



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

10, including children, injured in shooting at water park in US, suspect at large

World As many as 10 people were shot and injured at a water park near Detroit, the largest city in Michigan in the United States. The incident happened on Saturday evening.

The suspect was at large. However, the police said they believed he was cornered in a house nearby, news agency Reuters reported. The gun used by the suspect was recovered from the scene, news agency Reuters reported. Addressing a press conference, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said a man got out of a vehicle in front of Brooklands Plaza Splash Pad park, in Rochester Hills, Michigan, at about 5 pm (2100 GMT) and fired about 30 shots from a 9mm semi-automatic Glock. He reloaded several times, the official said.

Rochester Hills is about 30 miles (50 km) north of Detroit. The neighbouring community, Oxford Township, also in Oakland County, was the scene of a 2021 mass school shooting where student Ethan Crumbley, then 15, killed four students and wounded six other students and a teacher at Oxford High School

Rare flesh-eating bacteria that can kill in 2 days spreads in Japan

World A disease caused by a rare "flesh-eating bacteria" that can kill people within 48 hours is spreading in Japan after the country relaxed Covid-era restrictions, Bloomberg reported on Saturday. Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS) is an aggressive illness that can be fatal within 48 hours of infection. As many as 977 cases of STSS have been reported in Japan this year by June 2, higher than the record 941 cases reported last year, according to the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, which has been tracking incidences of the disease since 1999. Group A Streptococcus (GAS) typically causes swelling and sore throat in children known as "strep throat," but some types of the bacteria can lead to symptoms developing rapidly, including limb pain and swelling, fever, low blood pressure, that can be followed by necrosis, breathing problems, organ failure and death, according to Bloomberg.

"Most of the deaths happen within 48 hours," said Ken Kikuchi, a professor in infectious diseases at Tokyo Women's Medical University. "As soon as a patient notices swelling in the foot in the morning, it can expand to the knee by noon, and they can die within 48 hours," he said.

People over 50 are more prone to the disease. Kikuchi added that at the current rate of infections, the number of cases in Japan could reach 2,500 this year, with a "terrifying" mortality rate of 30%. Group A Streptococcus (GAS) typically causes swelling and sore throat in children known as "strep throat," but some types of the bacteria can lead to symptoms developing rapidly, including limb pain and swelling, fever, low blood pressure, that can be followed by necrosis, breathing problems, organ failure and death, according to Bloomberg.

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Eight-year-old critically wounded in Detroit suburb splash pad shooting; nine others suffer injuries

ROCHESTER HILLS. Nine people were injured, including two young children and their mother, after a shooter opened fire at a splash pad in a Detroit suburb where families gathered to escape the summer heat Saturday. Law enforcement tracked a suspect to a home, where the person died by suicide, authorities said. An 8-year-old boy was shot in the head and in critical condition Saturday night, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard said during a news conference.

The boy's mother also was in critical condition after being wounded in the abdomen and leg, and his 4-year-old brother was in stable condition with a leg wound. Authorities initially said they believed as many as 10 people had gunshot wounds from the shooting in Rochester Hills, but that number was lowered later on after they checked with area hospitals. The other six victims, all 30 or older, were in stable condition, Bouchard said. They included a husband-and-wife couple and a 78-year-old man. The shooting happened just after 5 p.m. at a city park featuring a recreation area with a nonslip surface where people can turn on sprays and fountains of water to play in.

Bouchard said the attack appeared to be random, with the shooter driving up to the park, walking to the splash pad and firing as many as 28 times, stopping multiple times to reload. At least one witness reported that the shooter appeared to use two hand guns during the attack, but that has not yet been confirmed, the sheriff said. In the chaos, "People were falling, getting hit, trying to run," Bouchard said. Terrible things that unfortunately all of us in our law enforcement business have seen way too much." The gunman was apparently in no rush. Just calmly walked back to his car," the sheriff said. Police heard the 911 call reporting the shooting as it came in, Bouchard said, because the agency uses a service that simultaneously sends emergency calls to first responders.

An officer was at the scene within two minutes, he said. Bouchard said the first deputies who arrived immediately began providing first aid including tourniquets. Officers also were able to quickly come up with a likely address, and a car matching the suspect's vehicle was at the residence. Deputies surrounded the home and tried to make contact with the suspect inside, to no avail, Bouchard said. They sent a drone inside the home and then entered to find the suspect was dead. Another weapon was found inside.

Thousands protest against far right in France ahead of snap polls

Thousands of people marched in several French cities, including Paris, to protest against National Rally ahead of snap election after opinion polls projected the far-right party winning and forming the next government.

Paris Thousands marched in Paris and cities across France on Saturday to protest against the far-right National Rally (RN) ahead of upcoming elections to the French Parliament. Following the RN's surge in last Sunday's European elections, police said 3,50,000 people were expected to march and 21,000 officers had been mobilised after labour unions, student groups and rights groups called for rallies to oppose the anti-immigration, eurosceptic party. In Paris, where police said 75,000 people turned out, a march set

off at 1200 GMT (5:30 pm IST) from Place de La Republique, in the east, going through the Bastille Square to Nation.

According to the CGT union, cited by BFM TV, 2,50,000 marched in Paris and 6,40,000 in total across the country. Police said they had arrested seven people in Paris. The police said there had been 2,17,000 demonstrators across France.

peaking at Place de La Republique, hard-left CGT union leader Sophie Binet told reporters, "We are marching because we are extremely worried that (the RN's head) Jordan Bardella could become the next Prime Minister. We want to prevent this disaster." Carol-Ann Juste, a 22-year-old student taking part in the Paris march, said it was the first time she had taken part in a protest. She said she was "worried because people believe the lies of this party that has a truly racist heritage", a reference to the National Front, a forerunner to the RN, whose leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was fined for remarks seen as anti-Semitic or xenophobic.



Juste said she wanted to "fight to preserve a country of human rights, freedom, and tolerance".

NEXT GOVERNMENT

On the same march, Cecilia Lormeau, a 34-year-old teacher who said she plans to vote for the Popular Front, an alliance of left-wing parties, said, "It is important to show we are mobilised and that the RN is not the majority of the people."

President Emmanuel Macron called a snap legislative election, to be held in two rounds on June 30 and July 7, after his

centrist alliance was trounced by the RN in last Sunday's European Parliament ballot. A first series of opinion polls projected that the RN could win the election and be in a position to form the next government. An OpinionWay-Vae Solis poll conducted for Les Echos and Radio Classique published on Saturday forecast RN would lead in the first round of the parliamentary election with 33 per cent of the votes, ahead of the Popular Front on 25 per cent.

Macron's centrist camp was on 20 per cent. At least two polls have put the left not far behind the RN and ahead of Macron's group. In Tours, western France, where hundreds of protesters were taking part in a march, a banner read, "For liberties, for rights, for a social and democratic republic, against far-right ideas and against racism." Several banners read, "Young people hate the FN (the RN's former name), while a pensioner carried a banner that read, "Old people also hate the RN".

Sweden and Iran conduct prisoner swap in Oman-mediated deal

This incident is a latest in a string of mass killings in Mexico. Two warring militia groups, likely backed by drug cartels, are battling for control of the town. Chiapas and Guanajuato, both hit by bloody gang turf battles, border Guatemala

Stockholm. Sweden and Iran carried out a prisoner exchange on Saturday, officials said, with Sweden freeing a former Iranian official convicted for his role in a mass execution in the 1980s while Iran released two Swedes being held there.

The prisoner swap was mediated by Oman, the country's foreign ministry said in a statement. "Omani efforts resulted in the two sides agreeing on a mutual release, as those released were transferred from Tehran and Stockholm," it said. Sweden freed former Iranian official Hamid Noury, who had been convicted for his part in a mass execution of political prisoners in Iran in 1988. Iran's official IRNA news agency published footage of Noury arriving at Tehran's Mehrabad airport where he was welcomed by his family on a red carpet. Meanwhile, Swedish

citizens Johan Floderus and Saeed Azizi, who had been detained in Iran, were freed and flown back to Sweden, where they arrived late on Saturday.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said the pair were in good condition given the circumstances and had been



reunited with their families. "Iran used them both as pawns in a cynical negotiations game with the purpose of getting the Iranian citizen Hamid Noury released from prison in Sweden. He was convicted of serious crimes committed in Iran in the 1980s," Kristersson said in a statement. "As Prime Minister, I have a special responsibility for Swedish citizens' safety. The government has therefore worked intensively on the issue, together with the Swedish security services, which negotiated with Iran."

WAR CRIMES

Noury, 63, was arrested at a Stockholm airport in 2019 and later sentenced to life in prison for war crimes for the mass execution and torture of political prisoners at the Gohardasht prison in Karaj, Iran, in 1988. He denied the charges. An Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson described Noury as a hostage in a statement to local media, saying his imprisonment was due to an "illegal Swedish court decision that lacked legitimacy." Noury told reporters his case had been complicated and sensitive. "They said even God cannot free Hamid Noury, but he did," he told reporters on his arrival in Iran. The National Council of Resistance of Iran, a coalition of groups opposed to Iran's Islamic Republic government, said it appeared Sweden had yielded to blackmail and hostage-taking tactics in a move that would encourage Tehran. Lawyer Kenneth Lewis, who represented a dozen plaintiffs in the Noury case in Sweden, said his clients were not consulted and were "appalled and devastated" over Noury's release. "This is an affront to the entire justice system and everyone who has participated in these trials," he told Reuters.

Israeli military announces 'tactical pause' in attempt to increase flow of aid into hard-hit Gaza

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military on Sunday announced a "tactical pause" in its offensive in the southern Gaza Strip to allow the deliveries of increased quantities of humanitarian aid. The army said the pause would begin in the Rafah area at 8 a.m. (0500 GMT, 1 a.m. eastern) and remain in effect until 7 p.m. (1600 GMT, noon eastern). It said the pauses would take place every day until further notice.

The pause is aimed at allowing aid trucks to reach the nearby Israel-controlled Kerem Shalom crossing, the main entry point for incoming aid, and travel safely to the Salah a-Din highway, a main north-south road, to deliver supplies to other parts of Gaza, the military said. It said the pause was being coordinated with the U.N. and

international aid agencies. The crossing has suffered from a bottleneck since Israeli ground troops moved into Rafah in early May. Israel's eight-month military offensive against the Hamas militant group has plunged Gaza into a humanitarian crisis, with the U.N. reporting widespread hunger and hundreds of thousands of people on the brink of famine. The international community has urged Israel to do more to ease the crunch.

From May 6 until June 6, the U.N. received an average of 68 trucks of aid a day, according to figures from the U.N. humanitarian office, known as OCHA. That was down from 168 a day in April and far below the 500 trucks a day that aid groups say are needed. The flow of aid in southern Gaza declined

just as the humanitarian need grew. More than 1 million Palestinians, many of whom had already been displaced, fled Rafah after the invasion, crowding into other parts of southern and central Gaza. Most now languish in ramshackle tent camps, using trenches as latrines, with open sewage in the streets. COGAT, the Israeli military body that oversees aid distribution in Gaza, says there are no restrictions on the entry of trucks. It says more than 8,600 trucks of all kinds, both aid and commercial, entered Gaza from all crossings from May 2 to June 13, an average of 201 a day. But much of that aid has piled up at the crossings and not reached its final destination. A spokesman for COGAT, Shimon Freedman, said.

Trump slams Biden over inflation, crime at Detroit church to court Black voters

Detroit, Donald Trump ventured on Saturday (local time) where few Republican presidential candidates tread - the city of Detroit, attending a community forum as part of a push to peel Black voters from President Joe Biden ahead of November's election.

