2026, see you at the movies. For the uninitiated, Jackie Shroff has been a part of Bollywood for over four decades.

The actor will be next seen in Maatrubhumi. Recently, Subhash Ghai shared his first reaction after watching the rough cut of upcoming film, directed by Apoorva Lakhia. The filmmaker praise the emotional war drama and called it a "must watch film." After watching the rough cut, Subhash Ghai took to his X handle and wrote, "so beautiful to see my favourite directors together @food square today to watch a rough cut of a Apoorva lakhia film MATRI BHUMI @starring #salman khan based on a warm story of indo china soldiers with their respective emotions for their nations n families. A must watch film". He also shared photo with the cast which immediately went viral.



Kiara Advani

Reveals How Sidharth Malhotra Helped Her Manage Home After Marriage: 'No One Prepares You...'

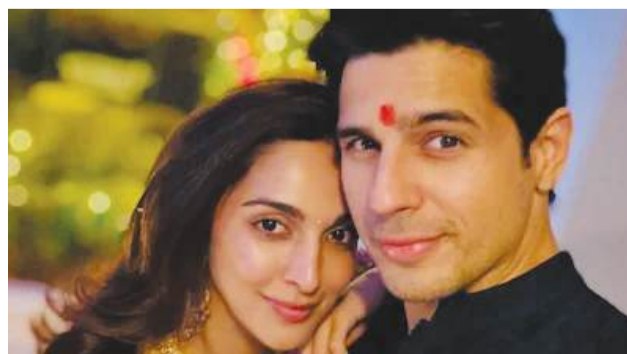
Kiara Advani has opened up about the emotional, physical and deeply personal changes that motherhood has brought into her life. From walking the Met Gala red carpet while seven months pregnant to dealing with postpartum guilt, sleepless nights and the pressure of returning to normalcy after childbirth, the actor says becoming a mother has changed her in ways she could never have fully imagined. In a conversation with Bombay Times, Kiara spoke candidly about the lesser-discussed side of motherhood. The actor, who is seven-and-a-half months postpartum, said that while people often celebrate the joy of having a child, very few truly prepare women for the emotional chaos that follows.

Kiara Advani On Motherhood And Postpartum Chaos

Kiara said marriage changed her life overnight, but motherhood has been an even bigger transition. The actor shared that she had lived with her parents until she got married, so managing a home after marriage was a completely new experience for her. She said, "I lived with my parents until I got married, so life changed overnight. Running a home was a completely new responsibility for me. There was no longer a 'Mumma, please make this.' Fortunately, Sid had been living independently for years.

I always joke that I was lucky to have him because he taught me so many things about managing a home and living independently. That was an interesting transition for me. Now, as a mother, it's a whole new ball game. I'm still learning."

Kiara added that nothing truly prepares a woman for the physical and emotional changes that come after childbirth. She said, "I don't think people prepare you for the chaos that comes with motherhood. I am now seven-and-a-half months postpartum and can probably joke about some things with my friends who already have children, saying, 'You didn't prepare me for this' or 'You didn't prepare me for that.' But I think it is such an individual journey. No one talks about the chaos or the guilt you feel." The actor explained that the initial chaos is often internal because the body is going through major biological changes.



रामगढ़ में युवक का शव पेड़ से लटका मिला, रात 10 बजे निकला था घर से, सुबह मिली लाश



रामगढ़ (झारखंड), एजेंसी। रामगढ़ जिले के भदानीनगर ओपी क्षेत्र के देवरिया गांव में एक युवक का शव महुआ के पेड़ से लटका मिला है। इस घटना से इलाके में सनसनी फैल गई है और पुलिस ने मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है। मृतक की पहचान विशाल मुंडा (पिता रवि मुंडा) के रूप में हुई है। उसका शव मंगलवार सुबह फंदे से लटकता पाया गया। पुलिस इसे संदेहस्पद मौत मानकर चल रही है। परिजनों के अनुसार, विशाल मुंडा बीती रात करीब 10 बजे घर से निकला था, लेकिन वापस नहीं लौटा। परिवार ने उसकी तलाश शुरू की थी।

खून लगा चाकू भी बरामद हुआ: पुलिस के प्रारंभिक अनुसंधान में सामने आया है कि विशाल रात करीब 12 बजे तक इंस्टाग्राम पर किसी युवती से बातचीत कर रहा था। चैट में उसका अंतिम संदेश था, 'अपना ख्याल रखना, मेरे जैसा कोई नहीं मिलेगा। घटनास्थल के पास से एक मोबाइल फोन और खून लगा चाकू भी बरामद हुआ है। पुलिस इन साक्ष्यों के आधार पर मामले के विभिन्न पहलुओं की जांच कर रही है। विशाल मुंडा की मौत को लेकर लोग प्रेम प्रसंग में आत्महत्या की आशंका जता रहे हैं, जबकि कुछ इसे संदेहस्पद मौत के रूप में देख रहे हैं। मृतक के चाचा अनिल मुंडा ने भी प्रेम प्रसंग की संभावना जताई है। फिलहाल, पुलिस हर बिंदु पर गहनता से जांच कर रही है और आगे की कार्रवाई जारी है।

टाटा मोटर्स के ग्लोबल ट्रांसफॉर्मेशन का केंद्र बनेगा जमशेदपुर प्लांट, हाइड्रोजन ट्रक और नई तकनीक पर फोकस



जमशेदपुर, एजेंसी। टाटा मोटर्स कमर्शियल व्हीकल (सीवी) के स्वतंत्र रूप से शेयर बाजार में सूचीबद्ध होने के बाद, कंपनी के इस बड़े रणनीतिक बदलाव का सबसे मुख्य केंद्र इसका जमशेदपुर प्लांट बनने जा रहा है। कंपनी अब केवल पारंपरिक ट्रकों को बिक्री पर निर्भर रहने के बजाय स्पेयर पार्ट्स, सर्विस, डिजिटल साफ्टवेयर और टेलीमैटिक्स प्लेटफॉर्म के जरिए अपने कमाई बढ़ा रही है। इस रणनीति का सीधा और सकारात्मक प्रभाव जमशेदपुर प्लांट और आदित्यपुर के सहायक (एनसिलरी) उद्योगों पर पड़ेगा। एमडी व सीईओ गिरीश वाघ ने वित्त बजट 2025-26 की रिपोर्ट में बताया कि कंपनी के गैर-चक्र्रीय (नान-साइक्लिकल) व्यवसायों में 18.2 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज हुई है। जमशेदपुर प्लांट से तैयार होकर निकलने वाले भारी वाहनों में लगने वाले टेलीमैटिक्स साफ्टवेयर फ्लैट एज के तहत कनेक्टेड वाहनों का आंकड़ा अब 10 लाख को पार कर चुका है। स्पेयर पार्ट्स व 'फ्लैटकेयर' सेवाओं का मुनाफे में योगदान लगातार बढ़ रहा है। इसका सीधा लाभ जमशेदपुर प्लांट और स्थानीय वेंडर नेटवर्क को मिल रहा है। चेयरमैन एन चंद्रशेखरन ने बताया कि कंपनी भारी क्षमता वाले ट्रकों के लिए हाइड्रोजन आधारित तकनीकों में निवेश जारी रखेगी।

यूरोप और लैटिन अमेरिका जैसे बाजारों तक असर: जमशेदपुर प्लांट, जो टाटा मोटर्स के हेवी कमर्शियल व्हीकल्स का मुख्य विनिर्माण केंद्र है, अब हाइड्रोजन से चलने वाले ट्रकों के निर्माण और उनके पायलट प्रोजेक्ट्स का मुख्य हब बन चुका है। यहां से तैयार अत्याधुनिक हरित वाहन देश के प्रमुख माल हलवाई कॉरिडोर पर दौड़ रहे हैं। इटली के 'इवेको ग्रुप' के प्रस्तावित 3.8 अरब यूरो के अधिग्रहण के बाद टाटा मोटर्स दुनिया के शीर्ष चार सीवी निर्माताओं में शामिल हो जाएगी। इस ऐतिहासिक डील से मिलने वाली वैश्विक पावरट्रेन तकनीक का सीधा एकीकरण जमशेदपुर प्लांट के साथ किया जाएगा। गिरीश वाघ के अनुसार, इस साझेदारी से जमशेदपुर डिजीवन न केवल भारत बल्कि यूरोप और लैटिन अमेरिका जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजारों के लिए उन्नत तकनीक वाले वाहनों का मुख्य विनिर्माण केंद्र बनेगा।

जामताड़ा पुलिस ने तीन साइबर ठगों को दबोचा, फर्जी कस्टमर केयर और एप फाइल से करते थे ठगी, मोबाइल बरामद

जामताड़ा, एजेंसी। जामताड़ा पुलिस को साइबर अपराध के खिलाफ बड़ी सफलता मिली है। पुलिस अधीक्षक शम्भू कुमार सिंह के नेतृत्व में एक विशेष टीम ने कार्रवाई की। टीम ने करमाटाड़ा थाना क्षेत्र के तेतुलबन्धा गांव स्थित सुनसान झाड़ी क्षेत्र में छापेमारी कर तीन शांति साइबर अपराधियों को गिरफ्तार किया है। साइबर अपराध थाना प्रभारी राजेश मंडल के नेतृत्व में गठित छापेमारी दल ने घेराबंदी कर तीनों आरोपियों को मौके से पकड़ा। गिरफ्तार अपराधियों की पहचान महेंद्र कुमार मंडल (28), टिकु कुमार मंडल (26 वर्ष) और विकास कुमार मंडल (24) के रूप में हुई है। ये सभी करमाटाड़ा थाना क्षेत्र के धरुवाडीह गांव के निवासी बताए गए हैं। पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार अपराधियों के पास से 7 मोबाइल फोन और 9 सिम कार्ड बरामद किए हैं। इस मामले में साइबर अपराध थाना में कांड संख्या 34/26 दर्ज कर विभिन्न धाराओं के तहत आगे की कार्रवाई की जा रही है। पुलिस अधीक्षक कार्यालय में आयोजित प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में एसपी शम्भू कुमार सिंह ने बताया कि गिरफ्तार साइबर अपराधी बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा के क्रेडिट कार्ड बंद होने या नया कार्ड जारी कराने का झांसा देकर लोगों को अपने जाल में फंसाते थे। इसके अलावा, आरोपी गूगल पर विभिन्न कंपनियों और बैंकों के फर्जी कस्टमर केयर नंबर अपलोड कर लोगों से संपर्क स्थापित करते थे। एसपी ने आगे बताया कि आरोपी लोगों को, क्वा फाइल डाउनलोड करवाकर उनको मोबाइल और बैंकिंग संबंधी गोपनीय जानकारी हासिल कर लेते थे। इस जानकारी का उपयोग कर वे क्रेडिट कार्ड और बैंक खातों से अवैध निकासी कर साइबर ठगी की घटनाओं को अंजाम देते थे। पुलिस जांच में यह भी खुलासा हुआ है कि गिरफ्तार आरोपी महेंद्र कुमार मंडल का पूर्व से आपराधिक इतिहास है।



