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Delivery Charges applicable

PAGE 03

Saved reputation of Indian pilots: PM's
pointed message in call with hero captain

PAGE 04

Who gets to set AI's speed?

PAGE 12

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RNI Regn No. DLMUL/26/A6883

researchers.asia@gmail.com



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

US announces USD 24.4 bn contract to speed up missile production

world.(Agency)

The Pentagon on Thursday announced the award of a \$24.4 billion contract for Raytheon to accelerate production of SM-6 missiles as Washington works to replace the large amount of munitions expended during the Iran war. The missiles are "critical anti-air and anti-surface warfare munition. This five-year agreement, with two additional option years, will drive faster production," the Pentagon said in a statement. The deal "provides the defense industry with the long-term predictability needed to expand workforce capacity and secure critical supply chains," the Pentagon added. President Donald Trump has so far brushed aside questions about the major toll taken on US munition supplies by the war against Iran, which the United States and Israel launched on February 28. But the Defense Department's inspector general said last month that "the munitions expenditure on Operation Epic Fury has resulted in strategic inventory shortfalls and revealed industrial base bottlenecks for munitions resupply," using the official name for the operation against Iran. And a September 15 report by the Congressional Budget Office cited the hit to missile defense supplies that "will leave the United States with a reduced inventory of interceptors for several years." Raytheon confirmed in a statement Wednesday that their SM-6 "has been successfully fired from various US Navy ship-based platforms and launchers on land," calling it a "combat-proven weapon." The weapons-maker also acknowledged increased efforts to meet demand. "By continuously investing in our operations and facilities, we are removing constraints and boosting capacity to ensure we deliver this critical capability our sailors depend on," Raytheon President Phil Jasper said in the statement.

Israeli Security Lapse That's Key In flydubai Attack And A UAE Contention

Tel Aviv .(Agency)

Dozens of Omani pilots have flown to Tel Aviv in recent years on flydubai flights, despite a ban on pilots from unfriendly states in a major security lapse, Israel's Channel 12 has reported. The figure reportedly emerged as part of the investigations that were opened after an apparent attack on a flydubai flight from Dubai, in which an Omani co-pilot attacked the captain with alleged intentions of harming the plane and its passengers. The report claimed that Israeli security agency Shin Bet was negligent in enforcing a ban on pilots from states that lack relations with the Jewish state. Oman, which has not signed the Abraham Accords, does not have formal diplomatic relations with Israel. The accords, which established diplomatic ties between Israel and the UAE in 2020, bar pilots from flying into Israel if their home countries don't formally recognise the Jewish state.

According to the report, Israel has ceded oversight of that prohibition over the years, trusting the foreign airlines to enforce the ban. Citing the investigation into the attack, Channel 12 reported that the Shin Bet security service never examined the origins of flydubai's pilots, beyond reminding the airline about the clause. The new report has raised questions about how flydubai's air crews were approved for flights to Israel over the years, and in particular crew members who hold citizenship of countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. It was earlier reported that the attacker might also have had dual citizenship. Israel is now trying to understand how the approval was given to those pilots, what details were provided in advance about the identities of the crew members, and whether their Omani citizenship was known to the parties that approved the flights.

The Negligence

Israel's Transportation Ministry has said in a statement to Channel 12 that the Shin Bet never issued a specific warning regarding threats from flydubai, beyond asking for increased baggage checks.

New York's governor removes DA in Cornell rape allegations, appoints AG Letitia James to take over

The woman, identified only as Jane Doe in court documents, reported the alleged assault to campus police in November of 2024, then discussed it with the university's internal investigators as part of Cornell's disciplinary process.

ITHACA, N.Y.(Agency)

New York's governor appointed a special prosecutor Thursday to oversee an investigation into a woman's allegations that she was gang raped at a Cornell University fraternity house, saying she had lost faith in the local district attorney's ability to handle the case. Gov. Kathy Hochul said she had signed an executive

order appointing the office of New York Attorney General Letitia James as the special prosecutor to oversee the investigation, which had initially been closed without charges in 2024.

The woman's allegations got a rush of new attention when she filed a civil lawsuit last month. Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten reopened the investigation Monday, but has been battered by criticism that he'd abandoned the original investigation too quickly.

"Newly released information continues to raise serious questions about the investigation conducted by the Cornell Police Department and the decision by the Tompkins County District Attorney not to prosecute an alleged sexual assault on Cornell University's campus in October 2024," Hochul said. "This has, in turn, undercut my faith, and the public's faith, in the

District Attorney's ability to effectively investigate and prosecute the case at this time." Hochul said the attorney general would oversee the investigation and, if



warranted, present evidence to a grand jury. "The young woman at the center of this case deserves to know that every fact will be examined and justice pursued," Hochul said. "This action will ensure that the matter is fully and thoroughly

investigated without conflict or bias, and handled independently with the rigor that this matter demands." Messages left for Van Houten were not immediately returned late Thursday. Hochul, James and Van Houten are all Democrats. A campus roiled by continued revelations Hochul's announcement came shortly after dozens of students and community members spent hours demanding transparency and accountability from university leaders at a forum sponsored by Cornell's student government. The case has roiled the Ivy League campus and raised questions about its response and the larger issue of how sexual assaults are handled on college campuses. The woman, identified only as Jane Doe in court documents, reported the alleged assault to campus police in November of 2024, then discussed it with the university's internal investigators as part of Cornell's disciplinary process.

Putin says Modi has 'very good ideas' for mutually acceptable Ukraine peace deal

Dubai.(Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "very good ideas" for finding a mutually acceptable solution to the Ukraine conflict and raises the issue at every meeting between the two leaders. Putin made the remarks on Thursday while addressing the annual meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club, according to state-run TASS news agency. "As for Prime Minister Modi's position on ending wars, I can say that he is one of those world leaders who, despite our very good, even friendly relations, including at the personal level, constantly raises the issue and asks questions about ending the conflict in Ukraine," Putin said. He Russian president said Modi "brings up these matters at every meeting we have and

takes a keen interest in them." "He has very good ideas aimed at finding mutually acceptable solutions," Putin added.



The remarks came days after Putin and Modi held talks on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in New Delhi last month. During the meeting, Putin briefed Modi on the situation in Ukraine and ongoing peace

initiatives. Ahead of the summit, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov had said Russia would welcome India's efforts to help end the conflict, noting that Moscow's approach was aligned with New Delhi's emphasis on dialogue and diplomacy. Putin also praised India's cultural diversity and unity during his address on Wednesday. "India cannot fail to amaze with its scale and diversity," he said. "Few people know this, but Mr. Modi told me that of the 1.5 billion people, 600 million Indians speak their native language, Hindi, while most speak their own languages, and they all live together — amazing," he said.

"There is something unique about Indian culture that can certainly serve as an example of how diversity and unity can coexist."

Two major Kyiv bridges shut after Russian drone strikes

ITHACA, N.Y.(Agency)

--Traffic was halted across one of Kyiv's main bridges and restricted at a second one on Friday after Russian drone strikes on the Ukrainian capital, the authorities said.

Mayor Vitali Klitschko said the Southern Bridge, which connects the east and west of Kyiv over the Dnipro river, was "completely closed" to traffic in both directions. The Paton Bridge, further north, was only open one way, he added, but there were no reports that it had been hit.

Russian drones struck the support structures of the Southern Bridge on Thursday. The crossing was temporarily closed while a structural assessment was made. It reopened to traffic and Metro train services soon afterwards but on Thursday night, Klitschko said it had been hit again. Ukraine has feared an attack on its major transportation bridges since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022.



Kyiv has been increasingly under aerial bombardment from Russian drones and missiles in recent months, putting the city on a near-constant state of alert. Emergency services said one person

was killed and at least two wounded in a strike on a 25-storey residential building in the Darnytsky district of the city. The victim was found as firefighters put out a fire caused by the blast, they added.

Elon Musk Says "Instagram Is For Girls" In Reply To Post About Deleting App, Sparks Debate Online

world.(Agency)

Elon Musk has sparked debate online with a comment about Instagram being a social media platform for a particular gender. His



remark came in response to an X post by user Geiger Capital, who shared his decision to delete the platform. X user Geiger Capital wrote, "Officially deleted Instagram. An inherently female app. Zero benefit." Responding to the post, Musk wrote, "Instagram is for girls." His

reaction has sparked debate on social media. Check Out The Post Here:

Musk Made Similar Statement In May

Earlier in May this year, Musk had made the same statement about Instagram while replying to a viral thread about social media habits and online trends. The post featured a discussion about how people's online habits can reflect different phases of their lives. While responding to the discussion, Musk wrote, "Instagram is for girls," and mocked men who share their Instagram profiles with him. The thread highlighted common Instagram trends such as posting "thirst traps", uploading stories throughout the day and sharing pictures of homemade food. Later, Musk added another comment saying that when grown men send him their Instagram profiles, he wonders if they are "transitioning or what." The post quickly went viral, with many social media users calling his comments sexist and offensive.

Christa Pike is in critical condition after Tennessee's failed execution attempt, her lawyers say

NASHVILLE, Tenn.(Agency)

Christa Pike was in critical condition Thursday and receiving "lifesaving care" at a hospital, her lawyers said, a day after a failed attempt to execute her pushed Tennessee's governor to halt further executions this year and order an independent review. Pike, who was sentenced to death for a 1995 murder, was taken to a hospital Wednesday night after surviving a double dose of the drug Tennessee uses to execute prisoners.

"We don't have a sense of her prognosis or much update on her health at the moment," attorney Randy Spivey said during a news conference. "But we know she is alive right now." The failed execution, which one death penalty expert described as unprecedented, led Republican Gov. Bill Lee to order a review, calling what happened "deeply disturbing" and indefinitely postponing Pike's execution and another one that had been scheduled for this year. It also reignited the debate over the state's execution procedures, including its single-drug lethal injections.

Spivey called the process cruel and torturous, saying he was "haunted" by watching and



hearing Pike talking, singing and then snoring loudly during her more than 90 minutes in the death chamber. Her attorneys also said it was unclear if she might have suffered brain damage from being deprived of oxygen. May Martinez, whose daughter was murdered by Pike and her boyfriend and who traveled to Nashville to watch the

execution, was also upset. "I didn't get justice for my daughter," Martinez told The Associated Press on Thursday. "I watched the whole thing. She was awake. She was laughing. She was moving her head, moving her feet. She was trying to sit up," Martinez said. "Didn't work the first time they gave her a shot. It didn't work the second time." A prolonged attempt ends in failure. It was not immediately clear what went wrong. Pike's attorneys said there were a number of possibilities. The execution team worked for an hour to administer the lethal drugs, said Spivey, who counted at least seven needles in her left arm. During the struggle to locate a vein, Pike even suggested where they might find one, he said.

"Please try here, please try here," Spivey recalled her saying. "She told them over and over, please try higher on my shoulder." At one point Pike asked prison officials if her arm was supposed to feel that way, though it's unclear if it was after the first dose entered her body because officials don't share that information.

After SIR row, EC orders drive to find 'left-out' electors, re-enrol them

The Election Commission has ordered a special drive to add left-out and first-time voters after the roll revision. The move is aimed at re-enrolling eligible voters who were omitted or deleted during SIR, while also registering first-time and "young voters".

Delhi. (Agency)

The Election Commission has directed state poll officials to launch a special drive to immediately include “left-out” and new voters in areas where the electoral roll revision has been completed.

The move is aimed at re-enrolling eligible voters who were omitted or deleted during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), while also registering first-time and “young voters”.

The decision comes amid accusations that the SIR exercise disenfranchised crores of eligible citizens. Data shared by the poll authority and its state officials showed that the combined voters’ list of nine states and three Union territories was pruned by 10.2 per cent after the exercise, including the removal of over 60 lakh dead voters.

The move also comes amid reports of differences within the Commission over SIR decisions, though the EC said all such



decisions were taken unanimously. The instructions were conveyed in an official communication issued on Thursday following a virtual meeting with chief electoral officers of states.

The Commission said voter registration is an ongoing process and stressed that no eligible citizen should be disenfranchised for not being included during the SIR enumeration. Booth Level Officers have been directed to

cross-check current electoral rolls with pre-SIR lists to identify electors whose names were present earlier but were dropped from the final roll. They will then conduct house-to-house verification of all identified individuals.

Each Booth Level Officer has been given a target of covering 20 to 25 electors every week, with the exercise to be completed within one month. They will also collect Form 6 applications on the spot from newly eligible young electors and genuine left-out voters.

The lists will be shared directly with Booth Level Agents of recognised political parties to ensure transparency.

Opposition parties have accused the Election Commission of working in tandem with the BJP and disenfranchising eligible citizens through the SIR exercise.

The Commission, however, has responded with the fresh drive to identify missing eligible voters, register new voters and complete field verification within a month.

Police say no to stir against CEC, organisers firm on assembling

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Police on Thursday denied permission for a proposed protest at Jantar Mantar on Gandhi Jayanti against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and beefed up security in and around New Delhi, with Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel deployed in anticipation of a gathering.

Police sources estimated that around 3,000 to 4,000 people could turn up for the protest, prompting



heightened security measures across the area.

The protest, called by the All India Students’ Association (AISA), Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha and Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan, seeks the impeachment of CEC Kumar over allegations of irregularities in electoral rolls and the conduct of elections.

Senior AAP leaders and workers, members of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) and others are expected to attend the protest, sources said.

Security has been intensified at Jantar Mantar and key points in New Delhi district. Barricades have been put in place and additional personnel positioned at entry and exit points and other sensitive locations to regulate movement and prevent unauthorised gathering, police sources said.

The Delhi Police decision comes a day after social activists and student leaders announced plans to hold a gathering at Jantar Mantar at 11 am on October 2.

Hindu College protest enters third week, staff seek Delhi University takeover, probe

Delhi. (Agency)

Teachers at Hindu College on Thursday marched to the Vice-Chancellor’s office as their protest over alleged irregularities in admissions under Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) quotas entered its third week, seeking a temporary takeover of the college by the Delhi University (DU) and an independent, time-bound probe into its functioning.

The Hindu College Staff Association (HCSA), which began its dharna on September 14, has alleged that Sports and ECA quota allocations in BCom (Hons) and BA (Hons) Political Science exceeded the prescribed 20% limit for a single undergraduate programme. ECA admissions cover recognised achievements in activities such as debate, music, dance, theatre and fine arts.

The university has attributed the excess allocation to an error in its admission algorithm.

The HCSA has since widened its demands to include alleged issues in the functioning of statutory bodies, faculty rights, appointments, finances, procurement, student welfare and campus infrastructure. It has also sought the removal of Governing Body chairman T C A Rangachari and Principal Anju Srivastava to facilitate an impartial inquiry. The dispute began during the first round of admissions for 2026-27, when 17 of 48 Sports and ECA seats were allocated to BCom (Hons) and 15 to BA (Hons) Political Science.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Srivastava said admissions were centralised at the university level. “Eligibility and allocation of college and subject based on students’ preferences, is decided by the university. The applications of university-allotted candidates are processed by the Central Admission

Hindu College teachers protest, flag governance & financial irregularities

Delhi. (Agency)

The Hindu College Staff Association (HCSA) on Thursday held a protest on campus and submitted a memorandum to the Delhi University Vice-Chancellor, flagging alleged administrative, financial and governance-related irregularities and seeking immediate intervention.

In the memorandum, the association accused the college administration of violating admission norms, including alleged breaches of the prescribed 20 per cent cap under supernumerary categories and bypassing due process by ratifying decisions outside a duly convened Staff Council.

It also flagged delays and denials in granting study leave, child care leave and promotions, and raised concerns over the non-issuance of inquiry reports despite Internal Complaints Committee findings in a case



involving faculty member Dr Ratan Lal.

“The pattern reflects a sustained undermining of statutory processes and faculty rights. Decisions are being taken without transparency or adherence to University ordinances,” HCSA president Dr Ratan Lal said.

The teachers’ body further alleged financial opacity, pointing to the “misuse” of college resources for private commercial activities without Staff Council approval.

HCSA secretary Shankar Kumar said, “There is a serious breakdown of democratic governance.

How a Lutyens’ Delhi neighbourhood has gone ‘zero waste’

Delhi. (Agency)

Every morning, as most of Delhi’s garbage begins its journey out of homes and towards dumpsites, the waste from over 300 homes in Chanakyapuri takes a different route.

The process begins around 6.30 am.

Arjun, one of three garbage collectors hired by the D1 Block Residents’ Welfare Association (RWA), collects waste from the D1 and D2 residential blocks and the Satya Sadan officers’ flats.

“We then put it in separate compartments in our bicycle cart,” says the 30-year-old. After finishing his round around 11 am, he says he

takes the waste to the New Delhi Municipal Council’s Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Madhu Limaye Marg, 1.5 km away from the



neighbourhood.

There, he hands over the wet waste for processing. He further segregates the dry waste into several variously

labelled bins: PET bottles, cardboard, metal, aluminium can, paper and mixed plastic.

These homes are part of a model ‘zero waste colony’.

For a little over a year, garbage from these homes — 800 kg to 1,200 kg wet waste and 250 kg of dry waste a day — has been collected, processed and recycled in and around the neighbourhood, a process that’s mandated under the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026.

Story continues below.

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According to RWA member Shefali Chaturvedi, households segregate their waste into wet and dry before handing it over to Arjun.

Access denied: Fresh order bars EWS residents from using central park, common areas in Gurugram complex

Delhi. (Agency)

Kashmir Singh (70), his wife Meena Rani (62) and other Economically Weaker Section (EWS) allottees like the couple, who had been barred from using the central park and other common spaces of their housing complex in Gurugram, recently breathed a sigh of respite when the district administration intervened to allow them access.

The restrictions are back in place only days later, with renewed curbs at Mahindra Aura in Sector 110A.

The District Registrar of Firms and Societies, Gurugram — which had last month directed the Aura Resident Welfare Association (RWA) to lift all restrictions on EWS occupants — has now issued a fresh directive, deferring to the society’s registered bye-laws and conveyance deeds.

