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researchers.asia@gmail.com



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

"Souls May Be Sacrificed": Saudi's Grand Mufti To Troops Fighting Houthis

Riyadh.(Agency)

Saudi Arabia's top religious authority called on soldiers in the kingdom to be ready to lay down their lives to fight the Iran-backed Houthis until the group is ousted from power, a statement posted on the Saudi state news agency said. The rare and strongly worded message by Saudi Grand Mufti Sheikh Saleh bin Fawzan Al-Fawzan was addressed to soldiers stationed at the country's borders and drew heavily on Quranic verses and recorded sayings of the Prophet Mohammad related to sacrifice and struggle in defence of God.

It comes after weeks of escalating violence between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis which has seen the Iran-backed group attack the kingdom with salvos of missiles and drones and Saudi Arabia respond with airstrikes. Observers have been questioning whether Saudi Arabia will launch a broader military operation along with Yemeni government forces it backs. "Protecting this great nation... and punishing anyone who seeks to lay a hand on even an inch of its territory are among the greatest duties and most virtuous acts of devotion, for which lives and souls may be sacrificed in seeking God's pleasure," said the statement, issued late Thursday. Asserting the authority of the Saudi-backed internationally recognized Yemeni government over the entire country was "among the most pressing obligations," it added. Those government forces lost control of the vital Bab el-Mandeb waterway to the Houthis two weeks back, a blow to the kingdom, which has been mired in the conflict since 2015 after it launched an unsuccessful operation to oust the Houthis from the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

Trade, Taiwan And AI: Five Takeaways From Donald Trump, Xi Jinping Summit

Washington .(Agency)

US President Donald Trump hosted his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, for a lavish state dinner at the White House, followed by a day of pomp and ceremony that masked deep tensions between the rival nuclear superpowers. The tech-heavy event was attended by a cavalcade of billionaires, Washington power brokers, and business leaders, including Tesla's Elon Musk, Apple's Tim Cook, Nvidia's Jensen Huang, and Sam Altman of OpenAI, underscoring that trade and artificial intelligence were high on the agenda for Xi's visit.

"President Xi and I both understand we represent different systems, but the ties between our people endure, and we've never gotten along better," Trump said during his toast, adding that "together, we can continue to build a relationship that promotes prosperity and security for future generations." The US leader has done his best to impress Xi, praising their close personal relationship. During business hours, the two leaders discussed tensions over Taiwan, trade, and artificial intelligence.

In his own toast, Xi noted that "President Trump has pledged to make America great again" and that "China is committed to achieving great national rejuvenation."

Trade
The United States and China announced the extension of their trade truce as Trump landed in the US, but only a short one. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the two sides agreed to extend by two months a trade agreement that ended last year's trade war and was due to expire in November. The extension would give Washington and Beijing "more time to see what we can do on the economic front," he said. The extension appears to push the central questions surrounding the trade, including tariffs, Chinese purchases, rare-earth supplies, and technology restrictions, into the next round of negotiations.

An isolated Netanyahu takes UN stage as he seeks reelection at home

For a leader who likes to portray himself as a global statesman, it is a "big, big miss for him at a time where he can't afford misses," Natan Sachs, senior fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington, said of Netanyahu.

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began the year declaring that he stood "shoulder to shoulder" with U.S. President Donald Trump as the two countries launched a war against Iran. But this week, as world leaders gather in New

York for the United Nations General Assembly, there are no plans for the two men to be in the same room, or even in the same city. As the war with Iran has dragged on, Trump and Netanyahu have split over how to prosecute it, straining a relationship between the two allies. Netanyahu has also faced global criticism both for Israel's war in Gaza and settler violence in the occupied West Bank. Instead of a packed itinerary, Netanyahu, who arrived on Thursday, was scheduled to meet only a handful of leaders before giving his speech. The apparent snub underscored how badly the relationship between Trump and the prime minister has fractured. Many in Washington associate Netanyahu with the increasingly unpopular fight with Iran and Trump has labored to avoid the appearance that the Israeli leader forced him into a war that Trump said would be a "little excursion" lasting only

weeks. Netanyahu's brief visit also demonstrated how isolated he is globally, three years after launching a punishing war in Gaza in retaliation for the Hamas-



led attacks on Oct. 7, 2023. He faces an election next month widely seen as a referendum on his responsibility for the security failures surrounding the attacks and his ability to defend Israel's reputation

on the world stage. Day after day this week, as other heads of state have stepped to the podium, many have harshly criticized Israel's actions, particularly in Gaza. Ahead of his visit, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani urged his arrest, saying the U.S. should honor a warrant for Netanyahu issued by the International Criminal Court. He is wanted for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Gaza, though the U.S. is not a member of the court and New York City lacks the authority to arrest him.

Still, the prime minister is a master showman, and often turns to props and visual aids during speeches in flawless English to drive home his message. Last year at the summit, scores of diplomats walked out while he was speaking. But that is unlikely to faze him, as he speaks primarily to an audience of Israeli voters.

Macklemore announces concerts benefiting Palestinian aid organizations

wold.(Agency)

US rapper Macklemore, who was dropped from British pop star Ed Sheeran's tour after making pro-Palestinian comments, announced Thursday he will instead perform on his own "Free Palestine Tour." Macklemore, who was opening for Sheeran's "Loop Tour," shouted "Free Palestine!" and told Palestinians they were "not forgotten" during two concerts earlier this month in New Jersey. The "Thrift Shop" star was quickly booted from the US tour -- a decision that Sheeran said was made by tour promoters, not him -- provoking outrage among musicians and pro-Palestinian activists. "What

happened to me is bigger than one artist or one stage," Macklemore, 43, said in an Instagram post. "When the billionaire class can decide which voices are allowed on stage and which ones are too dangerous to hear, everyone should be paying attention," he added. Macklemore announced three shows in London, Paris and Dublin for late October, with US dates also planned, and said all proceeds will benefit pro-Palestinian organizations. "It's 2026. Being apolitical during a genocide doesn't work anymore," he said. "People are asking artists to show up, educate themselves and be in community. To use the stage for more than entertainment. To push back when the call for a Free

Palestine is met with attempts to silence it." Macklemore's removal has opened a can of worms for the Grammy-winning Sheeran, who has typically steered clear of making any overt political statements. But last weekend at a show in Philadelphia, he broke his silence on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by describing the situation in Gaza as "catastrophic and unjustifiable and disproportionate." I've had to take and make difficult decisions, and I am making mistakes, and I'm so, so sorry," an emotional Sheeran told his audience, who responded with cheers. Four other supporting artists, including American singer Finneas, have also pulled out of Sheeran's tour in solidarity with Macklemore.

Diplomats walk out as Netanyahu takes podium at UN General Assembly

Delegates from several Arab and Muslim-majority countries, as well as nations including Colombia and South Africa, rose from their seats and left the assembly hall as Netanyahu took the floor.

world.(Agency)

Dozens of international diplomats staged a mass walkout at the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approached the podium to deliver his address, turning the opening moments of the speech into a highly visible diplomatic protest, reports said. Delegates from several Arab and Muslim-majority

countries, as well as nations



including Colombia and South Africa, rose from their seats and left the assembly hall as Netanyahu took the floor. The departure left large sections of the chamber visibly empty, while the session chair repeatedly called for order and struck the gavel. Netanyahu responded directly to those who walked out, condemning the protest and describing the departing delegates as "moral cowards." "If there are any

other moral cowards who haven't left the hall, please do so now," Netanyahu said. Those who remained in the chamber, along with members of the Israeli delegation, applauded and cheered as Netanyahu began his address. During his roughly 40-minute speech, Netanyahu defended Israel's military operations against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, arguing that Israel was fighting on multiple fronts and had no alternative but to continue its campaign. "We're going to win. We have no other choice," he said. Netanyahu also rejected allegations that Israel's actions in Gaza amount to genocide and accused the United Nations of longstanding institutional bias against Israel. The diplomatic protest inside the General Assembly hall unfolded alongside demonstrations outside the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan.

A month after Nepal-China floods, families await answers about more than 50 missing Ukrainians



BANGKOK.(Agency)

Olena Kalynychenko was looking forward to sharing the chrysanthemum tea she had bought in China with her partner. "She said, 'When I come back home, we will drink the tea made from Chinese flowers,'" said Oles Visich, Kalynychenko's partner. He has now been waiting for news about her for a month, after she and thousands of others disappeared in catastrophic flooding along the Nepal-China border.

Her last known location was exiting China at a border post at 10:22 a.m. local time, 15 minutes before the flood. Kalynychenko, 36, was part of a group of 56 people, mostly Ukrainians, who had traveled to Mount Kailash in Tibet for a spiritual retreat.

Their families' situation is a sign of how complex and time-consuming the process is of rescuing, recovering and identifying victims lost to the disaster. Given the number of missing, the process will likely take months. They disappeared while heading from China to Nepal on their way home. Some relatives say they have received no information from authorities. The Chinese government has told at least two families that their relatives left Chinese territory before the flood struck, but they haven't been able to confirm whether they entered Nepal as Nepal's immigration complex and its records were destroyed in the floods.

Little information is reaching families
The floods killed more than 1,400 people and left more than 6,000 missing, most of them on the Nepali side of the border. Nepal has said that 636 foreign nationals remain missing, including 54 Ukrainians. China has reported 261 foreign nationals among the missing on its side, including one Ukrainian. Families in Ukraine say most of them have not received any answers since realizing their relatives were among the missing. We only have the statistics that are being posted online — how many people have been found, how many are alive, how many are dead, and how many are still missing," said Stanislav Solohub, whose brother and sister-in-law went missing on Ag.

"When Will You Prosecute Hafiz Saeed?" Pak's Shehbaz Sharif Confronted At UN

world.(Agency)

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday refused to answer questions regarding Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed during his visit to the United Nations headquarters for the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

As Sharif entered the UN headquarters, reporters asked, "Prime Minister, when will you stop harbouring terrorists?" However, the Pakistani Prime Minister did not respond. Later, while leaving the UN headquarters, Sharif was again asked, "When will you prosecute Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed?" The Pakistani Prime Minister again refused to answer. Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, a resident of Sargodha in Pakistan's Punjab province, is a designated terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and the founder of the proscribed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Saeed is wanted as an accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case. More recently,

the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has also alleged that the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025 was orchestrated by Pakistan-based operatives of the banned terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Its supplementary chargesheet names LeT founder and designated terrorist Hafiz Muhammad Saeed as Accused No. 8, alleging his involvement in the larger conspiracy behind the attack.

A day earlier, India delivered a scathing rebuke to Pakistan at the United Nations, telling Islamabad to direct its energy towards a debt-ridden economy surviving on bailouts rather than harbouring territorial ambitions or sponsoring cross-border terrorism. Exercising its right of reply at the UN Human Rights Council, Indian diplomat Kshitij Tyagi dismantled Pakistan's diversionary tactics, asserting that its hostile posturing would do nothing to rescue its failing financial system. Stating that Pakistan's priorities remain fundamentally misplaced, Kshitij Tyagi remarked.

Netanyahu says Mamdani endangers Jewish New Yorkers by spreading lies about Israel's actions in Gaza

NEW YORK.(Agency)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Mayor Zohran Mamdani of endangering Jewish New Yorkers with his criticism of Israel's military actions in Gaza, saying during a speech at the United Nations on Thursday that the mayor has spread lies about Israel. Calling Mamdani "the antisemitic mayor of New York," Netanyahu spent part of his time speaking to the United Nations General Assembly to assail the man who threatened to have him arrested if he came to the city. "Mr. Mamdani, since you were elected mayor of this city, many Jews no longer feel safe in New York. They talk to me, they tell me 'this isn't the city we remember, it changed so quickly,'" Netanyahu said.

It's the latest in a back-and-forth between the Netanyahu and New York City's first Muslim mayor, who has long been a vocal critic of Israel's military actions in Gaza and has called Netanyahu a "war criminal" who is "the architect of a horrific genocide against the Palestinian people." Mamdani has said

that his criticism of Israel and advocacy for Palestinian rights don't amount to antisemitism. The mayor met with US President Donald Trump this week in New



York. Netanyahu, during his speech Thursday, praised the president for his support of Israel, saying "we've had no greater partner than President Trump." In a statement, Mamdani repeated his criticism of Israel's actions in Gaza, where more than 73,000 people have been killed since Netanyahu launched a punishing war in retaliation for the Hamas-led attacks on Oct. 7, 2023. As he has done time and again, Prime

Minister Netanyahu used his speech to repeat baseless lies meant to sanitize his genocide of Palestinians. Yet no lie can change the fact that he remains the subject of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant alleging war crimes and crimes against humanity," he said in the statement. During his mayoral campaign last year, Mamdani said he would direct police in New York to execute the war crimes court's arrest warrant against Netanyahu, but has more recently acknowledged the city does not have the authority to take him into custody. The mayor has since encouraged the federal government to arrest Netanyahu, though Trump has said the prime minister will not be arrested. "Mr. Mamdani, you tried to stop me from coming here. You tried to silence me. Well, you can't silence me and you can't silence the truth," Netanyahu said in his speech. Around 100 people were arrested near the United Nations during a large protest over Netanyahu's appearance, including celebrities Susan Sarandon and Hannah Einbinder, according to the advocacy group Jewish Voice for Peace.

DRDO Plans Mass Production of 30-kW Laser Weapon to Counter Drone Swarms at 5-km Range

New Delhi: India is moving towards mass production of an indigenous 30-kilowatt laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) designed to counter drone swarms and other unmanned aerial threats, in a major step towards strengthening the country's indigenous counter-drone capability.

Industry Partner to Be Selected

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is preparing to select an Indian industry partner for manufacturing the system. An Expression of Interest (EoI) is expected in the coming months, while the First-of-Production Model (FOPM) is targeted within about a year.

The truck-mounted laser weapon is designed to engage drone swarms, fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and surveillance sensors at ranges of up to 5 km.

Designed to Counter Drone Swarms

The system uses concentrated laser energy to damage or disable aerial targets and their critical components. Its development is particularly significant as drone swarms can involve multiple low-cost unmanned platforms operating simultaneously. Unlike conventional missile-based air defence, a directed-energy system can engage selected targets using energy rather than a separate physical interceptor for each engagement.

Capability Demonstrated in IADWS Trials

The move towards production follows successful demonstrations of India's directed-energy technology. On August 23, 2025, DRDO conducted maiden flight tests of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off the Odisha coast.



According to the Ministry of Defence, IADWS integrates the Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM), Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) and a high-power laser-based DEW under a centralised command-and-control system.

During the trials, two high-speed fixed-wing UAVs and one multi-copter drone were simultaneously engaged by the integrated system.

Part of Wider Directed-Energy Programme

The 30-kW laser system is being developed by DRDO's Cen-

tre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS). The programme forms part of India's wider effort to develop indigenous directed-energy technologies for future air-defence requirements.

DRDO is also pursuing high-power microwave weapons

aimed at countering unmanned aerial systems, alongside conventional missiles, guns and electronic-warfare systems.

From Trials to Production

The transition to production will require the demonstrated technology to be converted into a repeatable industrial system, followed by further testing and validation against operational requirements.

The proposed industry partnership is therefore an important step, but the 30-kW laser weapon should not yet be described as being in mass production. The current phase is focused on establishing the production pathway and developing the first production model.

If the planned milestones are achieved, the system could eventually provide the Indian armed forces with another layer of indigenous protection against drone swarms and other aerial threats.