Jharkhand

धनबाद के ग्राउंडवाटर में स्लो प्वाइजन, देर से हो रहा बच्चों का मानसिक विकास

धनबाद, एजेंसी। बलियापुर प्रखंड की घड़बड़ ग्राम पंचायत में जमीन के नीचे बह रहा पानी अब जीवन देने की जगह लोगों को गंभीर बीमारियों की ओर धकेल रहा है।

हाल ही में अंतरराष्ट्रीय शोध पत्रिका अमेरिकन कैमिकल सोसाइटी (एसीएस) के प्रतिष्ठित जर्नल ईएस एंड टी वाटर 2026 में प्रकाशित विस्तृत वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन के आधार ग्राउंड रिपोर्ट में चौंकाने वाला मामला सामने आया है।

जर्नल की रिपोर्ट में दावा किया गया है कि पानी में फ्लोराइड की मात्रा तय मानक से कई गुना अधिक है। शोधकर्ताओं ने चेतावनी दी है कि यह दूषित पानी क्षेत्र के स्कूली बच्चों की मानसिक क्षमता (आईक्यू) को भी गंभीर रूप से नुकसान पहुंचा रहा है। बलियापुर के आसपास 315 स्रोतों की जांच में यह पता चला।

मेघ पाईन अभियान वर्ष 2018 से ही बलियापुर प्रखंड की 14 पंचायतों में फ्लोराइड प्रदूषण के मुद्दे को लगातार उठा



रहा है।

मेघ पाईन अभियान और स्कूल आफ एनवायरनमेंटल स्टडीज जादवपुर विश्वविद्यालय कोलकाता की टीम ग्रामीणों से कर रही बात।

इसके संस्थापक एकलव्य प्रसाद ने बताया कि इस शोध का सबसे चिंताजनक पहलू बच्चों के मानसिक विकास से जुड़ा है। अध्ययन में शामिल बच्चों के कॉग्निटिव (संज्ञानात्मक) टेस्ट से पता चला कि फ्लोराइड के अत्यधिक जोखिम के कारण 67 प्रतिशत बच्चों का आइक्यू स्तर केवल औसत (ग्रेड तीन) श्रेणी में ही सिमट कर रह गया है।

भूजल में मौजूद यह फ्लोराइड सीधे बच्चों के तंत्रिका तंत्र (नर्वस सिस्टम)

पर हमला कर रहा है। इससे उनमें न्यूरोटॉक्सिसिटी और मानसिक विकास में देरी देखी जा रही है।

घड़बड़ गांव सबसे अधिक प्रभावित: वैज्ञानिकों की टीम ने बलियापुर पंचायत के छह गांवों (घड़बड़, खरिकाबाद, कालाझोर, शिवपुर, कालीपुर और सिंपथार) से लगभग 315 भूजल के नमूने एकत्र किए थे।

लगभग 36 प्रतिशत पानी के नमूनों में फ्लोराइड की मात्रा डब्ल्यूएचओ से तय की गई सुरक्षित सीमा (1.5 मिलीग्राम प्रति लीटर) से कहीं अधिक है।

औसत फ्लोराइड स्तर 1.68 मिलीग्राम प्रति लीटर दर्ज किया गया। अधिकतम स्तर 16.2 मिलीग्राम प्रति लीटर तक मिला। सभी छह राजस्व गांवों में से घड़बड़ गांव में फ्लोराइड संदूषण का सूचकांक सबसे ऊंचा पाया गया है।

गांववार आंकड़ों पर नजर डालें तो घड़बड़ के 67 प्रतिशत, कालीपुर के 49, शिवपुर के 33 और कालाझोर के 37

जलस्रोत पूरी तरह प्रदूषित हो चुके हैं। **आधी आबादी के दांत और हड्डियां खराब:** अध्ययन के दौरान क्षेत्र के चार से 12 वर्ष के स्वास्थ्य का गहन विश्लेषण किया गया। नतीजों ने डॉक्टरों और वैज्ञानिकों को हैरान कर दिया।

लियापुर प्रखंड में फ्लोराइड युक्त जल के कारण बच्चों के दांतों में आयी सड़न। परीक्षण में शामिल 50 प्रतिशत स्कूली बच्चे डेंटल और स्केलेटल फ्लोरोसिस (दांतों का पीलापन, सड़न और हड्डियों व जोड़ों का मुड़ना) से पीड़ित पाए गए हैं। बच्चों के मूत्र (यूरिन) के नमूनों में फ्लोराइड की सांद्रता 21 मिलीग्राम प्रति लीटर तक पहुंच गई है।

चट्टानों से फ्लोराइड तेजी से घुलकर पानी में मिल रहा: वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार इस क्षेत्र की चट्टानों में फ्लोराइड जैसे खनिज प्रचुर मात्रा में हैं। पानी के क्षारीय होने और सोडियम की उच्च मात्रा के कारण चट्टानों से फ्लोराइड तेजी से घुलकर पानी में मिल रहा है।

शोधकर्ताओं ने स्पष्ट किया है कि आने वाली पीढ़ी अपंगता और मानसिक मंदता की शिकार हो जाएगी। प्रभावित गांवों में तुरंत फ्लोराइड रिमूवल प्लांट लगाने, नियमित रूप से पानी की जांच, सामुदायिक जागरूकता अभियान और स्कूली बच्चों को सुरक्षित पेयजल मुहैया कराने के लिए नीतियां बनाने की वकालत की गई है।

शुरुआती वर्षों में मेघ पाईन अभियान ने फोल्ड टैस्टिंग किट से पेयजल स्रोतों की जांच कर समस्या की पहचान की थी। 2022-23 में स्कूल आफ एनवायरनमेंटल स्टडीज जादवपुर विश्वविद्यालय कोलकाता के साथ वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन किया गया। अध्ययन में लगभग 50 प्रतिशत स्कूली बच्चों में फ्लोरोसिस के लक्षण मिले। घड़बड़ पंचायत में बहु-ग्रामीण पाइप जलापूर्ति योजना के अंतर्गत अनियमित और रुक-रुक कर जलापूर्ति की जा रही है। यह नाकाफई है।

झारखंड से बंगाल को जोड़ने वाली कई मेट्रो ट्रेनें रद्द, कुछ का बदला गया रूट



धनबाद, एजेंसी। दक्षिण पूर्व रेल के आद्रा रेल मंडल में विकास कार्यों के कारण एक बार फिर ट्रेनों को रद्द करने और परिवर्तित मार्ग से चलाने की घोषणा कर दी है।

12 जून तक कई ट्रेन रद्द तो कई ट्रेन गंतव्य तक नहीं जाएंगीं। भागा-आद्रा और चंद्रपुर-भोजपूर मेमू समेत कई ट्रेनें विभिन्न तिथियों में रद्द रहेंगी। गोमो-चक्रधरपुर मेमू

गोमो के बदले महुदा से चलेगी और वापसी में महुदा तक आएगी। गोमो से महुदा के बीच ट्रेन रद्द रहने से यात्रियों को विकल्प ढूंढना होगा। इसके अलावा आद्रा-आसनसोल मेमू, आद्रा-मिदनापुर मेमू अलग-अलग दिनों में रद्द रहेंगे। आसनसोल-टाटा मेमू, आसनसोल-पुरूलिया मेमू, टाटा-आसनसोल-बाराभूम मेमू विभिन्न तिथियों में

गंतव्य के बदले आद्रा तक चलेगी और वहीं से लौट जाएगी। झारखंड से बंगाल को जोड़ने वाली ट्रेनों के रद्द से यात्रियों को परेशानी झेलनी होगी।

इन तिथियों में प्रभावित रहेंगी ट्रेनें: 68088 भागा-आद्रा मेमू नौ व 14 जून को रद्द। 68087 आद्रा-भागा मेमू नौ व 14 जून को रद्द। 68079 भोजपूर-चंद्रपुर मेमू नौ, 12 व 14 जून को रद्द। 68088 चंद्रपुर-भोजपूर मेमू नौ, 12 व 14 जून को रद्द। 18116 चक्रधरपुर-गोमो मेमू नौ, 12 व 14 जून को महुदा तक चलेगी। 18115 गोमो-चक्रधरपुर मेमू नौ, 12 व 14 जून को महुदा से चलेगी।

झारखंड में 13 से 15 जून के बीच दस्तक देगा मानसून

रांची, एजेंसी। झारखंड में दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून के आगमन का इंतजार कर रहे लोगों के लिए राहत भरी खबर है। मौसम विभाग ने राज्य में मानसून के 13 से 15 जून के बीच पहुंचने की संभावना जताई है। मौसम वैज्ञानिक अभिषेक आनंद के अनुसार, दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहा है और अनुकूल परिस्थितियां बनी हैं। हालांकि कुछ दिनों में झारखंड में इसकी एंट्री हो जाएगी।

अभिषेक आनंद ने बताया कि अगले चार से पांच दिनों के दौरान दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून झारखंड के अलावा मध्यवर्ती अरब सागर के कुछ हिस्सों, महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना, आंध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु के शेष क्षेत्रों तथा दक्षिण-पश्चिम बंगाल की खाड़ी के अन्य भागों में भी आगे बढ़ सकता है। मौसम विभाग लगातार इसकी प्रगति पर नजर बनाए हुए है।

उधर, मानसून के आगमन से पहले राज्य के अधिकांश हिस्सों में भीषण गर्मी और उमस लोगों



की परेशानी बढ़ा रही है। राजधानी रांची सहित कई जिलों में मंगलवार को सुबह से ही तेज धूप और गर्म हवाओं का असर देखने को मिला। वातावरण में नमी की मात्रा अधिक होने के कारण लोगों को दिनभर उमस भरी गर्मी का सामना करना पड़ा। मौसम विभाग के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, रांची में पिछले 24 घंटों के दौरान अधिकतम आर्द्रता 72 प्रतिशत दर्ज की गई। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि अधिक आर्द्रता के कारण शरीर से निकलने वाला पसीना जल्दी नहीं सूख पाता,

