



# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### Warren Buffett Stopped Gifting His Family \$10,000 In Cash At Christmas. He Did This Instead

**World.** Billionaire investor Warren Buffett, known for his frugal lifestyle, initially gifted his family members thousands of dollars in cash. However, after witnessing their tendency to quickly spend these gifts, he shifted his approach, the Fortune reported.

"As soon as we got home, we'd spend it, whoo!" the billionaire's former daughter-in-law, Mary Buffett, who was married to his son Peter in 1980 told ThinkAdvisor. Instead of cash, Buffett began gifting his family members shares in companies he had recently invested in, including Coca-Cola.

"Then, one Christmas there was an envelope with a letter from him. Instead of cash, he'd given us \$10,000 worth of shares in a company he'd recently bought, a trust Coca-Cola had," she said. This strategy not only provided a more valuable gift in the long term but also served as an invaluable lesson in investing and wealth building. His former daughter-in-law recounted how she initially intended to sell the gifted shares but ultimately held onto them, witnessing their significant growth. "I thought: 'Well, [the stock] is worth more than \$10,000. So I kept it, and it kept going up.'" This experience instilled in her a long-term investment perspective, influencing her financial strategies. Warren Buffett's commitment to prioritizing long-term investments over short-term gratification reflects his philosophy of building wealth through patience and discipline.

At 94 years old, Buffett is well-known for his pledge to donate 99% of his wealth and not leave the bulk of his fortune to his children, stating he has "never wished to create a dynasty." Dubbed the "Oracle of Omaha," Buffett reiterated this stance last month while appointing three independent trustees to oversee his philanthropy after his three children stepped down, as reported by CNBC.

### Buy a suit Zelenskyy': Ukrainian president greets Trump in casual sweatshirt and boots

**World.** US President-elect Donald Trump met French President Emmanuel Macron and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Saturday. While some netizens are discussing this unusual meeting, few were ripping Zelenskyy's fashion sense.

The Ukrainian President faced criticism for his informal attire during the Notre Dame cathedral's formal reopening in Paris.

At both the ceremony Presidents at Élysée Palac, while the presidents wore formal suit, Zelenskyy opted for casual black attire with combat boots. "BUY A FUCKING SUIT VOLODOMYR! I am literally in Paris right now. Someone tell Zelenskyy I will personally buy him a suit and take him shopping for it. On my card. He doesn't even need to spend the billions he's laundered over the past three years!" a user said on X while other one said, "Everybody is dressed business attire. But not Zelenskyy. He shows up in a sweater and jacket. He's an embarrassment, or should be." Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman, known for his own casual style, expressed approval, describing Zelenskyy's choice as a "mood."

The Ukrainian leader's military sweatshirt featured imagery resembling the Ukraine Armed Forces emblem, similar to what he wore during his 2022 Congressional address requesting support against Russian forces. Trump adviser Roger Stone criticised the choice, stating to The Post: "He can't afford a suit? He wore a suit and tie to the World Economic Forum event, but can't wear one to address a joint session of Congress or to meet the President-elect of the United States?"

"I thank him. I also extend my gratitude to Emmanuel for organizing this important meeting. We all want this war to end as soon as possible and in a just way. We spoke about our people, the situation on the ground, and a just peace. We agreed to continue working together and keep in contact. Peace through strength is possible," he said in a post on X.

### US Autism Center Faces Abuse Allegations After Staffer Drags Child By Genitals

**World.** The Anderson Center for Autism, a prestigious institution in Dutchess County, New York, is facing renewed scrutiny following disturbing allegations of abuse against its vulnerable residents. This renowned facility, with a century-long history of providing services for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities, has been the subject of growing concern due to repeated reports of mistreatment. A recent incident, captured on video by a whistleblower, has brought the issue to the forefront. The footage allegedly depicts a caregiver, Garnet Collins, abusing a teenage resident. This revelation has sparked outrage and raised serious questions about the quality of care provided within the institution. In the disturbing footage, Garnet Collins, 50, a caregiver at the facility, was seen allegedly trying to control Anil's son by squeezing his genitals. "Every day. Every day. Every day. It kills me to think about the amount of abuse and torture he went through," Anil told Fox5. The incident has had a profound impact on Anil, the father of the abused teenager. He shared his harrowing experience, highlighting the distress caused by the alleged abuse. The whistleblower, who risked their own well-being to expose the misconduct, deserves recognition for their bravery in bringing this critical issue to light. We immediately got in the car, drove upstate, pulled him out of the residence, and contacted the New York State Troopers," Anil recalled. Garnet Collins, the caregiver accused of abusing a resident at the Anderson Center for Autism, was arrested and charged with endangering the welfare of an incompetent person and forcible touching.

## Trump says US should stay out of fighting in Syria as opposition forces gain ground

**WASHINGTON.** President-elect Donald Trump said Saturday that the U.S. military should stay out of the escalating conflict in Syria as a shock opposition offensive closes in on the capital, declaring in a social media post, "THIS IS NOT OUR FIGHT."

With world leaders watching the rapid rebel advance against Syria's Russian- and Iranian-backed president, Bashar Assad, President Joe Biden's national security adviser separately stressed that the Biden administration had no intention of intervening. "The United States is not going to ... militarily dive into the middle of a Syrian civil war," Jake Sullivan told an audience in California. He said the U.S. would keep acting as necessary to keep the Islamic State — a violently anti-Western extremist group not known to be involved in the offensive but with sleeper cells in Syria's deserts — from exploiting openings presented by the fighting. Insurgents' stunning march across Syria sped faster Saturday, reaching the gates of Damascus and government forces abandoning the central city of Homs. The government was forced to deny rumors that Assad had fled

the country. Trump's comments on the dramatic rebel push were his first since Syrian rebels launched their advance late last month. They came while he was in Paris for the reopening of the Notre Dame cathedral. In his post, Trump said Assad did not deserve U.S. support to stay in power.