Key Features

- 30-kW laser weapon:** DRDO is advancing an indigenous high-power Directed Energy Weapon for counter-drone operations.
- 5-km engagement range:** The system is designed to engage drone swarms, fixed-wing UAVs and surveillance sensors at ranges of up to 5 km.
- Drone-swarm defence:** It is intended to provide an additional response against multiple unmanned aerial threats.
- Truck-mounted system:** The weapon is designed as a mobile, ground-based platform.
- IADWS integration:** The laser DEW has been demonstrated as part of India's Integrated Air Defence Weapon System.
- Multiple targets:** IADWS trials demonstrated simultaneous engagement of two fixed-wing UAVs and a multi-copter drone.
- Indian industry participation:** DRDO plans to select an industry partner to take the system towards production.
- First production model:** A First-of-Production Model is targeted within about a year.
- Indigenous technology:** The programme is part of India's broader effort to develop domestic directed-energy and counter-drone capabilities.
- Important distinction:** The 30-kW system is moving towards mass production; it is not yet in mass production.

Chinmaya Vidyalaya Bokaro Joins Mass 'Vande Mataram' Rendition



Bokaro: Around 400 students of Classes IX and X of Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Bokaro, participated in a mass rendition of 'Vande Mataram' on Friday under Vidya Bharati's 'Namami Bharatam' campaign, as part of an attempt to set a Guinness World Record.

The programme marked 150 years of 'Vande Mataram' and sought to promote awareness of its historical and national significance. Teacher Pooja Singh introduced the event, while Binay Kumar Pandey of Saraswati Vidya Mandir explained Vidya Bharati's nationwide initiative for simultaneous group singing. Chinmaya Vidyalaya Secretary Mahesh Tripathi, Acting Principal Narmendra Kumar, Vice Principal Dr Roshan Sharma, coordinators Sanjeev Kumar and Shaibal Gupta, and members of the teaching staff attended the programme.

Soham Biswas of the Chinmaya Transformation Circle also spoke on the history and significance of 'Vande Mataram'.

Ganesh Immersion Procession Attacked in Kanpur, 3 Injured; One Held

by Sunil Bajpai

Kanpur: Panic gripped Fatehpur village in Gujaini during a Ganesh idol immersion procession after a group allegedly attacked the participants with bombs, firearms and weapons, reportedly over an old rivalry.

Three people, including a woman, were injured and taken to hospital, while police arrested one suspect and launched raids to catch the others.

According to police and the complainant's account, the procession was passing through the area when the tractor carrying the idol was allegedly stopped. A group of around two dozen people then surrounded the procession, fired several rounds and allegedly hurled bombs, triggering a stampede and damaging motorcycles.

The attackers allegedly also assaulted some participants with sticks, clubs and an axe. Police reached the spot after receiving information about the violence and questioned those present.

A case has been registered against several people, including five named suspects. ACP Naubasta Abhishek Kumar Rahul and Gujaini police are investigating the incident, while further raids are underway to arrest the remaining accused.

China 'Takes Possession' of F-35 Stealth Fighter Jet Parts?

Shipment En Route From Australia to US Diverted to Hong Kong

News Desk: The United States is investigating how two components from an Australian F-35A stealth fighter, being shipped to the US for inspection, repair or disposal, were diverted to Hong Kong and subsequently came into Chinese government possession, according to reports citing people briefed on the incident. The shipment, handled by UPS, reportedly included an F-35 cockpit canopy and weapons-bay door. It was sent from Australia in May and stopped in South Korea before being rerouted to Hong Kong. The reason for the unexpected change in route remains unclear, as does whether it resulted from a logistical error or deliberate action.

Pentagon Investigates

The F-35 Joint Program Office has confirmed a "shipment issue" involving unserviceable F-35 components. It said US authorities and industry partners were working to recover the parts, investigate the incident and strengthen safeguards against a repeat occurrence.



The components reportedly carried radar-absorbing material linked to the F-35's low-observable design. However, there is no public confirmation that they contained classified electronics or other highly sensitive systems. Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles has said his understanding is that the parts were not sensitive equipment.

Australia Assists Probe

Australia is assisting the investigation into how the components left the country

and reached Hong Kong. The inquiry is also examining the wider chain of custody and the logistics arrangements used to transport the F-35 parts. The episode has drawn scrutiny because the F-35 programme relies on a multinational network involving the US government, Lockheed Martin, partner countries and commercial logistics providers.

US lawmakers have also been briefed on the incident, with congressional scrutiny focus-

ing on how the shipment was diverted and whether existing safeguards were followed.

The key unanswered questions are who authorised the rerouting, why the shipment was sent to Hong Kong, how Chinese authorities obtained the components and whether any sensitive technical information was exposed. The US investigation is expected to determine whether the episode was a logistics failure, a security breach, or involved both factors.

DPS Bokaro Educators Conferred Bharat National Teacher Award 2026

Bokaro: DPS Bokaro Headmaster Gopal Narayan Vishwakarma and Senior Educator Rohit Ranjan have been conferred the Bharat National Teacher Award 2026 at the Bharat Education Conclave & National Awards 2026 held at IILM University, Greater Noida. Organised by the Centre for Educational Development Foundation (CED Foundation), the conclave brought together education leaders, principals and academicians from across the country to recognise excellence in



teaching, educational leadership and innovative practices.

The awardees were selected through a rigorous evaluation process from thousands

of applicants nationwide. Vishwakarma, who has more than 25 years of teaching experience, and French language educator Ranjan, with 12 years of experience,

were reportedly the only educators selected from Jharkhand for the award. The educators expressed gratitude for the recognition and dedicated the honour to DPS Bokaro and Principal Dr A. S. Gangwar, acknowledging the institution's support in encouraging teachers to pursue innovation and excellence in education. Congratulating the awardees, Dr Gangwar said their achievement was a reflection of the hard work, dedication and innovative spirit of the entire school fraternity.

'NO UPI DAY' on October 2: Mobile Retailers to Cover QR Codes in MDR Protest

Bokaro: UPI QR codes could be covered with black cloth at mobile shops across Jharkhand on October 2, as the All India Mobile Retailers Association (AIMRA) has called for a symbolic "NO UPI DAY" protest against the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on eligible UPI transactions.

The protest, planned for Gandhi Jayanti, will see participating mobile retailers temporarily stop accepting UPI payments and cover their QR codes with black cloth.

The association said the move is intended to highlight its demand for continuation of the Zero MDR regime for merchant UPI transactions. AIMRA Jharkhand said most transactions in the mobile retail sector are above ₹2,000. Retailers, it said, generally operate on thin margins and the additional MDR could



increase their operating costs. According to the association, around 1.5 lakh mobile retailers operate across the country. AIMRA estimates that the MDR could create an additional annual financial burden of nearly ₹500 crore for merchants.

AIMRA Jharkhand State General Secretary Amrit Das said the protest was not against UPI or digital payments. "Mobile retailers have played a key role in promoting UPI and digital payments.

Our concern is the additional MDR burden on merchants," he said.

Das said the association wants the government to continue the Zero MDR system for UPI merchant transactions and take into account the financial impact on retailers before implementing or continuing the charge.

The association said mobile retailers have been among the key points of contact for customers adopting digital payment methods, particularly in the retail and mobile-

services segment. It therefore wants the cost of maintaining digital payment acceptance to be examined from the perspective of small retailers and their margins.

AIMRA Jharkhand has urged the Central Government, Ministry of Finance and concerned authorities to review the MDR issue and consider the concerns of small and medium-sized merchants. State AIMRA President Kirit Vora said the October 2 programme would be a peaceful and symbolic demonstration. The association has described the campaign with the slogan: "Black Cloth on QR — Peaceful Protest Against MDR."

October 2 has thus been designated by AIMRA Jharkhand as "NO UPI DAY", with participating retailers expected to use the black-cloth QR protest to press their demand for Zero MDR.

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Rajnath Singh cautions against ‘perimeter fallacy’, highlights India’s shift to deterrence by punishment

New Delhi(Agency)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday cautioned against viewing national security solely from the view of safeguarding geographical boundaries, stating that it would amount to a ‘perimeter fallacy’, adding that modern-day challenges encompass the use of drones and unmanned aerial vehicles, cyber-attacks, lone wolf attacks, and



disinformation campaigns, in addition to the utilisation of arms and artillery by adversaries. He added that national security is linked to economic and energy security, and hostile actors may attempt to harm the economy or disrupt energy supply chains. “We’ve adopted a holistic approach to tackle these highly fluid threats,” he said. Addressing a gathering at a defence summit organised by News18, he also said events such as surgical strikes, the Balakot air strike, and Operation Sindoor demonstrate that India has the capability and resolve to safeguard its national interests.

PM fears youth: Congress after report flags pause in Gen Z voter enrolment

New Delhi . (Agency)

A fresh controversy has erupted after a report flagged simmering discontent within the Election Commission (EC) over the annual revision of electoral rolls to include 18-year-olds (Gen Z), which has been held up since 2024, with the Congress alleging the Prime Minister was scared of the youth. According to a report in the Economic Times, no special summary revision (SSR) of electoral rolls, an exercise through which newly eligible voters, including those turning 18, are enrolled, has been carried out after the 2024 cycle. This year too, no announcement has been made for SSR for the 2026-27 cycle. The exercise is generally declared



around the end of May. The report claimed it is due to a lack of consensus between the two election commissioners - Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi - and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. The fresh revelation comes on the back of an Indian Express investigation that found the two Election Commissioners objected 14 times to various decisions taken by the poll panel in the past 10 months.

Resign in 24 hours or face protest from Oct 2: CJP's ultimatum to Gyanesh Kumar

New Delhi(Agency)

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) has set October 2 as the date for the launch of its nationwide protest if Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar does not resign within 24 hours, founder Abhijeet Dipke said on Friday. “If Gyanesh Kumar does not resign by tomorrow, CJP will begin its nationwide protest from Mumbai on 2 October, and take it to cities across India,” Dipke said in a post on X. He added, “This Gandhi Jayanti let’s pledge to save democracy.” The announcement came a day after the youth-led outfit demanded Kumar’s resignation for allegedly “undermining” voter rights and warned of a nationwide agitation, including a proposed “Jantar Mantar 2.0”, if he did not step down within 48 hours. The CJP has launched what it calls the “Election Commission Thik Karo” campaign, focusing on the exclusion of more than 13 crore names from draft electoral rolls across 30 states and Union territories during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.



EC COMMISSIONERS HAD RAISED QUESTIONS OVER SIR: REPORT

The remarks came a day after questions had repeatedly been raised within the three-member Election Commission by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi over issues related to the SIR of electoral rolls. The party cited voter exclusions reported across several states during the SIR. These included more than 2 crore names in Maharashtra, more than 2 crore in Uttar Pradesh, around 1 crore in Karnataka, 97 lakh in Tamil Nadu, 90 lakh in West Bengal, 73 lakh in Telangana, 47 lakh in Delhi and 24 lakh in Kerala. “Democracy means that people choose their government. This is not democracy, this is autocracy. Under Gyanesh Kumar, we are seeing an electoral system in which the Election Commission is deciding who remains on the voter rolls and who does not. When millions of names can disappear from draft rolls, the burden is on the Commission to establish that every exclusion is lawful, transparent and subject to meaningful review,” Dipke said.

At a press conference, Dipke, flanked by CJP co-convenor Saurav Das and spokesperson Ashutosh Ranka, alleged that the electoral process had been “rigged” and that citizens’ right to vote was being taken away. “If Gyanesh Kumar does not resign within 48 hours, we will start a nationwide protest, before coming for a protest in Delhi,” Dipke had said. He added that if the CEC did not resign, “Jantar Mantar 2.0 will definitely happen”.The CJP said it would launch a nationwide agitation followed by an indefinite sit-in in Delhi if Kumar did not resign.

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) said it will begin a nationwide protest from October 2 if Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar does not resign within 24 hours

Palaniswami targets TVK, says Madurantakam bypoll ‘thrust upon’ voters due to horse-trading

Madurantakam (Agency).

Madurantakam (Tamil Nadu) [India], September 25 (ANI): AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami criticised the ruling party’s political developments surrounding the Madurantakam by-election, alleging that the bypoll was necessitated due to “horse-trading”. He also accused those who switched to Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) of forgetting the voters and said they should be taught a lesson. “The by-election has been thrust upon Madurantakam because of horse-trading. Those who forgot the people who voted for them and joined TVK should be taught a lesson,” Palaniswami said during a campaign for the by-election. Targeting TVK leader and Tamil Nadu’s Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, Palaniswami questioned his involvement in public affairs, alleging that the actor-turned-politician does not remain



engaged with people’s issues throughout the week. “Vijay goes home on Friday and does not care about the people or their problems till Monday morning,” he said, adding that Tamil Nadu would not benefit from what he described as “part-time politics” where one rests on weekends. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Vijay will campaign in Madurantakam today, on Friday, ahead of the October 6 Assembly bypoll. According to a statement issued by TVK general secretary for headquarters and Rural Development and Water Resources Minister N Anand, Vijay’s campaign will be held near the Athur toll plaza in Chengalpattu at around 3 pm. The party said entry to the campaign has been restricted to 5,000 people, with QR-code passes issued in accordance with police guidelines. Only those who have obtained prior permission will be allowed to attend the event.

Eknath Shinde, Uddhav Thackeray acquitted in 17-year-old defamation case

New Delhi(Agency).

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and former MP Anand Paranjpe have been acquitted by a court in Kalyan in a 2009 defamation and election law violation case. The three leaders were part of the undivided Shiv Sena at the time. The case was filed by late Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Vasant Shankar Davkhare over a campaign

After a 17-year-long trial, the court found that the prosecution failed to establish what was displayed at the Shiv Sena leaders’ rally and subsequently acquitted them in the NCP leader’s case.



rally held during the 2009 Lok Sabha elections. Joint Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate First Class Santosh H Aage pronounced the judgment on September 23, acquitting Shinde and Thackeray of charges related to making false statements in connection with an election, defamation and printing defamatory matter under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. A fifth accused, Sai Balaram Dharamdasani, died during the trial, following which proceedings against him were abated. Paranjpe had contested the 2009 Lok Sabha election against Davkhare. According to the complaint, audio and video recordings referring to Davkhare were played on a public screen during a political rally in Kalyan in April 2009. The prosecution alleged that the accused had colluded to broadcast a doctored VCD at the rally and that the material had been manipulated to tarnish Davkhare’s image and influence the election outcome. Paranjpe went on to win the election.

“Charaiveti-Charaiveti-Charaiveti”: PM Modi recalls Deendayal Upadhyay's message of continuous service during Seva Yatra

New Delhi . (Agency)

New Delhi [India], September 25 (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday recalled Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay’s message of continuous service on his birth anniversary, invoking the “Charaiveti-Charaiveti-Charaiveti” mantra during a virtual interaction with participants of the Vадnagar-Varanasi Seva Yatra. PM Modi said the journey of the ‘Seva Yatris’ reflected the spirit of continuous service and drew inspiration from the life and philosophy of Deendayal Upadhyay. “Today is also the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji. Pandit Deendayal ji always gave us the message of the mantra ‘Charaiveti-Charaiveti-Charaiveti’ through his



life. He himself was a tireless traveller. To keep moving continuously as a service traveller is our goal, and in this, we draw great inspiration from Pandit Deendayal ji,” PM Modi said. He said Deendayal Upadhyay offered a vision of India rooted in the country’s own traditions rather than through foreign perspectives. “Pandit Deendayal Ji has been one of those great figures in Indian politics who, instead of viewing India through foreign lenses, gave it a vision rooted in our own soil. He reshaped the ethos of service anew. In his philosophy of Integral Humanism, the form of service is one that always inspires every BJP worker and every BJP government,” he said. PM Modi also invoked Mahatma Gandhi’s legacy as a social reformer and called for continued efforts towards positive change.