उमस बढ़ जाती है तो वास्तविक तापमान से अधिक गर्मी महसूस होती है। यही वजह है कि अपेक्षाकृत कम तापमान के बावजूद लोगों को काफी असहजता का अनुभव हो रहा है। राज्य में मंगलवार को सबसे अधिक तापमान डाल्टनगंज में 43.1 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया, जबकि सबसे कम तापमान लातेहार में 22.8 डिग्री सेल्सियस रिकॉर्ड किया गया। तापमान के ये आंकड़े बताते हैं कि झारखंड के कई इलाके अभी भी भीषण गर्मी की चपेट में हैं।

राजधानी रांची की बात करें, तो यहां अधिकतम तापमान 37.2 डिग्री सेल्सियस और न्यूनतम तापमान 26.7 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। वहीं जमशेदपुर में अधिकतम तापमान 41.3 डिग्री और न्यूनतम 29.0 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा। डाल्टनगंज में अधिकतम तापमान 43.1 डिग्री और न्यूनतम 29.6 डिग्री सेल्सियस रिकॉर्ड किया गया। इसके अलावा बोकारो में अधिकतम तापमान 37.1 डिग्री और न्यूनतम 26.2 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ, जबकि चाईबासा में अधिकतम तापमान 40.8 डिग्री और न्यूनतम 28 डिग्री सेल्सियस रिकॉर्ड किया गया।

मौसम विभाग ने लोगों को गर्मी और उमस से बचाव के लिए सतर्क रहने की सलाह दी है। विभाग ने कहा है कि लोग पर्याप्त मात्रा में पानी और अन्य तरल पदार्थों का सेवन करें, दोपहर के समय अनावश्यक रूप से घर से बाहर निकलने से बचें तथा धूप में निकलने समय आवश्यक सावधानियां बरतें।

मैथन पुल पर ऑटो और बाइक की टक्कर में युवक की मौत

धनबाद, एजेंसी। निरसा के मैथन स्थित मुकुल पंप के समीप पुल पर सोमवार को एक सड़क हादसे में एक युवक की जान चली गई। ऑटो और बाइक की आमने-सामने हुई भीषण टक्कर में बाइक सवार युवक की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई। हादसे के बाद इलाके में अफरा-तफरी मच गई और बड़ी संख्या में लोग घटनास्थल पर जुट गए।

प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों के अनुसार, एक टेंपो पुल पर रॉन्ग साइड से आ रहा था। इसी दौरान पश्चिम बंगाल की ओर से तेज रफ्तार में आ रही एक बाइक उससे सीधे टकरा गई। टक्कर इतनी जोरदार थी कि बाइक सवार युवक ने मौके पर ही दम तोड़ दिया। घटना के बाद पुल पर लोगों की भारी भीड़ जमा हो गई। स्थानीय लोगों ने तत्काल मैथन पुलिस को सूचना दी। सूचना मिलते ही पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची और शव को पोस्टमार्टम की प्रक्रिया के लिए भेज दिया। समाचार लिखे जाने तक मृतक की पहचान नहीं हो सकी थी। स्थानीय लोगों का कहना है कि पुल पर अक्सर भारी वाहनों की लापरवाही और रॉन्ग साइड ड्राइविंग देखने को मिलती है, जिससे दुर्घटनाओं का खतरा बना रहता है। लोगों ने प्रशासन से पुल पर यातायात नियमों का सख्ती से पालन कराने और नियमित निगरानी की मांग की है। फिलहाल मैथन पुलिस सेर पर मामले की जांच कर रही है और हादसे के वास्तविक कारणों का पता लगाने में जुटी हुई है।



उलीडीह में ब्राउन शुगर के साथ युवक गिरफ्तार

पूर्वी सिंहभूम, एजेंसी। पूर्वी सिंहभूम पुलिस ने उलीडीह ओपी क्षेत्र में की गई छापेमारी के दौरान एक युवक को 38 पुड़िया ब्राउन शुगर के साथ गिरफ्तार किया है। बरामद नशीले पदार्थ का कुल वजन 3.71 ग्राम बताया गया है। पुलिस ने आरोपित के खिलाफ एनडीपीएस एक्ट के तहत मामला दर्ज कर आगे की जांच शुरू कर दी है।

उलीडीह ओपी प्रभारी मो. शारिक अली ने सोमवार को बताया कि वरिय पुलिस अधीक्षक को गुप्त सूचना मिली थी कि सिद्धो-कान्हू आवासीय विद्यालय के पीछे स्थित खाली मैदान में कुछ युवक मादक पदार्थों की खरीद-बिक्री के उद्देश्य से एकत्रित हुए हैं। सूचना को गंभीरता से लेते हुए पटमदा के पुलिस उपाधीक्षक (डीएसपी) दयानंद कुमार के नेतृत्व में



एक विशेष छापेमारी दल का गठन किया गया। सूचना के सत्यापन के बाद पुलिस टीम ने निर्धारित स्थल पर पहुंचकर

हुए एक युवक को पकड़ने में सफलता हासिल की।

पुछताछ के दौरान गिरफ्तार युवक की पहचान सरायकेला-खरसावां जिले के कपाली थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत तामोलिया निवासी संदीप कुमार पाण्डेय (26) के रूप में हुई। तलाशी लेने पर उसके पास से 38 पुड़िया ब्राउन शुगर बरामद की गई। इसके अलावा उसके पास से एक पर्स भी जब्त किया गया, जिसमें पहचान पत्र सहित अन्य महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज मिले हैं।

प्रारंभिक पुछताछ में आरोपित ने स्वीकार किया कि वह कपाली क्षेत्र से ब्राउन शुगर लेकर उलीडीह इलाके के बेचने की तैयारी कर रहा था। पुलिस अब यह पता लगाने में जुटी है कि वह किस नरेश्वर के माध्यम से नशीले पदार्थों की खरीद और आपूर्ति करता था तथा इस

कारोबार में और कौन-कौन लोग शामिल हैं। पुलिस ने आरोपित के खिलाफ उलीडीह ओपी में एनडीपीएस एक्ट के तहत प्राथमिकी दर्ज कर ली है। साथ ही फरार अन्य सदियों की पहचान और गिरफ्तारी के लिए छापेमारी अभियान जारी है। पुलिस अधिकारियों का कहना है कि जिले में मादक पदार्थों के कारोबार के खिलाफ अभियान लगातार जारी रहेगा और इसमें शामिल लोगों के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

इस छापेमारी अभियान में पटमदा डीएसपी दयानंद कुमार, उलीडीह ओपी प्रभारी मो. शारिक अली, एसआई रविंद्र पाण्डेय, एसआई अभिषेक कुमार, एसआई विजय कुमार, एसआई अखिलेश प्रसाद तथा रिजर्व गार्ड के जवान शामिल थे।

मालवीय नगर अग्निकांड: कोर्ट ने लवकेश बजाज की रिमांड बढ़ाई, कुक को न्यायिक हिरासत में भेजा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के मालवीय नगर अग्निकांड में गिरफ्तार होटल के मालिक लवकेश बजाज और कुक केशव नेगी को साकेत कोर्ट में पेश किया गया। राजधानी दिल्ली के मालवीय नगर में हुए अग्निकांड मामले में होटल के गिरफ्तार मालिक लवकेश बजाज और कुक केशव नेगी की पुलिस रिमांड खत्म होने के बाद दोनों को दिल्ली के साकेत कोर्ट में पेश किया गया। इस दौरान कोर्ट ने लवकेश बजाज की पुलिस रिमांड दो दिन और बढ़ा दी है, जबकि कुक केशव नेगी को 14 दिन की न्यायिक हिरासत में भेज दिया गया है। इससे पहले दिल्ली पुलिस ने 6 जून को होटल के कुक केशव नेगी को गिरफ्तार किया था। दिल्ली पुलिस की जांच में सामने आया है कि आग लगने में कुक की लापरवाही थी। जांच के दौरान अधिकारियों को कथित तौर पर सुरक्षा नियमों के कई उल्लंघन और इमारत के फायर सेफ्टी इंफ्रस्ट्रक्चर में भी गंभीर कमियाँ मिली थीं। इस मामले में पुलिस ने होटल के मालिक लवकेश बजाज के अलावा अन्य आरोपी स्वीटी सरकार और पुष्पा सरकार को भी गिरफ्तार किया है। बता दें कि इस घटना में कई विदेशी नागरिकों समेत कम से कम 22 लोगों की मौत हो गई। इन 22 लोगों में से 9 भारतीय थे, जबकि 13 विदेशी नागरिक थे, जो बांग्लादेश, लाइबेरिया, नाइजीरिया और मोजांबिक के रहने वाले थे।

सीबीआई का बड़ा एक्शन : होमबॉयर्स धोखाधड़ी मामले में बिल्डर कंपनी और निदेशकों के खिलाफ दायर की 11वीं चार्जशीट

नई दिल्ली। घर खरीदारों (होमबॉयर्स) के साथ बड़े पैमाने पर हुई धोखाधड़ी के मामले में केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो (सीबीआई) ने एक और बड़ी कार्रवाई इशारत की है। सीबीआई ने मैसर्स नाइनेस डेवलपर्स लिमिटेड (M/s Nine & Developers Ltd.) और उसके निदेशक के खिलाफ गुमराग (हरियाणा) स्थित एक हार्डवेयर प्रोजेक्ट में फर्जीबाड़ा करने के आरोप में चार्जशीट (आरोप पत्र) दाखिल कर दी है। इस महा-घोटाले की जांच में केंद्रीय एजेंसी की यह 11वीं चार्जशीट है। सुनियोजित साजिश के तहत मासूम खरीदारों को फंसाया सीबीआई द्वारा की गई गहन जांच में यह सनसनीखेज खुलासा हुआ है कि आरोपी बिल्डर कंपनी और उसके निदेशक ने एक आपराधिक साजिश के तहत काम किया: झूठे वादे और गुमराह करने वाले दावे; इन लोगों ने निर्दोष घर खरीदारों और निवेशकों को लुभावने व झूठे वादे, भ्रामक विज्ञापन और धोखेबाज आवश्यकतन देकर जाल में फंसाया। करोड़ों का अवैध मुनाफा: इस धोखाधड़ी के जरिए आरोपियों ने खुद तो भारी वित्तीय और नाजायज लाभ कमाया, लेकिन अपनी जिंदगी भर की पूंजी लगाने वाले मासूम पीड़ितों को भारी आर्थिक नुकसान पहुंचाया।

तेलंगाना पुलिस भर्ती मामले: सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अभ्यर्थी की उम्मीदवारी बहाल की