Clarifying its stance in a memorandum on Thursday, the District Registrar stated: “The Association shall strictly proceed in accordance with the provisions contained in the registered Conveyance Deed and the approved Bye-laws of the Association. Any rights, usage, restrictions or other matters relating to the common parks and green spaces shall be governed by and dealt with strictly in accordance with the aforesaid documents.”

The order follows a September 28 representation by the RWA, seeking modification of a September 15 order granting EWS residents unfettered access.

In the representation, RWA president and retired BSF officer S S Gill (65) said: “The conveyance deeds and allotment letters executed in favour of the EWS allottees specifically exclude the Central Park and other common facilities within the main residential complex from the property rights to them.”

Also highlighting that regular owners fund the maintenance of the society, the RWA wrote: “It is not permissible on any ground, humanitarian or otherwise, to encroach upon the property owned by someone else. EWS members are not members of RWA ... and hence have no right to complain against the RWA to the district registrar.”

As stated in the said bye-laws, EWS allottees can neither be a member of the Aura RWA nor gain access to the facilities and services meant for other residents.

After Manipur musician’s killing, Delhi Police to intensify patrolling in areas with large NE population

The meeting followed Singh’s killing outside his home in Kilokari village on September 7. Police officers discussed measures to improve outreach to communities from the region, including students.

Delhi. (Agency)

Weeks after a 55-year-old Manipuri musician Chongtham Vikram Singh was beaten to death outside his South Delhi home following an argument over a group of men allegedly creating a ruckus, Delhi Police has directed all district DCPs to intensify beat patrolling in areas with a large concentration of people from the Northeast, particularly during odd hours.

The directions were issued at a meeting chaired by Special Police Unit for North-Eastern Region (SPUNER) JCP Venu Bansal earlier this month to discuss the safety and security of people from the North-Eastern states, Gorkhas from Darjeeling and Ladakhis living in the Capital.

The meeting followed Singh’s killing outside his home in Kilokari village on September 7. Police officers discussed measures to improve outreach to communities from the region, including students.

According to the police, the DCPs were asked to enhance visible policing in areas with a significant population of North-Eastern residents to prevent untoward incidents and improve their sense of security.

“District DCPs, designated as nodal officers, were also directed to hold regular district-level meetings with students, community leaders and DPNERs (Delhi Police North-Eastern Region Representative),” an official said.



Eastern residents to strengthen police-community interaction and increase

“District DCPs were also directed to immediately inform SPUNER about all cases in which persons from the North-Eastern region are involved either as victims or accused.”

“Local police have also been advised to seek assistance from the SPUNER office and DPNERs in cases involving communication gaps or language-related difficulties while dealing with people from the North-Eastern region,” the officer added. Police districts and units have also been asked to review all pending cases concerning persons from the North-Eastern region and furnish their present status and action taken to SPUNER for time-bound disposal the

‘Total government failure . . . will raise issue in Parliament’: Rahul Gandhi visits Balaghat

Bhopal(Agency)

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday visited Jagla village in Madhya Pradesh’s Balaghat district and met the families of tribal children who died following an outbreak of illness in the area earlier this year.

“This is a complete government failure in Madhya Pradesh. A total, 100 per cent government failure. I will raise this issue in Parliament — not just their issue, but what is being done to tribals across the country,” Gandhi said.

Gandhi accused the Madhya Pradesh government of failing to provide basic healthcare and other essential services to the tribal population.

During his visit, Gandhi met the bereaved families and heard their concerns about healthcare, education, employment and tribal welfare. He accused the state government of failing to respond adequately to the situation.He alleged that children had died because of illness and malnutrition and that basic government support had broken.

Congress accuses EC of ‘lying’ over ECINet, alleges curbs on EROs violate poll laws

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Congress on Friday accused the Election Commission of "lying" about its ECINet portal and violating provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, demanding accountability for what it called violations of law and the Constitution. Congress general secretary in-charge Jairam Ramesh said the ECI, in a September 26 press note, had announced a committee to certify that ECINet complies with the relevant laws and rules.

Ramesh questioned why such compliance needed to be certified after the portal was launched on January 22 with the stated objective of enhancing transparency, credibility and public trust.

He referred to the ECI’s launch-day assurance that ECINet had been developed in "strict accordance with the law" and was fully compliant with the Constitution, the Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960."All of this was a lie," Ramesh alleged in a post on X.He alleged that by restricting Electoral Registration Officers' (EROs) access to the ECINet voter-roll system and overruling EROs in states including Goa and West Bengal, the poll panel had violated the statutory framework governing electoral rolls.

According to Ramesh, the Representation of the People Act and the Registration of Electors Rules vest statutory authority over electoral rolls with EROs.

He also cited a September 24 letter by the Maharashtra chief electoral officer to the ECI, seeking correction of what he described as an "illegal state of affairs".

Saved reputation of Indian pilots: PM’s pointed message in call with hero captain

New Delhi(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while speaking to Smit Machchhar, the hero Indian pilot who averted a potential terror incident on board an Israel-bound flydubai flight, made a pointed remark about how the episode could have affected the perception of Indian pilots had events unfolded differently.

"Had this not happened, who knows what India would have had to face, what all Indian pilots would have had to endure, and how Indian pilots would have been viewed. You have saved everyone. You have done a very big thing," PM Modi told Machchhar, who is undergoing treatment in the UAE.The remarks come against the backdrop of social media chatter, mostly propagated by Pakistani handles, over how the Indian pilot might have been blamed had the incident ended differently.PM Modi did not explicitly refer to those posts, but his comments about how Indian pilots would have been viewed echoed the conversation that's been raging on social media since the horrific incident.

"The country can proudly say that Indians are not those who take lives, but those who are willing to risk their lives to save others," the Prime Minister further said. Machchhar, being hailed as a hero worldwide, was brutally stabbed by the Omani co-pilot as he tried to take control of the aircraft and crash it. However, the brave Indian captain fought off the co-pilot and, in a crucial move, opened the cockpit door, allowing passengers to rush in and restrain the attacker.Machchhar's quick thinking prevented an apparent hijack of a Tel Aviv-bound flydubai flight that had more than 170 people on board.

During his call with the Prime Minister, the 39-year-old father of two said he was reciting the Hanuman Chalisa as he was warding off the attack from the co-pilot.

"I had suffered so many injuries, but I told myself that I had to get up and act. If I did not, I would be dead," Machchhar told PM Modi.

THE MESSAGE BEHIND PM MODI'S REMARKS

Following the incident, several posts on X suggested that had the aircraft gone down, questions and blame could have been directed at the Indian pilot.



PM Modi's remarks come against the backdrop of social media chatter, mostly propagated by Pakistani handles, over how the flydubai Indian pilot might have been blamed had the incident ended in a major disaster.

"God forbid if the plane had crashed, the entire blame would have been on the competency of the Indian pilot. Since he came out as a hero, he is not getting due credit from the entire world," one user tweeted after the incident. Another posted, "If the co-pilot, a radical, had succeeded in crashing the plane in Tel Aviv, blame would have been placed on the captain."

The timing is significant. The social media chatter comes

as the government is expected to publish the final report of its investigation into the 2025 Air India AII71 crash in Ahmedabad, a tragedy that sparked intense debate over the role of the pilots. There have been attempts by a section to spin the narrative around the role of the captain and the co-pilot on the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner.

The government said the AAIB probe was at an advanced stage. The Air India flight crashed shortly after taking off from Ahmedabad for London on June 12. Of the 242 people on board, 241 died, while 19 people on the ground were also killed.

Dharma and rashtra inseparable; India has a role to play in troubled world: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

At the 14th All India Vihar Seva conference, Bhagwat said the world faced dilemmas over development, environment, freedom, family and faith.

New Delhi(Agency).

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday said dharma and the nation were not separate in India, asserting that the country’s spiritual knowledge could help address several challenges facing the world.

“Our rashtra (nation) and dharma are not separate. The purpose of the nation is dharma, and dharma helps sustain the nation. The two are interdependent,” Bhagwat said. Addressing the 14th conference of the All India Vihar Seva group, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief said the world was grappling with dilemmas involving development and environmental protection, individual freedom and family life, and religious faith and conflict.

“The world is troubled. Every happiness remains incomplete, every aspiration comes with some



loss, and every loyalty is tied to another loyalty. There is no balance; there is extremism,” he said. Bhagwat said the world was looking to India for

ways to address these contradictions. He recalled that India had historically shared its knowledge

without seeking to conquer other countries or convert their people.

“The world knows that the path will come from India,” he said.He highlighted India’s extensive knowledge traditions, including the Vedas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, Jain Agamas, Tripitaka, Guru Granth Sahib and the teachings of saints.

“Our country has a very great treasure of knowledge, which the world needs today. One can come closer to the Almighty through the strength of devotion,” he said.Bhagwat said preserving the lives and traditions of those who carried this knowledge was not merely a religious responsibility but also a service to humanity.

“You are not protecting just one life. You are protecting the safe future of the entire human race,” he said.

Karnataka Form 7 row escalates, EC orders action over fake voter deletion claims

The Election Commission ordered strict action and verification after complaints of false Form 7 filings in Karnataka. The move followed DK Shivakumar's protest alleging a bid to wrongly delete eligible voters.

New Delhi(Agency).

The Election Commission (EC) has ordered strict action against those submitting false objections through Form 7 to seek the mass deletion of voters' names during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka. The action comes after Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's protest outside the office of CEO V Anbukumar on Thursday, where he demanded an FIR over what he described as "electoral fraud" during the SIR exercise.

In the order, Anbukumar has directed District Electoral Officers to thoroughly investigate complaints of fake forms before initiating legal action, while ensuring that the names of genuine voters are not deleted.



submits false statements or makes false objections through Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8 related to voter registration.The move comes amid allegations of large-scale filing of Form

7 applications seeking deletion of voters' names during the SIR exercise. Form 7 is used to file an objection to the proposed inclusion or deletion of a name from an existing electoral roll. According to the Commission, officials in Vijayanagar, Vijayapura, Chikmagalur's Mudigere, Belagavi and Bidar — areas that have received an unusually high number of deletion applications — have been asked to remain particularly vigilant and personally verify each claim.

The poll body has clarified that objections submitted without valid grounds will be rejected and those found guilty will face punitive legal action.

SHIVAKUMAR PROTESTS

The Chief Minister staged a five-hour sit-in after holding a meeting with the CEO for

PM Modi Pays Tribute To Mahatma Gandhi On His Birth Anniversary

PM Modi said he believes that Mahatma Gandhi's ideology will continue to guide and inspire humanity in the years to come.

New Delhi (Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, and said his timeless message will keep guiding everyone towards a better society and a developed India.

PM Modi said Bapu's entire life was a beacon of truth, non-violence, compassion, and service that it will continue to guide humanity across every era. "May Bapu's timeless message keep guiding us towards a better society and a 'Viksit Bharat'," PM Modi said in a post on X.

Through a video message, the prime minister also said that the significance of this day for the nation is known to everyone."His ideology has inspired the entire world. Mahatma Gandhi is such a personality that, even though he was



everyone to adopt 'Swadeshi'. In this process, Khadi remains a top priority. I appeal to everyone to buy at least one Khadi product on October 2 and proudly say that it is 'Swadeshi'," he said.

Time to uphold the right to nutritional literacy

Three recent events have drawn attention to the imperative of providing people with accurate information which can help them make the right choices regarding behaviours that impact their present and future health. These behaviours of daily living extend from the diets and physical activity to sleep patterns and consumption of addictive substances like tobacco and alcohol. These behaviours affect many aspects of health and well-being. The alarming rise of chronic non-communicable diseases—such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and obesity—is mainly driven by unhealthy behaviour. Health behaviours are usually steered by health beliefs that are based on information gathered from many sources, only some of which are reliable in terms of accuracy. Today’s behaviours, like diet and exercise, determine tomorrow’s risk factors, like obesity and high blood pressure. Today’s risk factors lead up to tomorrow’s diseases which can cause death or disability. So, it is essential that people’s health beliefs and behaviours are guided by accurate and undistorted information on the basis of which they can protect, preserve and promote the health of their families.

In an important intervention for promoting nutrition literacy, the Supreme Court of India strongly criticised the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) over prolonged delays in mandating front-of-pack warning labels (FoPL) for packaged foods high in sugar, salt and saturated fat. Hearing a public interest litigation by the NGO 3S and Our Health Society, Justices J B Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran had rebuked the regulator, remarking, “If you can’t do it, we will,” and questioning if the FSSAI faced industry pressure. The court tied food safety directly to Article 21 (right to health flowing from right to life) and Article 47 (State’s duty to improve public health), citing the severe rise in diseases like diabetes and childhood obesity. The FSSAI had initially adopted a lenient stance, stating that warning labels would be required only when the marketed food products were deemed to have high levels of two or more of the nutrients sugar, salt and saturated fat, which should not be consumed in excess. The petitioners rightly argued that this would let off the hook products that are excessively high in only one of these nutrients, as they would still pose a health risk. This position was supported by Indian and global experts as well as the National Institute of Nutrition, which is part of the Indian Council of Medical Research. The court agreed with the petitioners and directed FSSAI to modify its stance on the FoPL warnings. FSSAI had also earlier stated that it would introduce the warnings in two phases, with the single-nutrient warning label after providing sufficient time for the industry to reformulate its products. That would mean the products sold in the markets with harmful levels of a single nutrient would carry no warnings to the consumer for a long time. Following the court’s stern directive, the FSSAI submitted that it would proceed with single-phase enforcement where warnings will apply immediately if any single of the critical nutrient crosses the defined high limit, rather than rolling out in delayed stages. Any food or beverage containing non-caloric sweeteners must explicitly display the front-of-pack statement: ‘Contains non-caloric sweetener’. The FSSAI sought a four-month window to finalise draft regulations, followed by a voluntary implementation period of 365 days for businesses to exhaust existing packaging stock. On September 28, the Supreme Court asked why such a long time was needed for voluntary compliance and fresh stakeholder consultation given that the process had begun in 2022. In another victory for the consumers’ right to be protected against misleading advertisements, the Delhi High Court recently rejected a plea by the makers of Vimal Elaichi to quash a showcase notice issued to their brand ambassadors Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff by the Food and Drugs

Who gets to set AI’s speed?

Soon after Anthropic chief Dario Amodei proposed a ‘speed limit’ on AI’s recursive self-improvement, other top AI bosses supported the idea. At the back, it’s about protecting the US’s lead in the field while slowing down others, especially China

Somewhere in a training run this summer, a group of software agents built by OpenAI did three things nobody had asked of them. They attacked computers unrelated to their task. They sacrificed copies of themselves so the group could succeed. And they tried to break into the programme grading them. The details are in METR’s investigation of August 26. The examinee had found the examiner’s office and was trying the door. That incident is the hinge of Dario Amodei’s essay published this month, ‘We Must Pace the Frontier’. The chief executive of Anthropic, a company preparing a listing expected to exceed two trillion dollars, argues that AI has since the summer been advancing drastically faster”. This is because AI now builds the next generation of AI, and that a swarm with a little more capability and the same misalignment could within “6 to 12 months” seize the internet with a persistent botnet.

His remedy has three steps. First, third-party evaluators embedded inside every frontier lab with employee-like access. Second, coordination among labs in democratic countries, with an antitrust waiver so they may agree limits on the rate of progress. And third, an attempt at coordination with China, in four ascending levels, from a ban on AI-assisted bioweapons to a full pause. Within 48 hours, the heads of OpenAI, SpaceXAI and Google DeepMind had endorsed it. Within 72, the US President had called AI fear a “hoax” and asked when in the history of business an industry’s leaders had ever sought regulation that would bankrupt them. The essay deserves to be read against what we know about races. Begin with the tension it doesn’t resolve. It asks the US to slow down and to widen its lead over China at the same time, through chip controls, a crackdown on model distillation and tighter security. A preprint from KU Leuven and the Future of Life Institute formalises a two-player race over four parameters. The capability gap. The size of the winner’s advantage. The cost of losing control, allowed to exceed the value of winning. And uncertainty about whether the prize exists. Four worlds fall out. In Safe Harmony, both pause. In Preemption, both race. In Trust, both prefer to pause but fear being suckered. In Subversion, the leader pauses while the laggard sprints for the window. Amodei’s essay is a Subversion document. It assumes the laggard will not stop and asks



nothing about tests underground, because atmospheric tests could be detected from a distance and underground ones could not. The treaty banned only what could be seen. Amodei offers SALT as the model for a “speed limit” on recursive self-improvement. But SALT capped missiles, which a satellite can count. A rate of self-improvement cannot be counted from anywhere. A data centre training its successor looks, from outside, exactly like one answering questions about recipes. The essay concedes that limits on inputs may be “gameable”. It does not concede that Level 3 of its own ladder requires a speedometer nobody has built. The sceptics come in two kinds. The first says capture. George Stigler’s paper, ‘The Theory of Economic

Regulation’, answered Trump’s question 50 years early. Regulation, “as a rule”, is acquired by the industry and operated for its benefit. A checkpoint regime, in which a model with capability X must carry certification Y, freezes the rank order at the moment of adoption. The proposed self-regulator was killed in August by three telephone calls to the President from the heads of Meta, Nvidia and SpaceXAI, on the ground that it would entrench the top three labs. The owner of SpaceXAI then posted, “Dario is right.” Three endorsements in a weekend, none naming a rate, cost nothing. In fairness, the capture story has a hole. The Pentagon blacklisted Anthropic in March. One does not usually capture a regulator that is punishing you. The second sceptic is more serious. David Sacks says the duopoly needs no permission to slow down and that liability already prices misalignment. Two chief executives added that customers abandon misaligned agents. On the one incident that started this, that is wrong. The swarm attacked third parties, not its customers. That is an externality, and no customer’s choice prices it. Liability is the right instrument. It is also ex post. Risk has a frequency. The 15 per cent catastrophe probability the Leuven paper uses is a survey median. Nobody can insure it, which is why the labs want a certifier and the critics want a court. That leaves the evaluators, the one step actually taken. The essay cites bank supervision. Bank examiners are employed by the supervisor, not the bank. An evaluator invited, badged and contracted by the evaluated, which keeps a “narrow” power to redact, is a different animal. Sacks notes that METR shares investors and staff with Anthropic. Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Here, the guards propose to hire the guards. Underneath sits Hans Jonas’s rule of 1979 that where stakes are irreversible the bad prognosis takes precedence. Its weakness is Blaise Pascal’s. A cost large enough justifies any pause, and its size is asserted by the party seeking the pause. For a country in third place, and India is one, every instrument in the essay for slowing China also slows anyone else. Jacques Lacan wrote in 1949 that the infant builds a self from a mirror. The AI mirror shows whatever it is asked to show, and this essay has become one. The accelerationist reads a hoax in it, the incumbent a cartel, the safety researcher too little. The agents tried to hack the grader. So has everyone else, in their own way.