Trump's appearance at a Black church drew a mix of curious local residents and diehard supporters, but little in the way of protest. Both Trump and Biden, a Democrat, have targeted Michigan as a must-win state where every vote may make a difference, and the Trump campaign argues an opportunity exists to win over Black voters, particularly men, who may be attracted to the former president's economic and border-security policies. But Detroit is also a place Trump denigrated four years ago as "corrupt" as he argued the 2020 election results there could not be trusted. At the 180 Church on the west side of the city, Trump sat on stage at a table flanked by a panel of members of the local community, including small-business owners and activists. The event was moderated by US Representative Byron Donalds of Florida, a contender to be Trump's vice-presidential pick. Trump focused on his core messages, blasting the Biden administration over high inflation, crime

and illegal migration, which he said had harmed Black Americans in particular. "They're coming into your community and they're taking your jobs. We have to get them out," Trump said, without presenting evidence. Trump said crime was "most rampant here, in African-American communities", adding that the "Black population wanted law enforcement more than any other."

He also vowed to revitalise the local auto industry in Detroit by slapping tariffs on vehicles built in Mexico and elsewhere. The church's senior pastor, Lorenzo Sewell, credited Trump for showing up by comparing him to Barack Obama, America's first Black president.

"President Obama never came to the 'hood. So, thank you," Sewell said.

MAKING AN APPEAL

Wearing a "Make Black America Great Again" T-shirt, Sewell spent time in the hours before the event directing and helping visitors find parking in the hard-scrabble neighbourhood that surrounds the church. The event felt unlike a typical Trump rally. While some fervent, MAGA cap-adorned supporters waited for hours to get in, the line numbered in the hundreds, not thousands, and some attendees said they had just



happened upon the scene by chance. As the event began, the church was not at capacity. It held a diverse audience of Black and white people. The street in front of the church was blocked by police, but there was no sign of protests. A dental clinic on the corner looked to take advantage of the crowd, having an employee hold a sign aloft that read, "Make your smile great again". Asked whether she was glad Trump was there, the employee responded, "I'm glad if anybody comes here." Angelo Brown, 61, of southwest Detroit, said he wanted to come see Trump "close-up" and was undecided between Biden and Trump. "I'm still listening. I want more of a focus on America, our school system, the medical system," Brown said. "I'd like to see them fix the immigration problem

and not just bicker about it," he said. Tamika Markham, 46, of Detroit, said she was open to voting for Trump. "You never know," she said. "We are just getting by," Markham said of her and her teenage son. "It's hard for a lot of people. I see a lot of people struggling. Not everyone in the neighbourhood was happy to see Trump. Mae Thomas rolled down the window of her SUV as she drove by the scene outside the church and said she was a life-long Democrat and would be voting for Biden.

A quick visit to Detroit by Trump wouldn't persuade her, Thomas said. He had not done anything for her community as president. "Now if he walked up to me right now and did something for our neighbourhood, make everything beautiful, then it's different, then we might talk about it," she said. "But just to come in, I haven't seen any improvement in the neighbourhood."

AN UPHILL CLIMB?

Trump was convicted in New York last month on 34 felony counts of participating in a scheme to cover up his payment during the 2016 election to a porn star with whom he had an alleged affair.

Jharkhand govt to give 200 units of free electricity soon: CM

RNS I Ranchi: Aligns with a similar initiative by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren today said that the state government is going to provide 200 units of free electricity to domestic consumers soon. Since taking office in February, Soren had already increased the provision of free electricity from 100 units, set by former Chief Minister Hemant Soren, to 125 units. The announcement was made during a program in Matkambeda village, Rajnagar block, Seraikela-Kharasawan district, where Soren laid the foundation stone for several projects. The Chief Minister emphasised his commitment to strengthening the state's infrastructure and ensuring Jharkhand becomes one of the leading states in the country. "We will soon im-



plement a system in every panchayat where medicines will be available 24 hours a day," he added. Soren also highlighted the government's focus on creating ideal villages, like Shaheed Gram Matkambeda, and urged the youth to stay away from drug abuse. "Our youth are crucial for the development of our homes, society, and state.

Creating a drug-free society is a collective moral responsibility," he stated. The CM assured the public that the government is committed to meeting their expectations and ensuring the effective implementation of welfare schemes. "Public interest works are being carried out continuously. The state government is dedicated to making sure that farm-

ers have water in their fields throughout the year," he said. During the event, Soren distributed assets worth approximately Rs 54.42 crore to beneficiaries and inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 182 schemes. This included the inauguration of 22 schemes worth Rs 70.76 crore and the foundation stone laying of 160 schemes valued at Rs 167.10 crore.

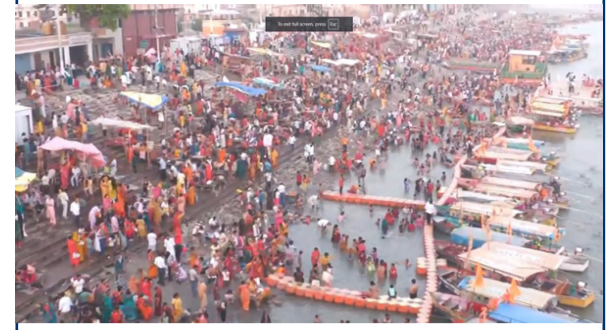
First Direct Flight Launched Between India & Cambodia



RNS: The first-ever direct flight between India and Cambodia was launched on Sunday. The flight was officially inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia Neth Savoeun and the Indian Ambassador to Cambodia Devyani Khobragade. In a social media post, the Indian Embassy in Cambodia said, this move marks the start of

the first Tourism Year and will boost tourism and people-to-people connections. The Embassy hailed the development as a historic moment, citing India's Act East Policy. The flight between the two capitals will be operated four times a week by Cambodia's national flag carrier Cambodia Angkor Air.

Devotees Take Holy Dip In River Ganges On Occasion Of Ganga Dussehra



RNS I New Delhi: A large number of devotees took holy dip in river ganges on the occasion of Ganga Dussehra today. Crowds of devotees were seen at ghats in Prayagraj, Varanasi, Haridwar, Garh Mukteshwar and other places since early morning. Special security arrangements were put in place by the police in Uttar Pradesh on this occasion.

India Is Set To Be 6th Country To Have Its Own Deep Sea Mission



RNS I New Delhi: Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh has said that India is set to be the 6th country to have its own Deep Sea Mission. Dr Singh said this while chairing a meeting to discuss the 100-day Action Plan of the Ministry of Earth Sciences in New Delhi on Sunday. During the meeting, Dr Singh expressed pride and happiness on the progress of Deep Sea mission and India being among the very few nations to achieve this feat. He asked institutes to focus on achieving a resilient blue economy to empower people dependent on the ocean and its energy for livelihood. On drawing contours of the deep sea mission, he said that the mission is not limited to mineral exploration but the development of ocean sciences, exploration of flora and fauna and conservation of marine biodiversity among others.

Govt Is Committed To Crack Down On Terrorists Through Innovative Means : Amit Sah

RNS : Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said, Narendra Modi government is committed to set an example by cracking down on terrorists through innovative means. Chairing a high level meeting to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi on Sunday, he directed all security agencies to work in a mission mode and ensure quick response in a coordinated manner. He highlighted that the fight against terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is in its decisive phase. Mr Shah added that recent incidents show that terrorism has been forced to shrink from highly organized acts of terrorist violence to a mere proxy war.

DVC's Ash Slurry Pipe Bursts, Promptly Repaired to Prevent Ash Flow into Konar River



by Suresh Pd Nikhar

Bokaro: On Thursday afternoon, a pipeline carrying ash slurry from the Bokaro Thermal Power Plant to the ash pond via Noori Nagar burst near the recovery system. This incident led to ash-laden water briefly flowing into the Konar River through a few damaged pipes. Upon receiving information about the burst, DVC Chief Engineer cum Project Head Anand Mohan Prasad and GM O&M S. Bhattacharya promptly visited the site. Chief Engineer Prasad conducted

a thorough inspection and immediately instructed the repair and replacement of the damaged pipe. Chief Engineer Prasad stated that the accidental flow of ash-laden water was halted quickly. He assured that within approximately half an hour, all the damaged pipes were replaced, ensuring only clean water was flowing into the Konar River. "I am very serious about pollution and will not allow polluted water to enter the Konar River under any circumstances," he emphasized. Prasad explained that the increase in water pressure

sometimes damages the pipes, causing some muddy water to flow into the river. However, he reiterated that measures are always in place to prevent polluted water from contaminating the river. The location of the pipe burst was slightly sloped, resulting in a small amount of ash water entering the river, but the issue was resolved within a few hours. He further highlighted that DVC management is highly conscious and dedicated to preventing any kind of polluted water from entering the rivers in and around Bokaro Thermal.

Trial run of Vande Bharat Sleeper Class trains in next 2 months



by Ashis Sinha

RNS: In a major development, Indian Railways will commence the trial run of the Vande Bharat Sleeper Class train within the next two months. Presently, the Vande Bharat Express, which features only chair cars, is operational. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced in New Delhi that there has been significant public demand for the Vande Bharat Sleeper train. The Vande Bharat train is India's first indigenous semi-high-speed train. Minister Vaishnaw emphasized that over the next five years, the

government will prioritize rail infrastructure development and enhancing passenger comfort. Over the past decade, the government has constructed 35,000 kilometers of rail tracks. The Minister also highlighted the government's focus on providing comfortable journeys for low-income groups and noted ongoing efforts to increase the production of Amrit Bharat trains. Additionally, Vaishnaw mentioned that to manage the extra rush of passengers during the summer season, Indian Railways operated approxi-

mately 20,000 special trains, accommodating around four crore passengers.

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Villagers in Tundi forced to dig pits by the river for potable water

by Chandan Pal

Dhanbad: Inhabitants of Jatakhunti Panchayat, located approximately 50 kilometers from the district headquarters in Western Tundi, have been forced to dig pits by the river-side to collect drinking water since India gained independence. Villagers in Charkkala, Kurhawa, Dhongabera, Mohli, Kolharia, and other surrounding hamlets face severe water shortages, especially during the summer, when the groundwater level drops drastically, causing the four installed hand pumps to fail. Despite 24 years since the formation of Jharkhand, the locals are still compelled to dig pits (chuan) by the river to collect water for cooking and drinking. The women of the village endure extreme heat to dig pits in the sandy riverbed of Nagarwa Joria to collect water. Alternatively, they wait for hours to collect a small amount of water from the residual pools in the dry wells. Lalita Devi of Dhongabera vil-



lage recalls, "Since I got married 12 years ago, I have been collecting drinking water this way. My mother-in-law also used to dig pits by the river to fetch water." Muni Bhawtain from Kurhawa Tola explains, "We have only one well here, and it dries up in the summer, forcing us to wait hours for a little water. Earlier, we used to dig sand by the Damodar River to collect water. Now, with the sand depleted, we are forced to dig pits in Nagarwa Joria for water." To quench the thirst of these villages, the Thethatand Mega Water Supply Scheme was launched in 2016 with a com-

pletion target of 2018. However, four years later, the project remains unfinished, and the contractor abandoned the pipe-laying work in 2020. Asha Murmu, the Mukhia of Jatakhunti Panchayat in Western Tundi, shared that despite multiple discussions with the department engineers, no action has been taken to lay the pipes. Tundi MLA Mathura Mahato said, "Tundi is situated by the Barakar River. People dig pits by the river to extract good water. Due to extreme heat, deep boring is not successful in many places, leading to the implementation of the Har Ghar Jal

scheme, which is nearing completion." He added, "The Thethatand Water Supply Scheme in Tundi couldn't be completed on time, causing the contractor to abandon the work. Ninety percent of the work is done, affecting 92 villages in Tundi. An assembly team is scheduled to inspect the area in the first week of July to address the water crisis." Notably, in 2016, the Jharkhand government introduced the Thethatand Mega Water Supply Scheme in Tundi Block. The plan aimed to provide drinking water to around 2 lakh people across 92 villages in seven panchayats. With a budget of 46.38 crores, the project included the construction of a treatment plant, nine water towers, and pipelines throughout the villages. The target completion date was November 2018. While water supply started from four water towers, the pipeline work remained unfinished, and the contractor abandoned the project in 2020.

We should eliminate voting machines...