नई दिल्ली। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने तेलंगाना में पुलिस कांस्टेबल भर्ती के एक अभ्यर्थी की उम्मीदवारी बहाल करने का फैसला सुनाया। अदालत ने कहा कि राज्य की भर्ती एजेंसियों ने एक ऐसे आपराधिक मामले के आधार पर नियुक्ति से इनकार कर मनामा नहीं अपनाया, जो एक अत्यंत प्रेम संबंध से जुड़ा था और बाद में लोक अदालत में समझौते के जरिए समाप्त हो गया था। जस्टिस मनोज मिश्रा और जस्टिस मनमोहन की बेंच ने यह फैसला सुनाया है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट में गजुल थिरुपति नाम के युवक ने याचिका दायर की थी। इसे मंजूरी देते हुए सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने तेलंगाना हाईकोर्ट की डिवीजन बेंच के उस फैसले को भी खारज दिया, जिसमें 'स्ट्राइकडो केडेट ट्रेनिंग पुलिस कांस्टेबल' (एससीटीपीसी) पद के लिए उनके अस्थायी चयन को रद्द किए जाने को सही ठहराया गया था। अपने फैसले में न्यायमूर्ति मिश्रा की अगुवाई वाली पीठ ने कहा कि नियोजता किसी आपराधिक मामले में बरी या मुक्त हो चुके उम्मीदवार को उपयुक्तता का आकलन कर सकते हैं, लेकिन ऐसा निर्णय मनमाना नहीं होना चाहिए। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा, 'राज्य और उसके अधिकारी मनमाने ढंग से काम नहीं कर सकते। इसलिए, जब ऐसे फैसले की न्यायिक समीक्षा की जाती है।

इंडिया ब्लॉक में दल मिलते हैं, दल नहीं : शहजाद पूनावाला

नई दिल्ली। भाजपा प्रवक्ता शहजाद पूनावाला ने दिल्ली में इंडिया ब्लॉक की बैठक पर निशाना साधा। उन्होंने कहा कि इंडी गठबंधन के दल एक मंच पर तो आ सकते हैं, लेकिन उनके दिल नहीं मिलते। आज इस गठबंधन की स्थिति ऐसी हो चुकी है कि इसका कोई स्पष्ट उद्देश्य नहीं रह गया है। उन्होंने समझार एजेंसी से बातचीत में इंडिया गठबंधन की बैठक से पहले शुरू हुए परस्पर वार भी प्रतिक्रिया दी। उन्होंने कहा कि यह पोस्टर उन लोगों ने लगाया है, जिन्हें कांग्रेस के दण मिली थी। यह गठबंधन मजबूरी में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का विरोध करने के नकसद से बनाया गया था। ऐसी स्थिति चुनाव के दौरान भी देखने को मिली थी। उन्होंने दावा किया कि इंडी गठबंधन में शामिल अन्य दलों के नेता भी कांग्रेस से नाराज हैं। उनके अनुसार, झोपके ने कांग्रेस को धोखेबाज पार्टी करार दिया है। आम आदमी पार्टी की भी ऐसी ही स्थिति है।

उपमहापौर डॉ. मोनिका ने सूरजमल विहार में किया पौधरोपण

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली की उप-महापौर डॉ. मोनिका पंत के नेतृत्व में सूरजमल विहार स्थित सी-ब्लॉक शिव मंदिर पार्क में विषय स्वच्छता अभियान एवं पौधरोपण कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस अभियान का उद्देश्य क्षेत्र में स्वच्छता को बढ़ावा देना, नागरिकों को पर्यावरण संरक्षण के प्रति जागरूक करना तथा हरित एवं स्वच्छ दिल्ली के निर्माण के लिए जनभागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करना था। इस दौरान पार्क एवं उसके आसपास के क्षेत्रों में व्यापक सफाई अभियान चलाया गया तथा स्वच्छता व्यवस्था को और अधिक सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए संबंधित अधिकारियों को आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश दिए गए।

उप-महापौर ने अभियान के दौरान उपस्थित नागरिकों से स्वच्छता को अपनी दैनिक जीवनशैली का हिस्सा बनाने की अपील करते हुए कहा कि स्वच्छ वातावरण केवल सरकारी प्रयासों से नहीं, बल्कि जनसहभागिता से ही संभव है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रत्येक नागरिक का यह दायित्व है कि वह अपने घर, मोहल्ले और सार्वजनिक स्थलों को स्वच्छ बनाए रखने में सक्रिय योगदान दे(कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा प्रेरित 'एक पेड़ मंच के नाम' अभियान के तहत उप-महापौर डॉ. मोनिका पंत एवं शाहदरा दक्षिण क्षेत्र की उपयुक्त वैकल्पिक पंखोबा सिंह द्वारा पार्क परिसर में



पौधरोपण किया गया।

इस अवसर पर उन्होंने नागरिकों से अधिक से अधिक पौधे लगाने तथा उनके संरक्षण का संकल्प लेने की अपील की। उप-महापौर ने कहा कि स्वच्छता और हरियाली एक विकसित, स्वस्थ एवं समृद्ध दिल्ली की आधारशिला है। दिल्ली सरकार के नेतृत्व में राजधानी को स्वच्छ, सुंदर एवं पर्यावरण-अनुकूल बनाने की दिशा

महापौर ने खिचड़ीपुर एवं पटपड़गंज वार्ड का किया निरीक्षण

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के महापौर प्रवेश वाही ने वार्ड संख्या 167 (खिचड़ीपुर) एवं वार्ड संख्या 168 (पटपड़गंज) का व्यापक निरीक्षण कर क्षेत्र में उपलब्ध नागरिक सुविधाओं, शिक्षा, स्वच्छता एवं आधारभूत ढांचे की समीक्षा की।निरीक्षण के दौरान महापौर ने खिचड़ीपुर स्थित ब्लॉक-8 में वरिष्ठ नागरिक केंद्र का दौरा किया तथा वहां आवश्यक विकास कार्य शीघ्र कराने के निर्देश दिए। इसके पश्चात उन्होंने समीपवर्ती पार्क का निरीक्षण कर सिंचाई व्यवस्था को बेहतर बनाने हेतु छेटा मोटर पंप लगाने के निर्देश दिए। एक अन्य पार्क में सुरक्षा एवं सौंदर्यीकरण के दृष्टिगत प्रवेश द्वार लगाने तथा चारदीवारी के निर्माण के निर्देश भी संबंधित अधिकारियों को दिए गए। महापौर ने क्षेत्र में स्थित सुलभ शौचालय का निरीक्षण करते हुए पाया कि उसके बाहर अतिक्रमण किया

गया है। उन्होंने संबंधित विभागों को तत्काल प्रभाव से अतिक्रमण हटाने तथा आम नागरिकों की सुविधा सुनिश्चित करने के निर्देश दिए।



इसके उपरांत महापौर ने निगम विद्यालय का दौरा कर विद्यार्थियों को उपलब्ध कराई जा रही मूलभूत सुविधाओं का जायजा लिया। उन्होंने विद्यालय में पेयजल, पंखों, बेंचों, शौचालयों की व्यवस्था उपलब्ध हो सुविधाओं के संबंध में विस्तृत

जानकारी प्राप्त की तथा अधिकारियों को सभी व्यवस्थाओं को समयबद्ध रूप से दुरुस्त रखने के निर्देश दिए। महापौर ने कहा कि दिल्ली नगर निगम के

विद्यालयों में अध्ययनरत प्रत्येक बच्चे को गुणवत्तापूर्ण एवं सुर्भिष्ट वातावरण उपलब्ध कराना निगम की प्राथमिकता है। विद्यालय खुलने से पूर्व सभी निगम स्कूलों में आरओ आधारित स्वच्छ पेयजल की व्यवस्था उपलब्ध हो, ताकि विद्यार्थियों को किसी प्रकार की

उपराज्यपाल और मुख्यमंत्री ने डीडीएमए के साथ की बैठक, मानसून की तैयारियों की समीक्षा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल तरनजीत सिंह संधू ने मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता के साथ दिल्ली आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (डीडीएमए) की बैठक की अध्यक्षता की। इस बैठक में दिल्ली में विभिन्न विकास पहलों, शासन प्राथमिकताओं और जन कल्याण से संबंधित मामलों पर चर्चा की गई। साथ ही बैठक में गर्मी से संबंधित आपदा प्रबंधन उपायों और मानसून की तैयारियों की स्थिति की भी समीक्षा की गई।

उपराज्यपाल तरनजीत सिंह संधू ने बैठक में इस बात पर जोर दिया गया कि जहां दिल्ली की आपदा संबंधी कमजोरियाँ महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियाँ पेश करती हैं, वहीं वे तैयारियों को मजबूत करने, लचीलापन बनाने और प्रतिक्रिया प्रणालियों में सुधार करने का अवसर भी प्रदान करती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रवर्तन कार्रवाइयाँ आम निवासियों के लिए उत्पीड़न का कारण नहीं बननी

चाहिए। उपराज्यपाल ने बताया कि अवैध इमारतों के खिलाफ चल रहे अभियानों, अग्नि सुरक्षा के संबंध में



लाइसेंस के दुरुपयोग और भविष्य की तैयारियों के उपायों की व्यापक समीक्षा की गई। बैठक में अग्नि-शासन विभाग के कार्यबल को मजबूत करने के लिए मौजूदा रिक्तियों को संबोधित करने के लिए पूर्व अग्निवीरों की

भागीदारी का पता लगाने का सुझाव दिया गया। उन्होंने बताया कि छिंटों सप्ताह गठित अधिकारियों को टीमों

को अपनी कार्यवाही रिपोर्ट (एटीआर) समय पर प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया।बैठक में प्रदेश गृह मंत्री आशीष सूद, पीछ्व्यूडी मंत्री प्रवेश वर्मा के साथ अधिकारी और अन्य मंत्री भी उपस्थित रहे।

राजधानी के नागरिकों के लिए राहत का भरोसेमंद केंद्र बन रहे हैं कूलिंग जोन: मुख्यमंत्री

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली सरकार राजधानी में बढ़ती गर्मी और हीटवेव की चुनौती से नागरिकों को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए हीट एक्शन प्लान के तहत कई प्रभावी कदम उठा रही है। इसी क्रम में बाहरी-उत्तरी जिला प्रशासन ने सीडूस एनजीओ के सहयोग से बनावाने में एक अभिनव और पर्यावरण-अनुकूल बांस से बना कूलिंग जोन स्थापित किया है, जो वर्तमान हीटवेव के दौरान लोगों को राहत प्रदान कर रहा है। मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने इसकी जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि वर्तमान में बनावाने और अलीपुर में दो कूलिंग जोन संचालित हैं और नागरिकों को उनकी सेवाएं मिल रही हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त तीन और कूलिंग जोन विकसित किए जा रहे हैं, जिन पर कार्य प्रारंभ हो चुका