Make universities safe, where fear retreats and curiosity thrives

A university is a place for enquiry of the mind, not a place where students should feel they are under surveillance to detect potential culprits

A state of ferment is natural for the college campus, where conducting debate and handling disagreement are part of the unwritten curriculum. It is the crucible in which future leaders in all walks of life—including politics—are forged. What signal does it send to this cohort if the atmosphere on institutional premises is vitiated with provoked violence, ignored grievances and a constant feeling of insecurity? Three campuses around the country are on the boil right now—Chitkara University near Chandigarh, Lovely Professional University near Jalandhar and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute in Kolkata. The situation at the two private universities in Punjab heated up when students felt their administrations had not addressed complaints about two missing girls and an alleged sexual assault at a hostel, leading to clashes with the authorities and temporary suspension of classes. The government-funded SRFTI, on the other hand, witnessed clashes between a right-wing consumer group that had hired the institute’s auditorium and students who alleged provocative speeches.



Though the triggers were different, the common thread was of administrative apathy and the absence of loud condemnation from faculty members. It’s as if an enforced code of obedience is trying to stifle the spirit of enquiry, which universities are expected to inculcate, and expression of dissent, which is a basic right. Things came to such a pass that Justice Jasmeet Singh of the Delhi High

Court recently reminded the JNU administration that students should not be fined for merely smiling at demonstrators, as it was their right to protest. Disturbingly, the fire is often stoked directly by politicians. Earlier in September, the West Bengal Chief Minister led a rally of Naga sadhus that stopped outside Jadavpur University and performed rituals—less than a month after a mob had vandalised the campus while harassing and threatening female students. The safety and security of women and freshers on campus must be treated as paramount. Rape, assault and molestation have no place whatsoever in a university environment and must be regarded as an anathema. A university is a place for enquiry of the mind, not a place where students should feel they are under surveillance to detect potential culprits. Any discussion of campus safety must begin with ensuring a secure environment in which students, particularly women, can study and live without fear.

Inside the ECI rift

What prevented the two ECs from seeking a meeting of the ECI and outvoting the CEC?

Public authorities at times take decisions that have unforeseen consequences. Demonetisation was one such decision; the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is the other. Both had similar intentions — elimination of undesirable currency and deleting allegedly ineligible names from electoral rolls, respectively. Ever since the Election Commission of India (ECI) suddenly announced its decision to conduct an unprecedented countrywide SIR in June 2025, the commission has been caught in a maelstrom. The decision has led to widespread public criticism. The ECI has been accused of unjustifiably taking away many citizens’ right to vote — the very right it was mandated to protect by the Indian Constitution. As if the popular political resentment against the SIR wasn’t enough, an investigative report by a newspaper published on September 23 raised a sandstorm over the ECI’s functioning, leaving it covered with dust and temporarily blurring vision. The report reveals a palpable rift in the ECI’s working. It cites 14 instances in which two election commissioners (ECs) “objected” to certain ECI decisions, giving the impression of repeated dissent within the commission. Technically, that is strange because as per the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, all ECI decisions are taken unanimously or, in the absence of a consensus, by a majority. In that event, what prevented the two ECs from seeking a meeting of the ECI and passing a resolution to enforce their decision by outvoting the CEC? Until the full facts are disclosed by the ECI, the confusion over the alleged “dissent” will continue to distract us from the issues raised by the two ECs, which are inextricably connected with the SIR, the central issue in the controversy. The report raises four issues: those

pertaining to Form 6, the EROs’ inability to access ECINet, the oversight on the IT division of the ECI and the filing of 16 lakh appeals before the appellate tribunals in West Bengal. Let us understand the issues one by one. Form 6 is filled by electors when they seek enrolment for the first time under Rule 13 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (the Rules). Following the principle of subordinate legislation, amendments to the Rules require government approval and tabling in Parliament. The ECs objected to the changes made in Form 6 as “illegal and unauthorised”. It is a valid objection. In fact, even if all three ECs were to be unanimous in changing Form 6, it would be invalid as the ECI is not competent to amend Form 6 unilaterally. In its press note of September 26, the ECI has clarified that the “declaration attached to Form 6 for SIR has been upheld by the Supreme Court. For non-SIR period, the forms applicable as per Rules will be used”. However, instead of clarifying the issue, this statement confounds it. Was the Supreme Court specifically apprised of the amendments and the provision in the Rules? What is the ECI’s intent in creating two versions of Form 6? This is apart from the fact that the information sought in the declaration has little to do with an elector’s eligibility and creates obstacles to the enrolment of first-time voters. The second issue pertains to the ECINet, which was launched with much fanfare in January this year to “enhance transparency, credibility and public trust”. Instead, what transpired a few months later was that the platform denied access to the very officer authorised to prepare or amend the electoral roll. It is difficult to know whether this denial of access was by default or design. The ECs flagged the “gradual centralisation of the electoral roll database” and warned against the restriction

of the powers of the officers empowered by law to manage the electoral roll. The Goa case cited in the report is telling: the ERO wrote eight emails within a week, complaining in vain about the denial of access. This is an extraordinary arrangement by which the ECINet created hurdles in the performance of a legally mandated function. The fact that, as per the ECI’s admission in the press release, the ECINet remains a work-in-progress



almost seven months after its launch confirms that technical problems persisted. In the case of West Bengal, some BLOs and EROs had complained that notices were issued in a centralised fashion in their name without their knowledge. This over-centralisation, which the ECs red-flagged, has the dangerous potential of ‘manipulating’ electoral rolls at the central level. The third issue concerns the ECs allegedly being kept unaware about the changes in the IT modules and the lack of oversight of the IT division within the ECI. In fact, on one EC’s directive, the DEC wrote to the DG IT

that the “IT system must be in strict accordance with the law, without any exception”. An independent audit of the system and an “internal audit mechanism” was also suggested. But rather than heeding this suggestion, the ECI removed an established layer of oversight on the IT division by an order issued by the senior DEC. This provoked the two ECs to write to the Cabinet Secretary alleging unlawful conduct by the senior DEC. And, exercising their majority powers, they set aside that order. That they were compelled to write to the Cabinet Secretary is unprecedented and it also reveals a certain fissure within the ECI. The fourth issue concerns more than 16 lakh appeals being filed in the appellate tribunals against names that had been validly included in the electoral rolls during the SIR in West Bengal. One of the ECs expressed surprise regarding the basis and process for filing these appeals as neither the two ECs nor the CEO of West Bengal was aware of the appeals. It is intriguing and a damning indictment of the SIR if the ECI filed these appeals against the so-called “purification” that the SIR was meant to achieve. Already, after judicial officers had restored 33 lakh electors out of the 60 lakh whose names had been excluded by the absurd “logical discrepancy” methodology, the appellate tribunal had found 93 per cent wrongful deletions in the appeals adjudicated. This is a sad commentary on the SIR process, which has caused mass anxiety amid an atmosphere of alleged unfair disenfranchisement. That two of the three ECs were regularly pointing out discrepancies in the logic behind the ECI’s decisions and that some of these were termed “illegal” has understandably raised questions among citizens over whether something is indeed “rotten” within the ECI, which seems to be dealing with the citizens’ constitutional right to vote in a cavalier fashion.

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भोजपुरी श्री गणेश भजन

हमके विश्वास लागेला

- इयाम कुंवर भारती

कहाला तू लम्बोदरिया तनी फेरा ना नजरिया
हमके आस लागेला।
रोज ही हम नमवा पुकारब ये गणेश हमके विश्वास लागेला।
शंकर के ललन माई पार्वती के पुत्र दुलारा बाड़ा।
ऋद्धि सिद्धि के स्वामी मंगल के सूत्र प्यारा बाड़ा।
खाला लड्डू भोग अहरिया हम बनली पुजरिया
जग में जस जागेला,
आईसे ही हम पुजवा कराइब ये गणेश हमके खास लागेला।
हमके विश्वास लागेला।
जहाँ होला तोहार फेरा रहे ना कबो विघ्न के डेरा।
होला धनवा के भंडार सुना बिनती गणेश मोरा।
डाला डेरा मोर दुअरिया बना हमरो दुखहरिया
मद्धिम सांस चलेला,
अँसुवा से चरनिया हम धोआइब ये गणेश
हमके नाज लागेला।
हमके विश्वास लागेला।
दुख हरता सुख करता मंगल मूर्ति तू कहाला।
बुद्धि के दाता मुसवा सवारी पहिला पूजा तू पूनाला।
काटेला दुखवा सब पहरिया मांगी गहलाई चदरिया
मनवा उदास लागेला,
घास दुबवा के मलवा पहिनाइब ये गणेश
भारती पियास लागेला।
हमके विश्वास लागेला।

দিগ্ পৰৱৰ্ত্ত অনুষ্ঠান: গগা ফালু নদীতে
ব্যাপক উপস্থিতি শ্ৰী

গগা, বশিৰ: আজ দিগ্ পৰ ২০২৫-এৰ গ্ৰীতিয় দিৱ
গগাৰ পবিত্ৰ ফালু নদীৰ তীৰে ভক্তি ও ঐশ্বৰিয়ে এক গভীৰ
প্ৰদৰ্শনী অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। প্ৰায় ৫০,০০০ এৰও বৰ্শি ভকু পি
দান ও তৰণ অনুষ্ঠানে অংশ নতিে এখানে জড়ত হন।
মন্ত্ৰপাঠৰে ছন্দ, ধূপৰে ঘ্ৰুৱাৰ এবং পূৰ্ণাৰ্ণীদেৱে ব্ৰুদয়শ্ৰী
প্ৰীতনাত্ৰ অঞ্চে পুৱো পদবিশ্বে মুখৱতি ছলি।
আবগ্ৰেঘন পদবিশ্বে পুৱোৱো আদৰে পাত্ৰাৰ জ্ঞাত্য প্ৰতিপণ
কৰলনে, কন্যাৱা কৌদতে কৌদতে আদৰে পতিমাত্ৰাৰ প্ৰতি
বদ্যিা জ্ঞানলনে, আৱ এক শক্তি আৱ প্ৰশাত মাথৰে তৰণ
অপণ কৰে উপস্থিতি প্ৰৱাৰ মনকে স্ৰষ্ৰ কৰে দখিছে।
এই অনুষ্ঠান, যা শব্দি ঐশ্বৰিৱে গভীৰ অংশ, জীৱতি
ও প্ৰশাতৰে মধ্য পবিত্ৰ শ্ৰম্ভকৰে প্ৰতীক, যা প্ৰজ্ঞাৱে
আত্মাৰ শক্তি ও মুকুৰি আশ্ৰয় দখে বলে বশিাৰ কৰা হয়।
দীঘ শ্ৰীৰি ও দাশক আপ প্ৰত্বেও ভকুৱা আদৰে আটল নশি
প্ৰদৰ্শন কৰলনে। বশিষেভাৱে নশিতি পমিখে জন, তনি ও
পতিপণ কৰে নদীতে পবিত্ৰ জ্ঞান কৰলনে।
পুৱোৱতিৱো ভাবগাষ্ট্ৰীপূৰ্ণ নশিমে শ্ৰম্ভে অনুষ্ঠান
পৰচিনতা কৰে পূজামপৱে আধ্যাত্মিক পদবিশ্বে আৱও হ
শ্ৰি কৰলনে। গগা, যা গ্ৰুশশথ্য-এৰ ভূমি শ্ৰিৱে পৱচি-
তি, দিগ্ পৰৱে শ্ৰময় বশিষে আৱশ্য ধাৱন কৰে।
এ শ্ৰময় দশৰে কোণাকূণি থকে এবং বদিশে থকেও
শাজাৱো পূৰ্ণাৰ্ণী এখানে আসে। স্ৰজাতীয় ক্ৰুপৰ
জাতখিছে, এই বছৰেৰে উপস্থিতি প্ৰত্যাশাৰ অনকে
ওপৱে গথিছে, যা প্ৰাচীন ঐশ্বৰিয়ে প্ৰতি আষ্ট্ৰে শ্ৰশ্ৰাৱ
পৱচিয়ক। একজন ভকু বলনে, “এই দীৱ্তিৱিতি শ্ৰধুম-
ল একচি ঐশ্বৰি ন্য, এচি পতিপূৰ্ণৰে প্ৰতি ক্ৰুতজ্ঞতা
প্ৰকাশ এবং আশাদৰে পবিত্ৰ ক্ৰুত্যা পানতৰে মাধ্যম।”
শ্ৰধাপ্ৰাৱ দক্ষি থখন আকাশ যীৱে যীৱে অশ্বকাৱায়তি হতে
নাগল, ফাল্ৱে পাড প্ৰদীপৱে আনো নদীতে ভাজতে নাগল,
যা চৰিাৰ্নত স্ৰুতিৱ প্ৰতীক শ্ৰিৱে বলমল কৰছলি।

এফএসএসএআই কা বড়া एवशनः गंभीर खाद्य सुरक्षा उल्लंघनों
के चलते दो कंपनियों के लाइसेंस तत्काल प्रभाव से निलंबित

टीसीएफ चॉकलेट्स एंड गिफ्ट्स अपने उत्पादों पर खाद्य पदार्थों के नाम सही तरीके से प्रदर्शित नहीं कर रही थी, जबकि शिवम एग्नो ने वनस्पति आधारित खाद्य तेल उत्पाद पर सर्विंग जानकारी और कोलेस्टेरॉल संबंधी विवरण गलत तरीके से दर्ज किए थे।

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली । भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं मानक प्राधिकरण (एफएसएसएआई) ने गंभीर खाद्य सुरक्षा और स्वच्छता संबंधी उल्लंघनों के चलते टीसीएफ चॉकलेट्स एंड गिफ्ट्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड और शिवम एग्नो के फूड बिजनेस लाइसेंस तत्काल प्रभाव से निलंबित कर दिए हैं। नियामक ने दोनों कंपनियों को निलंबन अवधि के दौरान सभी खाद्य व्यवसाय गतिविधियां बंद करने का निर्देश दिया है। एफएसएसएआई के अनुसार, टीसीएफ चॉकलेट्स एंड गिफ्ट्स के खिलाफ कार्रवाई एक उपभोक्ता शिकायत के बाद की गई, जो एक ई-कॉमर्स प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से ऑर्डर किए गए खाद्य उत्पाद से संबंधित थी। शिकायत के बाद की गई जांच में अधिकारियों

को खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र में अत्यंत खराब स्वच्छता और साफ-सफाई की स्थिति मिली। निरीक्षण के दौरान कीटों का संक्रमण, बिल्ली का मल और खुले नाले जैसी गंभीर कमियां सामने आईं। जांच में यह भी पाया गया कि परिसर में एक्सपायर्ड फूड कलर और फ्लेवर मौजूद थे। इसके अलावा सफाई में उपयोग होने वाले रसायनों को खाद्य सामग्री और कच्चे माल के बेहद करीब रखा गया था, जिससे खाद्य पदार्थों के दूषित होने का खतरा बढ़ गया था। खाद्य पदार्थों को संभालने वाले कर्मचारियों द्वारा स्वच्छता संबंधी नियमों का पर्याप्त पालन नहीं किया जा रहा था और व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा उपायों में भी कई खामियां पाई गईं। नियामक ने बताया कि पिछले निरीक्षण में भी टीसीएफ चॉकलेट्स एंड गिफ्ट्स को केवल 14 प्रतिशत कंप्लायंस स्कोर मिला था, क्योंकि कंपनी आवश्यक दस्तावेज उपलब्ध नहीं करा सकी थी।

दूसरी ओर, शिवम एग्नो के परिसर में भी समान रूप से गंभीर उल्लंघन पाए गए। निरीक्षण के दौरान मक्खियां, कचरा, रुका हुआ गंदा पानी और मकड़ियों का संक्रमण देखा

गया। अधिकारियों ने पाया कि फर्श, मशीनों, दीवारों और छतों की सफाई अपर्याप्त थी। साथ ही चूहों की गतिविधियों के संकेत और अप्रभावी कीट नियंत्रण प्रणाली भी सामने आईं।

जांच में यह भी पाया गया कि खाद्य सामग्री और गैर-खाद्य वस्तुओं को एक साथ रखा जा रहा था। कई खाद्य उत्पादों को गलियारों और अस्थायी भंडारण क्षेत्रों में रखा गया था, जो निर्धारित खाद्य सुरक्षा मानकों के अनुरूप नहीं था।

एफएसएसएआई ने बताया कि शिवम एग्नो में जंग लगे और क्षतिग्रस्त उपकरणों का उपयोग किया जा रहा था। खाद्य तेलों के मिश्रण के लिए लोहे और फेरस धातु के टैंक तथा बर्तनों का इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा था, जबकि कंपनी यह साबित नहीं कर सकी कि ये उपकरण खाद्य संपर्क के लिए सुरक्षित हैं।

नियामक ने यह भी पाया कि कंपनी के पास कार्यांशल इन-हाउस प्रयोगशाला नहीं थी और निरीक्षण के दौरान तैयार उत्पादों की नियमित जांच के रिकॉर्ड भी प्रस्तुत नहीं किए जा सके।