Assad's government has been propped up by the Russian and Iranian military, along with Hezbollah and other Iranian-allied militias, in a now 13-year-old war against opposition groups seeking his overthrow. The war, which began as a mostly peaceful uprising in 2011 against the Assad family's rule, has killed a half-million people, fractured Syria and drawn in a more than a half-dozen foreign militaries and militias. The insurgents are led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, which the U.S. has designated as a terrorist group and says has links to al-Qaida, although the group has since broken ties with al-Qaida. The insurgents have met little resistance so far from the Syrian army, the Russian and



Iranian militaries or allied militias in the country. The Biden administration says Syrian opposition forces' capture of government-held cities demonstrates just how diminished those countries are by wars in Ukraine, Gaza and Lebanon.

"Assad's backers — Iran, Russia and Hezbollah — have all been weakened and distracted," Sullivan said Saturday at an annual gathering of national security officials, defense companies and lawmakers at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley.

"None of them are prepared to provide the kind of support to Assad that they provided in the past," he later added. The U.S. has about 900 troops in Syria, including U.S. forces working with Kurdish allies in the opposition-held northeast to prevent any resurgence of the Islamic State group. Gen. Bryan Fenton, head of U.S. Special Operations Command, said he would not want to speculate on how the upheaval in Syria would affect the U.S. military's footprint in the country. "It's still too early to tell," he said. What would not change is the focus on disrupting IS operations in Syria and protecting U.S. troops, Fenton said during a panel at the Reagan event.

Syrian opposition activists and regional officials have been watching closely for any indication from the incoming Trump administration, in particular on how the U.S. would respond to the rebel advances against Assad. Robert Wilkie, Trump's defense transition chief and a former secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, said during the same panel that the collapse of the "murderous Assad regime" would be a major blow to Iran's power.

## Syria's Bashar Al-Assad: The President Who Led A Bloody Crackdown

**Beirut, Lebanon.** Syrian President Bashar al-Assad oversaw a merciless crackdown on a pro-democracy revolt that morphed into one of the bloodiest wars of the century. On Sunday, as rebels entered the capital, a Syrian war monitor said he had left the country, in what could spell the end not just of his 24-year rule but the downfall of his clan's five-decade reign. After facing down nationwide protests demanding his ouster and an armed rebellion that he all but crushed, Assad had -- until a lightning rebel offensive -- taken back control of much of Syria in the civil war that began in 2011. Quiet in demeanor, Assad had for years relied on his alliances with Russia, Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah in order to maintain power. While leading a merciless war of survival for his rule, he presented himself to his people and the outside world as Syria's only viable leader in the face of the Islamist threat. But an Islamist-led rebel offensive that began on November 27 wrested city after city from Assad's control. On Sunday the rebels announced they had entered Damascus. Shortly afterwards, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights



said he had left the country, while the rebels themselves said the "tyrant" had "fled".

### No real opposition

For years, Assad had cast himself as the protector of Syria's minorities, a bulwark against extremism and the sole possible purveyor of stability for a country ravaged by war. In multiple votes held over the years, conducted solely on government-held territory, he took the vast majority of the ballots, amid accusations from Western countries and rights groups that the elections were neither free nor fair. In official meetings, during interviews and even on the front lines, the 59-year-old ophthalmologist by training

conducted himself calmly. Behind the facade, however, was an astonishing ability to hold onto power amid multiple waves of violence and transformative change in Syria and the wider region.

### 'Shuffle the cards'

One journalist, who met with Assad on several occasions before and after war broke out in 2011, told AFP Assad is a "unique and complex figure". Assad has "the same qualities" as his father, Hafez al-Assad, who ruled Syria for nearly three decades until his death in 2000, said the journalist, who declined to be named. Hafez al-Assad, head of the Syrian Baath Party, imposed in the country a secretive, paranoid regime where even the slightest suspicion of dissent could land one in jail or worse.

Bashar al-Assad was never meant to become president, but his life changed radically when his older brother Bassel, who was being groomed to inherit power, died in a road accident in 1994.

Bashar quit his studies in ophthalmology and left London, where he had met his wife Asma, a British-Syrian and Sunni Muslim who worked for financial services firm JP Morgan.

## Brian Thompson murder case: NYPD divers search lake for murder weapon as manhunt enters fourth day

**World.** In the UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson murder case, after finding the suspect's bag, the NYPD divers searched Central Park's Lake on Saturday for the weapon used, whilst the manhunt enters its fourth day.

The search was concentrated near the park's boathouse and Bethesda Fountain. Investigators still seek two crucial pieces of evidence: the suspect's electric bicycle and the murder weapon.

Authorities discovered a backpack in the park on Friday evening, which is undergoing forensic analysis in Queens. Officials confirmed the backpack contained no firearm but included a Tommy Hilfiger jacket, CNN reported.

The NYPD is receiving assistance from federal investigators to analyse evidence, including the backpack, photographs, video footage, ammunition, and DNA samples. They believe the suspect has left the city.

The FBI has announced a \$50,000 reward for information leading to arrest and conviction, whilst the NYPD offers an additional \$10,000 reward. Officials believe the suspect, who arrived in New York via Greyhound from Atlanta last month, has departed the city by interstate bus. NYPD detectives have travelled to Atlanta to advance the investigation, with support from local police.

'Net is tightening'

Mayor Eric Adams highlighted the backpack discovery as a positive development, stating they would identify and apprehend the suspect.

"The net is tightening," Mayor Adams told reporters at a Police Athletic League holiday party in Harlem on Saturday. Mayor Adams declined to say whether investigators already had the suspect's name when asked at a Harlem event. "We don't want to release that out," Adams said. "If we do, we are basically giving a tip to the

person we are seeking and we do not want to give him an upper hand at all. Let him continue to believe he can hide behind the mask. We revealed his face. We're going to reveal who he is and we're going to bring him to justice."