है। इनमें से एक कूलिंग जोन जिला उपयुक्त (डीसी) कार्यालय के सामने स्थापित किया जा रहा है। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि इस पहल के तहत पर्यावरण-अनुकूल, टिकाऊ और जलवायु-अनुकूल सार्वजनिक सुविधाओं का विकास किया जा रहा है। उन्होंने विज्ञापन इण्डिया जोन का उद्देश्य विशेष रूप से समाज के कमजोर और संवेदनशील वर्गों, निर्माण श्रमिकों, दिहाड़ी मजदूरों, रिक्शा चालकों, ड्राइवर्स, रेहड़ी-पटरी विक्रेताओं और खुले में काम करने वाले अन्य नागरिकों को अत्यधिक गर्मी के दुष्प्रभावों से बचाने है। रेखा गुप्ता ने कहा कि इन कूलिंग जोन का निर्माण मुख्य रूप से बांस से किया गया है, जिससे पर्यावरण पर न्यूनतम प्रभाव पड़ता है और यह एक टिकाऊ संरचना के रूप में कार्य करता है।

इसमें खस (वेटिवर घास) की स्क्रॉन और मिस्ट आधारित कूलिंग सिस्टम लगाया गया है, जो प्राकृतिक रूप से आसपास के तापमान को कम करता है और लोगों को अधिक आरामदायक वातावरण उपलब्ध कराता है। उन्होंने बताया कि कूलिंग जोन में प्राकृतिक वेंटिलेशन की विशेष व्यवस्था की गई है। इसके लिए रणनीतिक रूप से डिजाइन किए गए एर्जॉस्ट वेंट और वायु कुल्लेशन रूट बनाए गए हैं, जिससे लगातार हवा का प्रवाह बना रहता है। पूरी संरचना को इस प्रकार विकसित किया गया है कि यह कम से कम गर्मी को अवशोषित करे और अधिकतम शीतलता और आराम प्रदान कर सके। उन्होंने कहा कि नागरिकों की सुविधा और सुरक्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुए कूलिंग जोन में उठे

पीने के पानी, ओआरएस पैकेट, अग्निशामक यंत्र, हीटवेव से बचाव और जागरूकता संबंधी सूचना, शिक्षा एवं संचार (आईईसी) सामग्री और पर्याप्त बैटने और विश्राम की व्यवस्था उपलब्ध कराई गई है। मुख्यमंत्री रेखा गुप्ता ने कहा कि कूलिंग जोन श्रमिकों, ड्राइवर्स और अन्य मेहनतकश नागरिकों के लिए एक ऐसे भरोसेमंद स्थान के रूप में उभर रहा है, जहां वे दिनभर की गर्मी और थकावट से बचाव कर सकते हैं। यह पहल न केवल तत्काल राहत प्रदान कर रही है, बल्कि भविष्य की जलवायु चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए नवाचार आधारित समाधान विकसित करने की दिशा में भी एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

दिल्ली पुलिस ने महिलाओं को ब्लैकमेल करने के आरोप में साइबर ब्लैकमेलर को गिरफ्तार किया

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली के उत्तरी जिले के साइबर पुलिस स्टेशन ने एक 30 वर्षीय व्यक्ति को गिरफ्तार किया है। व्यक्ति पर सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से एआई-निर्मित तस्वीरों का इस्तेमाल करके युवतियों को ब्लैकमेल करने और उनसे पैसे वसूलने का आरोप है। दिल्ली पुलिस के अनुसार, आरोपी की पहचान भलवस्था डेपरी निवासी सौरभ के रूप में हुई है। उसे मलकागंज की 19 वर्षीय युवती को शिकायत के बाद 4 जून को गिरफ्तार किया गया। यह मामला तब सामने आया जब शिकायतकर्ता ने राष्ट्रीय साइबर अपराध रिपोर्टिंग पोर्टल (एनसीआरपी) पर ऑनलाइन शिकायत दर्ज कराई, जिसमें उसने आरोप लगाया कि उसे सोशल मीडिया पर ब्लैकमेल किया जा रहा

है। जांच के दौरान, उसने पुलिस को बताया कि उसे एक अज्ञात व्यक्ति से व्हाट्सएप मैसेज मिली थी, जिसमें उसे कई मॉर्फ़ेड तस्वीर भेजी गई थी। इसके बाद भेजने वाले ने उसे 'लक्ष्य गर्ग' नाम से संचालित स्नैपचेट अकाउंट के माध्यम से संपर्क करने का निर्देश दिया।

आरोपी ने कथित तौर पर छेड़खेड़ की गई तस्वीर को हटाने के बदले में 30,000 रूपए की मांग की। धमकियों से परेशान होकर पीड़िता के परिवार ने वन्यूआर कोड आधारित भुगतान के माध्यम से राशि भेजी थी। पुलिस ने बताया कि कई महीनों बाद, परचरवी में, आरोपी ने फिर से पीड़िता से संपर्क किया और अतिरिक्त धन की मांग की। बातचीत के बाद, पीड़िता ने एक साइबर कैफे के माध्यम से 10,000 रूपए और भेज दिए।

साइबर ठगी से बचाव के लिए शाहदरा पुलिस की पहल, 250 वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को किया जागरूक

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। साइबर अपराध के बढ़ते मामलों के बीच शाहदरा जिला पुलिस ने वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को ऑनलाइन ठगी से बचाने के लिए मेगा साइबर जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया।

कार्यक्रम में जिले के विभिन्न इलाकों से करीब 250 वरिष्ठ नागरिकों ने हिस्सा लिया। पुलिस अधिकारियों और साइबर विशेषज्ञों ने उन्हें डिजिटल गिरफ्तारी, फर्जी बैंक कॉल, ओटीपी फ्राँड, यूपीआई ठगी और सोशल मीडिया धोखाधड़ी जैसे नए साइबर अपराधों के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी दी।

कार्यक्रम में विशेष पुलिस आयुक्त (कानून व्यवस्था, जून-1) देवेश चंद्र श्रीवास्तव, पूर्वी रेंज के संयुक्त पुलिस आयुक्त अजीत कुमार सिंगला और शाहदरा के पुलिस उपयुक्त राजेंद्र प्रसाद मीणा मौजूद रहे। अधिकारियों ने कहा कि साइबर अपराधों लोगों के भरोसे, डर और जागरूकता की कमी का फायदा उठाकर ठगी कर रहे हैं, इसलिए

सतर्कता ही सबसे बड़ा बचाव है। **नुकड़ नाटक के जरिए समझाए साइबर अपराध के तरीके** कार्यक्रम का मुख्य आकर्षण साइबर अपराध पर आधारित नुकड़



नाटक रहा। कलाकारों ने डिजिटल अरेस्ट, फर्जी पुलिस कॉल, ओटीपी ठगी, निवेश घोटाले, सोशल मीडिया पर फर्जी पहचान बनाकर ठगी और यूपीआई फ्राँड जैसी घटनाओं का मंचन किया। इसके माध्यम से वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को बताया गया कि अपराधी किस तरह लोगों को झंसे में लेकर उनके बैंक खातों से रकम उधरे देते हैं। **इन साइबर ठगी के तरीकों से किया आगाह**

पुलिस ने वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को डिजिटल अरेस्ट, फर्जी पुलिस व बैंक अधिकारियों के फोन, केवाईसी अपडेट के नाम पर धोखाधड़ी, ऑनलाइन निवेश घोटालों, कॉल मॉर्फिंग स्कैम,

जोमेल और सोशल मीडिया अकाउंट हैकिंग, फर्जी सोशल मीडिया प्रोफाइल और यूपीआई फ्राँड के बारे में जानकारी दी। पुलिस ने सलाह दी कि किसी भी परिस्थिति में ओटीपी, पासवर्ड, एटीएम पिन, सोबीवी नंबर और इंटरनेट बैंकिंग संबंधी जानकारी किसी के साथ साझा न करें। साथ ही अज्ञात लिंक पर क्लिक करने और अनजान लोगों के कहने पर मोबाइल में कोई एप डाउनलोड करने से बचें।

इंडी अलायंस में एकता नहीं, जनता का विश्वास लगातार हो रहा कम : सबित पात्रा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) के सांसद और राष्ट्रीय प्रवक्ता सबित पात्रा ने दिल्ली स्थित भाजपा मुख्यालय में आयोजित प्रेस वार्ता के दौरान इंडी अलायंस की बैठक पर निशाना साधा है। उन्होंने विपक्षी दलों पर राजनीतिक पाखंड का आरोप लगाते हुए कहा कि जनता का उनके प्रति विश्वास लगातार कम होता जा रहा है। भाजपा सांसद सबित पात्रा ने कहा कि इंडी अलायंस की बैठक संविधान क्लब के एक कमरे में आयोजित की गई, जहां कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने मीडिया को संबोधित करते हुए चुनाव प्रक्रिया और मतदाता सूची से जुड़े मुद्दे उठाए। पात्रा ने कहा कि विश्व बार-बार एक ही प्रकार के आरोप दोहरा रहा है और हर के बाद चुनावी प्रक्रिया पर सवाल खड़े करना उसकी आदत बन गई है। उन्होंने कहा कि पहले इंडी अलायंस की बैठकें बड़े स्टैंडियों में आयोजित होती थीं,

जहां सभी दलों के नेता एकजुटता का प्रदर्शन करते थे। लेकिन, अब स्थिति यह है कि उनकी बैठकें छोटे कमरों तक सीमित हो गई हैं। उनके अनुसार, यह विषय की घटती राजनीतिक स्वीकार्यता और जनाधार का संकेत है। भाजपा सांसद ने कांग्रेस और उसके सहयोगी दलों पर दोहरा रवैया अपनाने का आरोप भी लगाया। उन्होंने कहा कि जब महिला सशक्तिकरण और 'नारी शक्ति वंदन अधिनियम' जैसे महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर सर्वदलीय बैठक बुलाई गई थी, तब विपक्षी दल उसमें शामिल नहीं हुए। अब वही दल सर्वदलीय बैठक बुलाने की मांग कर रहे हैं। परियम बंगाल की राजनीति और तुण्मूल कांग्रेस (टीएमसी) की स्थिति पर टिप्पणी करते हुए पात्रा ने कहा कि वह पार्टी के आंतरिक मामलों पर आधिकारिक रूप से कुछ नहीं कहना चाहते, लेकिन मीडिया में सामने आ रही खबरों और कुछ नेताओं के बयानों से यह स्पष्ट है कि पार्टी के भीतर सब कुछ सामान्य नहीं है।