Elon Musk call sparks debate worldwide; Indian ministers are also in tug of war

RNS I New Delhi: Ahead of the US elections, tech entrepreneur Elon Musk has ignited a debate by suggesting the elimination of electronic voting machines due to their vulnerability to hacking. In a post on X, Musk stated, "We should eliminate electronic voting machines. The risk of being hacked by humans or AI, while small, is still too high." His comments came in response to a post by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., an independent candidate for the 2024 US Elections and nephew of former US President John F. Kennedy. Kennedy highlighted recent voting irregularities in Puerto Rico's primary elections, reported by the Associated Press, emphasizing the need for a paper trail to ensure election in-



tegrity. "US citizens need to know that every one of their votes was counted, and that their elections cannot be hacked. We need to return to paper ballots to avoid electronic interference with elections. My administration will require paper ballots, and we will guarantee honest and fair elections," Kennedy asserted. In response, former Indian Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar quickly coun-

teric voting machines can be built securely, as India has done, and even offered Musk a tutorial on the Indian system. Musk's comments come shortly after India concluded its seven-phased general elections, resulting in a third consecutive term for the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA alliance and the return of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister. Indian politician Rahul Gandhi also weighed in on the debate, posting on X: "EVMs in India are a 'black box,' and nobody is allowed to scrutinize them. Serious concerns are being raised about transparency in our electoral process. Democracy ends up becoming a sham and prone to fraud when institutions lack accountability."

Ranchi Police Crack Down on Sex Trade as Incidents Rise

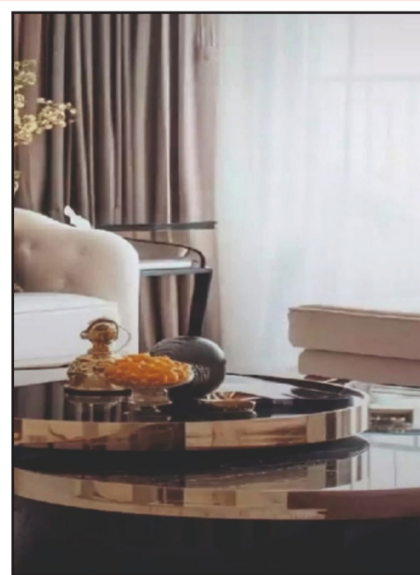
RNS I Ranchi: The capital of Jharkhand, Ranchi, is increasingly becoming a hotspot for the sex trade, with numerous sex workers operating under the guise of spa centers and hotels. Despite several raids, new incidents continue to surface. Today, Ranchi police conducted another raid, catching a young man in an objectionable condition with two girls, while several others managed to escape upon seeing the police.

Ranchi police have been conducting continuous raids since last month, uncovering a disturbing trend of local youths being found in compromising situations with these sex workers. According to the police, the crackdown on the sex racket is ongoing under the instructions of SSP Chandan Kumar Sinha. In the latest operation, police raided Hotel Maurya near Argora Chowk, arresting three individuals,



including two girls. One of the arrested girls hails from Hajipur in Bihar, and the other is from Bengal. Hatia DSP PK Mishra reported that the raid was conducted based on information about prostitution activities, resulting in the arrest of two girls and a

young man in objectionable conditions, though some individuals managed to flee. Additionally, on Sunday, June 16, Ranchi police raided a spa center near Maurya Hotel. Although nothing objectionable was found, the raid was conducted based on reports of prostitution activities at the spa. The police are keeping a vigilant watch on all hotels and spa centers in the capital to curb this illegal activity.



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Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan: Serving agriculture, farmers like worshipping God

On June 18, an amount of about Rs 20,000 crores will be transferred to the bank accounts of 9.3 crore farmers by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said.

New Delhi: Ahead of the release of the 17th instalment of PM-Kisan by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi on June 18, his first public function in his Lok Sabha constituency after entering office for a third time, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said Saturday that "serving

agriculture and farmers is like worshipping God". Chouhan told reporters: "I am happy the first thing that the Prime Minister signed, after taking oath, was the file of Kisan Samman Nidhi. And his first programme is also being held in Baba Vishwanath's city Kashi, where the Prime Minister will release Kisan Samman Nidhi in the accounts of farmers with a single click." "I am thankful to the Prime Minister that he has given me the responsibility of an important department like agriculture. Agriculture is the most important department to fulfil the resolution of a developed India. Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. Even today, most of the employment opportunities are created through agriculture and farmers are filling the food reserves of the country. For us, serving agriculture and farmers is like worshipping God," he said. "That is why, after taking charge, I have been in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for four consecutive days from morning till late night and am studying everything

thoroughly," he said. "On June 18, an amount of about Rs 20,000 crores will be transferred to the bank accounts of 9.3 crore farmers by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Governor (of Uttar Pradesh), UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the state's Agriculture Minister will be present in the Prime Minister's programme at Kashi," he said. "50 special Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been identified at different places in the country, where different Union Ministers will go and join the programme virtually and will interact with the farmers present there," he said. "Apart from this, this programme is being planned at all the mandis, block places and in every gram panchayat in many states. About 2 crore farmers will participate in this programme," he said. "sked whether Chief Ministers of Opposition-ruled states have also been invited to the programme, Chouhan said, "I have written a letter to all Chief Ministers and have requested them to join this programme. I believe that this is a

programme of the farmers and there is no question of any ruling or Opposition (party) here. I request all the Chief Ministers to join the programme." He said the Prime Minister will also give certificates to more than

Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya," he said. "Keeping in view the important role of women in agriculture, the Ministry of



30,000 Krishi Sakhis who have been trained under a government initiative to make members of women self-help groups "Lakhpati didis".

We have started the Krishi Sakhi programme in 12 states right now. It has been started in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh,

Agriculture and Rural Development has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Now, both of them will run this programme together," said Singh who also holds the Rural Development portfolio.

On the 100 days agenda, he said, "The Prime Minister has entrusted the responsibility of making a 100-day action plan to every department. We have reviewed that action plan and we will release it soon." "We all know that even in his second term, agriculture and farmers have been the top priority of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and he has taken many steps for the welfare of farmers," he said. Chouhan later held discussions with agriculture experts including NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand and former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal.

In MK Stalin's dig at PM at victory rally, mention of sweet box by Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK chief MK Stalin on Saturday addressed a victory rally in Coimbatore to thank the voters, days after securing victory in the Lok Sabha polls. Speaking on the occasion, MK Stalin said that with just one sweet box, Rahul Gandhi broke the image which Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried to build through his eight trips to Tamil Nadu. "The last time I came to Coimbatore for the election campaign, it trended across the country. Because the narrative that PM Modi was trying to create through his eight trips to Tamil Nadu, was shattered in one go by a sweet box that my beloved brother Rahul Gandhi gifted me when he came to Coimbatore. I won't forget the affection brother Rahul has shown me," MK Stalin said.

The DMK chief added that Narendra Modi became the prime minister only due to the support extended by Chief Ministers, N Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar and not on the BJP's strength in the Parliament, claiming that this was a "failure" for Modi as he had to depend on allies to form the government. "The 240 seats BJP won is not Modi's victory, but it's Modi's failure. It's because of Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar that Modi is sitting as PM now. It is our Constitution and democracy that won in this election. BJP now can't do whatever they want to do," Stalin said. MK Stalin said that the victory of the INDIA bloc in the Lok Sabha polls was historic as the people deprived the BJP of a decisive mandate to form



the government on its own. "The DMK-led alliance had victory in 40 seats. It is not a simple victory. It's a historic victory. In fact, those who were speaking about changing the Constitution were forced to bow down to the Constitution. And that's the 41st victory of our INDIA alliance," he said. "The BJP never thought the INDIA alliance partners would come together. But when it actually happened, BJP

tried to threaten everyone with IT, CBI, ED etc. They froze the accounts of Congress and the Communist party. Delhi and Jharkhand CMs were arrested. The BJP indulged in divisive campaigns. They spoke against the minority community. Tamils were belittled in UP and Odisha. Spending several crores, they spread fake news on WhatsApp. After doing so much, how many seats did the BJP get? Just 240!" Stalin quipped. "If you look at the numbers, the DMK-led alliance has won in all 39 seats in the state. When you look at these numbers from the perspective of assembly seats, DMK alliance is leading with 221/ 234 seats. Soon, the Vikravandi bye-elections will happen. Even in that, our candidate will win by a huge margin.

Elon Musk vs ex-Union Minister over EVMs, Rahul Gandhi jumps in too

New Delhi: Former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar has pushed back against billionaire tech magnate Elon Musk's comments on electronic voting machines (EVMs), labelling them as a "huge sweeping generalisation" without basis. Elon Musk, in a post on X, had raised concerns about electronic voting machines, suggesting they should be eliminated due to the potential risk of being hacked by humans or AI, even if the risk is minimal. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who served as Minister of State for the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in Modi Cabinet 2.0, countered Musk's view, stating it might apply to the US and other regions where standard computing platforms are used to build "Internet-connected voting machines."

However, Chandrasekhar asserted that this is not the case in India, where EVMs are custom-designed, secure, and isolated from any network or media. "This is a huge sweeping generalization statement that implies no one can build secure digital hardware. Wrong. @elonmusk's view may apply to US n other places - where they use regular compute platforms to build Internet connected Voting machines. But Indian EVMs are custom designed, secure and isolated from any network or media - No connectivity, no bluetooth, wifi, Internet. ie there is no way in. Factory programmed controllers that cannot be reprogrammed (sic)," Chandrasekhar tweeted. The entrepreneur-turned-politician also offered to give a tutorial to the SpaceX boss demonstrating the robustness of EVMs designed in India.



"Electronic voting machines can be architected and built right as India has done. We wud be happy to run a tutorial Elon," he said. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi also entered the controversy and backed Musk's view on the matter. The Gandhi scion, who has often questioned the transparency of EVMs, characterised them as a "black box." In a post on X, Gandhi said, "EVMs in India are a 'black box,' and nobody is allowed to scrutinize them. Serious concerns are being raised about transparency in our electoral process. Democracy ends up becoming a sham and prone to fraud when institutions lack accountability." During the recently concluded marathon Lok Sabha election, the Opposition had alleged that there was a possibility of the ruling BJP tampering with electronic voting machines to turn poll outcomes in their favour. In response, Chief Election Commissioner Rajeev Kumar assured that EVMs are "100% safe".

Under fire over Lok Sabha poll debacle, Suwendu Adhikari skips key BJP meeting

Kolkata: Facing criticism over BJP's performance during the Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal, Leader of Opposition in state Assembly Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday skipped a meeting of the party's core committee in Kolkata. The Nandigram MLA instead visited Cooch Behar district to meet BJP workers who were allegedly attacked in the post-poll violence in the state. Talking to reporters before leaving the city, Adhikari said, "I am going to Cooch Behar. Nearly 270 workers of our party have taken shelter in our party offices. I will interact with them. It is more important to stand by the victims of post-poll violence than attending meetings." Of the 42 parliamentary seats in Bengal, the BJP won 12 while the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) got 29 and the Congress I. BJP's seat tally saw a sharp drop from the 2019 general elections, when it had bagged 18 seats. The meeting was attended by senior BJP state leaders including



former Medinipur MP Dilip Ghosh, Union Minister and Bongaon MP Santanu Thakur, state BJP chief and Balurghat MP Sukanta Majumdar, Agnimitra Paul and Lockett Chatterjee. "We have primarily discussed the possible candidates for the Assembly bypolls and will send the names to the central leadership. They will take the final decision. Suwendu Adhikari was not present in the meeting as he is occupied with party activities.

He will be informed about the meeting details," said Chatterjee after the meeting. Paul said that three names per Assembly constituency have been finalised, which will be sent to central leadership. "Discussions were held mostly on selection of candidates for Assembly bypolls. A detailed discussion on the Lok Sabha poll results in Bengal was reserved for another day," she said. Paul said that a four-member committee formed by BJP national president J P Nadda to look into alleged incidents of post-poll violence will arrive in Bengal on Sunday. "The committee will visit Kolkata on Sunday. They will visit our workers at Maheshwari Bhavan in central Kolkata where they have taken shelter. On Monday morning, they will visit Diamond Harbour and Joynagar to meet the affected families. Our priority now is to stand by these people and question the state government why it failed to contain the post-poll violence," said Paul.

Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu on Sikh prisoners: 'For peace in Punjab, Hindu-Sikh unity, will take all right steps'

For peace in Punjab and for Hindu-Sikh unity, we will take all the required steps which are right. We will not backtrack," said Bittu, the Union MoS for Railways and Food Processing Industries

Chandigarh: Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu Saturday said the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi would take all the required steps "for peace and Hindu-Sikh unity in Punjab". "Peace in Punjab is our top priority. There are many big changes that have happened in Lok Sabha. We have to take all this into account. [NDA] government led by Modi sahib has been formed and Punjab is his priority. For peace in Punjab and for Hindu-Sikh unity, we will take all the required steps which are right. We will not backtrack," said Bittu, the Union MoS for Railways and Food Processing Industries. Bittu was responding to a query during a press conference on his stance on demand of release of 'Bandi Singhs' (Sikh prisoners). In a recent interview with a newspaper after he was

inducted as MoS in Union Cabinet, Bittu, in a departure from his earlier stance, said that Sikh prisoners who have completed their sentence should be released and that he would not oppose if Centre had any plans to release Balwant Singh Rajoana, a convict in assassination of Bittu's grandfather and former Punjab CM Beant Singh, or any other Sikh prisoner. Bittu said he had discussed the issue with the family and it was time to move on for peace in Punjab. Responding to similar question on 'Bandi Singhs', state BJP chief Sunil Jakhar said, "Everybody is equal in front of law and should get their due right as per the legal procedure". Earlier, Jakhar while commenting on party's performance in Punjab in the Lok Sabha polls said, "BJP performed better but better is not enough.



Better was not target. The target was to make the BJP successful in Punjab. We have to succeed". The BJP could not win any of 13 Lok Sabha seats during the 2024 general elections in Punjab. However, the vote share of the BJP, which went solo in the elections,

doubled to 18.56 per cent, as compared to 9.63 per cent in 2019.

However, he expressed gratitude to the party office-bearers and workers for their efforts in the elections. "Though we did not get success, the people gave immense response to the BJP," he said. He said it was matter of worry that BJP did not do well in its traditional seats of Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Hoshiarpur. Underlining that "people's trust in BJP in Punjab has lent greater responsibility to the party", Jakhar said the party "will play the role of true opposition to expose the illegal nexus between AAP and Congress." He also alleged that the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) "sacrificed" its candidates in 12 parliamentary constituencies in order to save only one seat (Bathinda).

The PM has his work cut out

THE Modi 2.0 government adopted a no-holds-barred stand against individuals who were perceived to be a security threat. The new government led by Narendra Modi may have to revisit this policy in the light of the victory of some separatists in the recent Lok Sabha elections. The election of imprisoned Khalistani activist Amritpal Singh from Khadoor Sahib and Indira Gandhi assassin Beant Singh's son Sarabjeet Singh Khalsa from Faridkot should make the government sit up and take notice. The Surjit Singh Barnala-led Akali government, which worked in close association with the ruling Congress at the Centre in the 1980s, had got the Sikh masses to reject Khalistan. In the early 1990s, Jat Sikh farmers assisted the government in curbing terrorism. Without their active help, terrorism could not have been wiped out.

The allegations made by Canada regarding the murder of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar and the US claim about an India-sponsored plot to eliminate Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a US national spearheading the Khalistan demand in the West, must have influenced the people who voted in favour of Amritpal and Sarabjeet.

So, in a manner of speaking, the Modi-Shah policy of stern action against anti-nationals may become the trigger for a recurrence of the troubles Punjab faced in the 1980s. Policymakers should keep such factors in mind before taking hard decisions.

The defeat of moderate leaders like Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti in Kashmir and the victory of a hardliner like Engineer Rashid are signs that the Modi-Shah duo needs to ponder over. The swift and decisive action they took in the troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir to abrogate Article 370 had the approbation of the BJP's core supporters in the Hindi heartland and even beyond, but the fallout is becoming alarmingly clear in the aftermath of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Muslim voters of Kashmir are turning away from their own mainstream political parties and opting for the more defiant opponents of the Modi regime. This is another cause for concern.

The election of two Khalistani Sikhs and a radical Kashmiri Muslim to the Lok Sabha underlines the need to consult sage and moderate voices like Gurbachan Jagat and Amarjit Singh Dulat, the latter for dealing with Kashmiri malcontents. Should the elected MPs be allowed to enter and speak in Parliament and vent their feelings instead of silently inciting their co-religionists against the Indian state? Whatever steps the government had taken or planned against these rabble-rousers have not worked. Their respective communities have to be won over to our side.

Parakala Prabhakar is a thinker who describes matters in befitting words. He doubts if Modi can be convinced to adopt softer policies. Prabhakar reminds us that a wolf that wears sheep's clothing will continue to be a wolf. In the constitution of his Cabinet and distribution of portfolios, Modi has already shown that he is the sole decision-maker. He continues to rule in the same manner as before. Modi should be told that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is only creating more terrorists by killing Hamas fighters and bombing hospitals and civilian localities in Gaza. We had that experience in Punjab during our struggle with Khalistani terrorists. Listing and then eliminating culprits only resulted in their replacement, sometimes by two men for the one lost. The only way to end terrorism is to deprive the terrorists of the oxygen that is provided by their own co-religionists in the shape of logistical support or even tacit approval of their madness. It is only when the community is won over that you can hope for closure. The experience of the police in Northern Ireland was exactly the same as ours in Punjab. Of course, the figures of civilians and security personnel killed in the war against terrorists were five times larger in Punjab. When I pointed this out to the Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, he, in turn, was kind enough to point out to me that Punjab's population was five times that of Northern Ireland. If the entry of three anti-government MPs into the Lok Sabha is a matter of concern, the re-election of Mahua Moitra from West Bengal will ensure that the proceedings in Parliament will be lively. Smriti Irani will not be around, but Kangana Ranaut could be her replacement. If Mahua and Kangana get into a verbal duel in Parliament, I would hate to miss it.

Spate of terror attacks unlikely to derail electoral process in J&K

The BJP's success in fostering alternative politics is something that the Congress could not achieve, highlighting a fundamental shift in the region's political dynamics.

THE fresh spate of terror attacks in the Jammu region marks a concerning trend. Historically, such attacks were primarily concentrated in the Kashmir valley. This shift to the Jammu side of Pir Panjal suggests a strategic change in tactics. The terror strikes in Reasi, Doda and Kathua appear calculated to send out a political message and create chaos. Their timing, coinciding with the installation of the new government at the Centre, is aimed at undermining the government's narrative of achieving stability and normalcy in the region. The intention seems to be to disrupt the democratic process, as the Election Commission of India has begun the process of allotting symbols to parties and preparing for the Assembly elections. While such actions are meant to foster fear and uncertainty, the fact is that the recent Lok Sabha elections did not witness violence in J&K and saw the highest turnout in 35 years at 58.46 per cent.

The 2024 General Election in J&K was historic as it marked the first major electoral process in the region since August 2019, when the Government of India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted J&K special status. The elections were historic for two reasons. One, the most notable outcome was the dismantling of the longstanding perception that participating in polls was an act of betrayal, often referred to as 'gaddari'. This stigma had long discouraged many from voting, as they feared social ostracism or being labelled as traitors to the so-called cause of Kashmiri autonomy. This shift reflects a growing acceptance of democratic norms and a desire for political engagement among the populace. Two, the participation of young voters was another critical aspect of this election. For the first time in many years, there was a substantial turnout of young people.

This election was also historic because it managed to satisfy diverse political aspirations in one way or another. Despite being relatively new to the political scene in Kashmir, the BJP managed to make inroads. The party's success lies in its ability to challenge the entrenched political dominance of two prominent families — the Abdullahs and the Muftis. Although the perceived BJP proxies — Sajad Ghani Lone and Altaf Bukhari — did not win, the mere fact that the traditional political strongholds were shaken is a significant achievement for the saffron party. One of the most profound impacts of this election is the emergence of alternative politics in the

region. This is crucial as it opens up the political arena to new actors and ideas, which is essential for a healthy democracy. The election of Engineer Rashid, who defeated former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is a loud proclamation of democracy's triumph in the Valley. Rashid, who has been lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail since 2019 for alleged terror funding, capitalised on a wave of sympathy votes across north Kashmir. The National Investigation Agency had filed a case against him for raising and receiving funds through illegal means, including hawala, to support separatist and terrorist activities in J&K. Rashid's victory is not just a personal success but a symbol of the people's desire for a new political narrative, free from the clutches of dynastic

the dominance of traditional political parties, particularly the National Conference (NC). Rashid's ideology, often considered a deviation from the mainstream, could be re-evaluated in a more pragmatic light, given the evolving political dynamics in the Valley. The political scenario in Kashmir has evolved significantly over the past five years. The fact that even the Jamaat-e-Islami — traditionally seen as a separatist organisation — had expressed its willingness to contest elections underscores the changing dynamics in the Valley. Rashid, along with many others, appears willing to work within a transformed environment, acknowledging the evolving political realities and the necessity for a more inclusive and democratic approach.

The possibility of the government considering Rashid's release stems from the failure of the BJP's perceived proxies to create a substantial alternative. Rashid's release could further bolster the BJP's efforts to establish a new political paradigm in the Valley.

The election also brought to light a significant shift in public sentiment towards the right to vote. For several years, Kashmiris were deprived of this fundamental right. The boycott of elections in the past only served to reinforce the dominance of traditional political parties. This time, however, the high turnout demonstrated a collective determination to reclaim democratic rights and participate in the electoral process. Whether the BJP, the NC or the People's Democratic Party won or lost, the true winner of this election was democracy. This poll was a testament to the people's desire for change and a

better future. The BJP's success in fostering alternative politics is something that the Congress could never achieve, highlighting a fundamental shift in the region's political landscape.

As the UT looks forward to the Assembly polls, the General Election has not only restored the democratic process but also laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and representative political environment in Kashmir. The terror attacks in the Jammu region are intended to delay the elections and create a sense of unrest. However, such attempts are unlikely to succeed, given the clear signal that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are fully committed to democracy.



politics. Rashid is a two-time former MLA from north Kashmir's Langate Assembly segment. In his earlier avatar, he was considered a close confidante of slain Hurriyat leader and People's Conference founder Abdul Ghani Lone, Sajad's father. Rashid broke away and made a significant impact by winning the 2008 and 2014 Assembly elections. Rashid's victory dismantled the political legacy that Sajad and his father had established since 1967. His release from jail could further enhance the BJP's position by fostering alternative political voices.

Rashid's release, provided that he is able to counter the charges against him, will be a critical moment in Kashmir's political evolution. It could signify the end of

Kuwait tragedy

Workers' wellbeing should be Delhi's priority

THE death of 49 people, mostly Indians, in a fire that engulfed a building housing foreign workers in Mangaf, Kuwait, has turned the spotlight on the conditions under which these employees live and work not only in this Gulf nation but the region as a whole. Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah, who visited the site, has blamed the greed of real-estate owners for such incidents, even as an investigation has been launched to pinpoint the lapses and fix accountability. India's immediate focus is on the identification of the bodies and bringing back the mortal remains of the victims, besides granting ex gratia relief to the families of the deceased. At the same time, New Delhi needs to be actively involved in the probe to ensure that those responsible for the tragedy are dealt with strictly.

Those under scrutiny include the companies that hire foreign workers and the realtors who provide accommodation, besides travel agents who facilitate recruitment. According to reports, India's embassy in



Kuwait received over 16,000 complaints from Indian citizens working there between March 2021 and

December 2023. Most of them pertained to delays in the payment of salaries, below-par accommodation and harassment by employers. Alarmingly, over 1,400 Indians, mostly migrant workers, died in Kuwait in 2022 and 2023, according to information shared by the Ministry of External Affairs in Parliament earlier this year. All this suggests that the Indian authorities have been lax in addressing the workers' concerns.