Investigators are scrutinising surveillance images of an unmasked individual released on Thursday. Commissioner Jessica Tisch reported substantial evidence collection, including fingerprints and extensive CCTV footage of the suspect's movements. Police probing whether special gun used to kill Thompson Chief Detective Joseph Kenny indicated they're investigating whether a specialised weapon was used. Border authorities on both Canadian and Mexican frontiers have been alerted. Cops are probing whether the weapon used was a "veterinary" gun commonly used to euthanize animals, an NYPD official said, New York Post reported.

## Syrian government appears to have fallen in stunning end to 50-year rule of Assad family

**BEIRUT.** The Syrian government appeared to have fallen early Sunday in a stunning end to the 50-year rule of the Assad family after a lightning rebel offensive.

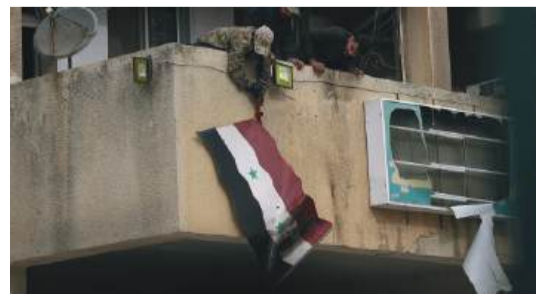
The head of a Syrian opposition war monitor said President Bashar Assad had left the country for an undisclosed location, fleeing ahead of insurgents who said they had entered Damascus after a stunning advance across the country. Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Ghazi Jalali said the government was ready to "extend its hand" to the opposition and hand over its functions to a transitional government.

"I am in my house and I have not left, and this is because of my belonging to this country," Jalali said in a video statement. He said he would go to his office to continue work in the morning and called on Syrian citizens not to deface public property. He did not address reports that Assad had left the country. Rami Abdurrahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights told The Associated Press that Assad took a flight Sunday from Damascus. State television in

Iran, Assad's main backer in the years of war in Syria, reported that Assad had left the capital. It cited Qatar's Al Jazeera news network for the information and did not elaborate. There was no immediate statement from the Syrian government.

An Associated Press journalist in Damascus reported seeing groups of armed residents along the road in the outskirts of the capital and hearing sounds of gunshots. The city's main police headquarters appeared to be abandoned, its door left ajar with no officers outside. Another AP journalist shot footage of an abandoned army checkpoint where uniforms were discarded on the ground under a poster of Assad's face.

Residents of the capital reported hearing gunfire and explosions. Footage broadcast on opposition-linked media showed a tank in one of the capital's central squares while a small group of people gathered in celebration. Calls of "God is great" rang out



from mosques. It was the first time opposition forces had reached Damascus since 2018, when Syrian troops recaptured areas on the outskirts of the capital following a yearslong siege. The pro-government Sham FM radio reported that the Damascus airport had been evacuated and all flights halted. The insurgents also announced they had entered the notorious Saydnaya military prison north of the capital and "liberated" their prisoners there. The night before, opposition forces took the

central city of Homs, Syria's third largest, as government forces abandoned it. The city stands at an important intersection between Damascus, the capital, and Syria's coastal provinces of Latakia and Tartus — the Syrian leader's base of support and home to a Russian strategic naval base. The government denied rumors that Assad had fled the country. Sham FM reported that government forces took positions outside Homs without elaborating. Rami Abdurrahman who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said Syrian troops and members of different security agencies withdrew from the city, adding that rebels entered parts of it.

The insurgency announced later Saturday that it had taken over Homs. The rebels had already seized the cities of Aleppo and Hama, as well as large parts of the south, in a lightning offensive that began Nov. 27. Analysts said rebel control of Homs would be a game-changer.

## Yogi Adityanath Urges Graduates to Uphold Truth and Social Responsibility

by Sunil Bajpai

**Kanpur:** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed graduates at the third convocation of Rama University in Mandhana on Sunday, urging them to always act in the best interest of the nation and society by adhering to a path of truth and righteousness.

In his speech, the Chief Minister drew inspiration from India's ancient philosophical traditions, stressing the importance of truth and moral integrity in shaping the nation's future. "India's vision has always been about walking on the path of truth, which is also the path of religion," Yogi Adityanath said. He went on to explain that Indian sages viewed religion in a broad, inclusive sense—not confined to rituals or worship but as a way of life that transcends individual practices. "The great sages of India never



claimed their words as absolute truths. They recognized that each individual must choose their own path but should always act in ways that benefit society and the country," he added.

Yogi Adityanath also spoke on the broader understanding of Hinduism, asserting that being a follower of Sanatan Dharma is not defined by temple visits or rituals. "One can remain a Hindu whether or not they visit a temple," he said. "Hinduism is not confined to rituals; it is an

essence that binds us all."

The Chief Minister further emphasized that religion in India has always been diverse, and not tied to any one deity or specific method of worship. He pointed out that Vedic scriptures are a common feature in many Indian households, reflecting the nation's cultural identity. "Religion is a way of life, a subtle force that connects us all. While not everyone may fully understand it, we must follow the wisdom of our great leaders," he remarked.

In addition to discussing cultural and religious values, Yogi Adityanath also addressed the emerging issue of digital arrests. He highlighted increasing concerns over such practices and urged institutions to raise awareness among the public. "It is vital that people stay informed and vigilant about digital arrests," he said, underscoring the need for education and caution in the digital age.

The convocation ceremony was a momentous occasion for the university, as many students received their degrees, marking a key achievement in their academic journeys. The Chief Minister's speech resonated deeply with the audience, underscoring the importance of balancing personal freedom with social responsibility, while remaining grounded in the values of truth and cultural heritage.