Akhilesh Yadav Begins Samajwadi Party’s UP Poll Campaign From Rahul Gandhi’s Seat, BJP Reacts

Akhilesh Yadav addressed a public meeting in Raebareli, a Congress bastion with Rahul Gandhi as its sitting MP,after reaching the city on party's 'PDA Rath'.

Raebareli(Agency).

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday accused the Election Commission of facilitating the “vote theft” of the PDA (backwards, dalits and minorities) bloc in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, and said his party will contest the 2027 polls in alliance. Addressing a public meeting in Raebareli, a Congress bastion with Rahul Gandhi as its sitting MP, after reaching the city on party’s ‘PDA Rath’, Yadav alleged that the EC had lost the confidence of people and claimed that had the alleged “vote theft” not taken place in 2022, the Samajwadi Party would have formed the government in Uttar Pradesh. The acronym PDA was coined by Akhilesh in June 2023, and it stands for ‘Pichhde’

(backward classes), Dalits and ‘Alpsankhyak’ (minorities). “The Election Commission has been exposed and has worked like a puppet. Such a low level of work may never have happened in a



democracy. Now, there is no trust in the Election Commission,” Yadav said. He alleged that the BJP was using the election machinery because it knew that people would not vote for it on issues such as inflation. Yadav said those

pursuing the “bulldozer politics” would not be able to escape the PDA movement, asserting that this time (in 2027) the electoral verdict would not merely defeat them but would “demolish” and permanently eliminate such negative politics. On a tie-up for polls, Yadav said, “We will have an alliance” and added that the basis for deciding seats will be winnability. “Whoever can win a seat should get that seat,” Yadav asserted. Referring to the 2024 Lok Sabha election, he said, “We defeated them in 2024 and in 2027 we will work for their (BJP) permanent defeat.” Yadav also invoked the party’s PDA Rath, saying the chariot symbolised the battlefield of Kurukshetra and referred to the Mahabharata and Lord Krishna’s teachings in the Bhagavad Gita.

Assam Approves Rules For Compulsory Registration Of Muslim Marriages

"From now on, Muslim marriages will be registered by registrars," Himanta Sarma said.

Guwahati (Agency).

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma-led Assam Cabinet has approved new rules for the registration of Muslim marriages in the state. “The ‘Assam Muslim Marriage Registration (Compulsory) Rules, 2026’ to establish a uniform procedural framework for mandatory registration across the state has been approved,” Sarma told a press conference after chairing the cabinet meeting. “From now on, Muslim marriages will be registered by registrars,” he added. He said if the number of applications increases, the government will gradually appoint some additional officers as registrars so that people do not face any difficulty in registering their marriages. He said an earlier government decision had barred ‘kazis’ from registering Muslim marriages,



but the alternative forum for registration was not mentioned. Sarma said the move is aimed at ensuring that Muslim marriages are properly registered through the government’s registration system. The new law - The Assam Muslim Marriage Registration (Compulsory) Rules, 2026 – makes the registration framework under the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Act, 2024, compulsory and replaces a former legislation enacted in 1935 - Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act had provided for voluntary registration. Although a 2010 amendment made registration compulsory. The 2024 legislation weeds away provision of any Muslim marriage involving minors. According to the new law, the woman must be at least 18 years old and the man 21 years old at the time of marriage.

Why public debt is threatening private pockets

The interest rates on 10-year bonds in the US, Japan, the UK, Europe and Australia have risen 0.6-0.9 percent since the start of 2026. The rises are modest and, in absolute terms, the rates are still lower than those touched pre-2007. Yet this represents a significant shift from the ultra-low rates of recent decades and exacerbates the problems of global public debt, which is at 94 percent of world GDP—more than 10 percent higher than before the pandemic—and is expected to reach 100 percent by 2030. There are several reasons behind the rise in rates. First, inflation remains around 3-4 percent, mostly above central bank targets. It is being fed by the higher energy prices driven by the intractable West Asia conflict. Higher costs of fertilisers, industrial chemicals, plastics and materials may take till 2027 to flow through into final prices. Conflict and climate-driven disruption to food supplies and transportation costs, due to lower water levels in key transit routes, are additional factors. Continuing economic wars will also keep prices high. Since 2016, the US has implemented tariffs, export or import bans, sanctions and asset seizures that interrupt crossborder investment and trade of goods and services. The higher costs of tariffs and countermeasures are borne by consumers, about 96 percent in the case of the US. Emphasis on sovereignty, independence, industrial capability and employment encourages de-globalisation. The relocation of production onshore increases costs due to the loss of economies of scale and comparative advantages, increasing price pressures. The AI boom has increased the cost of processors and memory, in some cases six-fold—christened ‘RAMageddon’ or ‘RAMpocalypse’—pushing up electronic product prices further, feeding inflation. Second, continued high issuance of government debt affects rates. The average fiscal deficit across the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries is 4.6 percent of GDP, reflecting increased defence spending, demographic pressures, tax cuts and addition to expansionary fiscal settings. The US has persistent budget deficits (6 percent of GDP currently), which may be worsened by measures such as the ‘Trump dividend’ entitling all American adults to \$5,000 (costing \$1 trillion) if the Republican party retains control of the congress and senate. Europe also faces a new debt crisis centred around BIF (Britain, Italy, France) rather than the 2011 PIIGS (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Spain), all heavily indebted countries with stagnant economies, structural problems and growing political instability. Third, capital flows are shifting. Japan largely finances domestically with 90 percent of its government bonds held by local investors. Others like the US and the UK are reliant on foreign capital, with overseas investors holding roughly 24 and 30 percent of government debt, respectively. But the amount of capital available may be diminishing. Gulf petro-States, affected by the Iran war, have reduced investible funds and may need to liquidate some of their holdings. Japan’s share of the US Treasury market is 4 percent, down from 18 percent in 2004, due to slowing reserve accumulation. Chinese, Brazilian, Indian, Australian, Norwegian and Japanese investors have reduced holdings of government debt, especially their US Treasury bond exposure, reflecting lower surpluses or growing concerns about the security of their investments. America is now increasingly dependent on volatile demand from extremely price and volatility sensitive leveraged speculators, in the form of basis trades, to purchase government issues. Finally, confidence in policymakers’ willingness to act appropriately is low. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, a former hedge fund manager, dared markets: “I have asymmetric information.

When hospitals breach trust

India needs a targeted regulatory strategy rather than sweeping price controls

WHEN a patient enters a hospital, the standard rules of commerce break down completely. Lying on a stretcher, an anxious patient has neither the time to price-shop nor the bargaining power to negotiate. They accept an extraordinary degree of uncertainty, trusting that the care recommended is necessary and that the prices charged are fair. It is a profound breach of that trust when hospitals exploit this vulnerability for extortionate margins.

A recent survey by the Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration exposed the scale of this problem. Researchers found that an intravenous (IV) infusion set procured by a hospital for Rs 11.05 was billed to a patient at Rs 325—a 2,841% mark-up. A catheter bought for Rs 29.41 carried a Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of Rs 310, representing a 954% mark-up. Across a wide range of basic medical consumables, mark-ups routinely reached as high as 2,841%. FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe wrote to the Department of Pharmaceuticals and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, seeking a central review and clearer rules on how large the gap between procurement price and declared MRP is allowed to be. Hospitals are legitimate commercial entities. They must recover costs for procurement, sterile storage, inventory holding and wastage, and they are entitled to earn a reasonable profit. But there is a clear line between a sustainable commercial margin and predatory pricing aimed at a captive consumer. In any other industry, this would trigger immediate anti-trust penalties. In healthcare, where the consumer is sick, frightened and unable to walk away, it is indefensible. Where overcharging is systemic, regulatory advisories are not enough. Hospitals engaging in wilful overcharging should face mandatory patient refunds, steep financial penalties and, for repeat offenders, temporary suspension or permanent blacklisting from government insurance panels and private payer networks. However, we must avoid mistaking abusive mark-ups on standard supplies for an excuse to impose sweeping price controls across all clinical care. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare recently recommended establishing a statutory body to enforce a “rigid cap” on essential procedures, fix package rates across all standard medical operations and even peg metropolitan hospital room charges to the tariffs of nearby three-star hotels. While the Committee rightly diagnoses patient distress, its prescription risks severely damaging the health system. An IV set is a standardised factory commodity; clinical care is not. Two patients with the same diagnosis

can require vastly different levels of intervention based on age, cardiac history or surgical complexity. A complex, multi-hour cancer surgery at a specialised tertiary care hospital cannot be price-capped using the same logic as a plastic catheter.

When governments set rigid, administered prices, two things happen: if capped too high, patients save nothing; if capped too low, quality disappears. Providers begin cutting corners, turning away high-risk or complex cases, adding hidden charges or halting investment in modern technology. Having spent years designing the purchasing architecture for Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY), I have seen this dynamic firsthand. Setting a price cap on paper is simple. Ensuring that a patient actually receives high-



quality, safe and appropriate care at that price is far more complex. Rather than blanket price controls, India needs a targeted five-point regulatory strategy.

First, make hospital pricing genuinely transparent. Every hospital should publish a schedule of charges in a comparable digital format. For planned admissions, patients should receive an estimate covering professional fees, diagnostics, procedures, medicines, devices, consumables and room charges. If the final bill materially exceeds the estimate, the hospital should be required to explain why, except where unforeseen clinical circumstances arise. Transparency should extend particularly to high-value medicines, implants and consumables. Disclosure of procurement price, MRP and the price charged to the patient would itself exert considerable pressure on unreasonable margins.

Second, act firmly where margins become indefensible. For standardised medicines, devices and consumables,

Put plastic challenge at the top of India's sustainability battle

The enormity of the challenge before India is that plastic has entered every aspect of life and its cost is huge

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s assertion that India’s development is ‘speedy as well as sustainable’ is aligned with the country’s outlook based on its nationally determined contributions (NDC) for 2031-35. It explains why he pointed out the inequality meted out to developing countries at the climate negotiations table. The PM flagged the historical narrative that developed countries get away with six times higher emissions, but developing nations take the blame for their carbon footprints. Listing out achievements in renewable energy, electric mobility, water conservation and natural farming, Modi said the country, having achieved its Paris Agreement commitments made in 2015, enjoys a unique position within the G20 on non-fossil fuels and solar capacity benchmarks.

When the government approved the NDC for submission to the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change in March, it carefully designed its targets amid the West Asia crisis. India has achieved its goals on emission intensity



and energy transition. But if it truly wants to demonstrate that rapid growth can coexist with environmental responsibility, it must take plastic pollution seriously. Government data put India’s plastic waste generation at 1.76 million tonne in 2024-25, down from 4.1 million tonne in 2022-23. However, the estimate is conservative given it mostly counted urban areas. A Central Pollution Control Board assessment in 2018 had measured plastic

waste generation at 25,940 tonne a day, almost 9.5 million tonne annually. That’s the kind of level a study published in Nature echoed in 2024 when it placed India as the top plastic polluter far ahead of China, holding it accountable for nearly a fifth of global plastic emissions.

The enormity of the challenge before India is that plastic has entered every aspect of life and its cost is huge. Some progress has been reported. Under the extended producer responsibility, the government claims 19.6 million tonnes of plastic waste was recycled through registered processors by March 2026. But it is a cumulative figure and recycling alone cannot solve the Himalayan problem at hand. The Prime Minister is right that development and sustainability can go hand in hand. But plastic will be a real test of that proposition. A sustainable India cannot merely recycle. It must produce far less, design packaging for reuse and recovery, improve waste collection and make producers accountable for the entire lifecycle of what they sell.

At arm's length from regulators

The logic of reducing ministerial influence over tribunals should extend to economic regulators. Regulatory independence should be a matter of institutional design, not Executive preference. A commission on the lines of the recently-cleared National Tribunal Commission can help on that count

The Tribunals Reforms Act, which came into force on August 25, recalibrates the institutional relationship between the Executive and tribunals. It retains the Centre’s role in appointments and overall tribunal governance, while entrusting a National Tribunals Commission with the selection of chairpersons and members along with performance oversight. The TRA provides for a five-year term for chairpersons and members, with eligibility for reappointment. It, however, enables the government to prescribe their qualifications, manner of selection, appointment, salaries and allowances, resignation, removal, and other conditions of service. Thus, the TRA makes an important institutional distinction: the government prescribes the framework; the NTC undertakes selection and performance oversight. This replaces the earlier approach of separate frameworks administered by respective ministries.

It creates a clearer separation between the government’s role in institutional governance and sectoral interests of the ministries. It reflects a sound principle of public institutional design: where an institution must exercise independent judgement, an Executive department should not control its institutional governance. That principle has equal, if not greater, relevance to economic regulators.

The government provides services, owns assets, grants licences and authorisations, and participates in markets. Regulators make regulations; supervise markets; investigate, conduct and, in several cases, adjudicate violations; and impose sanctions. Their decisions can affect the government’s economic interests. Regulators such as SEBI, TRAI, IRDAI, and the electricity regulators are, therefore, expected to operate with a degree of

independence. Ministerial influence can operate through several channels. The administrative ministry may substantially influence appointments, removal, tenure and service conditions. In some cases, regulations made by a regulator require prior government approval. In others, the regulator’s human resources and service conditions are governed by rules made by the government. Most regulatory statutes bind regulators to directions issued by the government on policy and empower it to supersede regulatory boards. Each arrangement may have a historical justification. Taken together, however, they produce a fragmented oversight architecture. The case for insulation is, if anything, stronger for regulators than for tribunals. A tribunal deals with a dispute occasionally; a regulator interacts with the government and the regulated sector every day. Its relationship with the concerned ministry is continuous, not episodic. The possibility that an unpleasant interaction could affect a chairperson’s appointment, tenure or service conditions is an avoidable institutional vulnerability. The answer is not to make regulators unaccountable, nor to sever the legitimate relationship with the government. The government must continue to determine policy through legislation, provide democratic accountability and, where appropriate, oversee the broad regulatory architecture. What should change is who controls the institutional machinery through which independent regulation is delivered. A National Regulatory Commission (NRC), modelled on the NTC, could undertake the selection of chairpersons and members of regulators through a transparent and consistent process and periodically review their

performance. The government would continue to prescribe the common framework governing qualifications, manner of selection, appointment, salaries and allowances, resignation, removal, and other



conditions of service. The key change would be that these matters would not be left to the varying preferences and practices of sectoral ministries. This would not merely protect regulators from government influence; it would also protect the government from allegations of favouritism, avoidable litigation and the recurring cycle of Executive-dominated arrangements being challenged and reconstructed. The NRC could develop common standards and best practices for regulatory institutions, including standards relating to rule-making, enforcement, staffing and institutional support. It could also periodically assess regulatory performance against transparent parameters such as timeliness, quality and consistency of decisions, effectiveness of enforcement,

regulatory burden, stakeholder service, and achievement of statutory objectives. Such assessments could be placed in the public domain and reported to Parliament. Independence would, thereby, be accompanied by measurable accountability.