India is the world leader in terms of remittance receipts, with a total of \$125 billion being sent by Indians living across the globe to their families back home last year. Gulf Cooperation Council countries are among the biggest sources of India's remittance inflow. New Delhi must press these nations to crack down on unscrupulous employers who compromise the safety and wellbeing of workers.

Draw lessons from Kuwait blaze to protect workers

It is wrong to assume that labour-exporting countries cannot work together as they are competing with each other.

A building with about 200 foreign workers, mainly from India — with Kerala and Tamil Nadu accounting for the majority — caught fire in the early hours of June 12 in Kuwait. According to a report from Kuwait, the fire broke out around 3.15 am. As the building lacked arrangements for fire-fighting, including a fire alarm, the blaze spread and some residents even tried to jump from the building. At least one person died in such a fatal jump. The fire was reportedly caused by a cooking gas cylinder that was being used by a security guard. The fire department was alerted at 4.30 am and fire extinguishers were promptly sent. The Kuwaiti Home Ministry got a report of the fire by 6 am. The Kuwait Government has expressed condolences over the loss of 49 lives. Some senior officials of the municipality have been suspended for failing to ensure adherence to safety norms for buildings. While we spontaneously think of the plight of the bereaved families and of the injured, we should apply our minds to the lessons to be learnt and the measures required to prevent recurrence of such a tragedy. Let me share a few thoughts based on my professional association with the West Asian region starting from 1976, when I went to Teheran. Our embassies need a better set-up to look after the nine million of our compatriots there. Kuwait has around one million Indians, accounting for 30 per cent of the expatriate population and about 21 per cent of the total population. The embassy website says that the labour section works from 8 am to 4 pm, Sunday to Thursday. Obviously, barring the security guard, no official will be available to attend to emergencies when the labour section is closed. In this context, we need to raise a few questions. When did the Indian embassy get information about the fire incident? When did the Indian media get to know of the fire? Hours after it occurred. Why? When I was in Doha (1992-97), we had cases of maids running away from home seeking shelter in the embassy. We had arranged for an official, preferably speaking the mother tongue of the maid, to come to the embassy within half an hour. This arrangement was good 24x7.



In the present case, I rang up the helpline number of the embassy a couple of times. It was busy. Obviously, there should have been more than one number.

In this context, there is a good deal we in India can learn from the Philippines. When a Philippine citizen arrives in a West Asian country to work as a caregiver or maid, she is received at the airport by embassy officials. She is briefed about the country and how she can get in touch with the embassy in need. She goes to the employer after a day or two. The embassy invariably has labour attachés holding a law degree. There is no communication or coordination among the labour-exporting countries. Two years ago, I visited the region. I asked the first secretary

in charge of consular work and labour welfare whether he attended a conference that the International Labour Organisation had recently organised in the city on the problems of migrant labour. He replied that he had not heard about the conference. I asked him whether he met his counterparts from manpower-exporting countries to exchange views. The answer was in the negative.

The set-up in the Central Government, too, needs a reform. For a long time, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) handled the matter. Later, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs was established in 2004. It was dissolved in 2016 and the MEA resumed charge. There is only one Joint Secretary who is the Protector General of

Emigrants, an office that was earlier with the Ministry of Labour. The MEA organises well-choreographed annual Pravasi Day functions where the affluent members of the diaspora are feted and lauded. Has there been any conference on the problems facing the ABC (ayah, bearer, cook) part of the diaspora? India is the leading country in South Asia and the leading voice of the Global South. What initiative has New Delhi taken to address the problems of the migrant labour globally? The idea that labour-exporting countries cannot work together as they are competing is wrong.

In the run-up to the 2022 Football World Cup in Qatar, many foreign workers died, mainly due to unsafe working conditions. I do not recall any in-depth investigation by the Indian media.

The Guardian of the UK investigated and concluded that 6,500 migrant workers from South Asia had died, with India accounting for a good part thereof. We have not heard that India officially took up this matter with Qatar.

There is apathy in the government and the media. What can be done to remove that apathy? Any French citizen abroad can vote in the French elections. Let us extend this facility to Indian citizens abroad. If the workers in the Gulf can vote, we might expect our politicians, and consequently, the bureaucracy to take more interest in their welfare. It might be argued that the Gulf monarchies would resent such a move. I doubt it. The matter deserves to be examined immediately. The Central Government responded with alacrity once it came to know of the Kuwait tragedy. The Prime Minister chaired an emergency meeting. He sent Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh to Kuwait to oversee assistance to Indians injured in the mishap.

In the big evacuation of 1990-91 to bring back 176,000 Indians from Kuwait and Iraq, no minister had to visit Kuwait, except then External Affairs Minister IK Gujral, who oversaw the entire operation. He went there only once and did not interfere with the work of the Ambassador.



क्रि एटिविटी एक ऐसी चीज है, जो आपको जीवन में और बेहतर बनाता है। हालांकि यह एक गलत धारणा है कि

रचनात्मकता एक जन्मजात प्रतिभा है। इसमें आप खूब सारे आइडियाज और इमेजिनेशन का यूज करते हैं और कुछ शानदार आर्ट के साथ आते हैं। हमारी शिक्षा, लाइफ और करियर में क्रिएटिविटी एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है। लेकिन यह बात छोटे बच्चे को आप कैसे समझाएं? अब समर वेकेशन शुरू हो चुकी है और ऐसे में पैरेंट्स यही सोचते हैं कि इन छुट्टियों को बच्चों के लिए कैसे प्रोडक्टिव बनाएं। अपने बच्चों को क्रिएटिव थिंकिंग के लिए कैसे प्रोत्साहित करें यह हर मां-बाप सोचता है।

सीनियर क्लीनिकल साइकोलॉजिस्ट कहती हैं, 'बच्चों को नई चीजों को आजमाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए। उन्हें उन चीजों के बारे में बताएं और वो चीजें करने के लिए प्रेरित करें, जो उनकी स्कूल करिकुलम का हिस्सा न हों। उनके साथ डॉक्यूमेंट्री देखें और उनसे डॉक्यूमेंट्री के बारे में पूछें।' आइए एक्सपर्ट से जानें कि बच्चों को और किन तरीकों से प्रेरित किया जा सकता है।

बच्चों को सवाल पूछना सिखाएं

बच्चों में रचनात्मक सोच विकसित करने का एक मैन तरीका यह है कि उन्हें हमेशा सवाल करते रहने के लिए प्रेरित करें। जब भी आप उनके साथ समय बिता रहे हों तो उनसे सवाल पूछें। जैसे आप उनसे छोट-छोटे सवाल कर सकते हैं। ऐसे में उनके मन में जिज्ञासा बनेगी और वह नई चीजों के बारे में समझने की कोशिश करेंगे। इससे उनके कल्पनाशील कौशल में वृद्धि होगी और समस्या को सुलझाने की क्षमता विकसित होगी।

अच्छी डॉक्यूमेंट्री दिखाएं

एक शॉर्ट डॉक्यूमेंट्री स्टोरी स्ट्रिप्ट्स की लिटररी को सॉर्स, स्वयं से और दुनिया से

फर्नीचर हर घर की जरूरत है। आमतौर पर, लोग अपने घर के लिए ऐसे फर्नीचर खरीदना पसंद करते हैं, जो देखने में आकर्षक भी हों और बेहद अफोर्डेबल भी हों। इस लिहाज से प्लास्टिक के फर्नीचर का चयन करना एक अच्छा ऑप्शन माना जाता है। इनमें आपको डिजाइन से लेकर साइज व कलर आदि में एक बिग वैरायटी देखने को मिलेगी।

यू तो प्लास्टिक के फर्नीचर का इस्तेमाल करने में कोई समस्या नहीं है। लेकिन अगर आप प्लास्टिक के फर्नीचर को घर में जगह दे रही हैं, तो आपको वास्तु के कुछ नियमों का ध्यान रखना चाहिए। दरअसल, प्लास्टिक के फर्नीचर को अगर घर में सही तरह से ना रखा जाए तो यह कभी-कभी नकारात्मकता भी पैदा कर सकते हैं। तो चलिए आज इस लेख में आपको वास्तुशास्त्री डॉ. आनंद भारद्वाज बता रहे हैं कि घर में प्लास्टिक के फर्नीचर रखते समय किन वास्तु टिप्स का ख्याल रखा जाना चाहिए

कलर का रखें ख्याल

जब आप प्लास्टिक के फर्नीचर का इस्तेमाल



बच्चों में रचनात्मकता को प्रोत्साहित करने के ये हैं बेस्ट तरीके

जुड़ाव के साथ बढ़ाने में मदद करती है। यह न केवल दुनिया को समझने और उससे जुड़ने का अवसर प्रदान करती है, बल्कि हमारे आसपास कई चीजों को समझने का भी एक अच्छा

तरीका है। अपने बच्चों के साथ कोई भी डॉक्यूमेंट्री देखें तो उसकी चर्चा करें। उन्होंने इससे क्या सीखा और क्या समझा जानने की कोशिश करें।

उनके साथ विज और पजल खेलें

विज और पजल जैसे गेम बच्चों के दिमागी विकास के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं। पजल आपके बच्चे की समस्या-समाधान और क्रिटिकल थिंकिंग स्किल को विकसित करती हैं, जो बाद में जीवन में अन्य स्किल की महारत के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होती हैं। पजल्स बच्चों को पैटर्न रिकग्निशन, मेमोरी और ग्रांस और फाइन मोटर स्किल दोनों में मदद कर सकती हैं। इसलिये उनके साथ पजल खेलें।

आउटडोर गेम खिलाएं

अपने बच्चों को घर में रहने के लिए ही न कहें। उन्हें बाहर निकालें और कई फन एक्टिविटीज में उन्हें शामिल होने के लिए कहें। बच्चों के साथ आउटडोर गेम्स खेलें। ऐसे में उनकी एक्सरसाइज भी होगी और वे कुछ नया भी सीखेंगे। आप उन्हें तैराकी करने के लिए प्रेरित कर सकते हैं। किसी गेम में जैसे क्रिकेट, फुटबॉल, बैडमिंटन आदि जैसे खेलों में शामिल होने के लिए कह सकते हैं।



हमारी शिक्षा, लाइफ और करियर में क्रिएटिविटी एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है। लेकिन यह बात छोटे बच्चे को आप कैसे समझाएं? अब समर वेकेशन शुरू हो चुकी है और ऐसे में पैरेंट्स यही सोचते हैं कि इन छुट्टियों को बच्चों के लिए कैसे प्रोडक्टिव बनाएं।



सामाजिक और भावनात्मक कौशल सिखाएं

अपने बच्चों सामाजिक और भावनात्मक कौशल सिखाना भी बहुत जरूरी है। उन्हें पशु आश्रयों और वृद्धाश्रमों जैसी जगहों पर ले जाएं और स्वयं सेवा का महत्व सिखाएं। जब बच्चे ऐसा करेंगे तो वह औरों के प्रति भी संवेदनशील और प्रोच रखने में सक्षम होंगे। ऐसी जगहों पर वे महत्वपूर्ण सामाजिक और भावनात्मक कौशल सीख सकेंगे और साथ ही समाज में भी योगदान दे सकेंगे।

नींद में न करें लापरवाही

इन सबके बाद सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चीज है कि आपका बच्चा पूरी और अच्छी नींद ले। अच्छी नींद का मतलब है कि उसके दिमाग को बेहतर आइडियाज उत्पन्न करने के लिए और नई चीजों पर काम करने के लिए समय मिलेगा। इन्वेक्टिव आइडियाज तभी आएं जब उसके दिमाग को शांति मिलेगी। बाकी एक्टिविटी के साथ उसकी नींद का भी पूरा ध्यान दें।