## India Sends 2,200 Metric Tonnes of Rice to Myanmar as Humanitarian Aid



**New Delhi:** In a demonstration of solidarity and support, India has dispatched 2,200 metric tonnes of rice to Myanmar as part of its ongoing humanitarian assistance.

This gesture is aligned with India's 'Act East' and 'Neighbourhood First' policies, reaffirming its commitment to aiding the people of Myanmar, according to a statement from External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on

social media. Myanmar is currently grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis, particularly in the wake of ongoing conflicts.

The country has become the deadliest in the world for landmine casualties, with 1,052 civilian deaths reported in 2023 alone—surpassing all other nations. Children are disproportionately affected, accounting for over 20 percent of these fatalities.

## 'Naya Bharat Gadh': District-Level Recitation Competition at Bokaro



by Arun Pathak

**Bokaro:** A district-level recitation competition was held on Sunday at the Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Sangh auditorium in Sector 1B, Bokaro, under the joint aegis of the Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Sangh, Bokaro, and the Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Morabadi, Ranchi. The event was part of the 'Naya Bharat Gadh' program, which saw children from various schools recite the Swadesh Mantra, composed by Swami Vivekananda.

In Group A, Akanksha Mishra of Guru Govind Singh Public School, Bokaro, secured the first place with an outstanding performance. Ritesh Kumar and Kanya Jha jointly placed second, while Mahi Priyadarshi took third place. In Group B, Om Mishra from Mithila Academy Public School, Bokaro, won first place, followed by Vaishnavi Mishra in second and Adrika from Guru Govind Singh Public School in third. Kshitij claimed the fourth position in this group.

The competition was judged by Kranti Srivastava and Sharvani Mukherjee. The winners were presented with awards by Gopal Munshi, President of Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Sangh, Bokaro, and Secretary Pranav Mitra. The judges were also honored with gifts for their contributions.

Congratulating the winners, President Gopal Munshi wished them success in the next stage of the competition. Secretary Pranav Mitra expressed gratitude to all participants and organizers, and encouraged devotees to attend the program scheduled for Ma Sarada's birth anniversary on Sunday, December 22.

The event was also attended by several notable figures, including Sameer Paitandi, Mrinal Chakraborty, Kaveri Guha, Nandlal Sarkar, Prashant Kumar Jha, Arun Pathak, Sanjay Pathak, Mahesh Kumar Lal, Naveen Mishra, Swati Mitra, Ajit Kundu, Bholanath Mahato, Rohit Kumar, Sanjay, and Shiva.

## "Pushpa 2: The Rule" collects Rs. 500 crore worldwide in 3 days



**Mumbai:** "Pushpa 2: The Rule," starring Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna, has shattered multiple box office records, becoming the fastest film to collect Rs. 500 crore worldwide in just three days.

The film, directed by Sukumar, made a stunning debut despite being released on a non-holiday weekday. On December 4, its premiere shows in India earned Rs. 10.65 crore net from Indian audiences, signaling a strong start. The official release on December 5 saw the film gross an impressive Rs. 164.5 crore net, making it the biggest-ever opening for an Indian film.

Despite a 42.89% drop in collections on the following Friday (Day 2), where the film earned Rs. 93.8 crore, Pushpa 2 bounced back over the weekend. On Saturday, the film surged back to collect Rs. 115.58 crore, pushing the total earnings to Rs. 379.28 crore by the end of the day.

The film has been especially successful in its Hindi version, which grossed Rs. 200.7 crore within the first three days. Its Day 1 performance alone saw Rs. 70.3 crore in earnings, followed by Rs. 56.9 crore on Day 2, and a solid Rs. 73.5 crore on Day 3.

Pushpa 2: The Rule is the sequel to the 2021 hit Pushpa: The Rise. Along with Allu Arjun, the film stars Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil in key roles. Allu Arjun, known for his portrayal of the iconic character Pushpa, reportedly charged a remuneration of Rs. 300 crore for his role, marking the highest fee ever paid to an Indian actor.

With its exceptional box-office performance, Pushpa 2 has proven its mass appeal and reinforced the power of South Indian cinema in the global market.

## Over 160 Units Blood donated in NSS BIT Sindri's Blood Donation Camp



by Ravi Phillips

**Sindri:** The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Birsa Institute of Technology (BIT) Sindri hosted a highly successful blood donation camp at the institute's Healthcare Centre on December 8th.

The camp, which began at 10 AM, garnered an overwhelming response from students, faculty, and staff, with more than 160 units of blood collected.

The event was inaugurated by Director Professor Dr. Pankaj Rai, Professor In-charge Prof. Raghunandan, General Warden Prof. R.K. Verma, and Professor B.D. Yadav.

In their speeches, they emphasized the critical role of blood donation in saving lives and praised the NSS unit for organizing the event, encouraging the community to engage in such noble causes.

The FCIL team, including Sunil Kumar Dutta, Guruprit Singh, and Prem Kumar Singh, also expressed appreciation for the camp, recognizing the positive impact of such initiatives on promoting social responsibility and community service.

Their acknowledgment further motivated the NSS volunteers and participants.

The blood donation camp was coordinated by Lalita Ma'am and a team of professionals from PMCH, including Mr. Shaymal Kumar Rai and Prof. Ajay Kumar, who ensured smooth operations throughout the event.

Special thanks were extended to HDFC Bank members, Mr. Ashok Polai and Jatin Upadhyay, for sponsoring and supporting the NSS BIT Sindri in their efforts.

The camp was conducted in association with a local blood bank and successfully met the growing demand for blood in hospitals, with more than 160 units collected. This initiative is part of NSS BIT Sindri's ongoing commitment to fostering community service and promoting voluntary blood donation among youth.