The NRC could be administratively located within a ministry that has no direct stake in the sectors being regulated. Alternatively, the government could create a new department of regulatory affairs, within which both the NTC and NRC could be located. Its mandate should be strictly institutional: prescribing the common framework, supporting selection and appointment, tenure, removal, service conditions, institutional administration and performance assessment, without any role in substantive regulatory decisions. The objective would be a common institutional architecture without compromising the substantive autonomy of individual regulators. Indeed, one may ask whether this reform should not have preceded tribunal reform. Regulators emerged earlier than regulatory tribunals, and their work is much more closely connected with the respective administrative ministries. If an arm’s-length institutional arrangement is considered important for tribunals, it is difficult to justify a weaker arrangement for the regulator, with the degree of independence varying from ministry to ministry. There is, however, an important caveat. Simply transferring powers from a sectoral ministry to another ministry does not by itself guarantee independence. The institutional design must ensure that Executive control does not merely move one level upwards. Appointment and removal mechanisms, in particular, must contain adequate safeguards against Executive capture.

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ये दोस्ती है कमाल की!

बाघ के बच्चे के साथ अंजना

अमेरिका के एक अभयारण्य में रहने वाली चिम्पैंजी है अंजना। वह इतनी दयालु है कि उसने बहुत से जानवरों के बहुत से अनाथ बच्चों को अपनाया है। अब वह मां की तरह एक बाघ के बच्चे की देखरेख कर रही है और उसकी अठखेलियों में खुश भी हो रही है। वैसे चिम्पैंजी काफी बुद्धिमान और समझदार होते हैं और वे अपने साथ रहने वालों का भी खयाल रखते हैं।



थेंबा का साथी एल्बर्ट



मां के मर जाने से नन्हा थेंबा (हाथी) बहुत दुखी हुआ और कई दिनों तक इसका शोक मनाता रहा। दक्षिण अफ्रीका के एक अभयारण्य में लाए जाने के बाद भी उसने खाना-पीना छोड़ रखा था। इसी दौरान उसे एल्बर्ट नाम की भेड़ के रूप में एक अच्छा दोस्त मिला। जल्द ही दोनों में गहरी दोस्ती हो गई। खेलने के साथ दोनों झपकियां भी साथ ही लेते। नए दोस्त ने इतनी खुशियां दीं कि थेंबा अपने दुख भूल गया और फिर से खाना-पीना शुरू कर दिया।

बालू-लियो और शेर खान की तिकड़ी



शेर खान दरअसल शेर नहीं, बल्कि एक बाघ है और उसके साथ बालू नाम का भालू और लियो नाम का शेर

है। इन तीनों के साथ इनके मालिक ने बुरा सलूक किया था, जिस कारण बालू को चोट भी लग गई। इस मुश्किल की घड़ी में ये एक-दूसरे का सहारा बन गये और अब अमेरिका के एक अभयारण्य में ये अपना सारा वक्त साथ ही गुजारते हैं।

दुश्मन के भी दोस्त बनो

अमित लगातार कोशिश करता था कि किसी भी तरह करण को नीचा दिखा सके और दूसरे बच्चों के सामने उसकी खिल्ली उड़ा सके। लेकिन उसकी लाख कोशिशों के बावजूद करण अपनी पढ़ाई में और बेहतर होता जा रहा था। चाहे बात पढ़ाई की हो या खेल की, करण हर किसी में बाजी मारता और हर जगह उसकी खूब तारीफ होती। फिर आखिर ऐसा क्या हुआ जो अमित को नीचा देखना पड़ा और वह बदल गया।

बहुत पहले की बात है। एक गांव था राजनगर। वहां पर करण नाम का एक लड़का रहता था। वह लड़का स्वभाव का बहुत अच्छा था। पढ़ाई में भी होशियार था। वह बहुत आझाकारी और अपने मां-बाप का कहना मानता था। स्कूल में वह ज्यादातर बच्चों की तुलना में होशियार था। स्वभाव से वह विनम्र था और सभी के साथ अच्छा व्यवहार करता था। उसके स्कूल में चाहे उससे बड़े लड़के हों या फिर छोटे, सभी उसे पसंद करते थे। लेकिन इस कारण बहुत से लड़के करण से जलते भी थे। करण की ही क्लास में एक लड़का पढ़ता था, जिसका नाम था अमित। अमित पढ़ाई में तेज नहीं था। उसका स्कूल में खेलने में बहुत मन लगता था। वह अपने माता-पिता की बात नहीं सुनता था और उनसे रूखे तरीके से बात करता था। अपनी क्लास के लड़कों को वह चिढ़ाया करता था। यहां तक कि करण को भी वह खूब परेशान करता था। वह लगातार कोशिश करता था कि किसी भी तरह करण को नीचा दिखा सके और दूसरे बच्चों के सामने उसकी खिल्ली उड़ा सके। लेकिन उसकी लाख कोशिशों के बावजूद करण अपनी पढ़ाई में और बेहतर होता जा

रहा था। चाहे बात पढ़ाई की हो या खेल की, करण हर किसी में बाजी मारता और हर जगह उसकी खूब तारीफ होती। अपने आठवें जन्मदिन पर करण को अपने पिता की तरफ से गिफ्ट के तौर पर एक सुंदर सा पेन मिला। करण स्कूल में नोट्स लिखने के लिए वह पेन ले जाने लगा। वह पेन दिखने में तो सुंदर था ही, लिखता भी तेज था। जब अमित ने करण का पेन देखा तो उसे बहुत जलन हुई। अमित ने नजरें तिरछी करके करण से पूछा, 'यह पेन तुम्हें कहां से मिला? क्या तुमने इसे खरीदा है?' 'नहीं, मुझे यह पेन मेरे मम्मी-पापा ने बर्थ डे गिफ्ट में दिया है।' करण ने जवाब दिया। इस बात से अमित का गुस्सा और भी ज्यादा भड़क गया। अपने माता-पिता से वह खुद इतना बुरा सलूक करता था कि अब तक उसे उनसे शायद ही कोई गिफ्ट मिला हो। जब लंच का वक़्त हुआ, तो उसने करण का पेन चुराने का फैसला कर लिया। जब हर कोई लंच के लिए बाहर निकल गया, तो अमित ने चुपके से करण के बैग से पेन चुरा लिया। इसके बाद उसने पेन अपने बैग में छिपा लिया और लंच करने बाहर चला गया। जब करण वापस लौटा तो उसे बैग में अपना पेन नहीं मिला। उसने अपने टीचर को इस बारे में बताया। इसके बाद पूरी क्लास में पेन खोजा गया, लेकिन वह नहीं मिला। तब टीचर ने क्लास के मॉनीटर से कहा कि वह सबके बैग की तलाशी ले। जल्द ही अमित के बैग से पेन मिल गया। उसे गुस्से से देखते हुए टीचर ने पूछा, 'अमित, पेन तुम्हारे बैग से निकला है, इस बारे में तुम्हें कुछ कहना है?' अमित की आंखों में आंसू आ गए। वह कुछ नहीं बोला। जब करण ने अमित को रोते हुए देखा, तो उसे अमित पर दया आ गई। उसके दिल में अमित के लिए कोई गिला-शिकवा नहीं था। उसने टीचर से कहा कि उसका खोया हुआ पेन वापस मिल गया है, अब वे अमित को सजा न दें। करण के इन शब्दों ने अमित की आंखें खोल दीं। वह हमेशा करण को परेशान करता था, लेकिन करण ने हमेशा उससे अच्छा व्यवहार किया। इस समय उसे एहसास हो रहा था कि करण कितना अच्छा लड़का है। उसने तुरंत करण और क्लास टीचर से माफ़ी मांगी। इसके बाद करण और अमित दोस्त बन गए। फिर तो अमित का व्यवहार बदल गया और सभी उसे पसंद करने लगे। करण को अपने नए दोस्त पर नाज था।



हंसने वाला कोका

साथियों, क्या तुमने ऑस्ट्रेलिया के हंसने वाले कोका के बारे में सुना है? आजकल ऑस्ट्रेलिया में यह खूब चर्चित हो रहा है। हंसने वाले कोका का दरअसल राज यह है कि इसका मुंह इस तरह का बना होता है, मानो खुशी से हंस रहा हो। छोटे चूहे जैसा यह जानवर आजकल ऑस्ट्रेलिया में पर्यटकों के बीच खूब लोकप्रिय हो रहा है। ऐसा इसलिए, क्योंकि यह बेहद सेल्फी फ्रेंडली जानवर है। इसके साथ सेल्फी आती भी बड़ी मस्त है। इसकी स्माइलिंग वाले जबड़े की बनावट के कारण कुछ समय पहले इसे दुनिया के सबसे खुश जानवर की उपाधि भी मिल चुकी है। कोका वैसे तो एक साथ रहना पसंद करते हैं। आमतौर पर ये पश्चिमी ऑस्ट्रेलिया के दलदली इलाकों और जंगलों में रहते हैं। ऑस्ट्रेलिया के रॉटनेस्ट आइलैंड पर ये खूब पाए जाते हैं।



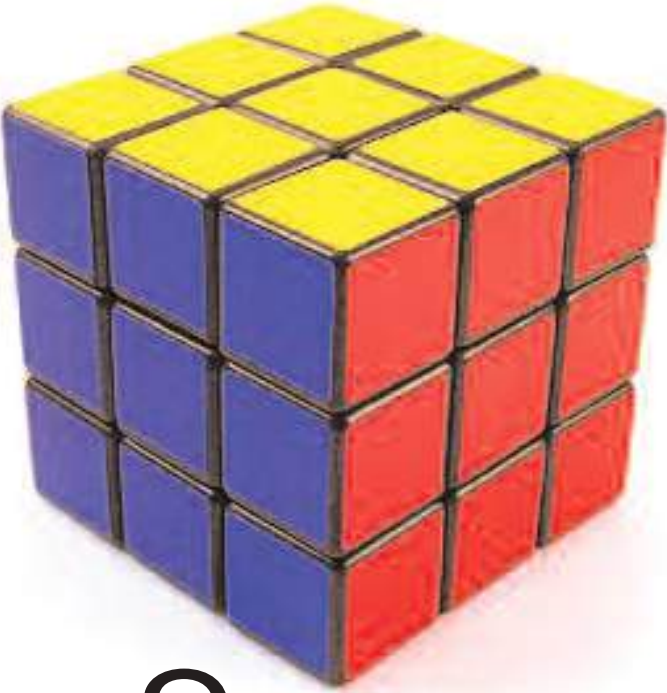
तुमने वह कहानी तो सुनी ही होगी, जिसमें एक राजा ने मक्खियों को उड़ाने की नौकरी एक बंदर को दी थी। एक दिन राजा की नाक पर बैठी मक्खी को उस बंदर ने डंडे से ऐसा भगाया कि राजा की नाक ही टूट गई। उसके बाद राजा ने ऐसे दोस्तों से तौबा कर ली थी। कुछ ऐसा ही माजरा हुआ है दक्षिण जापान के एक दूर के द्वीप पर। वहां पर अधिकतर मछुआरे रहते हैं। बेचारों ने काफी समय पहले एक ऐसे दोस्त से दोस्ती कर ली, जो अब उनकी जान की मुसीबत बन गया है। दक्षिणी जापान के



एक है कैट आइलैंड

आओशिमा नामक द्वीप पर मछुआरों की दोस्त बनकर आई बिल्लियां अब संख्या में इतनी ज्यादा हो गई हैं कि जिधर नजर घुमाओ, बिल्लियां ही बिल्लियां नजर

आती हैं। ये इतनी ज्यादा हो गई हैं कि यहां हर एक आदमी पर छह बिल्लियों का अनुपात बन गया है। बेचारे इस द्वीप के रहने वाले। हर वक़्त उन्हें भगाते ही रहते हैं। कुछ उन्हें खाना भी खिलाते हैं। कुछ वर्षों पहले जब यहां चूहे बहुत ज्यादा हो गए थे और वे आए दिन मछुआरों की नाव काटने लगे, तो बिल्लियों को इस द्वीप पर लाया गया। अब चूहे तो नहीं रहे, लेकिन वारों तरफ बिल्लियां ही बिल्लियां हैं। इस द्वीप पर कुछ बुजुर्ग और युवा ही रहते हैं। बाकी सभी बड़े शहर चले गए हैं। अब यहां इतनी बिल्लियां हैं कि कोई रेस्तरां या खोमचा नहीं खोला जा सकता। यहां केवल इस 'कैट आइलैंड' को देखने आने वालों को लाने-ले जाने वाली मोटरबोट ही ज्यादा दिखती है। हालांकि कुछ लोगों को इस द्वीप पर बिल्लियों को देखने में खूब मजा आता है।



रुबिक क्यूब्स का तोड़ा रिकॉर्ड

अगर इंटरनेट होने की बात आती है, तो रुबिक क्यूब्स में महारत की बात भी जरूर उठती है। आपको पता है कि रुबिक क्यूब्स क्या होते हैं?

दोस्तों, तुम सभी ने आकार में चौकोर कई रंग-बिरंगे खानों वाला यह क्यूब कभी न कभी खेला जरूर होगा। उसे हल करना आमतौर पर लोगों के लिए बहुत कठिन होता है। इसीलिए उसे जो सही-सही खेल ले, वह बड़ा बुद्धिमान माना जाता है। इस क्यूब को पसंद करने वालों में बहुत से ऐसे भी हैं, जो इसे सबसे जल्दी हल करने की प्रतियोगिता भी करते हैं। उन्हें 'स्पीड क्यूबर्स' के नाम से जाना जाता है। बहुत से लोग इसके लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं, जैसे कि भारत के भार्गव नरसिम्हन। वह एक जाने-माने स्पीड क्यूबर हैं। उनके नाम रुबिक क्यूब के दो नेशनल रिकॉर्ड हैं और अब खबर है कि उन्होंने 5 रुबीस क्यूब का वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड भी अपने नाम कर लिया है। यह उन्होंने एक मिनट के अंदर हल कर दिया। यह काम उन्होंने केवल एक हाथ से ही कर दिखाया। वैसे भार्गव केवल 22 साल के हैं और अभी पढ़ाई कर रहे हैं। इनसे प्रेरणा लेकर तुम भी रुबिक क्यूब्स को जल्द से जल्द हल करने का मुकामबला रख सकते हो। तुम्हें बहुत मजा आएगा।

NEWS BOX

At 40 and in her seventh Asian Games, Joshna Chinnappa takes it one day at a time



New Delhi. (Agency)

Her record-shattering seven appearances at the Asian Games have yielded six medals but Indian squash star Joshna Chinappa has no plans of slowing down even though she admits to being a bit surprised at her own longevity.Barely 10 days after turning 40, Joshna combined with Velavan Senthilkumar to be assured of a mixed doubles medal in the ongoing edition of the Asiad by progressing to the semifinals.

Joshna, who made her Asian Games debut in the 2002 Busan edition, surpassed fellow squash player Saurav Ghosal, who retired last year after playing six times in the continental multi-sport event.

Asian Games Day 6 highlights

Meticulous training, meditation and breathing exercises have made it possible for Joshna to remain not just active but always be a serious contender."I feel great, obviously, playing in my seventh Asian Games. I didn't think I would be here playing my seven Asian Games, as people say," the Chennai-based player told PTI in an exclusive interaction after her quarterfinal match at the Nagoya Kinjo Futo Arena Court Number 6.