घर में लगाएं ये फूल तनाव होगा दूर, भीनी-भीनी खुशबू से आएं जीवनों में खुशियां

आजकल के भागदौड़ भरे जीवन में सुकून के दो पल चुराना बेहद मुश्किल हो गया है। बिजौ लाइफ स्टाइल की वजह से लोग अक्सर तनाव में रहते हैं। ऐसे में इस तनाव को दूर करने के लिए अधिकतर लोग शहर से दूर बाहर किसी हिल स्टेशन पर जाना पसंद करते हैं। लेकिन हर कोई टेशन कम करने के लिए हिल स्टेशन नहीं जा सकता है। लेकिन इसका ये मतलब नहीं है कि आप तनाव में रहें। आप जीवन की टेशन को घर में ही कम कर सकते हैं। आपके दिमाग में भी यहीं सवाल आया होगा कि कैसे टेशन कम होगी? घबराइए मत हम आपको सारी उलझन को दूर कर देंगे। इस लेख में हम आपको कुछ फूल के बारे में बताएंगे, जो आपके घर में खुशियां लेकर आएंगे। साथ ही यह फूल घर के साथ-साथ जीवन को भी महका देंगे।

चमेली

फूल न केवल घर की सुंदरता को बढ़ाते हैं बल्कि घर का वातावरण भी शुद्ध होता है। ऐसे में आप अपने घर में चमेली के फूल का पौधा लगा सकते हैं। चमेली का फूल अक्सर हर घर में मिल जाता है। इस फूल से पॉजिटिव एनर्जी मिलती है। फूल की भीनी-भीनी खुशबू आपके घर को खुशनुमा माहौल देगी। कहा जाता है कि चमेली का पौधा लगाने से घर में खुशियां आती हैं।

कमल

हिंदू धर्म में कमल का फूल बेहद खास माना जाता है। यह फूल मां लक्ष्मी को बेहद प्रिय है। कहा जाता है कि इस फूल को लगाने से घर में लक्ष्मी और सुख-समृद्धि आती है। घर में इस पौधे को लगाना बेहद शुभ माना जाता है।

मोगरा का फूल

ऐसा कहा जाता है कि घर में मोगरा पौधा

लगाने से नकारात्मक ऊर्जा कम हो जाती है। मोगरे के फूल गर्मियों के मौसम में खिलता है। इस फूल की भीनी-भीनी खुशबू आपके तनाव को कम कर देगी। मोगरा के फूल की खुशबू से घर आपके मन को तरताजा कर देगी।

गुलाब

गुलाब का फूल न केवल दिखने में खूबसूरत है बल्कि यह फूल औषधीय गुण से भरपूर है। गुलाब की खुशबू तनाव को दूर करने में मदद करती है, साथ ही इससे रिश्ते की मिठास बनी रहती है।

चम्पा

चम्पा फूल को लगाने से घर का वातावरण शुद्ध होता है। हल्के पीले और सफेद रंग के ये चम्पा के फूल बहुत ही खूबसूरत होते हैं। इस फूल को लगाने से घर में सौभाग्य आता है।

गुडहल का फूल

गुडहल के फूल का उपयोग पूजा-पाठ में किया जाता है। भगवान गणेश को लाल गुडहल के फूल बेहद पसंद है। ऐसा माना जाता है कि इस फूल को घर में लगाने से सकारात्मक ऊर्जा आती है। लाल गुडहल के फूल को आप भगवान बजरंगबली को भी अर्पित कर सकते हैं।

पारिजात

ऐसा माना जाता है कि पारिजात का फूल लगाने से घर में सुख-शांति बनी रहती है। यह फूल रात के समय में खिलते हैं सुबह पेड़ से टूटकर गिर जाते हैं। इस फूल की खुशबू से पूरा घर महक जाता है। सुबह-सुबह घर में भीनी-भीनी खुशबू से घर में सकारात्मक ऊर्जा बनी रहती है। पारिजात के फूल को हरसिंगार के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। इस फूल की खुशबू से तनाव कम हो जाता है।



घर में प्लास्टिक फर्नीचर रखते समय वास्तु के इन टिप्स का रखें ध्यान

कर रही हैं, तो आपको इस बात का विशेष रूप से ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि उस फर्नीचर का कलर कैसा है। आमतौर पर, प्लास्टिक के फर्नीचर के लिए क्रीम, व्हाइट, येलो और लाइट कलर का इस्तेमाल करना काफी अच्छा माना जाता है। कभी भी ब्लैक कलर के प्लास्टिक फर्नीचर को घर में नहीं रखना चाहिए। वहीं, आजकल ऐसे प्लास्टिक फर्नीचर भी अवेलेबल हैं, जिसमें एक साथ कई कलर मिक्स होते हैं, बेहतर होगा कि आप उसे भी अवॉयड करें।

जब करें स्टडी

आजकल बच्चों की स्टडी टेबल और चेयर प्लास्टिक की मिलती हैं, जिन्हें लोग खरीदना काफी पसंद करते हैं। लेकिन वास्तु के अनुसार बच्चों की

स्टडी टेबल और चेयर प्लास्टिक की नहीं होनी चाहिए। इससे बच्चे को पढ़ाई में ध्यान लगाने में समस्या पैदा हो सकती है। बेहतर होगा कि आप उनके लिए लकड़ी से बने फर्नीचर को प्राथमिकता दें। हालांकि, आप किसी कारणवश प्लास्टिक फर्नीचर का इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं तो उस पर कोई कपड़ा बिछा दें।

जब करें पूजा

ऐसे कई लोग होते हैं, जिन्हें घुटनों की समस्या होती है तो वह कुर्सी पर बैठकर पूजा करते हैं। कोशिश करें कि आप जिस कुर्सी का इस्तेमाल पूजा स्थान में करें रहे हैं, वह प्लास्टिक की ना हो। लेकिन फिर भी अगर आप ऐसा कर रहे हैं, तो कुर्सी पर कोई कपड़ा अवश्य बिछाएं। आपको यह विशेष रूप से ध्यान रखना है कि पूजा करते समय आप प्लास्टिक के डायरेक्ट संपर्क में ना रहें।

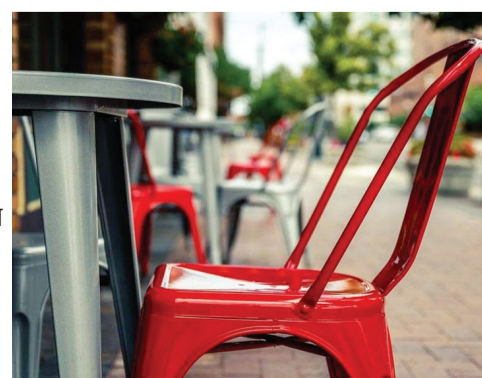
लॉन में करें इस्तेमाल

यू तो प्लास्टिक के फर्नीचर को लोग घर

के किसी भी हिस्से में इस्तेमाल करते हैं। लेकिन आमतौर पर इस तरह के फर्नीचर को ऐसी जगह रखने की सलाह दी जाती है, जहां पर आप फुर्सत के पल बिताते हैं और कोई बहुत आवश्यक या संवेदन काम ना करते हों। इस लिहाज से प्लास्टिक फर्नीचर को घर के पीछे लॉन या फिर सामने खुले आंगन, व छत आदि पर रखना अधिक अच्छा माना जाता है।

प्लास्टिक का ना हो बेंड

कुछ समय पहले तक बेंड बनाने समय केवल लकड़ी का ही इस्तेमाल किया जाता था, लेकिन अब मार्केट में प्लास्टिक के बेंड भी मिलने लगे हैं। हालांकि, कभी भी घर में प्लास्टिक के बेंड का इस्तेमाल नहीं करना चाहिए। बेंड एक ऐसा फर्नीचर है, जिस पर आप एक लंबा समय बिताते हैं। ऐसे में प्लास्टिक की एनर्जी आपकी बीड़ी की एनर्जी में नकारात्मक परिवर्तन ला सकती है। बेंड के लिए हमेशा लकड़ी के इस्तेमाल को ही प्राथमिकता दें।



1 नहीं बल्कि 3 तरीकों से उगाया जा सकता है फ्रेश हरा धनिया

भारतीय घरों में खाने का जायका बढ़ाने के लिए हरा धनिया का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। इसलिए हर रसोई में खाने में स्वाद और प्लेवर के लिए फ्रेश धनिया गार्निश के लिए डाला जाता है। हालांकि, हर वक्रेत फ्रेश धनिये की जड़ को थोड़ा मुश्किल हो जाता है। लेकिन अगर हम आपके कई कि आप घर में ही फ्रेश धनिया उगा सकते हैं और वो भी 3 तरीकों से। जी हां, आपने सही पढ़ क्योंकि आज आप इस लेख में जानने वाले हैं घर पर आसानी से हरा धनिया कैसे उगाया जा सकता है

सीड्स से उगाएं हरा धनिया

आप अपने गार्डन में हरा धनिया बीज की सहायता से लगा सकते हैं। (सेहत के लिए वरदान है हरा धनिया, डाइट में जरूर करें शामिल) आपको किसी भी प्लांट की ग्रांप से बीज आसानी से मिल जाएंगे, जिसे आप किसी गमले, कट्टेनर या फिर प्लास्टिक की बोतल में मिट्टी की मदद से पौधा लगा सकते हैं। हालांकि, पौधे की ग्रांप तभी होगी जब आप इसका नियमित रूप से ध्यान रखेंगी जैसे-आप मिट्टी की नमी पर ध्यान दें, पौधे में नियमित रूप से पानी डालें।

कटिंग से उगाएं हरा धनिया

आप अपने किचन में भी हरा धनिया का पौधा लगा सकते हैं। इसके लिए, आपको बस धनिये के पत्ते की जरूरत होगी। हालांकि, इसके पौधे को सही तरीके से लगाने के लिए आपको मिट्टी सही तरीके से तैयार करनी होगी। साथ ही, आपको बाजार से गमला

खरीदकर लाना होगा और इसमें मिट्टी और खाद की मदद से कटिंग लगानी होगी। **हरा धनिया को जड़ का करें इस्तेमाल**
बहुत-सी महिलाएं हरा धनिये की जड़ को बेकार समझकर फेंक देते हैं। लेकिन क्या आपको पता है कि आप इसकी जड़ की सहायता से फ्रेश हरा धनिया भी उगा सकती हैं। कहा जाता है कि जड़ से उगाया गया पौधा बीज से ज्यादा अच्छा होता है। साथ ही, इसकी ग्रांप भी अच्छी होती है। इसके लिए बस आपको मिट्टी में जड़ को बोना है और नियमित तौर पर पानी डालना है।

धनिया उगाने का आसान तरीका

आवश्यक सामग्री— कट्टेनर/गमला/प्लास्टिक की बोतल, मिट्टी और खाद, कटिंग/बीज, पानी
विधि— पौधा लगाने के लिए सबसे पहले आपको गमले का चुनाव करना होगा। आप छोटा गमला सेलेक्ट कर सकती हैं। गमले का चुनाव करने के बाद आप इसमें मिट्टी डालें और अच्छी तरह से मिला लें। आप पौधे की मिट्टी तैयार करते समय 50% कोको-पीट और 50% वर्मीकम्पोस्ट का इस्तेमाल कर सकती हैं। मिट्टी तैयार करने के बाद आप इसमें पौधे की कटिंग, बीज को अच्छी तरह से लगा दें। कटिंग या बीज को लगाने के बाद आप पौधे में पानी डालें।
बस आपको पौधा पूरी तरह से तैयार है आप इसका नियमित रूप से ध्यान रखें और फ्रेश हरा धनिया आने का इंतजार करें।

NEWS BOX

Overcoming rain, Favour from Australia: England's rollercoaster ride to Super 8s

New Delhi. If there is a team that is the happiest in the Caribbean, it would be England. These were the words from the commentary team after Tim David hit a monstrous six to seal the win for Australia against Scotland in a nervy run-chase, that saw the game go down to the last over. Scotland posted 180 in their innings and bowled bravely against the Aussies, who seemed to be off the boil a bit in the match. In the end, a bit of inexperience with bat, ball and in the field saw Scotland's incredible campaign end and England qualify for the Super 8s by the skin of their teeth. Jos Buttler and Co. did their bit and got the win against Namibia, but things could have been far worse for the defending champions. They would have been feeling the heat on June 16, Sunday as it seemed Scotland could pull off the win against Australia. But now, they will be sleeping a bit better and look forward to continuing their World Cup title defence. It has been a journey that has seen England face the challenges from rain and get a favour from their arch-rivals to reach the next phase.