उपमहापौर डॉ. मोनिका ने सूरजमल विहार में किया पौधरोपण

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दिल्ली की उप-महापौर डॉ. मोनिका पंत के नेतृत्व में सूरजमल विहार स्थित सी-ब्लॉक शिव मंदिर पार्क में विषय स्वच्छता अभियान एवं पौधरोपण कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस अभियान का उद्देश्य क्षेत्र में स्वच्छता को बढ़ावा देना, नागरिकों को पर्यावरण संरक्षण के प्रति जागरूक करना तथा हरित एवं स्वच्छ दिल्ली के निर्माण के लिए जनभागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करना था। इस दौरान पार्क एवं उसके आसपास के क्षेत्रों में व्यापक सफाई अभियान चलाया गया तथा स्वच्छता व्यवस्था को और अधिक सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए संबंधित अधिकारियों को आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश दिए गए।

उप-महापौर ने अभियान के दौरान उपस्थित नागरिकों से स्वच्छता को अपनी दैनिक जीवनशैली का हिस्सा बनाने की अपील करते हुए कहा कि स्वच्छ वातावरण केवल सरकारी प्रयासों से नहीं, बल्कि जनसहभागिता से ही संभव है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रत्येक नागरिक का यह दायित्व है कि वह अपने घर, मोहल्ले और सार्वजनिक स्थलों को स्वच्छ बनाए रखने में सक्रिय योगदान दे(कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा प्रेरित 'एक पेड़ मंच के नाम' अभियान के तहत उप-महापौर डॉ. मोनिका पंत एवं शाहदरा दक्षिण क्षेत्र की उपयुक्त वैकल्पिक पंखोबा सिंह द्वारा पार्क परिसर में



पौधरोपण किया गया।

इस अवसर पर उन्होंने नागरिकों से अधिक से अधिक पौधे लगाने तथा उनके संरक्षण का संकल्प लेने की अपील की। उप-महापौर ने कहा कि स्वच्छता और हरियाली एक विकसित, स्वस्थ एवं समृद्ध दिल्ली की आधारशिला है। दिल्ली सरकार के नेतृत्व में राजधानी को स्वच्छ, सुंदर एवं पर्यावरण-अनुकूल बनाने की दिशा

मैं निरंतर प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। नगर निगम भी इसी संकल्प के साथ कार्य करते हुए ऐसे जन-जागरूकता अभियानों के माध्यम से नागरिकों को पर्यावरण संरक्षण एवं स्वच्छता के प्रति प्रेरित कर रहा है। उप-महापौर ने

अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिए कि पार्कों एवं सार्वजनिक स्थलों को नियमित सफाई, रखरखाव तथा हरित क्षेत्रों के संरक्षण को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता दी जाए, ताकि नागरिकों को स्वच्छ, सुरक्षित एवं स्वस्थ वातावरण उपलब्ध कराया जा सके। उन्होंने कहा कि पर्यावरण संरक्षण और स्वच्छता केवल एक अभियान नहीं, बल्कि सामूहिक सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व है।

मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी बोले- 'इंडी गठबंधन रणछेड़ बहादुरों का राजनीतिक रंगमंच'

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) के नेता मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी ने दिल्ली में होने वाली 'इंडिया' ब्लॉक की बैठक को लेकर कटाक्ष किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि इंडी गठबंधन रणछेड़ बहादुरों का राजनीतिक रंगमंच है। इस दौरान उन्होंने कांग्रेस पार्टी पर भी निशाना साधा। भाजपा नेता मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी ने इंडिया गठबंधन की बैठक पर से बात करते हुए कहा, 'यह (इंडी गठबंधन) रणछेड़ बहादुरों का राजनीतिक रंगमंच है। विरोधाभास और अंतर्विरोध से भरा हुआ है। इनकी खानदान अनेक और ख्वाहिशें उन्हाहिशें ऐसी कि हर ख्वाहिश पर दम निकले। क्योंकि इस गठबंधन में सब 'प्रधानमंत्री इन वेटिंग' है। इसमें सारथी 'गुरु' है और साथी 'गुरु' घंटाले है, तो इसलिए इस गठबंधन का सफर शुरू होने से पहले ही धाराशायी हो जाता है।' नकवी ने कांग्रेस पार्टी पर कहा, 'मुझे लगता है कि यह जो ग्रैंड ऑल्ड पार्टी (कांग्रेस) है, यह वैविध्य पार्टी है।

कुलजीत सिंह चहल ने खान मार्केट में चल रहे विकास कार्यों का किया निरीक्षण

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। नई दिल्ली नगरपालिका परिषद (एनडीएमसी) के उपाध्यक्ष कुलजीत सिंह चहल ने खान मार्केट में चल रहे विकास कार्यों का विस्तृत निरीक्षण किया और स्थल पर कार्य की प्रगति की समीक्षा की।

एनडीएमसी उपाध्यक्ष ने बताया कि खान मार्केट में एनडीएमसी द्वारा मध्य लेन के सुधार के लिए एकीकृत ड्रेनेज सिस्टम, उन्नत फूटपाथ एवं फर्श विद्यन का कार्य किया जा रहा है। इस परियोजना की अनुमानित लागत 1.21 करोड़ रुपये है। उन्होंने कहा कि मौजूदा इंटरलॉकिंग पेवर्स खराब हो चुके थे, जिनकी बार-बार मरम्मत करनी पड़ती थी और यह लेन भारी पैदल यातायात एवं व्यावसायिक गतिविधियों से प्रभावित रहती है, जिससे आधुनिक और टिकाऊ अवसंरचना की आवश्यकता थी। उन्होंने बताया कि इस पुनर्विकास परियोजना में नई ड्रेनेज नेटवर्क, सीवर कनेक्शन चेंबर, जल आपूर्ति अवसंरचना, इलेक्ट्रिकल फीडर पि्लर चेंबर और अन्य यूटिलिटी कनेक्शन चेंबर जैसे कई कार्यों में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति हुई है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह परियोजना चरणबद्ध तरीके से आगे बढ़ रही है

डस्टबिन की स्थापना शामिल है। उन्होंने कहा कि इन कार्यों का उद्देश्य देश की राजधानी के प्रमुख व्यावसायिक केंद्र में नागरिक सेवाओं, सौंदर्य और पैदल यात्रियों की सुविधा को बेहतर बनाना है। कुलजीत सिंह

चहल ने बताया कि अब तक ड्रेनेज लाइन विद्यन, सिस्टम कलेक्शन चेंबर निर्माण, जल आपूर्ति पाइपलाइन एवं वाल्प लगाने, सीवर निरीक्षण चेंबर, इलेक्ट्रिकल फीडर पि्लर चेंबर और अन्य यूटिलिटी कनेक्शन चेंबर जैसे कई कार्यों में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति हुई है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह परियोजना चरणबद्ध तरीके से आगे बढ़ रही है

ताकि दुकानदारों, आगंतुकों और निवासियों को न्यूनतम असुविधा हो। उन्होंने बताया कि इस परियोजना के क्रियान्वयन में सबसे बड़ी चुनौती संकरी छह मीटर चौड़ी लेन के नीचे बड़ी संख्या में भूमिगत बिजली केबल

और अन्य यूटिलिटी सेवाएं हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि लगातार पैदल आवाजाही, व्यावसायिक गतिविधियाँ और दुकानों के कई प्रवेश द्वार होने के कारण एक समय में बड़े पैमाने पर कुवर्द्ध संभव नहीं है, जिससे कार्य की गति प्रभावित होती है। कुलजीत सिंह चहल ने बताया कि एनडीएमसी संबंधित विभागों के साथ समन्वय कर वैकल्पिक समाधान

जैसे अस्थायी ओवरहेड विद्युत व्यवस्था, फीडर पि्लर स्थानांतरण और भूमिगत केबलों के स्थानांतरण की संभावनाओं पर कार्य कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि इससे पुनर्विकास कार्यों में तेजी आएगी और सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा एवं आवश्यक सेवाएं भी बाधित नहीं होंगी। एनडीएमसी उपाध्यक्ष ने बताया कि खान मार्केट को समग्र पुनर्विकास, सौंदर्यकरण और नागरिक सुधार कार्यों के माध्यम से और अधिक स्वच्छ, सुरक्षित और आधुनिक बनाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

खान मार्केट के निरीक्षण के बाद, लोक नायक भवन का दौरा भी किया और संबंधित विभागों को मरम्मत, ट्यूटफ्ट जैसे कार्यों को करने के निर्देश दिए। कुलजीत सिंह चहल ने सफदरजंग एयरपोर्ट स्थित एनफोर्समेंट विभाग के स्टोर का भी निरीक्षण किया। उन्होंने बताया कि सभी संबंधित विभागाध्यक्षों और कार्यान्वयन एजेंसियों को सख्त निगरानी एवं समन्वयदा कार्य पूर्ण करने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं, ताकि गुणवत्ता से किसी प्रकार का समझौता न हो।

फिलीपींस के मिंडानाओ में आए भूकंप से हुई जानमाल की हानि से बहुत दुखी हूं: प्रधानमंत्री मोदी

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। फिलीपींस के दक्षिणी हिस्से में आए 7.8 तीव्रता के दृष्णशोर (समुद्र के पास) भूकंप में कम से कम पांच लोगों की मौत हो गई है। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने इस घटना पर दुख जताया

है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म एक्स पर लिखा कि आज फिलीपींस के मिंडानाओ में आए भूकंप से हुई जानमाल की हानि और तबाही से मैं बहुत दुखी हूँ। मेरे हार्दिक संवेदनाएं शोक संतप्त परिवारों के साथ हैं और

घायलों के शीघ्र स्वस्थ होने की प्रार्थना करता हूँ। भारत फिलीपींस के लोगों और सरकार के साथ पूरी तरह से एकजुट है। फिलीपीन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ वोलकनोलॉजी एंड सीस्मोलॉजी ने बताया कि यह भूकंप सुबह 7:37 बजे

(स्थानीय समय) आया और इसकी गहराई 33 किलोमीटर थी। इसका केंद्र सारंगनी प्रांत के मासिम शहर से लगभग 32 किलोमीटर दक्षिण-पश्चिम में समुद्र के नीचे था, जो जनरल सैंटोस के पास है। इस शहर की आबादी लगभग सात

लाख है। संस्थान के अनुसार, इस कंपन के बाद ऊंची-ऊंची लहरें उठीं, जिनकी अधिकतम ऊंचाई 1.4 मीटर थी। स्थानीय मिडिया के अनुसार, कुछ इमारतें गिर गईं और कई जगह बिजली भी चली गई। आसपास के प्रांतों में भी झटके

महसूस किए गए। भूकंप के बाद संस्थान ने नौ तटीय प्रांतों के लिए सुनामी चेतावनी जारी की और लोगों को तुरंत ऊंचे स्थानों पर जाने या सुरक्षित अंदरूनी इलाकों में जाने की सलाह दी है। यह भी अनुमान लगाया गया है कि पहली सुनामी

लहरें सोमवार सुबह तक पहुंच सकती हैं और इसके बाद कई घंटों तक अस्त रह सकती है। फिलीपींस के प्राचीनतम फिटिडिंग रोम्युअलडेज मार्कोस ने संपादित इलाकों में आपदा राहत और निगरानी के निर्देश दिए और लोगों से तुरंत ऊंची

जगहों पर जाने की अपील की। यह भूकंप मिंडानाओ के पास सम

Trinamool implodes, 20 LS MPs look to join NDA

New Delhi, Agency: An embattled Mamata Banerjee stood further cornered on Monday as the Trinamool Congress appeared to be headed for a split in Parliament after the rebel camp claimed 20 Lok Sabha MPs will break away and support the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in the Lower House.