"I train hard, five to six hours a day with different sessions, five or six days a week. I feel very fortunate to still be healthy, to still be fit, to still play for India. I honestly just take it one day at a time."And that's precisely the reason why she prefers not to have long-term goals."I don't really have any targets, to be honest. Right now, I'm just happy playing for India, playing at the Games. I haven't thought about the future, what's next, none of that. I'm really just thinking about the present," she said.Joshna said her longevity is also down to a dedicated team that takes care of every need whether in training or nutrition."I have a very good fitness trainer, psychologist, coach. So, I have a full village of people. My nutritionist, my dietician, everybody. They help me play every day. I also do a lot of meditation. I do a lot of breathing exercises. All of that," she said, giving a peek into the routine that keeps her going.

‘Now is the right time’: Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni opens up on Messi’s international farewell



New Delhi. (Agency)

Argentina head coach Lionel Scaloni has opened up about Lionel Messi’s international farewell amid uncertainty about his own future in charge of the national team. Messi is set to play his last international match for Argentina in the upcoming friendly against Benin at Buenos Aires’ Monumental Stadium on October 6. The match comes after the 2022 World Cup winner announced in late August that he would bring his international career to an end.“I believe that a player like him deserves that. And I personally contributed my bit because I want to be at his farewell. And since today I don’t know if I would be available later on, we made an effort so that he could be in this match,” Scaloni said at a news conference Thursday.We knew everything he was going through, and yet he put in the desire and effort to come and say goodbye with his people, with the people who love him so much. And I think if there’s a tribute to be made, it should be done now, because later on, the magic might not be the same. And I believe now is the time for him to feel that love from everyone, he added.In the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Messi featured in all eight matches and scored eight goals. He finished his national team career as its all-time highest scorer with 125 goals, 21 of which came in World Cups. ‘There will never be anyone like Messi’ The Argentina head coach further added that it is an ultimate experience for him to coach Messi and it’s very rare for a player like him to come along.“It was a dream. I told him so, and I’ll say it for the rest of my life. There will never be anyone like him. It’s very rare for a player like that to come along — not just because of what he does on the pitch, joy this,” Scaloni said.

Bold last-minute call pays off as Kamaljeet and Suruchi win India's 1st shooting Gold

A last-minute change saw Kamaljeet replace Kedarling as Suruchi Singh's partner, and the new pairing delivered India's first shooting gold at the Asian Games 2026 with a record-breaking performance in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India finally had something to celebrate in the 10m air pistol events at the Asian Games 2026, and it came from a pairing that was only put together at the last minute. Suruchi



Singh and Kamaljeet combined for a dominant performance to win gold in the 10m air pistol mixed team event on Friday, setting a new Asian Games record in the process.Their gold was India's first in shooting at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games and the country's second overall, after the women's cricket team had opened India's gold-medal account. The timing of the medal made it all the more significant for the Indian 10m air pistol

contingent, which had endured a disappointing campaign until Friday. India had won gold in the men's 10m air pistol team event and gold and silver in the women's individual event at the previous Asian Games, but there had been no medal in the discipline this time around.Even Manu Bhaker, the Olympic medallist and one of India's biggest hopes, had missed out on the podium after reaching the women's 10m air pistol final. India also failed to win

medals in the men's and women's team events.The mixed team event was therefore the final opportunity to salvage something from the 10m air pistol campaign. The National Rifle Association of India made a bold call before the event, changing the designated men's shooter in the pairing with Suruchi.Kedarling Balakrishna Uchaganve had initially been named alongside Suruchi. But after Thursday's men's qualification, where Kamaljeet was India's best performer with 580 points and finished ninth, just one point short of the individual final, the NRAI opted to bring him into the mixed team combination.Kedarling, meanwhile, had endured a difficult qualification round, finishing 35th with 568 points.The change could hardly have worked better.

A DOMINANT ASIAN GAMES RECORD

Kamaljeet and Suruchi stormed into the medal round after topping qualification with 587 points, including 29 inner 10s. They began with 196 in the opening series before adding 195 in the second to reach 391 with 20 shots remaining.

Asian Games: India women make it 4 out of 4 with Japan as semis in sight

New Delhi. (Agency)

India continued their impressive run in the women's hockey competition, beating hosts Japan 3-1 on Friday to make it four wins in a row and move closer to securing a place in the semifinals. Lalremsiami gave India an early lead in the fifth minute before Ishika Chaudhary doubled the advantage just before half-time.Navneet Kaur then added a third six minutes into the second half, while Japan pulled one back through Shiho Kobayakawa in the final quarter.India will complete their Pool B campaign against Singapore on Sunday.The result extends what has been a dominant start to the competition. India began with a 19-0 demolition of Uzbekistan, followed that with a 17-1 win over Indonesia and then thrashed Thailand 20-1 to establish

themselves at the top of the group.India wasted little time taking control against Japan, with Lalremsiami converting a field goal in the fifth minute. The visitors



continued to press forward, although Japan's defence did well to absorb the pressure. he hosts created a few openings of their own but struggled to find a way through India's organised backline. India's penalty-corner execution was less convincing, with only one of their first

five opportunities producing a goal. However, they earned three more in quick succession towards the end of the opening half, and Ishika eventually converted from a rebound after Navneet's initial attempt was kept out.India carried that momentum into the third quarter and added another in the 36th minute. Navneet produced a superb finish after some clever stickwork created the opening, putting India three goals ahead.The Indian defence was particularly effective during the third quarter, repeatedly intercepting Japan's attacks and restricting the hosts' time inside the circle.Japan finally found a breakthrough early in the final quarter. Kobayakawa unleashed a powerful tomahawk from the top of the circle in the 46th minute, beating veteran goalkeeper Savita to reduce the deficit.

IND vs WI: Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli reunite ahead of ODI series against West Indies — WATCH

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were back together in the nets as India kicked off preparations for their three-match ODI series against the West Indies. The two senior batters are set to return to international action after more than two months, with the series opener scheduled for September 27 in Thiruvananthapuram.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Veteran batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have reunited in India colours during the team’s first practice session ahead of the three-match ODI series against West Indies. The much-anticipated reunion happened in Thiruvananthapuram on September 24, with the duo getting ready for the series opener at the Greenfield International

Stadium.Kohli and Rohit last played together for India during the ODI series against England in July. Their most recent ODI appearance came in the final match



of that series at Lord’s Cricket Ground on July 14. The duo have remained away from cricket since the England series, with their next assignment now coming against the Windies. **Rohit, Kohli hit the ground running in first practice session** According to the Indian Express report, the first training session offered an early glimpse of Rohit and Virat getting back into the rhythm for another ODI series.

Kohli played attacking shots and looked good during his time in the nets. At one point, he stepped out and smashed Kuldeep Yadav over mid-wicket before hitting a straight maximum off Naman Dhir.Rohit, meanwhile, batted in the second group after a brief rain interruption. He focused on sharpening his strokeplay during the session and asked Prasidh Krishna to bowl short, seemingly preparing for the conditions and the challenge of facing pace in the upcoming West Indies series.The team’s training session was scheduled from around 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm IST, with the Men in Blue using it to get acclimatised to the conditions ahead of the series opener. Rohit and Kohli had both arrived in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday, joining captain Shubman Gill and the rest of the ODI squad.The ODI series against West Indies will start on September 27 at the Greenfield International Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram.

Marathon was never Plan A for Sawan Barwal. Now he's chasing Asian Games history



New Delhi. (Agency)

By the time Sawan Barwal reached the final five kilometres of the Rotterdam Marathon, there wasn't much left in his head. His legs were still moving, though they had begun to feel like somebody else's. The cold wind had picked up, and the water he had poured over his head at a station had turned into an unexpected problem. He had been running comfortably for much of the race, but after 35 kilometres, the marathon had begun to change shape.Barwal had gone to Rotterdam with a target. This was his first competitive marathon and he wanted to run somewhere between 2:08 and 2:10. The national record of 2:12:00, held by Shivnath Singh since 1978, was also in his mind. But by the time he entered the closing stages, there was little room left for calculations.“The last three-four kilometres, my mind had completely stopped working,” Barwal tells IndiaToday.in in an interview, facilitated by ASICS India“There was only one thing in my mind: I have to go till the finishing line and how I can maintain the pace. While running, we keep challenging ourselves that only a few minutes or some time is left. After that, finish, and then take a rest.” He would eventually finish in 2:11:58, breaking Singh's record by two seconds. He finished 20th in Rotterdam, and the performance also secured his qualification for the Asian Games.But the number on the clock did not immediately make him happy. Barwal had not gone to Rotterdam to break a record that had survived for nearly five decades. He had gone there believing he could run

Asian Games 2026: Joshna-Velavan pair, Abhay & Anahat enter semifinals, assure medal

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Joshna Chinappa has scripted her career with a plethora of accolades. The 40-year-old from Chennai on Thursday added another Asian Games medal to her cabinet when she and Velavan Senthilkumar beat the Philippine pair of David Pelino and Jemica Arybado to enter the semifinals of the mixed doubles event on Friday at the Nagoya Kinjo Futo Arena. The duo will face the Hong Kong pair of World No 40 Lee Ka Yi and Tang Ming Hong in Saturday’s semifinals. Chinappa will hope for her first gold at the Asian Games. Previously, she has won two silvers (2014 & 2018 in team events) and three bronze medals (2010 & 2022 in team events, 2018 in singles). But for Chinappa, the Asian Games has always been a special event to take part in. Making her debut in 2002, she had recalled how she got to watch top-level athletes then. “All the biggest

athletes at that time were there playing. I got to spend time with them, hang out with them. So it was such a wonderful memory,”

she recalled after qualifying to the Asiad for a record-seventh time here, in August.The former World No 10, in her 40s, has not had it all fancy in the past few years. After her knee injury in late 2023, she had to work her way through the rankings. Then last year, she got back to winning ways, with the Asian Doubles title. Then, her long journey in capturing a singles title ended in October that year, winning the Japan Open squash meet.For Velavan, his good run of form continues and the chances of it ending in a medal has risen. After winning the Budapest Open – his biggest event in his career – he has the chance of making bigger returns in the quadrennial bash.

Abhay, Anahat enter semis

India's top-ranked singles squash players Abhay Singh (men) and Anahat Singh



(women) breezed through to the semifinals of their respective events, assuring a medal for their nation. However, that would not be enough for them in their ultimate pursuit of

gold and a spot at the Olympics in 2028.

Abhay is coming on the back of winning a PSA challenger event in Malaysia, right after recovering from a slight niggles. Facing his Japanese opponent Ryunosuke Ryo, it took him only 34 minutes to win the match 3-0. He will face either of compatriot Veer Chotrani or Pakistan's Irfan Muhammad, whose tie is set to begin.Meanwhile, Anahat Singh brushed off compatriot Tanvi Khanna 3-0 in a match that lasted only 19 minutes. She will face World No 6 Satomi Watanabe on Saturday in the semifinals. Post the World Junior victory, Anahat took part in a PSA Platinum event (Qatar classic) and a gold event (London classic), in which she bowed out in the quarterfinals to stronger opponents. Watanabe, meanwhile, also played in London in Asian Games, bowing out in the quarterfinals.



'Ladkiya Mar Rahi Hai Shaadi Karne Ke Liye':

Sonali Kulkarni

On Aamir Khan Playing A Father In Dangal

Sonali Kulkarni played Salman Khan’s mother in Bharat, and the actress is younger than Bollywood’s Bhaijaan. When asked if she feels women tend to get older roles quite early while men continue to play young heroes, she told News18 Showsha that times have changed and now many male actors are shedding the larger-than-life hero image. She cited Aamir Khan and Saif Ali Khan’s examples.

Recalling a time when women used to stop getting heroine roles after marriage, Kulkarni said, “There was a time when we used to discuss how women don’t get heroine roles once they marry. Do you hear that nowadays? No. Because I think the audience has proved that just like heroes get married, heroines can also get married. They can also have children. They can have families.”

She further continued and, while sharing how content from across the world is being viewed in the country and how there are different mediums to show talent, Sonali added, “In this scenario, I don’t think we have room to complain that girls are getting different roles. I feel pity for those people who claim that they just want to be a hero. I don’t think any actor is that narrow-minded today. Whether a male actor or a female actor, they want to explore their talent.”

She then cited her Dil Chahta Hai co-stars, Saif Ali Khan and Aamir Khan, and discussed how they are taking up challenging roles. “We have such versatile actors. I don’t think any actor will say that he wants to look young. If we talk about Saif Ali Khan, he is maturing like a fine wine; he isn’t fearing taking up the role of a young dad who is in love,” Sonali said.

The actress further continued, “Aamir Khan is the epitome of experimenting. I don’t think anyone has the courage to do what he has done in Dangal. Aamir Khan jiske poster lagte hain, ladkiyan bekarar hain, mar rahi hain shaadi karne ke liye. He is presenting himself as the father of 3-4 daughters without any prosthetic; then he is my hero. (Aamir Khan, whose posters are put up everywhere, has girls going crazy for him, dying to marry him. He is presenting himself as the father of three or four daughters without any prosthetics; then he is my hero). He is grinding himself fearlessly.”

Sonali concluded, “I don’t think any good actor is stuck in this competition where they want to look young. They are flaunting their talent. They are flaunting their command over acting. By all means, they don’t fear their age.”



Shehnaaz Gill

Says ‘Acha Hua’ As She Reacts To Shelved Film With John Abraham, Riteish Deshmukh

Shehnaaz Gill has spoken about 100%, the Sajid Khan film that was announced nearly four years ago but was eventually shelved. The project was supposed to feature Shehnaaz alongside John Abraham, Riteish Deshmukh and Nora Fatehi.

Looking back at the film now, Shehnaaz says she does not spend much time worrying about projects that fail to materialise. In fact, she believes there are times when something not happening may ultimately be for the better.

Shehnaaz Gill On 100% Getting Shelved

Speaking to Hindustan Times about 100%, Shehnaaz said she does not take such developments too seriously and has made peace with the film not being made.

“Main utna serious leti nahin hun in cheezon ko. Mujhe aisa lagta hai ki nahin hui acha hua, kyunki kuch cheezein nahin banne mein hi bhalai hoti hai,” she said.

The actor also shared why she now prefers not to speak about a project until it is completely ready. According to Shehnaaz, plans can change at any point, and announcing something too early can create expectations among audiences.

“Jitni der tak tumhara project pura ban ke ready nahi ho jata hai, tab tak baat na karo uski kyunki kabhi bhi kuch bhi ho jata hai. Mujhe pata hai kal ko nahin hua to log sawaal karenge

aur main unko jawab kya dungii. Logon ki ummeedin bhi ban jati hain, to main wo todna nahin chahti,” Shehnaaz added.

In English, Shehnaaz explained that she does not take these situations too seriously and feels that sometimes it is better when certain things do not happen. She also said that one should avoid speaking about a project before it is completely ready because circumstances



can change unexpectedly.

Shehnaaz added that when a project is announced, people begin expecting it to happen. If it subsequently falls through, questions follow, and she does not want to disappoint people after raising their hopes. 100% was announced around four years ago with Sajid Khan attached as director. The planned film had an ensemble cast comprising Shehnaaz Gill, John Abraham, Riteish Deshmukh and Nora Fatehi.