Rain ruins the start

England faced Scotland in their first game and were hoping to get off the blocks quickly. However, the defending champions looked sloppy and poor on the field and with the ball as Scotland openers made full use of the opportunities they got. However, rain came in to halt proceedings and reduce the game to a 10-over game as Scotland scored 90 for the loss of no wicket and setup a 109-run target for England via DLS method.

But the persistent rain completely put a stop to things as England had to settle for one point.

Australia loss pushes England into chaos

The second game against Australia was supposed to be the one where England showed their true mettle. With bragging rights at stake, the Aussies got off to a perfect start and ensured they kept attacking the English bowler and keep them under the pump. The England openers did well but the middle-order just crumbled as Australia won the match by 36 runs as questions started to be raised about Buttler and Co. The fans were dreading the worst as the prospect of a second failure at defending their crown seemed to be a possibility. Adding to this, Scotland were absolutely flying at the other end as they racked up wins against Namibia and Oman to put themselves in the driving seat.

Thrashing Oman

England were utterly ruthless when it came to the match against Oman. Having their backs against the wall, the bowlers stepped up massively as they bundled out Oman for just 47 runs. The aim was now to push their net run-rate up and the batters went into overdrive and finished the game in 3.1 overs.

Marcus Stoinis missed team meet: Memes flood after Australia gift England Super 8 qualification

New Delhi. The fans on social media were left buzzing after Australia beat Scotland in order to gift England a Super 8 qualification. The high-intensity match-up between Australia and Scotland was of great importance from a qualification point of view. Had Scotland won the match, they would have created history to make it to the Super 8 stage. However, Australia continued their domination and spotless records against associate nations as they registered a nervy win by 5 wickets at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, St. Lucia on June 16, Sunday. Marcus Stoinis turned out to be the chief tormentor against the Scotland team. While chasing a competitive target of 181 runs, Australia stuttered early on as they were reeling at 60/3. However, the 80-run partnership between Travis Head and Marcus Stoinis



had ensured that Australia stayed ahead in the chase. Despite losing both the batters, Australia held their nerves to complete the chase with 2 balls to spare. Stoinis continued his brilliant form in the tournament as he scored a quick-fire 59 from just 29 balls. He was adjudged as the Player of the Match for his innings against Scotland. However, the fans on the internet chose to hail Stoinis in a unique style. The Australian team made headlines when Josh Hazlewood said that they might look to go easy against Scotland ahead of the match. However, Pat Cummins and coach Matthew Mott regarded this as a joke by Hazlewood. The internet praised Stoinis by saying that he missed the team meeting and hence played such a brilliant knock.

"It was easier to hit due to breeze" Stoinis revealed how he planned to take the chase and his partnership with Head. "The plan was to get yourself in and hit it hard along the ground. And then access from there. There was a strong breeze, which meant that the end was easier to hit from. The pitch was also very good. Head picked his bowlers and pretty much turned the game in that over with three sixes even though he got out. I have been fortunate to play consistently for the last 3-4 months.

AUS vs SCO: Australia break Scotland hearts, help England to qualify for Super 8

Travis Head and Marcus Stoinis broke Scotland hearts as Australia defeated them by 5 wickets on June 16, Sunday. This meant that England were able to edge past Scotland to qualify for the Super 8 stages.

New Delhi. Australia secured a thrilling win over Scotland in St Lucia to break Scottish hearts and allow England to qualify for the Super 8 stages on June 16, Sunday. Australia won the match by 5 wickets after a stunning partnership from Travis Head and Marcus Stoinis took the game away from Scotland. The duo put on 80 runs as Head scored 68 and Stoinis hitting 59. England's win against Namibia early in the day meant that they needed the Aussies to beat Scotland, as they would progress on a better net run-rate. However, the Scotland side didn't make things easy for the Aussies and seemed to be the best side at many points during the game. Scotland were put into bat by Australia and there was instant success for Mitchell Marsh and Co. Ashton Agar, playing his first game of the tournament, dismissed Michael Jones in the very first over. Just as it seemed

like the Aussies would control things, McMullen and George Munsey launched a counterattack that rattled the 2021 champions. McMullen, in particular, was very aggressive in his approach and used the win blowing across the Daren Sammy stadium to his advantage.

McMullen scored his 50 off just 26 balls and he got great support from George Munsey, who scored 35 off 23 balls. McMullen scored 60 off 34 balls with 6 sixes in it as Scotland raised to 92 runs in just 9 overs. However, the wickets of Munsey and McMullen in quick succession would derail the momentum a bit for the Scottish side. However, they started to keep a high run-rate as slowly wickets also started to tumble. Captain Berrington played a fine knock of 42 from 31 balls as Scotland ended up posting 180 runs in their 20 overs. This was their highest total in T20 World Cups.

The run chase got off to the worst possible start for the Aussies as David Warner was dismissed early on by Brad Wheal. While Travis Head played a couple of good shots, Scotland bowlers were right on the money and it forced the wicket of Mitchell Marsh to fall as well. Head was given a lifeline by Jones, who dropped a tough catch. The



opener was looking for support from the other end, and Glenn Maxwell was unable to deliver that as Mark Watt delivered a beauty to dismiss him. Scotland looked to be right on top as the squeeze was applied by the bowlers, forcing Australia's run-rate to go up and be close to 12. However, much like the Oman game, Stoinis changed gears in the 14 over as he hit 2 sixes and a boundary off Michael Leask. Stoinis got 2 boundaries in the following over as the required equation came down to 60 off 30 balls. Head, after reaching his fifty, hit 2 consecutive sixes off Sharif, before getting another one as Australia took hold of the momentum in the game. Or so we thought. Sharif would get his

revenge and Head departed with the required run-rate falling below 10. Stoinis ended the over scoring his fifty with a boundary as the Sharif over yielded 24 runs. The all-rounder brought up the 150 with another boundary and followed it with a reverse sweep, a hallmark of his innings. But it would prove to be one too many as Watt cleaned him up to put the game on a knife edge.

Tim David got 3 boundaries in the 18th over, which more or less ended the contest as Australia needed 13 off the last 2. Scotland pushed it into the final over, but Sole dropped another big catch as Australia finally got over the line as David hit a six.

Scotland remain impressive despite exit

After England had secured the win against Namibia, it seemed like that it was done for the Scots. No one gave them a chance against the rampaging Aussies, but they provided a punch to them that had the 2021 champions rattled. McMullen showed his class with the bat as he took on the Australian spinners. The Scottish bowlers showed great discipline as well and made the run chase ever so harder for the Aussies. They aren't a finished product yet as there were a few issues in all the three departments.

Australia wanted to respect 'improved' Scotland team: Mitchell Marsh after nervy win

New Delhi. Australia captain Mitchell Marsh praised the Scotland team for challenging them in a closely-contested match at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium on June 16, Sunday. Marsh hailed the Scotland team for improving with time and bringing their best game. However, Australia broke Scotland's heart as they went onto win the match by 5 wickets. Australia's win meant that Scotland could not qualify for the Super 8s and it was England who made it to the next stage of the tournament. The stakes were high for the Group B clash between Australia and Scotland as there was a tussle between the England and Scotland team to seal the Super 8s spot. Scotland battled like brave hearts and showcased their battling spirits against all the odds. As an associate nation, they managed to scare 2 cricketing giants, Australia and England, in the Group B stage. Hence, they can head back with their heads held high after putting up a tough fight.

Australia survives Scotland's scare

Marsh, while speaking to the broadcasters at the post-match presentation, suggested that the Australia team wanted to showcase their respect for the Scotland team. "We knew that

Michael Vaughan shuts Pakistani troll: Looking forward to the Super 8s, are you?

New Delhi. Former England cricketer Michael Vaughan shut down a Pakistani troll after England qualified for the Super 8s of the T20 World Cup 2024. The England team heaved a sigh of relief as Scotland's 5-wicket win against Australia favoured them. Australia gifted England a place in the Super 8s as they pulled off a nervy win over Scotland, who also stood a chance to advance into the next stage. However, England, alongside Australia, have become the 2 teams reach the Super 8 stage from Group B. Vaughan took to 'X' to slam a Pakistani troll by answering his tweet. The Pakistani troll had put up a picture of rain from the Antigua Stadium and said, "Karma is real." After England qualified, Vaughan replied to the 'X' user and made a cheeky remark that he is looking forward to the Super 8s, but is that the case with him as a Pakistani supporter as well? Vaughan had recently



called out Babar Azam for his T20I captaincy and had mentioned that he did not see Babar as skipper in the shortest format of the game. The Pakistani exam failed to qualify for the Super 8s amid a forgetful outing in the T20 World Cup. Vaughan took a hilarious jibe at the troll whose remarks actually backfired. As eventually, despite the rain, England played the match against

Namibia which was reduced to 11 overs per side. Another rain interruption in the middle of the innings led to the match being further reduced to 10 overs per side. England went onto post 122 runs in their 10 overs as Harry Brook's 47 (20) and Jonny Bairstow's 31 (18) proved to be crucial. England managed to restrict Namibia at 84 runs and won the match by 41 runs (DLS method). However, that would not have been enough as England eagerly awaited the result of Scotland and Namibia's game.

However, had the game been washed out, England would have marked an early exit from the tournament, irrespective of the result of the Australia and Scotland game. The Scotland team battled like brave hearts and challenged the Australian team. However, the Mitchell Marsh-led team chased down 181 runs with 2 balls to spare and gave Scotland a heartbreak.

England triumphs over Namibia in rain-affected match, eyes Scotland-Australia result

ANTIGUA. England's defense of the Twenty20 World Cup title lived on for a few more hours after a must-win over Namibia in a rain-affected match on Saturday.

To reach the Super Eight, England first had to beat Namibia in their maiden T20 match. Persistent showers almost ruined the chance, but the match started three hours late and was reduced to 11 overs, then 10 overs after another heavy shower.

England was made to bat first and rallied to 122-5. Namibia, given a rain-adjusted target of 126, managed only 84-3 and lost by 41 runs. England did what it had to, then had to wait a few more hours and hope Scotland lost to Australia in Saint Lucia to be sure of advancing from Group B. England was anxious for most of the day, thanks to the weather. It had already suffered one washout — its opener against Scotland — and a second washout in four group games would have sent it home. Because of what was at stake, the umpires waited as long as possible at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium to get play underway. England lost the plot early. Only one run was taken from the opening over bowled by 39-year-old David Wiese; captain Jos Buttler was bowled for a duck by fast bowler Ruben Trumpelmann; and



Wiese returned to nick out the other opener, Phil Salt. England was 13-2 after 13 balls. Jonny Bairstow and Harry Brook counterattacked. Bairstow made 31 off 18 balls just before the last rain delay. Brook finished with an unbeaten 47 off 20, and had late support from Moeen Ali and Liam Livingstone, who both contributed to taking 21 runs off the last over. Namibia's chase was relatively fast but not fast enough. Opener Michael van Lingen, after 33 off 29, was pulled out under the pretense of retiring hurt, and Wiese inserted to up the run rate. He duly delivered 27 off 12 but it was too late. It was the last international for all-rounder Wiese, captain Gerhard Erasmus said. Wiese started with South Africa in 2013 but

after five years off he debuted for Namibia in the 2021 T20 World Cup and was invaluable. "Inspired us to new heights," Erasmus said. Australia wins toss and bowls

At Gros Islet, St Lucia, Group B leaders Australia won the coin toss and chose to bowl against Scotland in a match which will determine whether Scotland or defending champions England bow out of the tournament. After England's 41-run victory over Namibia in a rain-affected match earlier Saturday saw it jump into second place in the group standings, Scotland will need to beat Australia to advance to the Super Eight stage. Australia have already qualified for the Super Eights after dominant victories against Oman, England and Namibia in its first three matches. Scotland beat Namibia and Oman after its first match against England was not completed due to rain. Australia have rested pace bowlers Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins, with Mitchell Starc and Ashton Agar coming into the side. Scotland named an unchanged team from its seven-wicket defeat of Oman. The weather forecast at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium is for warm, dry conditions.



we had qualified. We spoke about sticking to our plans. Scotland is a good team, they have improved a lot, and we certainly wanted to respect them. We just wanted to stay consistent and if we fail, we fail our way," Marsh said.