Organizers expressed their gratitude to all the donors, volunteers, and sponsors for their invaluable contributions, as well as to the local blood bank for their support in making the event a resounding success.

## A Village in Bihar Where Joining Army Comes Before Marriage

by Rahul Kumar

**Gaya:** Chiriyawan village, located in Gaya district of Bihar, is renowned for its strong spirit of patriotism and a deep-rooted commitment to the armed forces. Known as the "village of soldiers," this unique village is home to a remarkable tradition where young men and women take a solemn oath not to marry until they join the army.

Nestled among the hills, Chiriyawan village is not just a place of scenic beauty, but also a hub of military ambition. The village has a long history of army service, with more than 100 residents currently serving in the Indian Armed Forces. In fact, every household in Chiriyawan has at least one soldier, and some families boast of having served in the army for multiple generations.

The passion to serve the country runs deep in this community. The youth here, both men and women, work relentlessly to fulfill their dreams of joining the army. In addition to their agricultural activities, many young



villagers dedicate themselves to rigorous physical and mental training to prepare for army recruitment. A notable tradition in Chiriyawan is the youth's unwavering commitment to the army. Before embarking on any preparations, young men and women visit the local Devi Mata temple, seeking her blessings for success in their journey to the armed forces. It is believed that the blessings of Goddess Mata are integral to their success in the army.

Monu Kumar, a young man from the village preparing to join the army, shared, "Before we start our training, we visit the Mata's temple and take her blessings. The tradition is clear — no marriage

until we join the army. This dedication and the blessings of the goddess are the secrets behind our success."

Alok Ranjan, another village youth who recently joined the army through the Agniveer scheme, echoed similar sentiments. "I too took the blessings of Goddess Mata before beginning my journey, and now I am in the army. Many youth from Chiriyawan have reached the army through hard work and dedication, and it fills me with pride to continue this legacy."

The village's commitment to the army is further exemplified by the story of Shankar Singh, a retired Lieutenant Colonel. Having served in the Indian Army for 30

years, Singh spoke fondly of the village's military culture. "Chiriyawan is known for its dedication and loyalty to the army. When soldiers from this village gather for any occasion, it feels like a battalion has assembled. The youth here have risen to ranks like soldiers, lieutenants, and even colonels. Many of us have retired with pride after serving our country."

Shankar Singh, who joined the army in 1993 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after three decades of service, expressed his hope for the continued success of the village's tradition. "Our dream is to see even more young men and women from Chiriyawan join the army, navy, and air force, contributing to the service of our nation."

The deep-rooted military tradition of Chiriyawan village is a testament to the dedication and discipline instilled in its youth. It is a place where patriotism, hard work, and divine blessings come together to create generations of soldiers dedicated to serving the nation.

## Sports Foster Personality, Discipline, & Responsibility: Kumar Amit

**Bokaro:** Two football tournaments organized by the Unique Club concluded with great excitement on Saturday at the Sector 3 High School ground in Bokaro. The event, held to honor Mahaparivran Divas and commemorate the legacy of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, saw intense competition among teams from various regions.

A total of ten teams from Bokaro, Chandankiyari, Dhanbad, Chandrapura, and Purulia participated in the tournament. The final match saw Alpha Club



from Chandankiyari Badahdih face off against Ukma Club from Purulia. After a hard-fought battle, Ukma Club triumphed with a 1-0 victory, securing the championship title. BJP leader Kumar Amit, the

chief guest at the event, addressed both the winning and runner-up teams following the awards ceremony. He underscored the importance of sports in youth development, stating, "Sports not only build person-

ality but also instill discipline and responsibility. By fostering a better sports environment in every village, we can help reduce criminal activities and promote a healthy, crime-free society."

Biru Kumar played the role of referee in the tournament. The event also saw the presence of several distinguished guests, including Naru Kalindi, the main organizer, along with Atul Singh, Jitendra Kalindi, Balram Kumar, Vikas Kalindi, Chandraprakash, Khirod Kalindi, and Dinesh Kalindi.

## Bashar al-Assad and Family Granted Asylum in Moscow

**Moscow:** Ousted Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his family have arrived in Moscow, where they have been granted asylum, according to media reports on Sunday. This development comes just hours after Syrian rebel forces entered the capital, Damascus, marking the dramatic collapse of Assad's authoritarian regime that had ruled the country for over two decades.

A source within the Kremlin confirmed to Sputnik News that Assad and his family were granted asylum "out of humanitarian concerns." The family has held power in Syria for decades, with Bashar al-Assad's presidency following that of his father, Hafez al-Assad, who ruled with an iron fist for nearly 30 years. Under Bashar's leadership, Syria was frequently criticized for its repressive governance and heavy-handed tactics against dissent.

The rebels, led by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group — formerly known as the Al-

Nusra Front and affiliated with Al-Qaeda — swiftly captured several key cities, including the infamous Sayduna Military Prison located north of Damascus, before entering the capital. "We declare the city of Damascus free from the tyrant Bashar al-Assad," the Military Operations Command wrote on Telegram. "To the displaced all over the world, a free Syria awaits you," the message added.

Assad's regime, which had long been perceived as unshakable, ultimately collapsed in the face of a coordinated military offensive by opposition forces. The swift collapse followed years of violent repression against anti-regime protests and widespread civil unrest.

Bashar al-Assad's rule began in 2000 when he succeeded his father, Hafez al-Assad, who had ruled Syria for nearly three decades. Initially, many Syrians hoped that Bashar, a Western-educated ophthalmologist, would usher in political re-

forms and greater transparency. However, those hopes quickly dissipated as he continued his father's authoritarian policies, maintaining a tight grip on power.