'Not Directed At Salman Khan': Amaal Mallik Clarifies Comment On 'Main Hoon Hero Tera' Song Credit



Amaal Mallik has called out Salman Khan Films over missing credits for Main Hoon Hero Tera, the song he composed for the 2015 film Hero. The composer questioned why his name and that of lyricist Kumar were not mentioned in a post celebrating 11 years of the film.

The post shared by Salman Khan Films featured Salman Khan performing Main Hoon Hero Tera. Amaal reacted in the comments and made it clear that his complaint was about the film’s social media team and the way the song’s creators were being credited, not about Salman Khan himself.

Amaal Mallik Calls Out Missing Music Credits

Amaal said he was frustrated to see the composer and lyricist left out of the post. “Whoever is handling the social media of @skfilmsofficial, I love the audacity you have shown by leaving out the composer and the lyricist of the song,” Amaal wrote. He then spoke about the work that goes into making a song and questioned why the creators are sometimes ignored when their work is celebrated. “The song that is created with the pain, blood, sweat and tears of a music composer and his lyricist, and is celebrated without the creators being respected or even mentioned,” he added.

Amaal also asked the team to give proper credit to the people behind the song. “Learn to do the basics,” he wrote, while also asking that his comment not be deleted and that Salman Khan be allowed to see it.

Armaan Malik Sang The Original Version

Main Hoon Hero Tera was composed by Amaal Mallik, with lyrics by Kumar and vocals by Amaal’s brother Armaan Malik. Salman Khan later recorded his own version of the song.

The credit issue came up again when Salman Khan Films shared the anniversary post featuring Salman performing the track, leading Amaal to question the absence of the song’s original creators from the post.

Amaal Says Music Credit Fight Is Decades Old

Amaal later addressed the matter through an Instagram Story on Sunday. He said the fight for proper music credits has continued for decades and that he speaks up because he feels artists are often not recognised at the right time. “Who wants to keep this drama and get into controversies? I have to do it because no one else talks on time, and this fight has been on for over four-five decades! It has always been for music and credits,” he wrote.

Neena Gupta Told Masaba ‘Sorry’ That She Had To Grow Up Without Father Viv Richards: ‘It Is My Fault’



Neena Gupta has spoken again about raising her daughter Masaba Gupta as a single mother and said she would not advise anyone to choose single parenthood unless they truly wanted it. The actor said the experience was extremely difficult and affected her “body”, “soul” and finances, while also saying she believes it was important to be honest with Masaba about her family from a young age.

Neena Gupta On Single Motherhood

Speaking to Zoom, Neena said she would not encourage others to follow the path she took. “I would not propagate it. I have always said, ‘Don’t do it because I did it.’ It is very difficult, and it is not fair on the child. I will still say that,” she said.

Neena said her opinion has nothing to do with social judgement. She feels single parenthood can be difficult emotionally, physically and financially. “It is not because of judgement. It is very tough on your body, your soul and your finances, and it is not good for your child. So, that is why I will not tell anybody to go that way. Unless they want to, it is their choice,” she added.

She Told Masaba The Truth About Her Father

Neena Gupta said she decided early on that Masaba should know the truth about her family rather than hear it from other people. She explained that she told her daughter about her father slowly, as she grew older and asked questions. “Under the circumstances in which I had my baby, it was very important for me to tell her the truth. I systematically, slowly and gradually told her the truth whenever she asked me, in such a way that she didn’t even hate her father,” Neena said. She also wanted Masaba to have a relationship with her father without carrying anger towards him. “I made her like her father. I told her why and what had happened as she grew up. So, there was no malice or anger towards me because I told her the truth.”

संक्षिप्त समाचार

दुर्घटनाओं में कमी लाने के लिए विभिन्न मार्गों पर की जा रही स्पष्ट रोड मार्किंग

चाईबासा,एजेंसी। सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में कमी लाने, दुर्घटना-प्रवण स्थलों पर सुरक्षा उपायों को सुदृढ़ करने, यात्रियों की सुरक्षित एवं सुगम आवाजाही सुनिश्चित करने के उद्देश्य से विशेष सड़क सुरक्षा अभियान के तहत पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, चाईबासा द्वारा अपने अधीनस्थ सड़कों पर विभिन्न सड़क सुरक्षा संबंधी कार्य लगातार किए जा रहे हैं। सड़क किनारे एवं प्रमुख स्थानों पर गतिअवरोधक, चेतावनी संकेतक, मार्गदर्शक साइन बोर्ड लगाए जा रहे हैं। क्षतिग्रस्त अथवा अनुपयोगी संकेतकों का प्रतिस्थापन किया जा रहा है, ताकि वाहन चालकों को सड़क की स्थिति, संभावित जोखिम, आवश्यक सावधानियों की स्पष्ट जानकारी मिल सके। सड़क सुरक्षा को और प्रभावी बनाने के लिए विभिन्न मार्गों पर स्पष्ट रोड मार्किंग, कैट्स आई, रिफ्लेक्टर, स्पीड वार्निंग संकेत स्थापित किए जा रहे हैं। आवश्यकतानुसार दुर्घटना-प्रवण क्षेत्रों में क्रैश बैरियर, सुरक्षा रेलिंग, अन्य सुरक्षात्मक संरचनाओं को भी सुदृढ़ किया जा रहा है।

शराब बनाने की सूचना पर पुलिस का छापा, एक युवक हिरासत में

तुपकाडीह,एजेंसी। जारीडीह (जरीडीह) थाना पुलिस ने अवैध अंग्रेजी शराब बनाने की गुप्त सूचना के आधार पर बुधवार रात खुटरी-मंगलाडीह स्थित एक बंद पड़े मुर्गा फार्म में छापेमारी की। पुलिस की दबिश पड़ते ही दो लोग अंधेरे का लाभ उठाकर भाग निकले, जबकि एक युवक को पुलिस ने मौके पर ही धर-दबोचा। पुलिस उसे हिरासत में लेकर पूछताछ के लिए थाने ले गई है। फिहाल, पुलिस शराब के इस अवैध कारोबार से जुड़े अन्य लोगों के संबंध में जानकारी जुटा रही है। इधर, ओहदार टोला में युवक की गिरफ्तारी को लेकर दिनभर चर्चा बनी रही। ग्रामीणों ने बताया कि जिस मुर्गा फार्म में पुलिस ने छापेमारी की, वहां पहले भी कार्रवाई के दौरान अवैध अंग्रेजी शराब और शराब बनाने के उपकरण बरामद किए जा चुके हैं। थाना प्रभारी विपिन चंद्र महतो ने बताया कि गुप्त सूचना के आधार पर यह पूरी कार्रवाई की गई थी।

सड़क हादसे में महिला की मौत

कोडरमा,एजेंसी। कोडरमा प्रखंड से विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण का काम पूरा कर घर लौट रहे महिला-पुरुष सड़क हादसे का शिकार हो गए। दुर्घटना में एक महिला की मौत हो गई, जबकि एक युवती गंभीर रूप से घायल बताई जा रही है। स्थानीय लोगों के अनुसार, कोडरमा प्रखंड अंतर्गत गरायडीह गांव के लोग एसआईआर का कार्य कर गुरुवार देर शाम वापस घर लौट रहे थे। इसी दौरान जयनगर रोड स्थित अनंतडीह के पास सड़क किनारे निर्माण सामग्री के रूप में रखे ईट-बालू के ढेर से वाहन के टकराने के कारण दुर्घटना हो गई। हादसे में करीब 50 वर्षीया गिरिजा देवी (पति स्वर्गीय लक्ष्मण यादव) की मौत हो गई। वहीं, हादसे में पथलडीहा पंचायत के बेहराडीह निवासी 22 वर्षीया माया कुमारी घायल हो गईं। घायल को इलाज के लिए कोडरमा सदर अस्पताल लाया गया। दुर्घटना की सूचना के बाद परिजनों में कोहराम मच गया। स्थानीय लोगों के अनुसार, सड़क पर निर्माण सामग्री रखने को लेकर भी सवाल उठने लगे हैं। पुलिस मामले की जांच कर रही है।

बाइक सवार को बचाने में कार खेत किनारे झाड़ियों में घुसी; दो घायल, चालक गंभीर

नोवामुंडी,एजेंसी।बड़ुाजमाद से जगन्नाथपुर जाते समय लोकेसाई के पास मुख्य सड़क पर कार हादसे का शिकार हो गई। सामने से विपरीत दिशा में तेज रफ्तार से आ रहे बाइक सवार युवक को बचाने के प्रयास में कार का संतुलन बिगड़ गया। कार की रफ्तार भी तेज थी। ब्रेक लगाते समय कार फिसल गई। जिससे कार खेत के पास झाड़ियों में जा घुसी। स्थानीय लोगों की सूचना पर नोवामुंडी से एम्बुलेंस पहुंची। कार में फंसे संतोष कुमार यादव और सुमित रवानी को बाहर निकाला गया। दोनों को उसी हालत में नोवामुंडी टीएमएच अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया। हादसे के समय संतोष कुमार यादव कार चला रहा था। उसे चेहरे, गले और छाती में गंभीर चोट लगी। उसका इलाज इमरजेंसी वार्ड में चल रहा है। क्योंकि जिले के सुमित रवानी को हल्की चोट लगी है। प्राथमिक इलाज के बाद उसे छोड़ दिया गया। सुमित रवानी ने बताया कि वे लोग बड़ुाजमाद से कार से जगन्नाथपुर के लिए निकले थे।

कोडरमा में ऑटो पलटने से महिला की मौत SIR कर लौट रही थी महिला, एक युवती गंभीर रूप से घायल

सड़क पर रखी गिट्टी बनी वजह

कोडरमा,एजेंसी। कोडरमा जिले के सदर थाना क्षेत्र में कोडरमा-जयनगर मुख्य मार्ग पर अनंतडीह के पास गुरुवार देर शाम एक सड़क हादसा हुआ। इसमें ऑटो में सवार एक महिला की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई, जबकि एक युवती गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गई। मृतक महिला की पहचान कोडरमा थाना क्षेत्र के गरैंडीह निवासी 50 वर्षीय गिरिजा देवी पत्नी स्वर्गीय लक्ष्मण यादव के रूप में हुई है। घायल युवती बेहराडीह निवासी 22 वर्षीय माया कुमारी पुत्री रामस्वरूप दास है।

ऑटो सड़क पर रखी गिट्टी पर चढ़ गया:जानकारी के अनुसार, महिला और युवती ऑटो में सवार तीन-चार अन्य लोग SIR



पलामू में पेड़ से टकराई बाइक, दो दोस्तों की मौत एक गंभीर रूप से जख्मी, एक बाइक पर सवार थे तीनों; तेज रफ्तार बनी हादसे की वजह

पलामू,एजेंसी। पलामू जिले के मोहम्मदगंज थाना क्षेत्र में गुरुवार रात एक सड़क हादसे में दो युवकों की मौत हो गई। यह हादसा लटपौरी गांव के पास मुख्य सड़क पर हुआ। इस घटना में एक अन्य युवक गंभीर रूप से जख्मी हो गया, जिसका इलाज हुसैनाबाद अनुमंडलीय अस्पताल में चल रहा है। मृतकों की पहचान हुसैनाबाद थाना क्षेत्र के आम्ही गांव निवासी सुजीत कुमार (सूपेंडर मेहता के बेटे) और डंडिला गांव के मंजीत यादव (रूपन यादव के बेटे) के रूप में हुई है। अचानक बाइक हुई अनियंत्रित: आम्ही गांव के मंदू कुमार (मंदीप यादव के बेटे) इस हादसे में जख्मी हुए हैं। तीनों दोस्त एक ही बाइक से जा रहे थे। तेज रफ्तार होने के कारण अचानक बाइक अनियंत्रित हो गई और सड़क किनारे एक पेड़ से जा टकराई। टक्कर इतनी जोरदार थी कि बाइक पर सवार दो युवक गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए। अस्पताल ले जाते समय दोनों ने तोड़ दम घटना की सूचना मिलते ही मोहम्मदगंज थाना पुलिस मौके पर पहुंची। पुलिस ने घायलों को हुसैनाबाद अनुमंडलीय अस्पताल भेजा। प्राथमिक उपचार के बाद दो घायलों को बेहतर इलाज के लिए मेडिसीनय मेडिकल कॉलेज रेफर किया गया, लेकिन अस्पताल ले जाते समय रास्ते में ही दोनों ने दम तोड़ दिया। प्रत्यक्षदर्शियों के



अनुसार, बाइक की गति तेज थी, जिस वजह से चालक उस पर नियंत्रण नहीं रख पाया और बाइक पेड़ से टकरा

गई। पुलिस ने दुर्घटनाग्रस्त बाइक को अपने कब्जे में ले लिया है और मामले की जांच शुरू कर दी है।

छिनतई का आरोपित चोरी की बाइक के साथ गिरफ्तार

रांची,एजेंसी। रांची के सुखदेवनगर थाना क्षेत्र के हरमू रोड स्थित विशाल मेगा मार्ट के सामने राहगीर से मोबाइल छिनतई के मामले में पुलिस ने एक आरोपित को गिरफ्तार किया है। आरोपित की पहचान हिंदपीढ़ी निवासी मो कैफ अली उर्फ मो कैफ (24) के रूप में हुई है। सुखदेवनगर थाना प्रभारी सुनील कुमार कुशवाहा ने गुरुवार को बताया कि 23 सितंबर की रात सूचना मिली कि हरमू रोड विशाल मेगा मार्ट के सामने एक बाइक सवार व्यक्ति राहगीर से मोबाइल छीनकर रातू रोड की ओर भाग गया है। सूचना मिलते ही सुखदेवनगर थाना की गश्ती टीम ने बाइक सवार का पीछा किया और रानी सती मंदिर गली के पास उसे पकड़ लिया। पूछताछ के दौरान आरोपित ने पुलिस को बताया कि उसने 23 सितंबर की रात हरमू रोड से मोबाइल छीना था। वहीं, जिस बाइक से वह वारदात को अंजाम दे रहा था, उसके बारे में पूछताछ में उसने बताया कि 22 सितंबर की सुबह हिंदपीढ़ी के झुमका मुहल्ला स्थित बच्चा कब्रिस्तान के पास से बाइक चोरी की थी। पुलिस ने आरोपित के पास से मोबाइल फोन और बाइक बरामद कर जब्त कर ली है। आरोपित को गिरफ्तार कर न्यायिक हिरासत में भेजा जा रहा है। आरोपित के अलग-अलग थानों में पहले से छिनतई, चोरी और अन्य मामलों से जुड़े कुल सात केस दर्ज हैं। इनमें डोरंडा, लोअर बाजार, सुखदेवनगर, लालपुर, बरियातू, अरगोड़ा और कोववाली थाना के मामले शामिल हैं। इस संबंध में मामला दर्ज कर आगे की जांच की जा रही है।