"Being challenged gets the best out of Australia" Marsh also pointed out that being challenged brings the best out of the Australian team and that is what happened on the field on Sunday. "Whenever our team is challenged, it brings the best out of us. Today we were challenged, and it was a good experience and a good game of cricket. We start fresh now. T20 is a hard format, and you need to stay focused at all times. (On chat about England) It was all more externally than internally, we won today. That's all that matters," Marsh added.

Scotland posted a competitive total of 180 runs on the board. Australia lost their top-order early on in the chase. However, Marcus Stoinis and Travis Head's 80-run partnership ensured Australia won the match and remained unbeaten in the group stage.

How PCB sabotaged Pakistan's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign

Pakistan were knocked out of the T20 World Cup 2024 in the group stage. While many blamed captain Babar Azam and the senior members of the team, the real fault possibly lied with the Pakistan Cricket Board, who sabotaged the whole campaign.

New Delhi. 2022 runner-ups Pakistan have been knocked out of the tournament in the group stage of the T20 World Cup 2024. Pakistan, who came into the tournament in all sorts of drama, fell to an agonising exit after rain washed out the Group A match between the USA and Ireland at Fort Lauderdale in Florida on Friday, 14 June. Famed for some terrific luck in the ICC tournaments - popularly dubbed as 'Quadrat ka Nizam' - things seemed to have gone horribly wrong for Pakistan as even the rain

Gods decided to forsake the team's cause. Pakistan captain Babar Azam was slammed left, right and centre by the fans and former Pakistan players for the team's horrible showing at the World Cup. To be fair, Pakistan lost to the USA in their tournament opener - a team that is playing the T20 World Cup for the first time. The team lost to India despite some heroic efforts by their bowlers in New York. The game was a new low for Pakistan as they failed to chase down the target after bundling out Rohit Sharma's side for just 119 runs. Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Mohsin Naqvi, sitting at the Nassau County Stadium in New York, informally spoke to the reporters present at the game and made a bold statement - that it was time for him to do a major surgery in Pakistan cricket.

What surgery?

If Mohsin Naqvi introspected, he probably would realise that PCB would do well to reflect on the build-up to the T20 World Cup, and how they, and they alone, were responsible for sabotaging Pakistan's campaign in the tournament. World Cup 2023 Drama



Pakistan cricket were in the doldrums after their group-stage exit in the ODI World Cup 2023. After leading the side to semi-finals and finals in back to back T20 World Cups, Babar Azam was sacked by the Pakistan Cricket Board under the leadership of Zaka Ashraf. To put it in politically correct terms, Babar Azam 'quit' captaincy and the reigns were handed to Shaheen Shah Afridi in the white-ball formats. Along with Babar, the Pakistan coaching staff was let go. Mohammad Hafeez took charge as the director of cricket, while Wahab Riaz was named as the head of the selection committee. The PCB, at the time were so conscious of their image that they appointed

Salman Butt as the consultant to Wahab Riaz and sacked him within hours of the announcement. These were the early signs of PCB going back on their word, the second they thought that the public opinion was against them. "Salman Butt isn't on any PCB panel. For me, he is a good cricketing mind who understands cricket and has been covering domestic cricket for the past 2-3 years. He was made my consultant just to get his opinion, based on which some media houses and people started doing propaganda." Wahab was quoted as saying in a press conference. "As a chief selector, it's my decision as to who will work with me and whose support I need. But people started discussing nepotism and dosti, due to which I am reverting this decision. I have already spoken to Salman Butt and told him that he cannot be a part of my team," he had added at the time.

Australia Tour and Sacking of Mohammad Hafeez

A new Pakistan team under the captaincy of Shan Masood (Tests) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (ODIs and T20Is) toured Australia and New Zealand. In both series, I



Shilpa Shetty

and Raj Kundra In Fresh Trouble, Accused of CHEATING Trader In Gold Scheme

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty and her businessman husband Raj Kundra have landed in fresh trouble. The couple has now been accused of cheating a trader in a gold scheme. As reported by NDTV, bullion trader Prithviraj Saremal Kothari has moved to the Mumbai Sessions Court demanding action against Shilpa and Raj. Reportedly, Kothari has alleged that Shilpa and Raj orchestrated a scheme under their company and asked traders to invest in it, promising lucrative returns on gold investments. The scheme was named 'Satyug Gold' and allegedly assured investors of gold delivery at a fixed rate irrespective of market fluctuations. Kothari claimed that he invested in the scene but did not receive the promised gold upon reaching the maturity date on April 2, 2019. He further claimed that he invested over Rs 90 lakh in the scheme. Kothari also submitted a cover letter signed by Shilpa Shetty and an invoice issued by Satyug Gold Private Limited in court to support his allegations. The court has now ordered Mumbai police officials to investigate the case. This is not the first time that Shilpa and Raj have landed in legal trouble. In April this year, ED seized Raj Kundra's properties worth Rs 97.79 crore. The attached properties include a residential flat in Mumbai's Juhu, in the name of his wife Shilpa Shetty. Another property is a residential bungalow in Pune and Equity shares in the name of Raj Kundra, the ED said.

The agency said in a statement that the Mumbai zonal office of ED provisionally attached immovable and movable properties of Kundra under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. It was alleged that Kundra along with others collected huge amounts of funds in the form of bitcoins (worth Rs 6,600 crore in 2017) from the "gullible public with the false promises of 10 per cent per month return in the form of bitcoins".

Later, the couple issued a statement via their lawyer and argued that they were ready to cooperate with the concerned authorities. They hoped for "fair investigation" and stated that they had full faith in the Indian judiciary system. In 2021, Raj Kundra was also arrested in connection to the alleged creation and uploading of pornographic films on mobile applications. He was granted bail after almost two months.



Natasa Shares Shocking Cryptic Post Amid Hardik Pandya Split Rumours: 'I Can't Wait Until Morals...'



Cricketer Hardik Pandya's wife, Natasa Stankovic, has once again shared a shocking cryptic post on her Instagram story amid the ongoing rumours about their alleged separation. Natasa on Thursday took to her social media account to share a quote by acclaimed Hollywood actor Denzel Washington. "With so many things coming back in style, I can't wait until moral, respect and intelligence become a trend again," read the quote shared by Natasa on her Instagram story. Natasa on Wednesday shared some "happy moments" with son Agastya Pandya on her official Instagram account. The actress shared a series of photos and videos of her candid moments with her son. In the first picture, Agastya can be seen holding her mom close as they take a nap together. Another photo shows Natasa taking a mirror selfie in the elevator. She also posted a video of her son doing push-ups, while another video showed her doing dance workout in the gym. Sharing the post, Natasa wrote, "Some happy moments." On the other hand, Hardik Pandya debuted his new haircut as he gave a glimpse of the same on his Instagram story. Natasa Stankovic and Hardik Pandya's divorce rumours have been making headlines for a long time now. The couple has not issued any official statement regarding the same as of now.

Last week, Natasa posted a selfie on her Instagram, showing her enjoying a cup of black tea. She can be seen donning a white shirt with a blue scarf, as she smiled for the camera. She wrote, "Hi (with a white heart emoji)". In the second slide, one can see Natasa holding a cup of black tea. She wrote, "Drinking (black tea emoji) while in the car wearing full white clothes (with smile emojis and folded hands emojis)." She also asked her followers, "Will I spill the tea?" Former Bigg Boss contestant and dancer Natasa Stankovic has been married to cricketer Hardik Pandya since May 31, 2020. The couple renewed their wedding vows according to the Hindu and Christian rituals in February 2023.

Newlyweds Millie Bobby Brown And Jake Bongiovi Coffee Run Is Packed With PDA



Love is in the air for the newly wedded couple Millie Bobby Brown and Jake Bongiovi. The duo recently got spotted for the first time nearly three weeks after getting married. As Millie and Jake went out for a coffee, their pictures made it to the Internet, creating a stir among fans. The romantic snapshots showcased the married couple taking a stroll in New York City and sharing a steamy kiss in between laughs. The Stranger Things star and the model were dressed in a sporty style for their casual day out. While Brown effortlessly rocked a deep V-neck white tank top with yellow shorts and white gym shoes, her husband Jake Bongiovi complemented her well in a white T-shirt and blue shorts. He elevated his look with a baseball hat in the shades of green and white and also wore a pair of white gym shoes.

In case you missed it, Millie and Jake said 'I do' to each other just a few weeks ago. Reports suggest the lovebirds exchanged wedding vows in an intimate ceremony attended by close friends and family members. According to The Sun, the couple opted for a low-key yet romantic celebration. A source close to the couple, during an interaction with the portal, revealed, "It was a very low-key, romantic affair with their closest family with them as they said their vows." That's not all. Millie and Jake are planning to host a star-studded ceremony later this year.

The beginning of Millie and Jake's relationship can be traced back to 2021 when the couple made it Instagram official through a wholesome post. Subsequently, they were seen making appearances at various events together including the BAFTA Film Awards and the premiere of Millie's show on Netflix. It was in 2023 when Millie referred to Jake as her "partner for life." This was followed by a dreamy proposal from her husband a few months later. The Stranger Things star broke the news of her engagement on Instagram with the caption, "I've loved you three summers now, honey, I want 'em all."

Farida Jalal

Reveals Akshay Kumar Reads Dialogues Off White Board On Set: 'Pehle Aisa Nahi Tha'

Akshay Kumar, a highly successful Bollywood superstar, is renowned for his strong work ethic. Many of his close associates have commented on his punctuality and ability to work swiftly on set. In order to maintain such efficiency, he follows certain practices. Recently, veteran actor Farida Jalal unveiled one of these methods, mentioning that Akshay reads his lines from a whiteboard placed behind the camera during shoots. Farida Jalal, who has worked alongside Akshay in multiple films, confirmed actor Bhumi Pednekar's statement about Akshay's unique approach to dialogues. She mentioned that this wasn't always the case, indicating a shift in his working style over time, "Pehle aisa nahi tha (he was not like that before)," she stated.

the actress further revealed, "I have done so many films with him. Elaan, Aflatoon, Dil To Pagal Hai, he was not like that at all.

Ab ho gaya, he's done so many films, won so many awards, he has (learnt and said) so many dialogues. Ab hota hai (it happens), give him that much, otherwise he is so perfect. How he does it? It is a talent that you don't come to know that he is reading out his dialogues. Hats off to him, I won't be able to do it. I would never be able to read the dialogues and act at the same time, but he manages and does it well. Give it to the man, very good, kya baat hai (that's great)." Akshay Kumar's co-star Bhumi Pednekar, who shared the screen with him in 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha' and 'Raksha Bandhan', previously shed light on Akshay's unique method of using cue cards for his dialogue delivery. Bhumi emphasized that Akshay's ability to seamlessly incorporate this practice into his acting was a testament to his skill and considered it an art form. She clarified that although Akshay does memorize his lines in advance, he utilizes cue cards during

filming. According to Bhumi, Akshay explained that this helps him stay present in the moment, revealing an interesting aspect of his acting process.

At 75, Farida Jalal's illustrious career boasts iconic roles as a mother figure to Bollywood superstars Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan. She portrayed Shah Rukh Khan's mother in beloved classics such as Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge and Kuch Hota Hai, endearing herself to audiences with her heartfelt performances.

Her on-screen magic wasn't limited to just one Khan; Farida also shared memorable moments with Salman Khan in films like Jab Pyaar Kisise Hota Hai and Dulhan Hum Le Jayenge. Her performances alongside these leading men have left an indelible mark on Bollywood, showcasing her versatility and