Assad's reign became increasingly brutal, especially after peaceful protests erupted in 2011, calling for democratic reforms. His violent crackdown on protesters escalated into a full-scale civil war, which has since led to the deaths of over half a million people and displaced millions more. His regime was bolstered by significant military support from Russia, which helped Assad maintain power during the long and devastating conflict.

The fall of Damascus marks the end of an era for the Assad family, who have ruled Syria for more than 50 years. With the collapse of his regime, Assad's future remains uncertain, though his escape to Moscow marks a significant turning point in Syria's ongoing civil war.

## Comets may have contributed to Earth's Water, a new study suggests

by Ashis Sinha

A new study published in Science Advances this week proposes that comets may have played a key role in bringing water to Earth. Scientists focused on Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko and found that the molecular structure of water on this celestial body closely resembles that of Earth's oceans. This discovery could help explain how Earth, which formed around 4.6 billion years ago, became rich in liquid water.

The researchers, led by NASA's Kathleen Mandt, believe that a significant portion of Earth's oceans may have originated from the ice and minerals found on comets and asteroids that collided with our planet. To investigate this theory, the team used advanced statistical techniques to analyze the molecular structure of water on 67P, using data collect-



ed by the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission. A crucial aspect of this research revolves around deuterium, a variant of hydrogen, which gives water its unique molecular signature. Over recent decades, scientists observed that deuterium levels in water found in the vapor trails of several Jupiter-family comets were similar to the levels found in Earth's water. Mandt's team was able to confirm these findings when they discovered a clear connection between the comet's deuterium levels and the amount of dust surrounding the Rosetta

spacecraft. "When a comet moves closer to the Sun, its surface warms up, releasing gas and dust that contains water ice," explained Mandt.

"Water with deuterium adheres more strongly to dust grains than regular water, which could explain why the comet appeared to have more deuterium than it actually did." This study offers a new perspective on the origins of Earth's water and suggests that cometary impacts may have played a significant role in shaping the planet's water-rich environment.

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# JP Nadda slams Telangana government, targets Congress for 'decades of injustice'

New Delhi. Union Minister JP Nadda, during his visit to Telangana, slammed the state government's track record, accusing it of governance lapses over the past year. Taking a hit at Congress, he said that the BJP in the state is committed to exposing what he described as the grand old party's "injustices and falsehoods."



"I have come to Telangana to highlight the failures of the state government and expose the deception of the Congress Party," Nadda said. He expressed appreciation for the efforts of Telangana BJP President G Kishan Reddy and other party leaders in addressing public concerns. Nadda added that the Telangana BJP would continue fighting for issues concerning farmers, women, youth, and labourers. "The BJP will work to serve as the heartbeat of Telangana and propel the state towards development. A bright future for Telangana is possible only under BJP governance," he said.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BJP AND CONGRESS**  
Nadda drew comparisons between the BJP and Congress, accusing the Congress of using power for personal gain. "The Congress Party has misled the people for 70 years with false promises. The BJP, on the other hand, works for the development of the nation," he said. He emphasised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that Modi is the first

own, even with the support of local parties," he claimed.  
**CRITICISM OF CONGRESS GOVERNANCE**  
Nadda accused Congress of failing to deliver on promises made in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana. He questioned the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh over its unfulfilled commitments, including restoring the old pension scheme and providing Rs 1,500 per month to women. In Karnataka, he criticised Congress for not fulfilling promises made to Anganwadi workers, dairy farmers, and the poor. In Telangana, he alleged that the Congress failed to deliver on promises such as Rs 12,000 for auto drivers and Rs 15,000 for farmers.

**SUCCESS IN OTHER STATES**  
Nadda pointed to BJP's victories in states such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra, among others. "In states like Chhattisgarh and Gujarat, where BJP and Congress faced off for 64 seats, the BJP won 62," he said. He also highlighted the BJP's performance in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the party had won the highest number of seats there. "The Congress cannot win on its

own, even with the support of local parties," he claimed.  
**CRITICISM OF CONGRESS GOVERNANCE**  
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**ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER PM MODI'S LEADERSHIP**  
Highlighting BJP's achievements, Nadda praised Prime Minister Modi for prioritising Telangana's development. "Under Modi's leadership, Rs 1.60 lakh crore has been allocated to Telangana, with grants worth Rs 1.12 lakh crore, and significant investment in infrastructure projects, including three Vande Bharat trains and five Bharatmala projects," he said.

# Arvind Kejriwal slams BJP's slogan, says wants to end welfare schemes in Delhi

**Delhi BJP's new slogan draws criticism from AAP's Arvind Kejriwal, who fears a threat to welfare schemes. BJP's Virendra Sachdeva denies claims, calling the slogan a response to growing public dissatisfaction.**

New Delhi. Delhi BJP's new slogan, "Ab Nahi Senge, Badal Ke Rahenge," has stirred up political tensions, drawing a sharp response from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal, followed by a quick rebuttal from BJP's Delhi President Virendra Sachdeva. Arvind Kejriwal, the former Chief Minister of Delhi, criticised the slogan, saying that the BJP wants to terminate his government's popular welfare schemes, including free electricity and water services. Kejriwal argued that the BJP's call for change threatens the continuation of these schemes, which have been pivotal in the AAP administration's public support. In a swift response, Virendra Sachdeva dismissed Kejriwal's fears as unfounded and accused him of spreading false information. According to Sachdeva, the slogan has rapidly gained traction among Delhi's populace, unsettling Kejriwal and prompting him to

make baseless claims. He clarified that the BJP has no plans to discontinue existing welfare schemes. Sachdeva emphasised that the popularity of the slogan reflects widespread dissatisfaction with the current AAP government's leadership. He accused Kejriwal and his associates, including Manish Sisodia and Satyendra Jain, of being mired in corruption.