रांची में तेज आंधी-बारिश के बीच स्कूल बस पर गिरा पेड़, बाल-बाल बचे बच्चे

रांची,एजेंसी। रांची में पिछले दो दिनों से हो रही तेज बारिश और शुक्रवार को सुबह से चल रही आंधी के कारण जनजीवन प्रभावित है। शुक्रवार सुबह डोरंडा थाना क्षेत्र के एजी कॉलोनी के पास बड़ा हादसा टल गया। बच्चों को लेकर जा रही एक स्कूल बस पर अचानक पेड़ गिर गया। हादसे में बस का अगला हिस्सा आंशिक रूप से क्षतिग्रस्त हुआ, लेकिन चालक की सूझबूझ से बस में सवार सभी बच्चे सुरक्षित बच गए। डोरंडा के एजी मोड़ के पास तेनात ट्रेफिक पुलिसकर्मी के अनुसार, तेज बारिश और हवा के बीच स्कूल बस बच्चों को लेकर जा रही थी। इसी दौरान सड़क किनारे लगा एक बड़ा पेड़ अचानक बस पर गिर गया। पेड़ को गिरता देख चालक ने तत्काल ब्रेक लगाकर बस रोक दी। इससे बस में सवार बच्चों को चोट नहीं आई।

घटना की सूचना डोरंडा थाना पुलिस और रांची नगर निगम को दी गई। सूचना मिलते ही नगर निगम की टीम जेसीबी लेकर मौके पर पहुंची और पेड़ को काटकर सड़क से हटाया। इसके बाद रास्ता साफ कर बस को आगे रवाना किया गया। कुछ देर तक सड़क पर यातायात प्रभावित रहा, लेकिन बाद में आवागमन सामान्य हो गया। डोरंडा थाना प्रभारी ने बताया कि घटना



में किसी के हताहत होने की सूचना नहीं है। बस में सवार सभी बच्चे और चालक सुरक्षित हैं। लगातार बारिश और तेज आंधी से शहर में जनजीवन प्रभावित हुआ है। स्कूली बच्चों को भी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। अधिकांश स्कूलों में परीक्षाएं चल रही हैं,

जिसके कारण बच्चों को खराब मौसम के बावजूद स्कूल जाना पड़ रहा है। बारिश के कारण कई बच्चों के जूते और स्कूल ड्रेस भी भीगकर गंदे हो गए। स्कूल प्रबंधन ने बस चालकों को खराब मौसम में विशेष सावधानी बरतते हुए वाहन चलाने का निर्देश दिया है।

रांची-जमशेदपुर समेत कई जिलों में सुबह से बारिश जारी

वज्रपात का भी अलर्ट, 27 सितंबर तक राज्य के विभिन्न हिस्सों में हो सकती है वर्षा

रांची,एजेंसी। बंगाल की खाड़ी में बना लो प्रेशर एरिया उत्तरी आंध्रप्रदेश और दक्षिण ओडिशा तट को पार कर गया है। इससे असर झारखंड में दिख रहा है। बुधवार से पूरे राज्य में बारिश हो रही है। रांची, गुमला, खुंटी सहित कई जिलों में गुरुवार को भारी बारिश हुई। शुक्रवार को भी सुबह से रांची, जमशेदपुर, कोडरमा, रामगढ़, गुमला, हजारीबाग, जामताड़ा, धनबाद समेत कई जिलों में रुक-रुक कर बारिश जारी है। साथ ही तेज हवा भी चल रही है।

तेज हवा चलने की संभावना: मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, 25 सितंबर को राज्य में कहीं-कहीं गर्जन, वज्रपात और 40-50 किमी प्रति घंटे की रफ्तार से तेज हवा चलने की संभावना है। पलामू, गढ़वा, चतरा, लातेहार, हजारीबाग,



कोडरमा, गिरिडीह और देवघर में कहीं-कहीं भारी बारिश हो सकती है।

25 सितंबर के बाद बारिश की तीव्रता कम होगी: वहीं, 27 सितंबर तक राज्य के विभिन्न

हिस्सों में कहीं-कहीं गर्जन, वज्रपात और 30-40 किमी प्रति घंटे की रफ्तार से तेज हवा चलने की संभावना है। 25 सितंबर के बाद बारिश की तीव्रता कम होगी, लेकिन 26-27 सितंबर को भी हल्की व मध्यम बारिश हो सकती है। वज्रपात का भी अलर्ट जारी किया गया है। बंगाल की खाड़ी में बना सिस्टम अब काफी कमजोर पड़ चुका है। इसके चलते राज्य में भारी मानसूनी गतिविधियों का दौर थम रहा है। हालांकि, निचले वायुमंडल में प्रचुर नमी मौजूद होने के कारण रांची सहित कई इलाकों में स्थानीय स्तर पर बादल बनेंगे और हल्की से मध्यम बारिश हो सकती है। 27 सितंबर के बाद से मौसम पूरी तरह सामान्य स्थिति में आ जाएगा। - अभिषेक आनंद, मौसम वैज्ञानिक

पाकुड़ में बच्चे की हत्या कर शव नदी में फेंका

आरोपी ने कबूला जुर्म, पुलिस और ग्रामीण शव की तलाश में जुटे; घरेलू झगड़े में की वारदात

पाकुड़,एजेंसी। पाकुड़ जिले के हिरणपुर थाना क्षेत्र के नयाग्राम गांव में 13 साल के दीनानाथ सिंह की हत्या कर शव परगला नदी में फेंकने का मामला सामने आया है। पुलिस और ग्रामीण गुरुवार को बच्चे के शव की तलाश कर रहे हैं। हालांकि, काफी देर तक खोजने के बाद भी बच्चे का कोई पता नहीं चल पाया है। आरोपी ने शव नदी में फेंकने की बात कबूल की पुलिस ने इस मामले में एक संदिग्ध को हिरासत में लिया है। पूछताछ के दौरान संदिग्ध ने बच्चे की हत्या कर शव नदी में फेंकने की बात कबूल की है। इसके बाद पुलिस और ग्रामीण आरोपी को निशानदेही पर परगला नदी में बच्चे के शव की तलाश में जुटे हैं। जानकारी के अनुसार, दीनानाथ सिंह मंगलवार रात अपने पिता के साथ करमा पूजा देखने घर से निकला था। देर रात वह अचानक गायब हो गया। घर वापस नहीं लौटने पर परिजन चिंतित हो गए। बच्चे के पिता हिरानन्दन सिंह ने हिरणपुर थाने में उसके लापता होने की शिकायत दर्ज कराई थी। पुलिस ने शिकायत को गंभीरता से लेते हुए तकनीकी सेल की मदद से जांच शुरू की। इसी जांच के दौरान आरोपी को हिरासत में लिया गया। बेटे को जान से मार देने की धमकी दी थी बच्चे के पिता ने थाने में दिए आवेदन में बताया है कि करमा पूजा के दौरान मनोज कुमार, कार्तिक सिंह, पंचानंद सिंह, चिंता देवी और मनोका देवी उनके बेटे को अगवा कर अपने साथ ले गए थे। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि इन लोगों के साथ उनका घरेलू झगड़ा हुआ था और उस समय कार्तिक सिंह और मनोज कुमार ने उनके बेटे को जान से मार देने की धमकी दी थी। खबर लिखे जाने तक बच्चे का शव बरामद नहीं हो सका था। पुलिस मामले की जांच और आगे की कार्रवाई में जुटी है। इस मामले पर जब पाकुड़ एसडीपीओ से संपर्क करने की कोशिश की गई, तो उनसे बात नहीं हो पाई।

पितृपक्ष मेले के लिए ट्रेनों का होगा अस्थायी ठहराव

पुनपुन घाट हॉल्ट और अनुवाह नारायण स्नान घाट पर 26 सितंबर से रुकेगी ट्रेनें

कोडरमा,एजेंसी। आगामी 26 सितंबर से 10 अक्टूबर तक चलने वाले पितृपक्ष मेले के लिए भारतीय रेलवे ने खास इंतजाम किए हैं। गयाजी स्थित विष्णुपद जाने वाले तीर्थयात्रियों के लिए पुनपुन घाट और अनुवाह नारायण स्नान घाट पर स्नान व तर्पण का विशेष धार्मिक महत्व है।

● दो मिनट का अस्थायी ठहराव

इसी को देखते हुए धनबाद रेल मंडल ने इन दोनों स्टेशनों पर कई प्रमुख ट्रेनों को दो मिनट का अस्थायी ठहराव देने का फैसला किया है। धनबाद रेल मंडल के वरीय वाणिज्य प्रबंधक सह वरीय जनसंपर्क अधिकारी मनीष सौरव के अनुसार, यह ठहराव 25 सितंबर 2026 से 10 अक्टूबर 2026 तक लागू रहेगा। रेलवे के इस अस्थायी ठहराव से झारखंड के अलग-अलग हिस्सों से गयाजी आने वाले श्रद्धालुओं को यात्रा में आसानी होगी। वे बिना किसी परेशानी के अपने धार्मिक अनुष्ठान पूरे कर सकेंगे।

BRIFF NEWS

Food warnings must drive reformulation says ex-FSSAI chief



New Delhi, Agency: A day after FSSAI filed its compliance affidavit on front-of-pack warning labels, former FSSAI CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal said he was comfortable with the regulator's position, provided the transition period leads to significant improvement in the nutritional composition of packaged foods.

Agarwal, through the Food Future Foundation, filed an intervention application in the Supreme Court on September 22 in the ongoing case on front-of-pack warning labels. The application seeks to assist the court on the questions it had raised on the design, scientific basis and implementation of the proposed warning system.

The intervention says the transition period should drive progressive reformulation, not merely allow companies to change packaging. It proposes interim nutrient thresholds, followed by tighter limits over three to five years, with milestones and time-limits announced upfront.

It also recommends that any one nutrient crossing the prescribed threshold should trigger a warning, so a beverage high in sugar, for instance, cannot escape a warning because it remains below the sodium and saturated fat limits.

Opposition's 3rd bid to remove CEC Gyanesh Kumar: Fresh motion likely April 24 notice pending



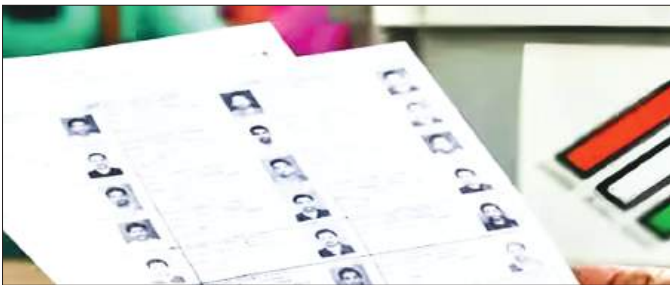
New Delhi, Agency: Opposition parties are preparing to submit fresh notices in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to move a motion for the removal of chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar soon, sources said, making this their third attempt to move a motion to remove him. The notices, being drafted and vetted by experts, are expected to be submitted sometime next week, sources said.

A notice moved by 73 opposition MPs from Rajya Sabha on April 24 seeking Kumar's removal is already pending in the upper House of Parliament. On Wednesday, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that opposition MPs of both Houses will submit new notices to the LS Speaker and RS chairperson seeking the CEC's removal, if govt decides to hold a special session of Parliament as monsoon session has not been prorogued.

Sources Thursday said the notice against Kumar, proposed to be moved in LS and RS, will include issues raised in a recent report by Indian Express. "TMC is very happy to play the role of squirrel in the garden. Opposition has to act unitedly and swiftly," party MP Derek O'Brien said, asserting the importance of opposition unity at this juncture.

EC troika unanimously approved SIR orders on Forms 6 & 8, citizenship declaration: Officials

New Delhi, Agency : Election Commission officials Thursday said special intensive revision (SIR) orders related to Phase 1 in Bihar, Phase 2 in a dozen states/UTs and ongoing Phase 3 in 19 states/UTs had all listed Forms 6 and 8 with a mandatory declaration form on citizenship details of the elector or parents, and were unanimously approved by CEC and the two election commissioners. While Form 6 is an application for registration as a new elector, Form 8 is for shifting of an elector



from outside the state/UT where he seeks to be enrolled.

EC sources also denied ECINET was locking out field officers like electoral registration officers (EROs), assistant EROs, BLOs, DEOs, and chief

electoral officers, saying ECINET is a decentralised platform designed in accordance with the RP Act 1950, RP Act 1951 and the instructions issued by EC from time to time.

Citing the exact pages and paras of the orders,

EC's clarification - which was reported exclusively in Media Thursday - came amid a direct attack by Rahul Gandhi on CEC Gyanesh Kumar Thursday over alleged 'vote chori' and SIR anomalies, while praising the commissioners SS Sandhu and Vivek Joshi for allegedly pointing out pitfalls in procedures adopted by EC for SIR of electoral rolls. It makes it clear that the SIR orders issued for Phase 1 in Bihar on June 24, 2025, for Phase 2 in a dozen states/UTs issued on Oct 27, 2025, and for Phase

3 in 19 states/UTs issued on May 14, 2026, were all unanimously approved by the three commissioners and that their objection to Form 6 and the declaration being unlawful and beyond the EC's remit was an afterthought.

While Joshi had objected to Form 6 on May 16, two days after the third SIR order was signed by him, Sandhu did so on Aug 13, months after Supreme Court, in its verdict issued on SIR on May 27, 2026, upheld EC's power to add the declaration form.

EC officials said the declaration form was introduced for the ease of voters so that whoever gives the declaration form need not submit any other documents. "This has been uniformly applied in SIR across all states/UTs," an EC official told Media.

On ECINET, the official said, "As per law, BLOs, AEROs, EROs, DEOs and CEOs can perform their statutory functions on this platform with their unique ID and password. Nobody else can perform their statutory function on it."

'Kashmiri Pandits driven out by Pakistan-backed terrorists': India at UN

New Delhi, Agency: India on Thursday rebuked Pakistan over its remarks on Kashmir and minorities in India at the UN Human Rights Council, calling out Islamabad for its illegal occupation of parts of Jammu and Kashmir and demanding that it vacate them.

Exercising India's right to reply to the comments made by Pakistan at the council, Indian diplomat Kshitij Tyagi advised Islamabad to direct its energy towards a debt-ridden economy surviving on bailouts rather than harbouring territorial ambitions or sponsoring cross-border terrorism.

"Since Pakistan appears to need the reminder under every agenda item, Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will always remain an integral



and inalienable part of India. The only part of Jammu and Kashmir under foreign occupation is the part Pakistan holds, which we again call upon it to vacate," Tyagi said.

"India is home to one of the largest Muslim populations in the world and our minorities vote, legislate, sit on a highest court and lead our institutions. In Pakistan, Hindu,

Sikh and Christian communities have shrunk drastically since independence. Their daughters are abducted, forcibly converted and married off. Blasphemy laws hang over every minority household. Its own Muslim minorities, Shias, Ahmadiyyas, Ismailis and Hazaras face systemic persecution and their places of worship are attacked and desecrated," he added. Exposing this blatant double standard, Kshitij Tyagi said, "The Council does not need Pakistan to explain what happened in 1990 to the Kashmiri Pandits driven from their homes by terrorists Pakistan armed, trained and sent across the border."

"Those same terrorists have since killed Kashmiris of every faith, many of them Muslim.

G4: UNSC losing its credibility unable to maintain global peace

New Delhi, Agency : Meeting on the margins of United Nations General Assembly, G4 countries called for a reform of the UNSC at the earliest, saying in a joint statement that the council is currently unable to effectively discharge its core responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. The G4 group of countries (India, Japan, Brazil, and Germany) supports urgent reforms of the security council through the expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of UNSC.

"Discussed the imperative of reformed multilateralism



and a more representative, responsive and effective UN Security Council that reflects today's global realities. Will continue to work together to advance this shared objective," said Union external affairs minister S Jaishankar on X. The joint statement said that the representativeness, legitimacy, credibility and efficacy of UNSC are in question.