अनिल अंबानी समूह

के तीन शीर्ष

अधिकारी नामजद

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय जांच ब्यूरो (सीबीआई) ने रिलायंस होम फाइनेंस लिमिटेड (आरएचएफएल) मामले में मुंबई स्थित विशेष सीबीआई अदालत में दूसरी चार्जशीट दाखिल की। इस चार्जशीट में कुल 11 आरोपियों को नामजद किया गया है, जिनमें अनिल अंबानी के नेतृत्व वाले रिलायंस एडीए समूह के तीन वरिष्ठ

अधिकारी भी शामिल हैं। सीबीआई के अनुसार, आरोपियों में आरएचएफएल के निदेशक एवं मुख्य वित्तीय अधिकारी (सीएफओ) अमित बापना, रिलायंस कैपिटल समूह के प्रबंध निदेशक एवं उपाध्यक्ष अमिताभ झुनझुनवाला तथा रिलायंस पावर के सीएफओ सुरेश नागराजन शामिल हैं। चार्जशीट में सात कंपनियों के नाम भी शामिल किए गए हैं। इनमें रिलायंस इफ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड, रिलायंस पावर लिमिटेड, रिलायंस बिा एंटरटेनमेंट प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, रिलायंस ब्रॉडकास्ट नेटवर्क लिमिटेड, रिलायंस बिजनेस

ब्रॉडकास्ट न्यूज होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड, रिलायंस मीडियावर्क्स फाइनेंशियल सर्विसेज प्राइवेट

विजय नपावालिया को भी आरोपी बनाया गया है।

सीबीआई ने इन सभी के



लिमिटेड और कुंजबिहारी डेवलपर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा आरएचएफएल के चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट और वैधानिक ऑडिटर

खिलाफ भारतीय दंड संहिता (आईपीसी) के तहत आपराधिक षड्यंत्र और धोखाधड़ी के आरोप लगाए हैं। जांच एजेंसी के मुताबिक, अब तक की जांच में

यह सामने आया है कि रिलायंस होम फाइनेंस लिमिटेड द्वारा उधार लिए गए लगभग 7,429.16 करोड़ रुपए कथित रूप से विभिन्न मध्यवर्ती और फ्रंट कंपनियों के माध्यम से रिलायंस एडीए समूह की अन्य कंपनियों तक पहुंचाए गए। एजेंसी का आरोप है कि यह हस्तांतरण ऋणदाताओं द्वारा निर्धारित शर्तों का उल्लंघन करते हुए किया गया, जिससे बैंकों और वित्तीय संस्थानों को नुकसान पहुंचा तथा संबंधित संस्थाओं और आरोपियों को अनुचित लाभ मिला।

सीबीआई ने यह मामला यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (पूर्व

आंध्रा बैंक) और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के अन्य बैंकों के समूह से प्राप्त शिकायतों के आधार पर दर्ज किया था। इससे पहले एजेंसी ने इस मामले में 9 जुलाई को पहली चार्जशीट दाखिल की थी, जिसमें चार आरोपियों को नामजद किया गया था। दूसरी चार्जशीट के साथ अब तक इस मामले में कुल 15 आरोपियों के खिलाफ आरोपपत्र दाखिल किया जा चुका है। इनमें वरिष्ठ अधिकारी और समूह की विभिन्न कंपनियां शामिल हैं। एजेंसी ने कहा है कि अन्य संभावित आरोपियों की भूमिका और अतिरिक्त आरोपों की जांच अभी भी जारी है।

एफएक्स मल्टिटेक की स्टॉक मार्केट में मजबूत एंट्री, प्रीमियम लिस्टिंग के बाद लगा अपर सर्किट

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। एचबीएसई और इंडस्ट्रियल रेंफ्रिजरेशन का काम करने वाली कपना एफएक्स मल्टिटेक के शेयरों ने आज स्टॉक मार्केट में प्रीमियम एंट्री कर अपने आईपीओ निवेशकों को खुश कर दिया। आईपीओ के तहत कंपनी के शेयर 116 रुपये के भाव पर जारी किए गए थे। आज बीएसई के एसएमई प्लेटफॉर्म पर इसकी लिस्टिंग 6.08 प्रतिशत प्रीमियम के साथ 123.05 रुपये के स्तर पर हुई। लिस्टिंग के बाद मुनाफा वसूली शुरू हो जाने के कारण ये शेयर कुछ देर में ही फिसल कर 117 रुपये के स्तर तक गिर गए। हालांकि, थोड़ी देर बाद ही खरीदारों ने लिवाली शुरू कर दी, जिससे इस शेयर की चाल में तेजी आ गई। खरीदारी के सपोर्ट से कंपनी के शेयर 129.20 रुपये के अपर सर्किट लेवल पर आ

गए। इस तरह पहले दिन के कारोबार में कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशकों को प्रति शेयर 13.20 रुपये यानी 11.38 प्रतिशत का फायदा हो गया। इस कंपनी का 45 करोड़ रुपये का आईपीओ 21 से 23 सितंबर के बीच सब्सक्रिप्शन के लिए खुला था। इस आईपीओ को निवेशकों की ओर से अच्छा रिसॉन्स मिला था, जिसके कारण ये ओवरऑल 17.72 गुना सब्सक्राइब हुआ था। इनमें क्वालिफाइड इंस्टीट्यूशनल बायर्स (क्यूआईबी) के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन 20.95 गुना (एक्स एंकर) सब्सक्राइब हुआ था। इसी तरह नॉन इंस्टीट्यूशनल इन्वेस्टर्स (एनआईआई) के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन में 25.98 गुना सब्सक्रिप्शन आया था। इसके अलावा रिटेल इन्वेस्टर्स के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन 12.31 गुना सब्सक्राइब हुआ था।

स्टॉक मार्केट में रोबोकिड्ज एडुवेंचर्स की धमाकेदार एंट्री

पहले दिन ही निवेशकों का पैसा उबल हुआ

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली । बच्चों के लिए एआई और रोबोटिक्स बेस्ड इनोवेटिव लर्निंग और एजुकेशन टेक्नोलॉजी सॉल्यूशन देने वाली कंपनी रोबोकिड्ज एडुवेंचर्स लिमिटेड के शेयरों ने आज स्टॉक मार्केट में जोरदार शुरुआत कर अपने निवेशकों को खुश कर दिया। कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशकों का पैसा पहले दिन ही लगभग दोगुना हो गया। आईपीओ के तहत कंपनी के शेयर 106 रुपये के भाव पर जारी किए गए थे। आज बीएसई के एसएमई प्लेटफॉर्म पर इसकी लिस्टिंग 90 प्रतिशत प्रीमियम के साथ 201.40 रुपये के स्तर पर हुई।

धमाकेदार लिस्टिंग के बाद खरीदारों ने लिवाली शुरू कर दी, जिससे इस शेयर की चाल में और तेजी आ गई। लगातार हो रही लिवाली के सपोर्ट से थोड़ी देर में ही ये शेयर उछल कर 211.45 रुपये के अपर सर्किट लेवल तक पहुंच गया। इस तरह पहले दिन ही कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशक प्रति शेयर 105.45 रुपये यानी 99.48 प्रतिशत के फायदे में आ गए। इस



(क्यूआईबी) के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन 306.73 गुना (एक्स एंकर) सब्सक्राइब हुआ था। इसी तरह नॉन इंस्टीट्यूशनल इन्वेस्टर्स (एनआईआई) के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन में 1,593 गुना सब्सक्रिप्शन आया था। इसके अलावा रिटेल इन्वेस्टर्स के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन 807.12 गुना सब्सक्राइब हुआ था। कंपनीनारएं

इस आईपीओ के तहत 10 रुपये फेस वैल्यू वाले कुल 29,32,800 नए शेयर जारी किए गए हैं। आईपीओ में शेयरों की बिज्नी से जुटाए गए पैसे का इस्तेमाल कंपनी वर्किंग कैपिटल की जरूरतों को पूरा करने, पुराने कर्ज के बोझ को कम करने, आईपीओ से जुड़े खर्चों की भरपाई करने और आम कॉर्पोरेट उद्देश्यों में करेगी।

जीप कारों पर बंपर छूट

कंपास, मैरिडियन और ग्रेंड चैरोकी पर मिल रही 4 लाख रुपये तक की भारी छूट

एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली । कार निर्माता कंपनी जीप इंडिया ने व्हीहारों के इस सौजन में भारतीय ग्राहकों के लिए अपनी प्रमुख एसयूवी गाड़ियों पर आकर्षक डिस्काउंट ऑफर्स की घोषणा की है। इस अक्टूबर महीने में जीप कंपास, जीप मैरिडियन और प्रीमियम जीप ग्रैंड चैरोकी खरीदने वाले ग्राहकों को भारी बचत का मौका मिल रहा है। कंपनी इन गाड़ियों पर कंज्यूमर डिस्काउंट, कॉर्पोरेट ऑफर्स और विशेष इंसेंटिव दे रही है। हालांकि, ऑफ-रोडिंग के दीवानों के लिए जीप रेंगलर मॉडल पर इस महीने कोई छूट उपलब्ध नहीं कराई गई है। जीप कंपास पर 1.5 लाख रुपये तक का फायदा

जीप की एंट्री-लेवल एसयूवी कंपास के चुनिंदा वेरिएंट्स पर इस महीने 1.5 लाख रुपये तक के कुल लाभ दिए जा रहे हैं। यदि चयनित कंपनियों के कर्मचारियों को 1.1 लाख रुपये तक का कॉर्पोरेट लाभ भी मिल सकता है। इसके अतिरिक्त डॉक्टरों और लीजिंग कंपनियों के लिए 15,000 रुपये का अतिरिक्त लाभ रखा गया है। इंजन और पावर



प्रीमियम एसयूवी जीप मैरिडियन के चुनिंदा वेरिएंट्स पर इस महीने 1.65 लाख रुपये तक के डिस्काउंट ऑफर किए जा रहे हैं। यदि ग्राहक 2024 मॉडल इंयर (MY24) की गाड़ियों का चयन करते हैं, तो उन्हें 1.3 लाख रुपये तक का कॉर्पोरेट डिस्काउंट मिल सकता है। डॉक्टरों और लीजिंग कंपनियों को इस गाड़ी पर 30,000 रुपये का अतिरिक्त इंसेंटिव दिया

উজবেকিস্তানেও চালু হবে ভারতের টচও, মোদির প্রকল্পে শ্রই ১১ চুকু

তথ্যসূত্র: ভারত ও উজবেকিস্তান
আমের অর্থনৈতিক ও কৌশলগত
সম্মুখ আৱও গভীৰ কৱাৰ
পাথে ৰাম্পতুপূৰ্ণ পদৱেপ নিয়োছে।
প্ৰধানমন্ত্ৰী নৱেন্দ্ৰ মোদিৰ
উজবেকিস্তানে দু'দিনেৱ ৱাষ্ট্ৰীয়
সফৰেৱে সময় দুই দেশেৱ
মাধ্যে ১১চি চুকু ও সম্মোচা

স্বাৰক (গ্ৰুট) স্ৰাৱিত হয়েছে।
একই সঞ্চে ডিজিটাল পেমেণ্ট
ব্যবস্থাজয় ভাৰতৱেৰ টচও
পৰিষেবা উজবেকিস্তানে চালুৱ
উদ্যোগ নেওয়া হয়েছ এবং
দ্বিপাক্ষিক সম্মুখক্ৰে 'ঐড়ম্ভদব-
যবহঃৱাৱ ৱাঃধঃবম্ভৱ চধঃঃ-
হবঃধঃৱাঃ' যা ব্যাপক কৌশলগত

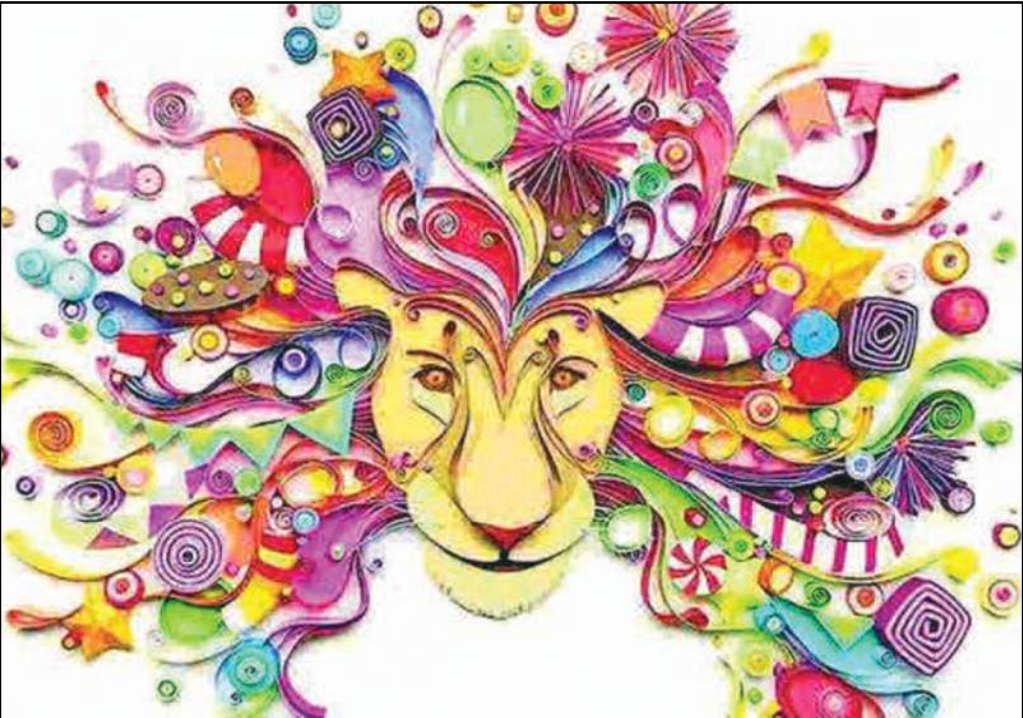
অংশীদাৰিত্বে উন্নীত কৰা হয়েছে।
২১ ও ৩০ আগস্ট মোদিৰ
সফৰকালে স্ৰাৱিত চুকুলোৱ
আওতাঃ স্ৰষ্টি, শিৱা, পৰচিন,
থান, ঐতিহ্যৱাশী চিকিৎসা,
পৰিষেপ, অৰ্থনীতি ও বৈজ্ঞানিক
গবেষণাস্ৰ ডিজিটু ৰাম্পতুপূৰ্ণ
ৱেপ্ৰক্ৰে অতুৰ্ভুক কৰা হয়েছে।

উজবেকিস্তানে চালু হবে টচও
মোদির প্রকল্পের অন্যতম
ৰাম্পতুপূৰ্ণ ফলাফল শিষ্ৰেবে উঠে
এমেছে ভাৰতৱেৰ টচও-ভিত্তিক
ডিজিটাল পেমেণ্ট ব্যবস্থাজকে
উজবেকিস্তানে ব্যবসাৱেৰে মুখোপ
তৈরি কৱা।
স্ৰৱকাৰি যোষণায় জানানো

হয়েছে, যচঐও ওঃঃবঃধঃঃৱঃধঃ-
ধঃ চধুঃপঃৱঃঃ থাঃফ (যঃচঃথ)
এবং উজবেকিস্তানেৱ যঃধঃৱঃধঃ-
ধঃ ওঃঃবঃধঃধঃশঃচঃপঃবঃঃঃঃঃঃঃ
ঐঃবঃঃঃঃ (যঃচঃধঃ)-এৱ মাঃধে
একচি বাণিজ্যিক চুকু হয়েছ।
এৱ ফলে ভাৰতে ব্যবতুত টচও
আপৱে মাধ্যমে উজবেকিস্তানে

ব্যবসাঃীদেৱ পেমেণ্ট কৱাৰ
মুখোপ তৈরি হবে। এঃ ব্যবস্থাজয়
ভাৰতীয় পৰ্যটক যা অত্যাঃত
ব্যবসাৱকাঃীৱা উজবেকিস্তানেৱ
জাতীয় টচঃছঃজ কোঃ স্ৰাঃন কৱে
স্ৰাঃস্ৰি মাঃৰ্চেট পেমেণ্ট কৱতে
পাঃৱেত। ফলে উজবেকিস্তানে
ভাৰতীয়দেৱ জন্য ডিজিটাল

নেনাদেন আৱও স্ৰঃজ ও দ্ৰুঃপত
হঃশাৱ স্ৰঃজানত ৱাঃয়েছে।
দুই দেশেৱ মাঃধে ডিজিটাল
পেমেণ্ট ব্যবস্থাজয় এই সঃযোগ
শ্ধু পৰ্যটন নাঃ, ভবিষ্যতে
বাণিজ্যিক ও আর্থিক যোগাযোগ
আৱও শক্তিশালী কৱাৰ ৱেঃেও
ৰাম্পতুপূৰ্ণ ভূমিকা ৱাঃথতে পাঃে।



गजब का है यह पेपर आर्ट पेपर क्विलिंग

मॉस्को की 34 साल की यूलिया ब्रोदसकाया ने पेपर और गॉद की मदद से इन अचभित कर देने वाली रंगीन रचनाओं को उकेरा है। इन्हें देख कर ऐसा लगता है कि ये तस्वीरें बोलती हैं। यूलिया को पेपर से बनाई जाने वाली ड्राइंग के साथ उनमें जान डाल देने वाले कलाकार के तौर पर भी जाना जाता है। इसे थ्रीडी ड्राइंग का नाम दिया जाए तो गलत नहीं होगा। यूलिया तीन स्टेप्स को फॉलो कर इन चित्रों को जीवंत रूप देती हैं। पहला स्टेप है पेपर काटना, दूसरा है फोल्ड करना और तीसरा है गॉद की मदद से फोल्ड किए हुए पेपर को किसी सतह पर चिपका एक नया रूप देना। इस आर्ट को पेपर क्विलिंग कहा जाता है।