In an official statement, the BJP highlighted that the slogan has resonated with the youth and women in Delhi, who now seem determined to replace what they called an ineffective and corrupt administration. While assuring the continuation of welfare schemes, Sachdeva hinted at imminent legal actions against corruption in the current government.

# Union Minister stirs row, calls Sukhbir Badal's attacker 'gem of the community'

**Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu stirred controversy by calling Narain Singh Chaura a "gem of the community" for attacking Sukhbir Singh Badal, drawing sharp criticism from SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia.**

Chandigarh. Union Minister and grandson of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, Ravneet Singh Bittu, sparked controversy on Saturday when he called on the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) to recognise Narain Singh Chaura, the man who attacked SAD leader Sukhbir Singh Badal, as a "Qaum de Heere" or "Gem of the community." Speaking in Delhi, Bittu urged the Akali Dal and the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) to provide Chaura with legal support in his ongoing case. Bittu condemned the firing incident which targeted Sukhbir Singh Badal. However, he said that Chaura's actions were a response to religious



sentiment rather than personal revenge. "Narain Singh Chaura, a senior citizen, acted not out of personal revenge against Sukhbir Singh Badal but as a response to the sacrilege issue," Bittu said. He referred to Badal's alleged involvement in the desecration of the Shri Guru Granth Sahib and the misuse of funds at the Golden Temple

as a motivating factor behind Chaura's actions. "The act reflects emotional outrage tied to religious sentiments," he added. Bittu also emphasised that Chaura's actions did not target the Golden Temple or the Akal Takhat Sahib, but were aimed solely at Badal. He drew parallels to past incidents, such as the support the Akali Dal extended to Bhai Balwant Singh Rajoana, whose actions were also viewed as religiously motivated. "Despite being children at the time of the assassination of S Beant Singh Ji, we supported the demand for Rajoana's release," Bittu remarked, urging the SAD to show the same understanding toward Chaura.

# S Jaishankar on criticism of India buying Russian oil: Do you have a better deal

New Delhi. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday defended India's decision to purchase oil from Russia amidst the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and asked whether the world has a "better deal" to meet the energy demands of India. In recent years, the import of crude oil from Russia has significantly gone up, with Moscow becoming the largest supplier of crude oil to India, accounting for more than 35 per cent of the country's imports. Speaking at the 22nd edition of the Doha Forum panel on 'Conflict Resolution in a New Era', the bureaucrat-turned-politician further said that after nearly three years of the Russia-Ukraine war, the world is realising the need to be at the negotiating table to resolve the conflict and India is actively working to facilitate every effort in that direction. "I get oil, yes. It is not necessarily cheap. Do you have a better deal?" S Jaishankar, who is having his second stint as the External Affairs Minister, said in Doha. "We've always held to the view that this war is not going to be solved on the battlefield. At the end of the day, people are going to return to some kind of negotiating table. The sooner, the better. Our effort has been to facilitate that to the extent possible. That has not been the most popular thing, at least in some parts of the world," Jaishankar said. "We've always held to the view that this war is not going to be solved on the battlefield. At the end of the day, people are going to return to some kind of negotiating table. The sooner, the better. Our effort has been to facilitate that to the extent possible. That has not been the most popular thing, at least in some parts of the world," Jaishankar said. "I do think today, the needle is moving more towards the reality of the negotiation than the continuation of the war... We are going to Moscow, talking to President Putin, going to Kyiv, engaging President Zelensky, meeting them in other places, trying to see if we can encourage find common threads that can be picked up at some point in time when the circumstances are right to be developed," he said. The Russia-Ukraine war, which broke out in February 2022, has seen wide-scale devastation. As per London-based Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), as many as 7,001 people have been killed in it. Speaking at the forum, Jaishankar, however, clarified that India does not have a peace plan to resolve the conflict, but holds "honest and transparent" conversations between both parties.



# 'Bhagwant Mann Is In Alliance With Centre...': Pandher Alleges As Farmers March To Delhi

New Delhi. Farmers resumed their 'Delhi Chalo' march on Sunday in an attempt to enter the national capital from the Shambhu border between Punjab and Haryana. The agitating farmers are demanding a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) and loan waivers among various requests. Visuals from the protest site show farmers adorning face shields.



The Centre has not initiated any communication regarding holding talks, according to farmer leaders. "We have not received any message from the Centre for holding talks. The (Narendra) Modi government is in no mood to hold talks," Farmers' leader Sarwan Singh Pandher told reporters on Saturday. Security was tightened at Delhi's Singhu border, multi-layer barricades have been deployed at Shambhu border. Haryana security personnel launched tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

A Haryana police official deployed at the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu border told ANI, "We will first identify them (farmers) and then we can allow them to go ahead. We have a list of the names of 101 farmers, and they are not those people - they are not letting us identify them - they are moving ahead as a mob."

A Haryana police official told ANI that the authorities have a list of names of 101 farmers who are attempting the march today. "We will first identify them (farmers) and then we can

allow them to go ahead. They are not letting us identify them," he added. Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher has launched a sharp attack on the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab government, accusing it of covertly siding with the Centre. "Earlier, we were against the central government only, but now we have to deal with the state government also. The Punjab government is trying to put a shutter on what is being done by the central government," Pandher said.

Pandher further alleged that the Punjab government was attempting to conceal the Centre's actions and demanded accountability from Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal. "We used to say that Bhagwant Mann government is having some sort of alliance with the central government. Today, the way media is being stopped, the CM and Arvind Kejriwal should come forward and explain this," he said.