'Dubai-based scammers looted Rs 94,000 crore': CBI arrests Mahadev app key accused deported from UAE

New Delhi, Agency : CBI on Thursday arrested Abhishek Kumar, a key accused in the Mahadev online betting and gambling case in which Enforcement Directorate (ED) has claimed that the perpetrators of the illegal activities have so far generated and laundered proceeds of crime of more than Rs 94,000 crore.

Kumar was deported from the UAE and taken into custody by CBI immediately after he arrived at Hyderabad airport from Dubai. He was close to main accused Saurabh Chandrakar and Shubham Soni - both continue to operate the gambling network from the UAE and other jurisdictions. Kumar coordinated various



panels in the Mahadev network and was responsible for collecting funds and acquiring immovable assets in Dubai out of ill-gotten proceeds of crime, a CBI spokesperson said. He has been taken to Raipur and produced before a special court for police remand. So far, seven Red Corner Notices and two extradition requests have been pending against other accused.

NEET-PG 2026 result out: 2.65 lakh candidates appeared, General cut-off at 262

New Delhi, Agency : National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) Thursday declared NEET-PG 2026 result, with 2,65,960 candidates having appeared in the exam held in two phases this year. The result includes candidates' raw scores and overall NEET-PG ranks, reports Anuja Jaiswal.

The qualifying percentile criteria remain unchanged from last year. For General and EWS categories, qualifying level was 50th percentile, with cut-off score at 262 marks out of 720 this year. It was 45th percentile and 244 marks for General Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD), and 40th percentile and 226 marks for SC, ST and OBC candidates, including PwBD candidates from these categories. In 2025, the corresponding qualifying criteria were also 50th, 45th and 40th percentiles, with cut-off scores of 276, 255 and 235, respectively, when the exam was scored out of 800. NEET-



PG was conducted on Aug 30 for admission to MD, MS, DNB, DrNB Direct 6-year courses and PG Medical Diploma courses for 2026-27.

NBEMS said NEET-PG rank represents overall merit position of a candidate among those who appeared for the exam and is based on actual marks scored and applicable tie-breaking criteria. The board also said each question in both papers was reviewed by faculty members from the specialty areas and none was found to be technically incorrect. Scorecards can be downloaded from NBEMS website on or after Oct 1. The answer key will be published on or after Oct 1.

Centre pleads for prospective effect of SC creamy layer ruling

New Delhi, Agency: Facing the task of implementing Supreme Court's ruling on calculating creamy layer criteria for OBC reservation from the retrospective date of 2012, Centre pleaded with the court to make the enforcement of the verdict prospective and grant it two years' time to implement it.

The court had in March held that the income of parents could not be the sole criterion to determine the creamy layer of a candidate for exclusion from OBC reservation, and status and category of a par-



ent's job had to be considered with an 'income/wealth test' as an additional criterion. It made the verdict implementable from 2012, when the case was first filed. In a written note filed by additional solicitor general Aishwarya

Bhati, govt submitted that the retrospective application of a changed eligibility criterion may unsettle appointments and admissions made under the rules and certificates prevailing at the time and create uncertainty regarding OBC-

NCL status, seniority, service conditions and career progression. "The retrospective implementation of the present judgement would create changes in candidates' service and cadre allocation... as it would affect the services of persons appointed on the basis of CSE-2012 onward and cause a cascading effect among civil servants... The aforementioned cascading effect will impact not only OBC candidates but also reverberate across all categories including (unreserved category) of the civil services," the note said.

SC seeks timeframe from EC on deciding TMC factional feud

New Delhi, Agency: Observing that the dispute between two rival factions of All India Trinamool Congress claiming the party name and symbol should be adjudicated within reasonable time, Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Election Commission to give a timeframe to decide the matter.



While hearing a plea filed by former CM Mamata Banerjee challenging EC's interim order freezing

the party symbol, a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said early adjudication was desirable and the poll panel could conduct day-to-day hearings. "We have seen what delay does in the Shiv Sena (factional dispute) case," the bench said.

'Biggest anti-national of country': CJP calls for CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over SIR row

New Delhi, Agency : The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) on Thursday called for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke accused the CEC of undermining democracy amid the ongoing controversy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi, Dipke said, "Chief Election Commissioner is the biggest anti-national. Gyanesh Kumar is the biggest anti-national of this country. He should



resign immediately because he is the biggest threat to India's democracy." Dipke also questioned the role of the Election Commission in determining who can vote, saying, "What did democracy mean in our country? Democracy meant that the people would elect the government. Since Gyanesh Kumar became the Chief Election Commissioner, the gov-

ernment has been deciding who will be allowed to vote and who will not. Is this democracy? What kind of definition of democracy is this? You have turned the entire concept of democracy upside down." The remarks come amid a wider political controversy over the functioning of the Election Commission and the SIR exercise. The Congress Working Committee is scheduled to meet in New Delhi on September 29 to discuss the issue and the current political situation. The controversy inten-

sified following a report by The Indian Express that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had raised objections at least 14 times over 10 months regarding decisions and orders linked to electoral-roll procedures and SIR.

The Election Commission has maintained that differences during internal deliberations are part of the normal functioning of a multi-member constitutional body and said all final decisions, including those concerning SIR, were taken unanimously.

Pitru Paksha 2026: A Fortnight of Remembrance, Ritual and Family Traditions

As the festive season of Ganeshotsav draws to a close, the Hindu calendar moves into a quieter and more reflective period. Pitru Paksha, traditionally regarded as a fortnight dedicated to remembering ancestors, begins around the time of Bhadrapada Purnima and continues through the waning phase of the lunar month. In 2026, the observance is particularly significant for families as Purnima Shraddha falls on September 26, while the regular sequence of Shraddha observances begins from the following day.

Unlike festivals associated with music, colour and public celebration, Pitru Paksha is marked by remembrance, gratitude and family rituals. Across India, families traditionally use this period to honour deceased parents, grandparents and other ancestors. Offerings, prayers and charitable acts are performed according to regional customs, with the belief that remembering previous generations is an important part of family and social life.

A tradition centred on remembrance

The word Pitru refers to ancestors, while Paksha means a fortnight. Together, Pitru Paksha represents a period traditionally associated with paying



respect to departed members of the family. The rituals are commonly known as Shraddha or Shraddha Karma.

For many families, the observance is not simply about performing a ritual. It is also an opportunity to recall the lives, values and contributions of people who came before them. In households where family histories have traditionally been passed from one generation to another, Pitru Paksha becomes a time when children and younger family members hear stories about grandparents and earlier generations.

The practice varies considerably across India. Some families perform rituals at home, while others visit temples, riverbanks or traditional pilgrimage centres associated with ancestral rites. Food offerings,

prayers, donations and remembrance ceremonies may form part of the observance depending on family and regional traditions.

The significance of Shraddha

Shraddha is traditionally performed on a particular lunar date associated with the death anniversary of an ancestor. During Pitru Paksha, each lunar day is associated with particular Shraddha observances. Families generally consult the Hindu calendar or a priest to determine the appropriate date according to their traditions.

For those who follow the customary practices, the central idea is gratitude. Food and other offerings are prepared and offered as part of the ceremony, while charitable acts are also considered meaningful. In many com-

munities, feeding people in need, offering food to animals and supporting charitable activities are associated with the broader spirit of the period.

The observance also reflects an old Indian cultural idea that family identity extends beyond the living generation. The lives of parents and grandparents are seen as part of a continuing chain connecting one generation with another.

From celebration to reflection

The timing of Pitru Paksha gives it a distinctive place in the annual cultural calendar. It follows a period that can include major celebrations such as Ganesh Chaturthi and Ganesh Visarjan. After the public festivities, processions and community gatherings associated with Ganeshotsav, the atmosphere changes noticeably.

The transition from celebration to remembrance can also be seen as a cultural rhythm. Indian traditions often contain periods devoted to celebration as well as periods devoted to reflection, prayer and remembrance. Pitru Paksha represents the latter.

For many families, the fortnight provides an opportunity to pause from everyday activities and remember relatives who are no longer present.



Bhadrapada Purnima 2026

The Full Moon That Marks a Time of Reflection and Remembrance

The full moon has held a special place in India's cultural and religious traditions for centuries. Each Purnima, or full-moon day, carries its own significance in the Hindu lunar calendar, and Bhadrapada Purnima is particularly important because it marks a transition toward the period traditionally associated with remembering ancestors.

In 2026, Bhadrapada Purnima falls on September 26. The day is associated with Purnima Shraddha and forms an important point in the transition from the festive period of Ganeshotsav toward the observances of Pitru Paksha.

While different regions and communities follow their own customs, Bhadrapada Purnima provides an opportunity for families to pause, reflect and connect with traditions that have been passed from one generation to another.

Understanding Purnima in the Indian calendar

Purnima refers to the day on which the Moon appears full. Unlike the Gregorian calendar, the traditional

Hindu calendar follows lunar and lunisolar cycles, making the full-moon and new-moon days important markers of time.

Purnima days have traditionally been associated with religious observances, fasting, prayers, temple visits and charitable activities. The particular practices vary according to the month and region.

Bhadrapada is one of the months of the Hindu calendar and generally falls around August–September in the Gregorian calendar. Its full-moon day has a special place in the annual sequence of observances because it is connected with the beginning of the ancestral remembrance period.

Purnima Shraddha and ancestral remembrance

Bhadrapada Purnima is associated with Purnima Shraddha, an observance connected with Pitru Paksha. Families whose ancestral observances correspond to the full-moon tithi may perform Shraddha rituals on this day according to their family traditions.

From Ganesh Visarjan to Pitru Paksha India’s September Shift from Celebration to Remembrance



September often brings a remarkable change in the cultural atmosphere across India. Streets that have been filled with music, decorated pandals and community celebrations during Ganeshotsav gradually become quieter after Ganesh Visarjan. The festive period gives way to a more reflective phase of the Hindu calendar, marked by remembrance of ancestors during Pitru Paksha.

In 2026, this transition is particularly visible because Ganesh Visarjan falls on September 25, followed by Bhadrapada Purnima and Purnima Shraddha on September 26. The close succession of these observances creates a distinctive cultural transition—from public celebration and farewell to Lord Ganesha to family remembrance and ancestral traditions.

The final day of Ganeshotsav

Ganesh Chaturthi is one of India's most widely celebrated festivals. Homes, neighbourhoods and public spaces are decorated with images of Lord Ganesha, while communities organise prayers, cultural programmes and devotional gatherings.

The conclusion of the festival is marked by Ganesh Visarjan, when idols are carried in processions and immersed in water. The ritual symbolises the temporary nature of the physical form and the return of Ganesha to his divine abode.

In many cities, Visarjan becomes a major public event. Processions bring together families, community groups and devotees, creating an atmosphere of collective participation. Once the celebrations conclude, however, the cultural calendar quickly moves toward a quieter period.

A different kind of observance

Pitru Paksha has a very different character from Ganeshotsav. Instead of public celebration, music and processions, the

emphasis is on family, remembrance and ritual.

The period is traditionally dedicated to ancestors. Families remember deceased parents, grandparents and other relatives through Shraddha ceremonies and other customary practices. The rituals differ across regions, but offerings, prayers and acts of charity are commonly associated with the observance.

The contrast is striking. Ganeshotsav brings people together in public spaces, while Pitru Paksha often moves the focus back into homes and family relationships.

This contrast is not necessarily a contradiction. Indian cultural traditions have long included both celebratory and contemplative periods. Festivals create occasions for collective joy, while remembrance traditions provide time for reflection.

The meaning behind the transition

The movement from Ganesh Visarjan to Pitru Paksha can be understood as a transition between two different cultural moods.

Ganeshotsav celebrates devotion, community participation and the welcoming of a revered deity. The final immersion represents farewell and renewal. Pitru Paksha, meanwhile, turns attention toward those who have passed away and the continuing relationship between generations through memory and tradition.

Both involve the idea of impermanence.

During Visarjan, a physical idol that has been worshipped for days is immersed in water. During Pitru Paksha, families remember people who are no longer physically present.

In different ways, both traditions encourage reflection on the temporary nature of material life and the importance of what remains after it.

World Environmental Health Day: Why a Healthy Environment Matters for Every Community

The health of a community depends on more than hospitals, medicines and medical services. The quality of the air people breathe, the water they drink, the food they consume and the surroundings in which they live can have a direct bearing on everyday well-being. This connection between the environment and human health is highlighted every year on World Environmental Health Day, observed on September 26.

The observance draws attention to environmental conditions that influence public health and encourages greater awareness of the relationship between human activities, ecosystems and community well-being. In India, where rapid urbanisation, population growth and changing weather patterns are reshaping cities and rural areas alike, environmental health has become an increasingly important public concern.

Environment and health are closely connected

Environmental health covers a wide range of issues. Clean drinking water, sanitation, waste management, air quality, food safety, housing conditions, workplace environments and exposure to pollutants are all part of the larger picture.

Poor environmental conditions can create circumstances in which diseases spread more easily. Contaminated water, inadequate sanitation and improperly managed waste can affect communities, while air pollution can reduce the quality of the air available to people



living in densely populated areas.

Environmental health therefore requires attention not only after a health problem appears but also to the conditions that can contribute to that problem.

Clean air as a public health priority

Air pollution remains one of the most visible environmental challenges in many urban areas. Vehicle emissions, industrial activity, construction dust, waste burning and other sources can contribute to poor air quality.

The effects of polluted air can extend beyond temporary discomfort. Long-term exposure to certain pollutants has been associated with respiratory and cardiovascular health risks. Children, older people and individuals with existing health problems can be particularly vulnerable to poor air quality.

Improving air quality requires action at several levels. Cleaner transport, better public transportation, effective emission controls, dust management and responsible waste disposal can all contribute to reducing pollution.

For citizens, awareness also matters. Avoiding unnecessary burning of waste, maintaining vehi-

cles properly and supporting cleaner transport choices are examples of individual actions that can complement broader environmental policies.

Water and sanitation

Safe water is another foundation of environmental health.

India has made substantial progress in expanding access to drinking water and sanitation, but maintaining the quality and reliability of these services remains an ongoing task. Water sources can be affected by sewage, industrial discharge, agricultural runoff and poorly managed waste.

Sanitation is closely connected to water safety. Effective sewage systems, drainage and waste management can reduce environmental contamination and protect communities.

The challenge becomes particularly visible during periods of heavy rainfall. Urban flooding can overwhelm drainage systems, mix contaminated water with clean water sources and create additional risks for communities.

Maintaining water infrastructure is therefore not simply an engineering issue. It is also an important public health measure.

Waste management and healthier cities

Rapid urban growth has increased the amount of municipal waste generated by cities and towns. Managing this waste safely requires collection, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal systems.

When waste is dumped in open areas or burned, it can contribute to air, soil and water pollution. Plastics and other persistent materials can remain in the environment for long periods, while poorly managed organic waste can attract insects and animals.

Waste segregation at the household level can help improve the efficiency of waste management systems. Separating wet and dry waste makes it easier to compost organic material and recover recyclable materials.

However, individual action works best when supported by reliable municipal collection and processing systems. Environmental health ultimately depends on cooperation between citizens, local authorities, businesses and communities.

Food safety is also environmental health

The connection between environment and health extends to food.

Food can become unsafe when exposed to contaminated water, poor sanitation, chemicals or improper storage conditions. Maintaining hygiene throughout the food chain—from production and transportation to preparation and consumption—is therefore essential.