Leader of the dissident camp Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, a four-term MP from Barasat, said "20 MPs will write to Speaker Om Birla expressing a desire to be part of the NDA". This could mean either a merger with the BJP parliamentary party along the lines of Aam Aadmi Party MPs in the



Rajya Sabha recently or recognition as a separate faction backing the NDA. The latter is a more probable scenario with the BJP's Bengal unit not keen on merging with the TMC ranks, whom they recently fought and defeated in the state.

If this formalises, the

strength of the NDA in the Lok Sabha will rise from 293 MPs to 313. This will have implications for the future of key Bills the government wants to table apart from political stability of the BJP-led dispensation, which is currently dependent on the JD(U) and the TDP for a majority in the House.

Speaking to The Tribune, Kakoli said, "Nearly 20 TMC MPs, along with me, have decided to write to Speaker Om Birla and formally convey our desire to be part of the NDA."

She said the decision came after extensive discussions among fellow MPs. "As of now, I remain the chief

whip of the TMC in the Lok Sabha, and in that capacity I have consulted colleagues before arriving at this decision. My removal (by Mamata Banerjee who named Kalyan Banerjee the chief whip) was arbitrary and unilateral. The party chairperson may have announced my replacement from the post, but that does not alter the constitutional and parliamentary position overnight," Kakoli said.

Asked why they were breaking away after years in the TMC, Kakoli (67) said, "We have accepted the people's verdict and believe that our future political course should be aligned with the NDA."

CEA coins 'ease of living' agenda to determine strength of panchayats

New Delhi, Agency: Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran on Monday said the 'Ease of Living' agenda was the ground-level counterpart of 'Ease of Doing Business' that could only be determined by how well-equipped and capable panchayats were. He also bated for the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) conducting performance audits on the implementation of the 73rd Amendment across all states to evaluate functional, financial, and administrative devolution to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

The official was speaking after releasing the Report of the Committee on Datasets for State Finance Commissions.

"It is time we advocate 'Ease of Living' agenda, which is the ground-level counterpart of 'Ease of Doing Business', about which we often speak about in policy circles. If we want to know India's actual economic potential, we need to look beyond the GDP numbers," he said.

"A large population of the country lives in rural areas where the quality of roads, houses, schools, hospitals as well sanitation facilities determine not only the well-being of its populace but also their productivity. Their children are their human capital, ultimately reflecting the trajectory of India's development itself," he added.

Nageswaran noted that weak and fragmented data systems at



the gram panchayat-level have left State Finance Commission (SFC) reports too weak to guide recommendations, with the 16th Finance Commission unable to rely on them while framing its recommendations.

Finance Commission transfers to rural local bodies form a key part of India's fiscal decentralisation framework, helping fund basic services such as drinking water, roads, sanitation and anganwadis in villages.

The CEA emphasised that the quality of decisions on resource allocation was directly determined by the quality of data and analysis available, and described the report as an important step towards strengthening the information architecture for local governance.

Panchayat Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj emphasised upon the need for greater coordination between the State Finance Commissions (SFCs) and Central Finance Commissions.

Several Indian workers killed in road accident in Dubai: Officials



New Delhi, Agency: Several Indian workers were killed on Monday when a minibus collided with a truck that had stopped in the middle of a road in Dubai, the authorities said.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Dubai that claimed the lives of several Indian workers," the Indian Consulate in Dubai said in a post on X. The mission said that it is working closely with local authorities to provide all possible assistance and support. Brigadier Juma Salem bin Suwaidan, Director of the General Department of Traffic at Dubai Police, said that preliminary investigations showed the truck had stopped suddenly in the middle of the Emirates Road due to a technical fault.

"The bus driver, who allegedly failed to pay attention and keep a safe distance, then rammed into the truck from behind," he said in a statement.

"The accident resulted in seven fatalities and nine injuries, including five serious and four moderate injuries. All injured were transported to the hospital," he added.

TMC vs TMC intensifies: Mamata camp brands rebel MPs 'traitors'; Kakoli Ghosh says 'jhukega nahi'

New Delhi, Agency: Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee on Tuesday launched a fierce attack on the rebel faction led by Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, describing its members as "desperate" and accusing them of betraying party supremo Mamata Banerjee. He also targeted the BJP, alleging that it was attempting to weaken the Mamata Banerjee-led party. Addressing a presser, Kalyan Banerjee asserted that the rebel camp lacks the numbers needed to comfortably overcome the provisions of the anti-defection law. He further branded the dissidents as "gad-gad" and accused them of being "desperate for power. His remarks came after rebel TMC leader Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar delivered a defiant response to the party leadership. "Mera sar katega lekin jhukega nahi... Maine bohot seh liya... I did not come here after Mamata Banerjee became chief minister in 2011; I have been fighting here for 40 years."



India a partner, not rival China calls for stronger ties

New Delhi, Agency: China on Monday described India as a "cooperation partner, not a competition rival" and said the two countries should view each other's rise as an opportunity rather than a threat, even as it voiced support for stronger engagement among China, India and Russia.

Responding to remarks by Russian President Vladimir Putin that India and China were working to resolve outstanding issues, including the boundary dispute, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said maintaining stable ties among the three major Eurasian powers was in their collective interest and beneficial for global stability.

"China, Russia and India are all emerging economies.



Maintaining sound relations is not only in the respective interests of the three countries but also conducive to regional and global peace, security, stability and prosperity," Lin said.

In a significant articulation of Beijing's current approach towards New Delhi, Lin said the situation along the India-China border was "generally stable" and that communication channels between the two sides remained smooth.

"China and India need to

have the right strategic perception that the two countries are cooperation partners, not competition rivals, and are opportunities, not threat, for each other's development," he said.

The spokesperson said both countries should handle bilateral ties from a long-term strategic perspective, deepen mutual trust, expand cooperation and properly manage differences to ensure the steady development of relations.

The remarks come amid a gradual improvement in India-China ties following efforts by both sides to stabilise the relationship after the prolonged military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

UP cops prevent suicide in 8 minutes after Meta alert over Instagram post

New Delhi, Agency: A 25-year-old man's life was saved after Meerut Police acted on a suicide alert received from Meta following an Instagram post, reaching him within eight minutes and getting him admitted to a hospital, officials said.

The incident came to light under the coordination mechanism between the Uttar Pradesh Police and Meta, which flags posts indicating possible self-harm and shares alerts with authorities.

According to a police statement issued on Monday, the youth, a resident of Sardhana area in Meerut, had posted a video on Instagram on June 7 in which he appeared to be consuming a white-coloured liquid. The video carried the message, "Ab tum khush



rehna apni life mein (Now you stay happy in your life)".

Police said Meta sent a suicide alert regarding the post to the Social Media Centre at the police headquarters at 6.53 pm. Acting on the directions of the Director General of Police, the centre immediately informed Meerut Police based on the available mobile number and location details.

Under the supervision of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Sardhana police reached the youth's residence and found his condition critical.

Piyush Goyal hails export of Assam's GI-tagged Tezpur litchis to Dubai

New Delhi, Agency: Union Minister Piyush Goyal has welcomed the export of Assam's Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Tezpur litchis to international markets, saying the move would help farmers secure better returns and open new avenues for agricultural products from Northeast India.

In a post on X, Goyal said, "Assam's renowned GI-tagged Tezpur litchi is now spreading its sweetness in foreign markets. With the support of APEDA, the first export shipment of Tezpur litchi has departed for Dubai. This step will give the region's litchi global recognition, provide farmers with better prices, and create new opportunities for agricultural products from Northeast India."

The export coincided with the centenary celebrations of litchi cultivation in Tezpur, which commenced on Sunday. The two-day Tezpur Litchi Festival 2026, organised by the Sonitpur district administration, recently concluded at the District Library in Tezpur, highlighting the century-long legacy of the GI-tagged fruit.

This year's Bombay variety of Tezpur litchi was sold at prices



ranging from Rs 40 to Rs 50 each, with total sales at the festival venue exceeding Rs 4 lakh in a single day.

The history of litchi cultivation in Tezpur dates back to 1923, when Padmanath Gohain Baruah, the first president of the Assam Sahitya Sabha and the first Assamese chairman of the Tezpur Municipality, established litchi orchards as part of a pond restoration scheme. This initiative laid the foundation for the region's century-old litchi-growing tradition.

During the festival, one tonne of various litchi varieties was exported to Dubai, while approximately 600 kg were shipped to Singapore.

ED busts Cambodia-linked SIM racket; 5,300 cards used to dupe Indians



New Delhi, Agency: Analysis of around 2.3 lakh numbers have showed that about 36,000 SIM cards were active in Cambodia, out of which nearly 5,300 were involved in committing cyber-frauds across India to the tune of hundreds of crores, according to an Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe.

The ED had conducted search operations at seven premises across Kishangarh (Ajmer), Nagaur and Jodhpur in Rajasthan and Ludhiana (Punjab) on June 5 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with a cyberfraud by a Malaysian national.

Times have changed, premarital sex not moral turpitude, says Supreme Court

New Delhi, Agency: Citing the changing times and acknowledging the reality that premarital sex has become common, the Supreme Court has said that being in such a relationship cannot be termed as moral turpitude to draw adverse inferences about a person's character. The authorities must keep in mind this reality and not initiate punitive action on such grounds, it held.

A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Manmohan came to the rescue of an aspiring police official whose provisional selection in the force was cancelled on the ground



that he had been in a physical relationship with a girl, and she had later filed a complaint against him. Though the girl had reached a compromise with him and the matter got settled in Lok Adalat, the Telangana govt said the man stood disqualified as

he was involved in an offence involving moral turpitude. Telangana HC also ruled against him, saying he was indicted for an offence involving moral turpitude, and the compounding of the offence (compromise) did not amount to a clean acquittal.