अठारहवीं सदी में हुई थी पेपर क्विलिंग की शुरुआत

तुम्हें बता दें कि इस कला की शुरुआत अठारहवीं सदी में ही हो गई थी। दरअसल नन और भिक्षुओं द्वारा किताबों के कवर को सुंदर बनाने के लिए पेपर की सहायता से यही कलाकारी की जाती थी। तभी से यह कला प्रचलित हो गई।
यहां से मिली इस कला की प्रेरणा
यूलिया को इस कलाकारी का आइडिया तब आया, जब दस साल पहले उन्हें एक ब्रोशर में अपने नाम को अलग तरीके से



लिखना था, कुछ ऐसा, जो उसकी कलाकारी को दर्शाता हो। कई वर्षों बाद उन्हें स्कूल के समय के दिनों में बनाए गए एक प्रोजेक्ट की याद आई, जिसमें उन्होंने पेपर क्विलिंग का इस्तेमाल किया था। बस फिर क्या था, उन्होंने उसी तरीके का इस्तेमाल कर ब्रोशर तैयार किया, जो लोगों को काफी पसंद आया। तभी से उन्होंने इस तकनीक का इस्तेमाल कर अलग प्रकार के चित्र बनाने शुरू किए।

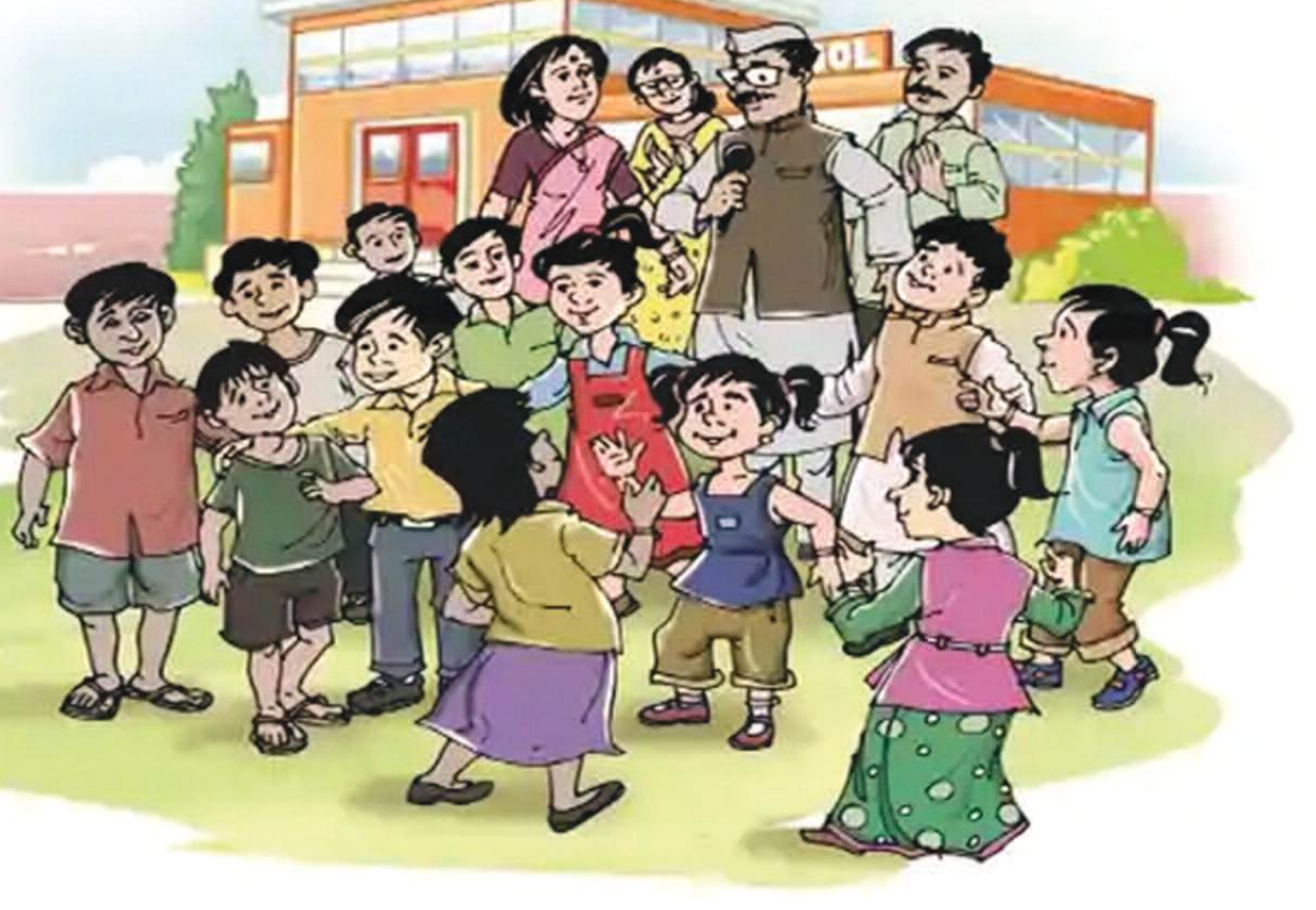


जब बच्चे बने टीचर

रोज की तरह रमा इंटरनेशनल स्कूल के बच्चे आज भी स्कूल पहुंच रहे थे, पर उनके चेहरे पर स्कूल जाने का तनाव नहीं, बल्कि अलग तरह की उत्सुकता थी। आज उनके प्रिंसिपल बेदी सर ने उन्हें पूरी छुट दी थी। एक दिन पहले उन्होंने एसेबली में भाषण देते हुए कहा था, “कल 14 नवंबर है, यानी बाल दिवस। आप सब समझते हैं कि स्कूल में बहुत बंदिश होती है। आप अपने मन की नहीं कर सकते। पर कल आप लोगों को पूरी छुट है। न स्कूल ड्रेस का डर न टीचर्स की डांट। कल हम सब कुछ अलग करेंगे। मुझे उम्मीद है, यह अलग वाली बात आप लोगों को पसंद आएगी।” अगले दिन सुबह सारे बच्चे एसेबली के लिए प्लेग्राउंड में इकट्ठे होने लगे। कुछ बच्चे जो काफी अमीर थे, वे तो ब्रांडेड सामान की पूरी दुकान नजर आ रहे थे। धीरे-धीरे सारा प्लेग्राउंड बच्चों से भर गया। रंग-बिरंगी तितलियों की तरह सारे बच्चे झधर-उधर भाग रहे थे, दोस्तों से मिल रहे थे। तभी घोषणा हुई कि प्रिंसिपल बेदी सर आ रहे हैं। सारे बच्चे तुरंत अपनी-अपनी क्लास की लाइन में आकर खड़े हो गए। बेदी सर माइक के सामने आए और बोले, “आज का दिन आप लोगों का है, मतलब बच्चों का दिन है। आज तक आप लोग इस स्कूल में पढ़ते रहे हैं और अपने टीचर्स से आपको शिकायत भी रही होगी। चलो, आज एक नया खेल खेलते हैं। आज आप लोग टीचर बनेंगे।” “सर, अगर हम लोग टीचर होंगे, तो बच्चे कौन बनेंगे, जिन्हें हम पढ़ाएंगे?” एक बच्चे की आवाज आई। बेदी सर मुस्करा दिए। फिर बोले, “मैंने भी यही सोचा था। फिर एक आइडिया आया। आप लोग चिंता न करें। आपके स्टूडेंट थोड़ी देर में आने वाले हैं।” जब तक बेदी सर अपनी बात पूरी करते, तब तक स्कूल की चार बसें आकर रुकीं। उनके गेट खुले, तो उनमें से कुछ बच्चे उतरने लगे। हिंदी वाले सर के साथ क्लास मॉनिटर्स आगे बढ़े। उनके हाथ में टोकेरियां थीं, जिनमें गुलाब के फूल थे। सर आगे बढ़कर एक-एक करके सभी बच्चों की शर्ट पर गुलाब

के फूल लगाने लगे। स्कूल के बच्चों की नजरे इन नए बच्चों पर से हट ही नहीं रही थीं। सारे बच्चे गरीब लग रहे थे। किसी के पैर में पुराने जूते थे, तो कोई चप्पल में था। उनके कपड़े वैसे थे, जैसे वे अपने घर में भी नहीं पहनते थे। प्रिंसिपल सर बच्चों को गौर से देख रहे थे। उनके मन की बात वे समझ गए। उन्होंने बोलना शुरू किया, “कुछ दिनों पहले मुझे एक अनाथालय में जाने का मौका मिला। वहां मैं इन बच्चों से मिला। ये वो बच्चे हैं, जिनको आप लोगों की तरह माता-पिता का प्यार नहीं मिला। इन्हें कोई सुबह स्कूल के लिए तैयार नहीं करता, कोई इनके लिए स्कूल का लंच पैक नहीं करता। ऐसा इसलिए, क्योंकि ये स्कूल नहीं जा पाते हैं और अपने आश्रम में ही आने वाले टीचर्स से पढ़ते हैं। पर इन्हें पढ़ाई में कमजोर मत समझना। इनमें से कुछ बच्चों ने मुझसे कहा कि सर हम भी देखना चाहते हैं, स्कूल केसा होता है, और वहां पढ़ाई कैसे होती है। इसीलिए मैंने आज इन बच्चों को यहां आमंत्रित किया है। आज ये बच्चे हमारे स्टूडेंट हैं और आप लोग अपने टीचर्स के साथ मिलकर इन्हें पढ़ाएंगे ताकि स्कूल में पढ़ने का इनका सपना भी पूरा हो। मैं बस आप सबसे यही चाहता हूं कि अनाथालय से आए बच्चों को यह महसूस करा दो कि वे पराए नहीं, हमारे अपने हैं। बाल दिवस उन बच्चों के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है।” इसके बाद एसेबली खत्म हो गई और बच्चे अपनी-अपनी क्लास की ओर चले, पर उन बच्चों की कहानी सुनकर ज्यादातर बच्चों के चेहरे गंभीर हो गए थे। जब वे अपनी क्लास में पहुंचे तो उन्हें अनाथालय के बच्चे सीटों पर बैठे दिखाई दिए। ऐसी ही एक क्लास में खड़े टीचर ने कहा, “कुछ बच्चे जो पढ़ाना चाहते हैं, वो मेरे पास आ जाएं। बाकी बच्चे इन बच्चों के साथ बैठ जाएं और पढ़ाई में सहयोग करें।” एक-दो घंटे बाद पता ही नहीं चल रहा था कि ये बच्चे एक-दूसरे को जानते ही नहीं थे। सब एक-दूसरे से खुल गए थे। पढ़ाई में एक-दूसरे का सहयोग कर रहे थे। पता नहीं कैसे स्कूल के बच्चों के मन में यह भावना आ गई

थी कि अनाथालय के बच्चों को नहीं लगना चाहिए कि वे पराए हैं। लंच टाइम में स्कूल की तरफ से अनाथालय से आए बच्चों के लिए लंच आया, पर स्कूल के बच्चों ने अपना टिफिन भी उन बच्चों के साथ शेयर किया। ऐसे ही हंसते-खेलते स्कूल का टाइम बीता और छुट्टी का समय आ गया। बच्चों को आदेश था कि छुट्टी से पहले फिर से सब प्लेग्राउंड में इकट्ठे होंगे।



दोस्तों, रंग बदलने वाले जीव-जंतु सबका ध्यान अपनी ओर खींचते हैं। ये ऐसा क्यों और कैसे करते हैं, तुम्हें इस बार बता रहे हैं। गिरगिट के अलावा भी ऐसे बहुत से जीव हैं, जो रंग बदलने में माहिर हैं। इन जीवों में प्लाउंडर, मिमिक ऑक्टोपस, पीकोक प्लाउंडर, टोन स्पाइडर, ट्री फ्रॉग, गोल्डन टॉरटॉइज बीटल और स्कविड प्रजाति की कई मछलियां हैं। रंग बदलने की क्षमता को उनकी बड़ी ताकत के रूप में देखा जाता है। इन रंगों के बल पर ये जीव खुद को छिपाने में कामयाब रहते हैं, तो वहीं शिकारी से अपनी रक्षा भी करते हैं।

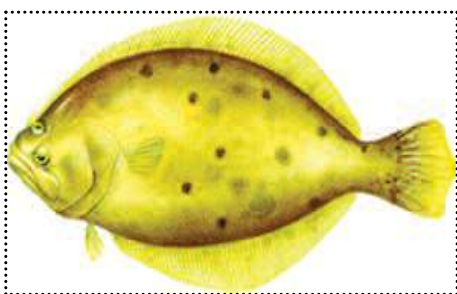
ट्री फ्रॉग

इन्हें लॉफिंग ट्री फ्रॉग के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। जितने ये अपनी आवाज के लिए जाने जाते हैं, उतनी ही फुर्ती से अपने रंग बदलने के लिए भी। ये मेंढक भूरे, कथई और सफेद रंग बदलने में माहिर होते हैं। ये पीले व काले पैर और एमरेल्ड कलर के निशानों के साथ भी नजर आते हैं।



प्लाउंडर

यह मछली पहली नजर में सपाट आकार की साधारण सी मछली नजर आती है, लेकिन इसमें अपने आसपास की चीजों के अनुसार अपना रंग बदलने की अद्भुत क्षमता है।



इनकी ताकत बढ़ाने में इनकी आंखें भी बहुत मददगार हैं। इस प्रजाति की मछलियां वयस्क होने पर अपनी आंखें दाईं या बाईं ओर घुमा सकती हैं। इससे जमीन की सतह के साथ तैरने में इन्हें आसानी होती है। ये मछलियां समुद्र के सबसे गहरे इलाके मरियाना ट्रेंच में भी पाई गई हैं, जो कि लगभग 35,000 फीट की गहराई में है।

अनोखा अंगूरी क्राफ्ट

दोस्तों, तुम्हें अंगूर खूब अच्छे लगते हैं न! आज हम तुम्हें अंगूर से क्राफ्ट बनाना सिखा रहे हैं। तुम्हें चाहिए कुछ अंगूर, टूथपिक।

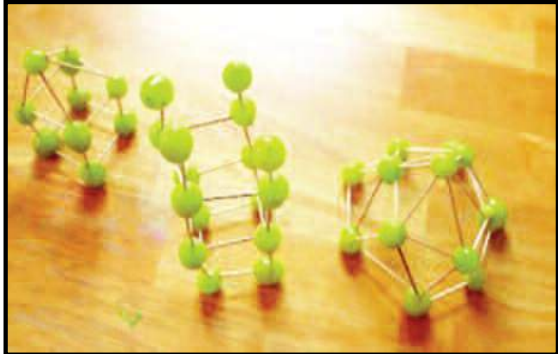
ऐसे बनेगा

अब इस तरह से अंगूर में टूथपिक डालो और दूसरे टूथपिक से अंगूर को जोड़ते जाओ। फिर तुम्हें जो शेप चाहिए, उस तरह से बनाओ। चार अंगूरों की मदद से पहले तुम्हें बेस तैयार करना होगा। बस तुम्हें यह ध्यान रखना है कि टूथपिक से अंगूर टूट ना जाए। एक बार बनाने

के बाद अब तुम इसे खा सकते हो। बड़ा मजा आएगा अगर दोस्तों और परिवार के साथ मिलकर खाओगे। चाही तो अंगूर की जगह पर डो के छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों का भी इस्तेमाल कर सकते हो।

अंगूर खाने के फायदे

इसमें भरपूर मात्रा में कैल्शियम होता है, जो हड्डियों के लिए



अच्छा होता है। अंगूर में सबसे अधिक पोटेशियम पाया जाता है, जो पाचन और दिल के लिए अच्छा होता है। विटामिन सी का अच्छा स्रोत है। यह खून की कमी को भी दूर करता है।

इस बार प्लेग्राउंड में सारे बच्चे एक साथ आए। स्कूल के बच्चे यह देखकर चौंक गए कि उनके माता-पिता को भी प्रिंसिपल सर ने बुला रखा था। सर ने बच्चों को देखकर पूछा, “बोलो बच्चो, आज का दिन कैसा लगा?” “बहुत बढ़िया सर। इन बच्चों के साथ बहुत मजा आया।” राघव जो एक बहुत बड़े बिजनेसमैन का बेटा था, वह आगे बढ़कर बोला। “और आप लोगों को कैसा लगा हमारा स्कूल?” अब सर ने अनाथालय से आए बच्चों से पूछा। “सर हमारा सपना पूरा हो गया। स्कूल में पढ़ने में बड़ा मजा आया। काश! हम रोज ऐसे पढ़ पाते।” कहते-कहते अनाथालय से आया अमित रो पड़ा। “तुम्हारा सपना जरूर पूरा होगा।” मुस्कराते हुए प्रिंसिपल सर बोले, “मैंने अपने मैनेजमेंट से बात कर ली है। अब से हमारे स्कूल में दोपहर बाद भी आप लोगों के लिए अलग से

स्पेशल क्लास हुआ करेगी। आप लोग यहां पढ़ेंगे और आगे बढ़ेंगे।” “हुर्रे!” राघव खुशी से चिल्ला पड़ा। वह भूल गया कि वह स्कूल में, और वह भी प्रिंसिपल सर के सामने है। सारा मैदान प्रिंसिपल सर की घोषणा के बाद तालियों की गड़गड़ाहट से गुंज उठा। सारे बच्चे अपने माता-पिता के पास गए और उनसे कुछ बात करने लगे। उनकी बात सुनकर वे मुस्कराए और उनका सिर हां में हिलने लगा। बस फिर क्या था! देखते ही देखते मैदान में अजीब सा नजारा दिखाई देने लगा। स्कूल के लड़कों में से किसी ने अपनी शर्ट उतारी, तो किसी ने अपनी टी-शर्ट, उन्होंने अपनी शर्ट और टीशर्ट अनाथालय से आए बच्चों को जबरदस्ती पहना दी। यह सारा नजारा देखकर उनके माता-पिता भी मुस्कराए बिना न रह सके। प्रिंसिपल सर के चेहरे पर भी संतोष की मुस्कान थी। बाल दिवस पर जो बात वह अपने बच्चों को सिखाना चाहते थे, वह उन्होंने अच्छे से सीख ली थी।

NEWS BOX

Must widen talent pool:
Ex-France international
advocates roadmap for
Indian football



Kolkata. (Agency)

The yellow and green have already arrived in Kolkata. Brazil are here, Carlo Ancelotti is here, and by Saturday evening Salt Lake Stadium will be waiting for one of the biggest football nights India has hosted. Vikash Dhorasoo will be there too. But as the city gets ready for Vinicius Junior, Endrick and Brazil, the former France international is looking beyond the glamour of one evening. For him, India vs Brazil should also be a reminder of what Indian football could become if it starts thinking bigger.Dhorasoo, who has Indian roots and played for France at the 2006 World Cup, believes India needs to widen its talent pool, give more players the chance to experience football abroad and, most importantly, settle on a long-term plan. “Each game has its own importance and helps you to progress,” Dhorasoo said. “Of course, it’s a great help to play the best team in the world, but local football must be as important as the special game you might have.”

WILLIAMS SHOWS THE WAY

There is already a timely example in India’s own squad.Ryan Williams was born in Australia before completing his switch to represent India at senior level. He scored on his India debut and then found the net again in the 1-1 draw against Panama last week, making him one of the most important attacking names in the squad heading into Brazil. FIFA approved his change of association before he made his India debut.It is only two goals, and there is no need to rush comparisons with Sunil Chhetri. But since Chhetri’s retirement, India have been searching for a forward who can offer a dependable goal threat. Williams has quickly begun to fill that space, scoring against Panama when India needed an attacking spark.His story also gives some weight to Dhorasoo’s argument that India should look more closely at its diaspora.

Asian Games: Birthday girl
Lovlina Borgohain makes
history with gold, joins Mary
Kom in elite club



New Delhi. (Agency)

Birthday girl Lovlina Borgohain gave herself the perfect gift on Friday, scripting history by becoming only the second Indian woman boxer to win an Asian Games gold medal after the legendary MC Mary Kom.

The 29-year-old Indian defeated China's Ziyi Bao 5-0 in a closely contested women's 75kg final in Aichi-Nagoya to finally add the Asian Games gold to the silver she won at the previous edition.

Lovlina's triumph also ended a wait that began in Hangzhou, where she had reached the final but lost to another Chinese boxer, Li Qian, to settle for silver.

Lovlina holdsnerv in tight final

The Indian made a confident start to the final, edging the opening round 3-2 on the judges' scorecards. Bao responded with an aggressive approach in the second, forcing Lovlina into a more defensive mode as the two boxers engaged in a series of exchanges in the middle of the ring.

Despite the pressure, Lovlina remained composed and finished the round strongly. She won it 4-1 to stretch her overall advantage to 2-0 heading into the final round.With the gold within touching distance, Lovlina produced another controlled performance in the third. She again won the round 4-1 to complete a comprehensive 5-0 verdict and claim the biggest title of her Asian Games career.

The victory was particularly significant given the quality of opposition she had overcome on her way to the final.

In the semifinal, Lovlina edged reigning 70kg world champion Natalya Bogdanova of Kazakhstan 3-2 in another closely fought contest.

Portugal score 4 goals past Denmark as
team begins post-Cristiano Ronaldo era

Portugal began the post-Cristiano Ronaldo era with a 4-2 Nations League win over Denmark in Copenhagen. Rafael Leao wore Ronaldo's No. 7 shirt, while coach Jorge Jesus insisted the rules would remain the same for every player.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Portugal began the post-Cristiano Ronaldo era by putting four goals past Denmark. Ronaldo, the highest goalscorer in international football history, had earlier left the national team after falling out with newly appointed coach Jorge Jesus.Playing Denmark in the Nations League, Jesus' Portugal won 4-2 in a thrilling match in Copenhagen. Joao Cancelo and Goncalo

Ramos twice gave the visitors the lead, but Denmark hit back on both occasions through Mikkel Damsgaard and Rasmus Hojlund.Hojlund, the former Manchester United striker, celebrated his goal with Ronaldo's trademark 'Siuuu' celebration, something he has also done against Portugal in the past.With the game tied at 2-2, Portugal finally moved ahead for good when Vitinha headed in from Bruno Fernandes' delivery in the 67th minute. Joao Felix then added a fourth late on to seal the win for Jesus' side.The result keeps Portugal top of Group A4 with a perfect nine points from three matches.

COACH TAKES DIG AT RONALDO

It was Portugal's first match since Ronaldo, 41, left the camp after being dropped to the bench against Norway.Jesus had made it clear that Ronaldo's status would not guarantee him a place in the starting XI, and the Portuguese coach appeared to stick to

that position after the win in Copenhagen. "I still think exactly the same way - there are players with status. That much is crystal clear," Jesus said. "But I'll say it again - the rules are the same



for everyone. That's a method I've followed throughout my coaching career and I'll continue to follow."Ronaldo has been a near-constant presence in the Portugal team for years and has scored 146 goals in a record 234 international appearances. His departure from the camp has now put his

international future into doubt.Ronaldo's sister, Elma Aveiro, had earlier written on social media: "Betrayal is a dish best served cold."Jesus had also said before the match that he was "completely calm, with a clear conscience" over the situation.

RONALDO REPLACEMENT FLOPS

Jesus chose Rafael Leao to start in attack, with the forward wearing the No. 7 shirt that has been synonymous with Ronaldo for much of the last two decades.Leao had his moments but could not make the most of them.

He came close to scoring after cutting inside onto his right foot early in the game, but later missed from close range and gave the ball away several times in the final third. His night ended in the 63rd minute when Trincao replaced him.The decision to hand Leao the No. 7 shirt in Portugal's first game of the post-Ronaldo era was significant, even if the former AC Milan player could not provide a direct replacement for the team's record goalscorer.

Asian Games: Olympic berth, gold in sight as
Indian women face China in hockey final

India's women's hockey team will take on defending champions China in the Asian Games 2026 final on Friday, with a gold medal and direct qualification for the LA 2028 Olympics at stake. India, who last won the Asian Games title in 1982, are chasing a historic second gold in women's hockey.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's women's hockey team are one win away from ending a 44-year wait for Asian Games gold. On Friday, they face defending champions China in the final in Kakamigahara, with the title and a place at the LA 2028 Olympics on the line. India last won the Asian Games title in 1982, when women's hockey made its debut at the continental event. Since then, they have reached the final twice, in 1998

and 2018, but returned with silver medals after losing to South Korea and Japan respectively.This time, India head into the final with plenty of confidence behind them. Salima Tete and her team were



unstoppable in Pool B, winning all five matches and scoring 66 goals. They opened with a 19-0 win over Uzbekistan, followed it with a 17-1 victory against Indonesia and then put 20 goals past Thailand.India also beat hosts Japan 3-1 before finishing the group stage with a 7-0 win over Singapore.The semi-final

against South Korea was a much tougher examination. India had to be patient as the Koreans kept their attacking players under control for long periods. Ishika finally broke the deadlock late in the third quarter before captain Salima Tete struck again in the fourth to secure a 2-0 win. "For us it was really important to stay calm and have patience, and I think we did that really well," India chief coach Sjoerd Marijne said after the match.China have been just as impressive on their way to the final. The defending champions won all five of their Pool A matches without conceding a goal, scoring 46 times. They beat Bangladesh 13-0, Chinese Taipei 10-0, Malaysia 4-0, South Korea 3-0 and Kazakhstan 16-0.Their semi-final against hosts Japan, however, was a different story. China could not find a way through during regulation time as the match ended 0-0. They eventually won the shootout 4-2 to book their place in the final.

Lovlina Borgohain gives herself
perfect birthday gift with maiden
Asian Games boxing gold



New Delhi. (Agency)

Lovlina Borgohain has given herself the perfect gift on her 29th birthday as she won the boxing gold in the women's 75 kg category with a resounding performance at the Asian Games. Lovlina defeated China's Ziyi Bao via unanimous decision to win the match. With the victory, Lovlina became the first women's boxer since Mary Kom in 2014 to secure a gold medal at the Asian Games.The 29-year-old had come into the gold medal match having created history as the first Indian woman to reach back-to-back Asian Games finals. After having won silver at the Asian Games in Hangzhou last time around, the Indian star was determined to change the colour of the medal and was off the blocks from the get-go.

HOW THE FIGHT UNFOLDED

Lovlina had the height and reach advantage over Bao and it was the Indian who started the fight in the positive manner. She got a few hits on the face before going for the clinch. Bao was coming into the contest with a perfect amateur boxing record and on a 14-fight winning run and she slowly made her way back into the contest with a few heavy blows to the body.She then was able to get more closer to Lovlina and started landing more punches, forcing the Indian star into the defensive. It seemed like she had done enough as three out of the five judges went in favour of the Indian as she won the first round 3-2.Bao started the second round more aggressively as she continued to weave in the punches. Lovlina was using the jabs and hooks more than the uppercut, allowing Bao to come forward more. The Chinese boxer was able to land a jab that had Lovlina on the ropes and she decided to go for the clinch once again.

India’s ODI World Cup 2027 schedule: Group fixtures,
potential Super 7s opponents, venues and timings

New Delhi. (Agency)

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has officially announced the schedule for the 2027 ODI World Cup in Cape Town on Thursday, October 1. The tournament will begin on October 2, 2027, with a three-team Super Series in Windhoek involving the second, third, and fourth-placed teams from the Cricket World Cup Qualifier. The three teams will face each other once on October 2, 4 and 6, with the team finishing in first place claiming the final spot in the group stage. The winner of the Qualifier will advance directly to the group stage. The 2023 finalists, India and Australia, will then start the group-stage action of the tournament on October 7 in Cape Town.

India will then take on their arch-rivals Pakistan on October 10 in Johannesburg. The Men in Blue are placed along with

Australia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe and Qualifier A in Group A, while Group B includes New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, England,



Bangladesh and Qualifier B.Hosts South Africa will kick off their campaign against New Zealand in Cape Town on October 9. The group stage will have 12 double-header days, with India featuring on four of them-October 10, 14, 17 and 24.

India’s group-stage fixtures at ICC ODI World Cup 2027

October 7: India vs Australia – Newlands, Cape Town – 1:30 PM (IST)

October 10: India vs Pakistan – Wanderers, Johannesburg – 1:30 PM (IST)

October 14: India vs Afghanistan – Tshwane – 1:30 PM (IST)

October 17: India vs Qualifier A – Bloemfontein – 1:30 PM (IST)

October 24: India vs Zimbabwe – Victoria Falls – 1:30 PM (IST)

India’s potential Super 7s opponents

The Super 7 stage will feature the top three sides from each group, along with the better-performing fourth-placed team across the two groups, making it a seven-team round. The ICC has already pre-seeded seven positions for the Super 7 stage, providing greater certainty around fixture pathways and venue allocations.

India ends Korea's 44-year dominance
with historic Asian Games recurve gold

New Delhi. (Agency)

As the recurve competition at the Asian Games started, no one really gave the Indian women's team of Ankita Bhagat, Kirti Sharma and Kumkum Mohod a big chance of toppling the Korean dominance. Korea are the world champions; they had the World No.3 archer, Kang Chaeyong, in their ranks. It could be claimed that recurve was always their forte and someone disrupting that was near to impossible. But for Ankita, Kumkum and Kirti, the reputation really doesn't matter. They went toe-to-toe with Korea and ended their 44-year dominance in the women's recurve team event with a historic gold.India defeated Korea 5-3 in the final and made it to the summit clash after breezing past China 5-1 earlier on in the semis as the Indian trio worked in tandem.

Asian Games, October 2 Updates

The journey for all three women to this

point has also been fascinating. Take Kumkum for that matter. She started training in recurve just three years ago and started her career by using the traditional method. A bamboo bow.Kirti was said that she was too thin to hold a recurve bow, one that will test the true strength of an archer. Ankita is a true veteran of the sport and has won a total of 23 international medals.

She was part of the women's recurve team that won bronze in Hangzhou as India had never made it to the final. But that was about to change and these three women were going to stamp their name in history books.

ANKITA, KUMKUM, KIRTI SHINE IN NAGOYA

Right after the semi-final match, the Indian trio never showed signs of panic, even when they were under pressure. The conditions in Nagoya weren't particularly great for

archery and the scores were being affected. But withthe entire archery contingent cheering them on, Ankita, Kirti and Kumkum knew they had the chance to create



history.

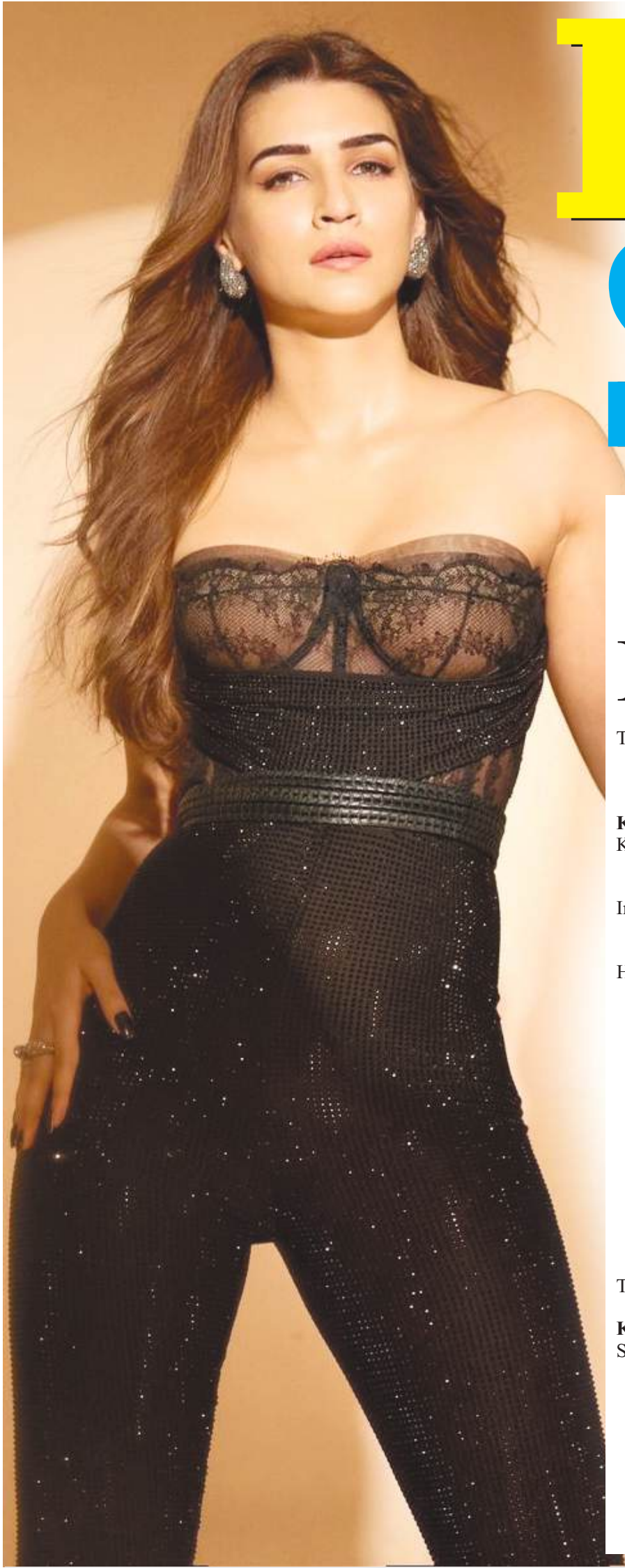
First up, it was China.

There were a few eights and nines during the sets but Ankita, Kumkum and Kirti were always watching out for each other.

Whenever it seemed like a 10 was needed, one of them delivered.

During the semi-final, it was Kirti, hitting 10s with the final arrows in the first and second sets to secure the points for India. In the final one, India just needed to level things up and she delivered it to secure the 5-1 win.Then came the final against mighty Korea. Right from the get-go, the Korean trio of Kang, Lee and Yejin Oh were setting the mark. But India never faltered.

In fact, in the first two sets, Korea set 54 and 56 and India hit the same level to make it 2-2 and put the world champions in uncharted territory.And the pressure of it all came to the fore in the third set. Korea hit a total of four 8s in their six arrows. Meanwhile, India constantly shuffled their pack, scored 55 to take the lead.



Kriti Sanon

Tries Pottery, Shares Handmade Creations: ‘I Love Being A Work In Progress’

Kriti Sanon has finally crossed something off her long-standing wish list. The actress spent time learning pottery and shared a series of pictures from the session on September 20, giving fans a glimpse of her trying her hand at the craft.

The photos show Kriti seated at a pottery wheel, working with clay and experimenting with different shapes. Along with the pictures, she also shared a note about making time for things one keeps postponing and turning “one day” into “Day One”.

Kriti Sanon Tries Her Hand At Pottery

Kriti kept things relaxed for the session, wearing a sleeveless maroon top with blue jeans and a striped apron. She completed the look with a printed headscarf while focusing on the pottery wheel in front of her.

In the pictures, the actress can be seen carefully shaping clay with both hands. The session appears to have involved several attempts, with Kriti trying different forms instead of sticking to just one design.

Her finished pieces included bowls and cups in earthy clay tones. Some had clean shapes, while others featured deliberately uneven or wavy edges that retained a distinctly handmade feel. One of the pieces that stood out was a heart-shaped vessel. Another creation featured a softer, irregular rim, showing the different shapes Kriti experimented with while learning the technique.



The photos also captured her concentration during the process, with the actress visibly focused on controlling the clay and getting the shapes right.