Rejecting the plea of the state government and also the HC's findings, the SC quashed the government's decision and paved the way for the man's recruitment in the force. The court made it clear that engaging in premarital sex could not be a reason to bar the petitioner from the force. It pointed out that the victim herself had decided not to step into the witness box to depose against him.

"Besides, authorities would have to be sensitive to the changing times in the context of premarital relationships. Such premarital relationships are common today.



National Herbs and Species Day

Why Protecting Nature's Smallest Treasures Matters More Than Ever

Every year, National Herbs and Species Day serves as a reminder that some of the world's most valuable resources are often the least noticed. While towering forests, majestic wildlife, and vast oceans frequently dominate environmental conversations, herbs and lesser-known plant and animal species quietly support life on Earth in ways that many people never realize. These natural treasures contribute to medicine, food security, biodiversity, culture, and ecological balance. As environmental challenges continue to intensify across the globe, the significance of protecting herbs and species has never been greater.



The modern world owes much of its progress to nature. Many medicines that are now staples of healthcare originated from plants that grew wild in forests, grasslands, and mountain regions. Herbs such as basil, mint, turmeric, rosemary, thyme, and countless others have been used for centuries in traditional healing systems. Long before laboratories existed, communities relied on local plants to treat illnesses, reduce inflammation, improve digestion, and promote general wellbeing. Even today, researchers continue to study plants in search of new

compounds that could help combat diseases.

However, the value of herbs extends far beyond medicine. Herbs play an essential role in agriculture, food production, and culinary traditions. Across cultures, herbs provide flavor, nutrition, and preservation properties that have shaped cuisines for generations. A simple herb garden can supply ingredients that enhance meals while reducing reliance on artificial additives. In rural communities, herbs often represent a source of income through local markets and traditional products.

National Herbs and Species Day also highlights the broader importance of biodiversity. Biodiversity refers to the variety of life found on Earth, including plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms. Each species

occupies a unique position within an ecosystem. When one species disappears, the effects can ripple throughout the environment. Pollinators such as bees and butterflies help plants reproduce. Birds control insect populations. Soil organisms break down organic matter and recycle nutrients. Together, these interactions maintain the stability that allows ecosystems to function.

The loss of species has accelerated dramatically in recent decades. Scientists warn that many plants and animals are facing unprecedented threats due to habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, invasive species, and unsustainable resource extraction. Forests are cleared for development, wetlands are drained, and natural habitats become fragmented. As a result, numerous species

struggle to survive in shrinking environments.

Herbs are particularly vulnerable because many grow in specific ecological conditions. Some medicinal plants require unique soil compositions, moisture levels, or temperature ranges. Climate shifts can alter these conditions, making it difficult for species to thrive. Overharvesting also threatens certain herbs that are collected faster than they can regenerate. Without careful management, valuable plant populations may decline significantly.

The disappearance of a species is more than an environmental loss. It can also represent the loss of scientific knowledge, cultural heritage, and economic opportunities. Indigenous communities around the world possess generations of knowledge about local herbs and wildlife. This traditional understanding often includes information about medicinal uses, sustainable harvesting practices, and ecological relationships. When species vanish, the knowledge associated with them can disappear as well.

National Herbs and Species Day encourages individuals to recognize the interconnected nature of life. Even urban residents who rarely

visit forests depend on healthy ecosystems. Clean air, fresh water, fertile soil, and climate regulation all result from natural processes supported by diverse species. Every plant and animal contributes in some way to maintaining these systems.

Conservation efforts have demonstrated that positive change is possible. Protected areas, restoration projects, sustainable farming practices, and community-led conservation initiatives have helped recover populations of certain species. Botanical gardens and seed banks preserve plant diversity for future generations. Scientists work alongside local communities to document endangered herbs and develop strategies for their protection.

Home gardens can also play an important role. Planting native herbs and flowers supports pollinators and increases local biodiversity. Schools and community organizations often create herb gardens that serve both educational and environmental purposes. These projects teach people about plant biology, conservation, and sustainable living while fostering a deeper connection with nature.

Technology has become a valuable tool in conservation. Satellite imagery helps moni-

tor habitat changes, while genetic research improves understanding of species diversity. Mobile applications allow citizens to record plant and animal sightings, contributing data that scientists can use to track populations. These innovations demonstrate how modern science can complement traditional conservation approaches.

Businesses and policymakers also have responsibilities in protecting herbs and species. Sustainable sourcing practices ensure that natural resources are harvested responsibly. Environmental regulations can reduce habitat destruction and pollution. Investments in conservation programs often produce long-term benefits that extend beyond ecological protection, supporting tourism, agriculture, and public health.

Education remains one of the most powerful conservation tools. When people understand the importance of biodiversity, they are more likely to support protective measures. National Herbs and Species Day provides an opportunity for schools, environmental groups, and media organizations to raise awareness about the challenges facing plants and wildlife. Public engagement can inspire action at both individual and institutional levels.

Medicinal Herbs Through History

Nature's Ancient Pharmacy and Its Relevance Today



National Herbs and Species Day offers an opportunity to reflect on humanity's long and fascinating relationship with the natural world. Among nature's greatest gifts are medicinal herbs, plants that have been used for healing, prevention, and wellness for thousands of years. Long before modern hospitals, pharmacies, and scientific laboratories existed, people relied on herbs to treat illnesses, ease pain, and improve quality of life. Across continents and civilizations, knowledge of medicinal plants became a cornerstone of healthcare, shaping cultures and laying the foundation for many modern medicines.

The story of medicinal herbs begins with early human societies observing nature and learning through experience. Ancient communities noticed that certain plants seemed to relieve symptoms or promote recovery. Over generations, these observations evolved into extensive systems of herbal medicine. Elders, healers, and herbalists carefully docu-

mented their knowledge through oral traditions and written records, creating medical practices that would influence future generations.

One of the earliest known examples of herbal medicine comes from ancient Mesopotamia, where clay tablets dating back thousands of years describe the use of plants for treating various ailments. Ancient Egyptians also developed sophisticated herbal remedies. Historical texts such as the Ebers Papyrus contain hundreds of herbal treatments involving garlic, aloe vera, juniper, and other plants. These remedies were used to address digestive issues, infections, skin conditions, and wounds.

In Asia, herbal medicine became deeply integrated into cultural and medical traditions. Traditional Chinese Medicine developed a vast body of knowledge centered on balancing the body's energies through natural treatments. Herbs such as ginseng, ginger, licorice root, and astragalus were widely used to strengthen health and restore harmony. Similarly, in

India, Ayurveda emerged as one of the world's oldest healthcare systems. Ayurvedic practitioners utilized herbs like turmeric, holy basil, ashwagandha, neem, and brahmi to promote physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing.

The ancient Greeks and Romans also made significant contributions to herbal medicine. Physicians studied plant properties and recorded their findings in medical texts that remained influential for centuries. Herbs such as mint, fennel, sage, and rosemary were commonly used for digestion, respiratory health, and wound treatment. These traditions spread throughout Europe and became integral to medieval healthcare practices.

What makes medicinal herbs remarkable is their ability to produce biologically active compounds. Plants cannot escape predators or environmental threats, so they have evolved complex chemical defenses and protective substances. Many of these compounds interact with the human body in beneficial ways. Scientists later discovered that some of the world's most important medicines originated from these natural chemicals.

A well-known example is aspirin, which traces its origins to willow bark. For centuries, people used willow bark extracts to reduce pain and fever. Modern researchers eventually identified salicin, a compound that inspired the development of aspirin. Similarly, compounds derived from plants have contributed to treatments for heart disease, cancer, malaria, and numerous other conditions.

Vanishing Species: The Race to Save

Earth's Biodiversity Before It Is Too Late

National Herbs and Species Day is more than a celebration of plants and wildlife. It is also a call to action. Across the globe, thousands of species are facing unprecedented threats, and scientists warn that the world is experiencing a biodiversity crisis unlike anything seen in modern human history. From forests and grasslands to rivers and oceans, countless plants and animals are disappearing at alarming rates. While conservation efforts have achieved notable successes, the challenge of protecting Earth's biodiversity remains one of the most urgent environmental issues of the twenty-first century.

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth. It includes every living organism, from microscopic bacteria and fungi to towering trees, colorful birds, elusive mammals, and medicinal herbs. Each species plays a role in maintaining ecological balance. Together, these organisms form complex networks that support clean water, fertile soil, pollination, climate regulation, and countless other ecosystem services upon which humanity depends.

The importance of biodiversity cannot be overstated. Healthy ecosystems provide food, medicine, raw materials, and economic opportunities for billions of people. They help regulate weather patterns, absorb carbon dioxide, reduce the impacts of natural disasters, and support agricultural productivity. Yet despite these benefits, human activities have placed extraordinary pressure on natural environments.

One of the leading causes of species decline is habitat destruction. As human populations grow and demand for land increases, forests are cleared, wetlands are drained, and natural landscapes are transformed into cities, roads, and agricultural fields. These changes often leave wildlife with fewer places to live, feed, and reproduce. Species that once thrived in large, connected habitats may find themselves isolated in fragmented patches of land.

Deforestation represents one of the most visible examples of habitat loss. Tropical rainforests, often described as the lungs of the planet, contain an astonishing diversity of life. Scientists estimate that millions of species inhabit these ecosystems, many of which have yet to be formally identified. When forests are cleared for timber, farming, or development, entire communities of plants and animals can disappear. Some species may become endangered, while others

face extinction before researchers even have the opportunity to study them.

Climate change has emerged as another major threat to biodiversity. Rising global temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, melting ice, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events are altering ecosystems worldwide. Species adapted to specific environmental conditions may struggle to survive as their habitats change. Mountain species are forced to move higher in search of cooler temperatures, while marine organisms face warming oceans and changing currents.

Coral reefs provide a dramatic example of climate-related impacts. These vibrant underwater ecosystems support an extraordinary range of marine life and provide food and livelihoods for millions of people. However, rising ocean temperatures have triggered widespread coral bleaching events, weakening reef systems and threatening countless dependent species. The decline of coral reefs demonstrates how interconnected ecosystems can be affected by environmental change.

Pollution also contributes significantly to species decline. Plastic waste, chemical contaminants, agricultural runoff, and industrial emissions can damage habitats and harm wildlife. Rivers and oceans increasingly contain pollutants that affect fish, birds, marine mammals, and other organisms. Microplastics have been found in some of the most remote environments on Earth, highlighting the global scale of the problem.

Invasive species create additional challenges for native wildlife. When plants or animals are introduced into environments where they do not naturally occur, they can outcompete local species for resources. Some invasive species spread rapidly, altering ecosystems and disrupting ecological relationships that have developed over thousands of years.