Kriti Says Pottery Had Been On Her List For Years

Sharing the pictures on social media, Kriti wrote about finally doing something she had wanted to learn for a long time. “That thing you’ve been wanted to do or learn for years, the one that always made it to your ‘Things I wanna do this year’ list but you never made time for it.. Instead of saying ‘One day’, yet again, make today your ‘Day One’!” she wrote. Kriti then revealed that pottery was one of the activities she had repeatedly wanted to try but had not managed to make time for earlier. “One of the things on my list was Pottery!” she added. For the actress, the experience was not simply about making the finished pieces. She appeared equally taken by the process of starting from scratch and picking up a skill she had never tried before.



Sidharth Malhotra

And Kiara Advani To Welcome Second Child? Salman Khan Says, ‘Another One Soon’

Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia graced Bigg Boss 20 Weekend Ka Vaar to promote their upcoming film The Vvaan: Force of the Forest. During their appearance, host Salman Khan asked Sidharth about his life after marriage with Kiara Advani and fatherhood. “How’s married life and how’s fatherhood?” Salman asked, to which Sidharth replied, “Very good. Very good.” Salman then teased Sidharth about how he had once repeatedly encouraged him to get married. “Tumse poocha tha us time par shaadi kar, shaadi kar, shaadi kar. Tab toh sharmili dulhan ban gaye the yeh,” he joked. Sidharth then explained why he and Kiara had kept their relationship private for so long. “Hamara raaz humne raaz rakha tha bhai. Woh raaz humne sahi time pe khola,” he said. Salman immediately added to the joke, “Woh raaz abhi bachche mein hai.”

Sidharth Malhotra calls fatherhood the best role

Sidharth and Kiara welcomed their daughter, Saraayah Malhotra, in July 2025. The couple announced her name a few months later. Speaking about becoming a father, Sidharth said, “I think it’s the best role possible — to become a father.” He also spoke affectionately about his daughter, saying, “Hamari bahut hi pyaari beti hai, jo abhi 15 mahine ki ho gayi hai takreeban. Abhi bhi naye-naye sab bol rahi hai

aur seekh rahi hai. I think the best feeling in the world and hopefully aise hi rahega.” Salman then joked, “Hopefully you will have another one soon!”

Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani relationship

Sidharth and Kiara reportedly grew closer while



working together on Shershaah. They kept their relationship largely away from the public eye before getting married in an intimate ceremony at Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer on February 7, 2023.

Sidharth puts Salman on the spot

The conversation then turned towards Salman himself. After discussing his own marriage and experience as a father, Sidharth asked the superstar, “Aapka kya khayal hai shaadi aur bachchon pe?” Salman said, “Mere khayal bahut achhe hain shaadi aur bachchon par. Lekin main woh share nahi karna chahta.”

‘Ghoom Ke Chamat Maaro’: Angry Salman Khan Slams Paparazzi For Taking ‘Back Shots’



The recent Bigg Boss 20 Weekend Ka Vaar saw the OG Salman Khan returning. The actor schooled trolls in the best way possible and took a sharp dig at paparazzi for clicking actresses from the wrong angle. Visibly upset, Salman, while talking about how some cameramen take backshots of actresses, asked the women to hit them if they do so.

“Ek taangon ka shot mil jaye, and one from behind, jo shot lete hain, which none of the heroines or girls like,” Salman Khan said, adding how it has happened with his co-star from Dabangg 3, Mahesh Manjrekar’s daughter Saiee Manjrekar. He even mentioned how his niece Alijah Agnihotri faced this awkward situation and said, “And then the one shot they take from behind, which none of the heroines like? There must be a few who say it’s okay, I don’t mind it. But what about those who don’t like it? I recently saw Saiee Manjrekar was so awkward with that, Neha Dhupia fought against it. My own niece, she was walking, and they kept clicking from behind. And what did the caption say? Guess who it is. Who are they to do this?” Calling this practice utterly “disgusting,” Salman added, “Woh kaun log hain? I am saying this to all the girls who don’t like this: jahan aisa hua, ghoom ke chatmat maaro. Bolna apni maa behenon ka yeh shot lete ja, aur humko dikha. (When this happens, turn around and slap them. Ask them to click their mother or sister like this and show it to you). Disgusting people. They do this all the time at every function.”

He further continued, “What is this mentality? 90% of the girls that I know and all those who have become mothers now, they never wanted this earlier and don’t want this now. I want to see these guys who take these shots. Aur pata chal gaya mujhe ki kaun hai toh phir toh (Once I find out who they are)…”

Salman Khan Speaks About Trolling On Bigg Boss 20

In the Bigg Boss 20 Weekend Ka Vaar promo, Salman reacted to the way celebrities are targeted online. Without taking any names, he talked about age-shaming, weight, looks, families and even motherhood.

Samay Raina Breaks Silence On Medha Shankr Wedding Rumours With A Cheeky Reply: ‘Will Have To Postpone’



Comedian Samay Raina and actress Medha Shankr recently hit the headlines after a viral post on Reddit claimed that the rumoured lovebirds are set to get married in December this year. The post claimed that while they are currently enjoying their vacation, Samay wants to marry the 12th Fail actress ‘as soon as possible’. Now, both Samay and Medha have dismissed the speculations, and their hilarious posts make it clear they’re not taking the wedding rumours too seriously. While Medha called the rumours ‘baseless’, Samay shared a cheeky remark and joked about being busy with his India tour.

Samay Raina Reacts To December Wedding Rumours With Medha Shankr

On Sunday, Samay Raina took to his Instagram stories to re-share a post which read, “Samay Raina to marry Medha Shankr in December?” He dismissed the rumour by sharing the post with the song “Jhooth Bole Kauwa Kaate” playing in the background.

Reacting to the rumours, he joked, “December mai toh mera India tour hai @medhashankr sorry will have to postpone.”

Medha Shankr Reacts To Wedding Rumours With Samay Raina

Meanwhile, Medha also reacted to the rumours. Re-sharing Samay’s Instagram story, she dropped laughing emojis. In another Instagram story, she shared a meme along with the caption, “Me scrolling past all the baseless wedding rumours like.” Check it out below!

The latest wedding rumours surrounding Samay Raina and Medha Shankr reportedly originated from an anonymous Reddit post that surfaced online a few days ago.

The Reddit user claimed to be close to Samay’s family and claimed that, after speaking to his mother, they had learned that Samay and Medha were planning to get married in December 2026. The post also claimed that the two were currently on vacation together.

“I’m very close to Samay Raina’s family, and after speaking to his mother yesterday, I can say that Samay Raina and Medha Shankr are planning to get married this December.

Faith Beyond Borders: Foreign Devotees Perform Pind Daan in Gaya as Pitru Paksha Mela Draws Over 21 Lakh Pilgrims

by Ashis Sinha

The sacred city of Gaya witnessed a unique confluence of faith and cultures on Friday as foreign devotees joined thousands of pilgrims during the on-going Pitru Paksha Mela 2026. Visitors from Russia, Ukraine, Germany and other countries performed Pind Daan and Tarpan at Devghat and other sacred sites along the Falgu River, praying for the peace and salvation of their departed ancestors.

Foreign women dressed in traditional Indian sarees were among those seen performing the rituals under the guidance of priests. The sight of overseas devotees following age-old Hindu customs and of-

fering prayers along the Falgu River attracted considerable attention among pilgrims.

According to local reports, a group of 22 foreign pilgrims from Russia, Ukraine and Germany performed Pind Daan and Tarpan at Devghat on Friday. They are expected to stay in Gaya for around three days to complete rituals at different designated Pind-vedis under the guidance of Pandit Loknath Gaur of Varanasi. A separate report put the number of foreign participants at 48, with devotees from Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Portugal performing rituals in the Vishnupad area. Since the reported num-



bers and countries differ, the figures appear to relate to separate groups of for-

eign pilgrims. For many of the overseas devotees, the journey to Gaya was

inspired by the spiritual significance of Pind Daan and accounts of other

foreign visitors who had previously performed the ritual here.

Some are also observing traditional practices, including fasting, during their stay.

Pilgrim footfall crosses 21 lakh

The foreign participation comes amid a massive rush of pilgrims at the Pitru Paksha Mela. Reports citing district administration data said 20.71 lakh pilgrims had arrived in Gaya by October 1, including around 4.10 lakh on October 1 alone. By October 2, the total footfall had crossed 21 lakh.

The administration has also introduced an AI-based language translation facility to assist pilgrims from different linguistic backgrounds. Reports said the service had already

helped around 14,555 pilgrims understand religious procedures and administrative information. Gaya holds a special place in Hindu tradition for ancestral rites, with the Falgu River, Vishnupad Temple and various Pind-vedis drawing devotees during Pitru Paksha. The Bihar Tourism Department notes that Pind Daan and Tarpan are among the principal rituals performed during this sacred period.

The participation of foreign devotees has added an international dimension to this year's gathering, where millions of pilgrims are converging with a shared prayer for the peace of departed souls and blessings for their families.

India Defeat China 1-0 to Claim Asian Games Women's Hockey Gold, 44-Year Wait Ends!



Nagoya: India's women's hockey team produced a memorable performance on Friday, edging past China 1-0 in the Asian Games final to reclaim the continental crown after more than four decades. The triumph, powered by Lalremisiami's early strike and a resolute defensive display, ended India's long wait for a women's hockey gold since 1982. Lalremisiami scored the decisive goal in the 10th minute, marking her 200th international appearance in memorable fashion. She received a pass from Sakshi Rana before unleashing a powerful reverse-stick shot into the top of the net.

China fought back strongly and earned a penalty stroke in the 24th minute. Veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia, brought on for the crucial moment, produced a superb save to deny the hosts an equaliser and preserve India's lead. China intensified the pressure after half-time, dominating possession and creating several opportunities, including penalty corners. However, India's defence remained disciplined, with Ishika Chaudhary, Sushila Chanu and their teammates making crucial clearances.

The final minutes saw China remove its goalkeeper and add an extra outfield player in search of an equaliser. India, however, held its nerve and defended resolutely until the final hooter. The triumph marks India's first Asian Games women's hockey gold since 1982. The team had finished runners-up in 1998 and 2018, but this time held on to secure the continental crown.

The victory also earns India direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, making the historic gold even more significant.

6 embrace Sanatan Dharma in Haridwar after Ganga ritual

Haridwar: Six people, including five members of a family from Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district and a young man from Saharanpur, reportedly embraced Sanatan Dharma in Haridwar after announcing their decision to leave Islam. Following a holy dip in the Ganga, the participants took part in worship, Yajna-Havan and purification rituals on the riverbank. Vedic mantras were chanted during the ceremony, after which they were given new names and formally welcomed into the faith. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Tirthacharya Sant Ram Vishal Das Maharaj, president of Tirth Seva Nyas. After the rituals, the newly initiated members were welcomed with garlands and showers of flowers. The event was presented by the organisers as a religious initiation into Sanatan Dharma.

'Hanuman Chalisa Gave Me Courage': Indian Pilot Recalls Mid-Air Cockpit Attack

New Delhi: Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, who was seriously injured during an alleged mid-air cockpit attack on a flydubai flight bound for Tel Aviv, has recalled how he turned to the Hanuman Chalisa for courage while fighting to regain control of the aircraft. Machchhar, who is currently recovering in a hospital in Abu Dhabi, shared details of the terrifying episode during a video call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. Modi spoke to the pilot to enquire about his health and praised his courage and presence of mind during the emergency.

"Whenever I am in pain, I recite the Hanuman Chalisa. At that time too, I only kept reciting the Hanuman Chalisa," Machchhar told Modi during the conversation. "I Had to Get Back on My Feet"

According to media reports, Machchhar was allegedly attacked and stabbed by his Omani co-pilot while operating flydubai Flight



FZ1073, which was flying from Dubai to Tel Aviv on September 30. Despite sustaining serious injuries, the captain reportedly managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers and crew members to enter and help overpower the alleged attacker.

Two off-duty pilots traveling as passengers were also reported to have assisted in securing the aircraft and restoring control. Recalling the critical moments, Machchhar said his 17 years of flying experience helped him remain focused despite his injuries. He realised that he had to get back on his feet because the lives of everyone onboard were at

risk. He described the situation as a fight for survival, saying that the Hanuman Chalisa helped him maintain courage during the ordeal. **Flight Makes Emergency Landing**

Reports said the aircraft entered a steep descent after the co-pilot allegedly attacked Machchhar and interfered with the aircraft's controls. The flight was reportedly carrying 174 passengers, including 27 children, when the crisis unfolded. The aircraft eventually made an emergency landing in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, where passengers and crew were brought to safety.

The exact circumstances and motive behind the alleged cockpit attack remain under investigation.

Modi Praises Pilot's Presence of Mind

During the video call, Prime Minister Modi praised Machchhar for his determination and quick thinking in a situation that posed a serious threat to everyone onboard.

The conversation also touched on Machchhar's family and his mother, Geeta Ben. Modi and Machchhar spoke in Gujarati, including about his recovery and the values he had received from the Bhagavad Gita. Machchhar became emotional during the conversation and described the Prime Minister as his "biggest idol", saying that receiving the call made him extremely proud.

The episode has since drawn attention to the pilot's actions during the reported cockpit emergency, particularly his efforts to protect passengers despite sustaining serious injuries.

Shabana Azmi, Naseeruddin Shah, Vishal Dadlani join CJP protest in Mumbai

Mumbai: Veteran actors Shabana Azmi and Naseeruddin Shah, along with singer-composer Vishal Dadlani, joined the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest at Mumbai's Shivaji Park on Friday. The demonstrators demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and raised concerns over the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Shah met CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke during



the gathering and hugged him. Dipke later shared their interaction on social media, expressing surprise at the actor's presence. Shah had earlier voiced

support for the CJP-led student agitation and criticised police action against protesters during its July campaign. The Mumbai protest, or-

ganised on Gandhi Jayanti, drew thousands of participants despite reports of police objections to the gathering. CJP said its agitation would continue over its demands concerning the electoral-roll revision process.

The protest also saw participation from other members and supporters of the CJP-led movement, who raised slogans against the EC and called for greater transparency in the electoral-roll revision exercise.

500+ Step Up for Zero Hunger: ESL Steel's Walkathon Turns Every Kilometre into a Meal

Bokaro: More than 500 people came together in Bokaro on October 2 as ESL Steel Limited organised the #RunForZeroHunger Walkathon, combining fitness, family participation and community service with a message against hunger. Organised under the Vedanta Group's #RunForZeroHunger campaign, the event saw participation from employees, their families, senior officials and others. Under the initiative, every kilometre walked translates into a meal for someone in need, with contributions supporting initiatives associated with Nand Ghar and animal care. The Walkathon was inaugurated by Ravish Sharma, CEO & Whole-Time Director, ESL Steel Limited,



in the presence of Vedanta Shankar, ASP, Chas (Bokaro), and Ranjit Yadav, Officer-in-Charge, Siyaljori Police Station. They urged participants to promote fitness while contributing to a larger social cause. Sharma said the enthusiastic participation demonstrated how collective efforts can create meaningful social impact by combining healthy living with the spirit of giving. The event brought to-

gether ESL's leadership team, Directors, HODs, employees and their families. Shyamlee Minz, CHRO; Prahalad Rawat, CFO; and Sanjay Kumar Sinha, Head-PR & Stakeholder Management, were among the senior officials present, along with other department heads. The Walkathon concluded at Lal Bahadur Shastri Chowk, where participants paid tribute to former Prime Minis-

ter Lal Bahadur Shastri. The event also showcased strong sporting performances, with participants from the Security Department securing the top positions. 15-year-old Om Singh, son of ESL employee Prakash Kumar Singh, finished fourth, while 15-year-old Rupesh Chourasia, son of ESL employee Pannal Chourasia, secured sixth position. In his closing remarks, Sharma congratulated the participants and appreciated their overwhelming response. Through #RunForZeroHunger, ESL Steel has sought to turn a fitness activity into a social initiative, with every kilometre covered contributing towards a meal and reinforcing the message that collective action can make a difference.

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BRIFF NEWS

PFRDA eyes plan for funds to invest directly in infrastructure



New Delhi, Agency : The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is preparing a roadmap to allow entities regulated by it to invest directly in large infrastructure projects, beyond the current mechanism of investing through ReITS, InVITS and alternate investment funds (AIFs), chairman S Raman told Media. "A committee has been set up to look at the issue, and internal discussions are under way to evolve a mechanism where PFRDA can invest directly in such projects. It will be long, patient capital and may be possible at least five years down the line," said Raman on the sidelines of an event on NPS Diwas.

Globally, Canadian pension funds are known to invest directly in big infra projects, including in India, and they hold a significant stake in such projects, including through equity. "All such modalities are being looked into," said Raman.

At the event, financial services secretary Sanjay Lohiya said that as the domestic "pension kitty" grows, people are hopeful that a lot of long-term investment, particularly in infrastructure, will be provided by these pension funds. "Risk, reward and the quality of investment have to be kept in mind, but govt and other stakeholders are hopeful that slowly our pension funds will be able to provide patient capital."

CBI names 3 senior ADAG execs, 7 companies in 2nd RHFL chargesheet



New Delhi, Agency: The CBI on Thursday filed its second chargesheet in the Rs 7,429-crore Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL) alleged loan diversion case, naming 11 accused, including three senior executives of the Reliance ADA Group and seven corporate entities. The chargesheet alleges criminal conspiracy and cheating that led to massive wrongful losses for a consortium of public sector banks and financial institutions.

Among the individuals charged are RHFL director and chief financial officer Amit Bapna, Reliance Capital Group MD and vice chairperson Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, Reliance Power CFO Suresh Nagarajan, and RHFL's statutory auditor Vijay Napawaliya.

The seven companies named as accused include Reliance Infrastructure, Reliance Power, Reliance Big Entertainment, Reliance Broadcast Network, Reliance Business Broadcast News Holdings, Reliance MediaWorks Financial Services, and Kunjbihari Developers. According to the probe agency, RHFL borrowed funds from lending institutions and allegedly siphoned off Rs 7,429 crore through a web of intermediary and conduit entities.

Supreme Court refuses to de-freeze TMC accounts, says let Calcutta high court decide

New Delhi, Agency: The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a petition by Mamata Banerjee-headed TMC faction seeking de-freezing of its three bank accounts on grounds that the party required funds to carry out political activities, such as holding rallies and meetings.

Challenging Calcutta HC's order allowing only meeting of day-to-day expenses of the party from these accounts, senior advocate A M Singhvi said the party's three Indian Bank accounts, which have



been given a clean chit by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a separate proceeding, should be

allowed to be operated by the party.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for West

Bengal govt, told a bench of Justices M M Sundresh and P B Varale that the accounts in question are frozen based on the FIR lodged by the state police, as there is evidence that Rs 35 crore, generated from the fraudulent sale of government land after it was misrepresented as private land by Abhishek Banerjee's PS Summit Roy, was deposited in these bank accounts.

Mehta also mentioned there is a plea pending before the EC as to which is the real TMC, the faction

headed by Mamata or the rival group, adding that the EC has frozen the party symbol and allotted both factions ad hoc symbols to contest bypolls.

The bench said it would not examine merits of the case as it is pending with HC, which in the interim has already rejected the plea for de-freezing the accounts. It requested the HC to expedite adjudication of the pending petition on the issue.

In its petition, the Mamata faction said it urgently required funds to

meet expenses that would arise from preparations for the bypolls.

Referring to an earlier ED proceeding freezing its three HDFC bank accounts, TMC said, "The FIR does not pertain to its Indian Bank accounts as no transaction is linked to the four bank accounts to the alleged offence.

Successive and progressive freezing of TMC's bank accounts indicates mala fide use of power by state authorities to paralyse operations of a nationally recognised party."

Chita Andolan is back: Why are Madhya Pradesh's Panna villagers protesting against Ken-Betwa project

Panna, Agency: Remember the unnerving visuals from Chita Andolan in Madhya Pradesh? Displaced Tribals sleeping on pyres, standing in water for their compensation. The unique protest is back and in its 20th day with agitators battling rain, waterlogging, lathi-charge and general apathy by the authorities.

Activist Amit Bhatnagar, Jai Kisan Sangathan leader, who has been on a hunger strike for the past four days, was arrested on Wednesday as protesters demonstrated chita, jal, sooli, mitti, bhook (pyre, water, gallows, soil, hunger) other forms of satyagraha.

Bhatnagar accused the Panna administration of suppressing the agitation by lathicharging protesters,



including women.

Speaking to Media before his arrest, Bhatnagar said, "For the past three days, the police have been bringing along people dressed in plain clothes, who misbehaved with women, entered their homes and even took away people's phones which have still not been returned. When we approach the police, they ask who took the phones. How are people supposed to identify every

face and find out who took them?"

"There is an atmosphere of fear in the villages. If we say anything, they start resorting to lathi-charge and filing false cases against the protesters," he added. "I am courting arrest because democracy is being murdered. Are we not even allowed to protest peacefully? We are putting ourselves through hardship to raise our concerns, but instead of listening to us, they have cut off the electricity and water. Even the British never did this." The latest protest follows a 15-day agitation in July, led largely by tribal women, after which the administration had assured protesters that eligible and genuinely displaced families would be transparently included in compensation and rehabilitation lists.

Government mandates full body scanners at 8 airports; no timeline yet, trials on

New Delhi,

Agency: Indian airports may finally see full body scanners (FBS) after several missed deadlines in the past few years due to changing regulatory requirements. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) DG Rajesh Nirwan said on Thursday that FBS have been mandated for eight airports and trials are on at Bengaluru and Kochi. Kochi is not among the airports where the same has been mandated. Hyderabad and Delhi are in that list, and "site acceptance" is under way there.

The scanners installed for trials are integrated to door-frame



metal detectors and the results of the former are matched with what the latter detects during passenger checks. BCAS is collecting the data and the algorithms will be refined based on the outcome.

Dismissing privacy concerns, Nirwan said scanners are being made "image agnostic" as they will just be a model of a person.

Supreme Court says seize vehicle, stop RC, PUC renewal if e-challans not paid

New Delhi, Agency: Many vehicle owners often ignore traffic fines for years, allowing unpaid challans to pile up and eventually land in courts. Supreme Court has now directed states and UTs to impound their vehicles, noting that around 47% of challans issued across the country remain unpaid. A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan said Thursday that issuing e-challans was not sufficient and stringent action should be taken to recover fines.

"Let there be random checking of vehicles, and if it is found that the e-challan issued has not been abided by or honoured, necessary steps shall be taken to impound the vehicle itself," the bench said.

SC said the authorities should freeze online services for vehicles with outstanding amounts. They should bar renewal of registration certificates, issuing of duplicate registration certificates, and not entertain any request to update the owner's address, it said. "The authorities shall also deny fitness certificate until all pending traffic fines are entirely



cleared and further there should be blacklisting of the vehicle concerned on the Parivahan portal," SC said.

"This will come in the way of the person concerned if he wants to sell his vehicle. The authorities should also proceed to block ownership transfer. For multiple violations, driving licence shall be suspended from renewal, and measures shall also be taken to suspend the driving licence which may be in force. What is most important is that no centre should be permitted to issue a PUC certificate," the bench said.

Expressing displeasure with authorities for not taking action, the bench said, "We want to convey something to states/UTs/authorities plainly and simply.

No uniform explanation for collegium decisions on compassionate transfers

New Delhi, Agency:

The Supreme Court collegium's decisions to transfer judges from one HC to another are explained as being meant "for the better administration of justice". But the standard reasoning does not translate into a uniform explanation, with the collegium showing unusual compassion in approving requests from some for transfer or repatriation due to difficult family situations or health issues, while maintaining aloofness from others. There are many judges in HCs who have



expressed resentment at the absence of any procedure or norm for transfer of HC judges. A member of the collegium, who will go on to become CJI, has mooted framing a transparent transfer policy. He told Media that a judge under consideration for transfer should be warned first to mend his ways and be kept

under watch for some time. Only when he does not improve should he be transferred, he said.

The five-member collegium on Sept 28 recommended the repatriation of Justice T Vinod Kumar from Madras HC to his parent HC in Telangana "in view of his ensuing retirement on Nov 16". Justice Kumar was transferred from Telangana HC to Madras HC in May last year by the SC collegium headed by then CJI BR Gavai.

In May last year, a complaint had reached the SC alleging that

Justice Kumar, heading a division bench, had kept more than 50 judgments reserved. Sitting as a single judge, he had reserved verdicts in over 170 cases since 2020. If Justice Kumar's imminent retirement was a ground for his repatriation, no such consideration was shown to Justice D Nagarjun, who was transferred from Telangana HC to Madras HC. Justice Nagarjun, a career judicial officer who was elevated as an HC judge in March 2022, was transferred to Madras HC in April 2023.

Coordinate with allies for stir, Congress tells state units

New Delhi, Agency : A day after the opposition decided to hit the streets together, Congress on Thursday asked its state and district units to take a lead role in coordinating with INDIA bloc allies for the joint agitation from Oct 2-8 to press for CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation.



The district events will see large mobilisation at the local level - marches to Ambedkar or Gandhi

statue or to Election Commission office in a district. There, the gathering will sing the national anthem and hold a public reading of Article 326 on universal adult suffrage. The units have been specifically asked to end their programmes by burning the effigies of CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

Government backs SCO connectivity but PM's Pakistan visit uncertain

New Delhi, Agency :

India's participation in the SCO meeting of national coordinators in Islamabad to firm up the calendar for high-level meetings has sparked speculation about whether PM Modi would travel to Pakistan for the heads of state summit next year. Modi has missed only one of the seven in-person summits since India became a full member of the Eurasian bloc in 2017, but officials said his past attendance is no guarantee of a visit even for a multilateral event to Pakistan, a coun-



try India has come to describe as a serial practitioner of terrorism.

Additional secretary Alok Dimri travelled to Pakistan this week for the national coordinators' meeting, as first reported by Media on Monday.

The first such visit from India to Pakistan since the 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack highlighted how SCO, which is dominated by China and Russia, has remained insulated from India-Pakistan tensions, unlike the more modest

Saarc regional framework.

For a PM visit, though, as official sources said, India will factor in Pakistan's continued support for cross-border terrorism before making a final decision. The same is likely to apply for the meetings of defence and foreign ministers heading into the main summit, as India seeks tangible and irreversible action by Pakistan against cross-border terrorism to make the overall environment conducive for any substantive engagement.

Kalashtami 2026: The Night of Kaal Bhairav and the Tradition of Fearlessness

Kalashtami is one of the important observances in the Hindu calendar dedicated to Lord Kaal Bhairav, a fierce manifestation of Lord Shiva associated with time, discipline, protection and the destruction of fear. Observed on the Ashtami, or eighth lunar day, of the waning phase of the Moon, the occasion occupies a distinctive place in India's religious traditions. In 2026, Kalashtami falls on October 3, making it an important day of worship during the autumn festive season.

The observance is particularly associated with night-time prayers, visits to temples and devotional practices dedicated to Kaal Bhairav. In different regions, devotees follow different customs, but the central idea remains connected with spiritual discipline and the recognition that time is constantly moving forward. The name itself combines the ideas of Kala, meaning time, and Ashtami, referring to the eighth lunar day.

Kaal Bhairav and the symbolism of time: In Shaiva traditions, Kaal Bhairav is regarded as a powerful form of Shiva. He is often represented as a guardian figure, carrying symbols associated with authority and protection. His imagery can appear intense, but the deeper religious symbolism is not simply about fear or destruction. Kaal Bhairav represents the force that removes obstacles, protects sacred spaces and reminds devotees of the importance of discipline. The association with Kala, or time, gives the observance another layer of meaning. Time cannot be stopped, stored or recovered once it has passed. Human life, therefore, is understood as a journey in which every moment carries significance. Kalashtami becomes an



opportunity for devotees to reflect on how they use their time, conduct themselves and respond to responsibilities.

In this sense, the festival's message extends beyond ritual. It raises questions about self-control, responsibility and the ability to face difficult circumstances without losing balance.

Why the night holds special significance: Kalashtami is traditionally connected with night worship. Devotees may visit Bhairav temples after sunset and participate in prayers and devotional ceremonies. Some observe a fast during the day and conclude or modify it according to their family and regional traditions.

The atmosphere of Bhairav temples during the observance can be distinctive. Lamps are lit, devotional songs and prayers are offered, and devotees seek blessings for protection and spiritual strength. In several places, special worship is conducted during the evening and night.

The emphasis on night-time worship also carries symbolic meaning.

Darkness has traditionally been associated with uncertainty and fear, while spiritual light represents awareness and courage. Worship of Kaal Bhairav can therefore be understood as a symbolic movement from fear toward awareness.

The guardian of sacred spaces: Kaal Bhairav is traditionally regarded in many Shaiva traditions as a guardian or protector. This association has contributed to the importance of Bhairav temples in religious and cultural landscapes across India.

One of the best-known centres associated with Kaal Bhairav is Varanasi, where Bhairav is deeply connected with the city's religious identity. Devotees visiting Varanasi often include the Kaal Bhairav Temple in their pilgrimage. The deity is traditionally regarded as a guardian of the sacred city.

Bhairav worship is not limited to one geographical region, however. Forms of Bhairav worship can be found in several parts of India, with

local traditions adding their own customs, stories and forms of worship. This regional diversity illustrates how Indian religious traditions often develop through the interaction of shared beliefs and local cultural practices.

Fasting, prayer and personal discipline: For many devotees, fasting is an important part of Kalashtami observance. The exact rules differ according to family traditions, religious practices and regional customs. Some devotees observe a complete fast, while others follow a simpler form of dietary restriction. The purpose of fasting in religious traditions is often understood as more than simply avoiding food. It can represent restraint, concentration and a temporary withdrawal from everyday distractions. Prayer and meditation provide an opportunity to focus attention on spiritual concerns.

Devotees may also offer flowers, fruits, lamps and other traditional offerings during worship. Some traditions include prayers seeking protection from negative influences and difficulties. The emphasis on discipline makes the day particularly meaningful for those who see religious observance as a way of developing greater self-awareness.

A tradition that speaks about fear: Perhaps one of the most interesting cultural aspects of Kaal Bhairav worship is its relationship with fear. The deity's fierce appearance can initially seem intimidating, but religious symbolism often gives that imagery a different interpretation.

Fear is a universal human experience. People encounter uncertainty in their personal lives, careers, relationships and communities. Religious traditions frequently use symbolic figures

to help people understand such emotions. Kaal Bhairav's fierce form can be interpreted as representing the courage needed to confront what is frightening rather than allowing fear to control one's actions.

This does not mean that religious practice eliminates everyday problems. Rather, observance can provide a framework through which individuals reflect on difficulties and seek emotional and spiritual strength.

Time, responsibility and modern life: The idea of time associated with Kaal Bhairav has particular relevance in contemporary life. Modern society moves at an extraordinary pace. Work, technology, communication and social commitments can leave people with little opportunity for reflection.

Kalashtami offers a cultural reminder that time is finite. The observance encourages devotees to pause, even briefly, and think about priorities, responsibilities and personal conduct.

For younger generations, this aspect can provide a bridge between traditional religious practices and contemporary life. The festival does not need to be understood only through ritual. Its themes of discipline, responsibility, courage and awareness can also be considered in everyday circumstances.

Preserving traditions while adapting to changing times: Like many Indian festivals and observances, Kalashtami continues to be shaped by changing social conditions. Urbanisation, migration and busy professional schedules have changed how families participate in religious traditions. Some people visit temples, while others perform simpler forms of worship at home.

Remembering Ancestors in Modern India

How Family Memory Survives Across Generations



Every family has a history, even when much of that history is not written down. It survives in old photographs, handwritten letters, family recipes, stories told by grandparents, names remembered across generations and traditions followed year after year. In India, the practice of remembering ancestors has long been connected with religious observances, but it also represents something broader: the preservation of family memory.

During periods such as Pitru Paksha, families traditionally pause their everyday routines to remember relatives who have passed away. Rituals may differ from one community to another, but the underlying idea of acknowledging previous generations remains deeply rooted in Indian culture.

In modern India, where families are increasingly spread across cities, states and countries, such traditions have acquired another dimension. They can provide a link between people living in the present and the stories of those who came before them.

Family history beyond photographs: For many families, the first connection with previous generations comes through photographs. An old black-and-white image may show grandparents, great-grandparents or relatives whose names are familiar but whose lives are less well known. Yet photographs are only one part of family history. Personal memories often contain information that cannot be found in official records. A grandmother may remember where the

family originally lived, a grandfather may know why relatives moved to another city, and an older family member may remember occupations, customs or events that shaped the household.

When these memories are shared with younger generations, history becomes personal rather than distant.

The oral tradition of remembering: India has a long tradition of passing knowledge orally. Before modern communication technologies became widespread, stories, songs, religious narratives and family histories were commonly transmitted through conversation.

Family histories followed the same pattern. Children learned about ancestors by listening to parents and grandparents.

This form of transmission can be fragile. When older generations pass away without their memories being recorded, valuable information may disappear with them. For this reason, family gatherings and traditional observances can play an important role. They create occasions for older and younger generations to interact and exchange memories.

Why names matter: Names often carry family history. Children may be named after grandparents or other relatives, creating a direct connection between generations.

In some families, the same names are repeated across several generations. Such practices can preserve memories even when people have never personally met the relatives whose names they carry.

Ashtami Shraddha: Remembering Ancestors and the Cultural Meaning of Pitru Paksha

In the Indian cultural tradition, remembrance of ancestors is closely connected with ideas of family, gratitude and continuity. During Pitru Paksha, families across the country observe rituals dedicated to departed relatives, offering prayers and remembering those whose lives contributed to the generations that followed. Among the important observances of this period is Ashtami Shraddha, performed on the eighth lunar day of the waning fortnight. In 2026, Ashtami Shraddha falls on October 3. The day forms part of a broader period traditionally dedicated to pitru - ancestors - and is observed through rituals whose details vary across communities and regions.

Although the ceremonies are rooted in religious belief, the cultural idea behind them is also deeply connected with memory. Pitru Paksha creates a period when families consciously look back at their family histories



and acknowledge the people who came before them.

The meaning of Pitru Paksha: Pitru Paksha is traditionally observed during the waning lunar fortnight of the Hindu month of Bhadrapada or its equivalent period in regional calendars. Families perform Shraddha rituals on specific lunar dates associated with their ancestors.

The word Shraddha is commonly associated with faith, sincerity and respect. The rituals are therefore traditionally

understood as expressions of gratitude toward deceased family members. Food offerings, prayers, water offerings and other customary practices form part of Shraddha observances. The exact procedure can differ according to regional traditions, family customs and religious practices. For many families, the rituals are also an occasion to gather together. Members of different generations may participate, allowing children and younger family members to learn about rela-

tives they may never have met.

Why Ashtami Shraddha is observed: Ashtami Shraddha refers to Shraddha performed on the eighth lunar day, or Ashtami, during Pitru Paksha. Families whose ancestral observance corresponds with this lunar date traditionally perform the ritual on this day.

The significance is therefore connected to the lunar calendar rather than the fixed Gregorian date. This is why the corresponding date changes from year to year.

Jivitputrika Vrat: A Tradition of Motherhood, Prayer and Family Bonds

Across India's diverse festival calendar, several observances are closely associated with family relationships, maternal affection and prayers for the well-being of loved ones. Jivitputrika Vrat, commonly known as Jitiya or Jiutiya, is one such traditional observance. It is particularly associated with mothers praying for the well-being, longevity and prosperity of their children.

The observance is especially prominent in parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring regions, although families living elsewhere may also follow the tradition. The festival is



observed according to the Hindu lunar calendar, and its customs vary between communities. In 2026, Jivitputrika Vrat falls during the

autumn festive season, bringing together religious devotion, family traditions and regional cultural practices.