# Mayawati demands Centre to bring back Dalits, Hindus from Bangladesh amid unrest

**Mayawati alleged that at the time of partition, Congress gave the Jaysore-Khulna area of Bengal, dominated by Dalits, to Pakistan as a 'punishment' for electing Dr Ambedkar to the Constituent Assembly.**

New Delhi. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Saturday urged the government to facilitate the return of Dalits and other Hindus from Bangladesh to India. She also slammed the Congress for its alleged silence on the attacks on Bangladeshi Hindus, while voicing support for Muslim votes in Sambhal. "Now when they (Dalits and other Hindus) are being exploited, the Congress, despite being the main opposition party, is silent on their plight and is shouting Sambhal-Sambhal only for Muslim votes. In this matter, Congress, SP and their supporting parties are two sides of the same coin," the BSP supreme said at a media briefing at the party office in Lucknow. "Not only this, but these parties are also making the Muslim community, Turks and non-Turks,

fight among themselves, about which the Muslim community also has to be cautious," Mayawati cautioned. A political showdown erupted in the country following the recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, after a court-appointed team arrived to survey a Mughal-era mosque. The court ordered the survey after hearing a petition that claimed a temple existed at the site before the mosque. The violence against Hindus and other minority communities in Bangladesh have also become a focal point in political discussions in India. These attacks broke out after August 5, when the Sheikh Hasina-led government collapsed, and she fled to India following massive violent protests. The former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister also held the



Congress responsible for the Dalits suffering in Bangladesh. She also linked Congress's bad treatment of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar at the time of partition with Congress's "misdeeds". She said that at the time of partition, the Jaysore-Khulna area of Bengal was dominated by Dalits and Hindus, but the Congress gave it to Pakistan

as a "punishment" for electing Dr Ambedkar to the Constituent Assembly. Mayawati maintained that the Congress had a narrow casteist mentality towards Dalits and also urged the Modi government to ensure the exploited community's return to India. "The wrong things done by the Congress party at the time of

partition should be rectified and efforts should be made to provide all kinds of security and protection to the many Dalit people who are victims of oppression and casteism in Bangladesh and, if possible, they should be brought to India," she added. The BSP chief also attacked Dalit leaders across party lines for maintaining silence on the issue, saying they are not raising the matter to please the bosses of their respective parties. In view of the mounting attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh, India has urged the Muhammad Yunus regime to ensure the safety of the community amid violence. However, the present dispensation in the neighbouring country has refuted claims of atrocities against Hindus and has instead accused India of running a motivated propaganda.

# What Trump 2.0 means for India's economic aspirations

EVEN before being formally anointed as US President, Donald Trump's pronouncements are creating ripples in global economies. Recent salvos on tariffs and the dollar have sparked concerns over the prospect of trade and currency wars in the coming days. Policymakers in both developed and developing countries are voicing concerns over the impact of his new plans. While some fears are valid, given the track record in his previous tenure, others are not. Some comments are in a serious vein while others seem to be aimed merely at reasserting the primacy of the US in the world economic order. For India, the reality is that having a stable economic relationship with the US is critical to its growth and development. This is the country's biggest trading partner in tandem with China. But there is a significant difference between the ties with the two economic superpowers. There is a trade surplus with the former and a yawning deficit with the latter. Other disparities in the bilateral ties include the fact that investments from the US are expanding, especially as the China Plus One strategy is gaining ground. In contrast, investments from the northern neighbour have slowed down considerably recently due to strained political relations. As for the China Plus One policy, it may be one of the factors for the foreign direct investments having perked up this year. From April to September, the FDI inflows are reported to have risen by 45 per cent — from \$20.5 billion to \$29.79 billion.

The tariff hikes being proposed by Trump, on the other hand, could have a dampening effect on this country's exports to its biggest market. Till recently, India had been excluded from the list of countries against which the President-elect was planning to levy higher import duties. In specific terms, so far, he has declared that a 10 per cent tariff hike would be levied on China, with an even higher 25 per cent levy on imports from the neighbouring Mexico and Canada. One reason cited is the inability of these countries to curb drug smuggling into the US. His latest acerbic comment, however, has been against the BRICS group, of which India is a founding member. Threatening to levy 100 per cent tariffs, he has taken exception to reports that an alternative currency would be floated by the group to bypass the dollar. The rancour against the BRICS group stems from Brazil's proposal, at the last summit, to develop an alternative currency to reduce reliance on the dollar. The annoyance seems hugely out of proportion as the suggestion has little chance of becoming a reality. Wide differences in ideology and outlook among member countries militate against the formulation of such a scheme. Undoubtedly, there has been concern over the sanctions imposed on Russia after the Ukraine war kept it out of the worldwide financial settlement system known as SWIFT. This created obstacles in doing business with that country. Alternative ways are, thus, being explored to evolve a new international transaction system, but they are still at a nascent stage. As for India, it has been using a rupee payment mechanism for oil purchases from Russia, but this is merely a continuation of a longstanding arrangement harking back to the Soviet era. Setting this issue aside, therefore, one must examine the real problems on the tariff front. On the negative side, the prospect of a global trade war could lead to recessionary conditions in some of India's key markets. To that extent, this could affect exports, especially to Europe and the Americas. There is also a possibility that tariffs could be raised on exports to the lucrative US market in retaliation for the relatively higher duties imposed on imports here. Trump has repeatedly cited the instance of Harley Davidson, which was unable to enter the Indian market due to high tariffs. It is inevitable that easier access to the sizable domestic market would be sought by the new US administration, as has been done in the past.

# The importance of being Fadnavis

**TWELVE days after the BJP-led Mahayuti's spectacular victory in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, Devendra Fadnavis has been sworn in as the Chief Minister. One would have expected celebratory fireworks after the runaway success. Instead, there was bickering and the spectacle...**

TWELVE days after the BJP-led Mahayuti's spectacular victory in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, Devendra Fadnavis has been sworn in as the Chief Minister. One would have expected celebratory fireworks after the runaway success. Instead, there was bickering and the spectacle of a sulking caretaker CM, Eknath Shinde, sheltering in his village in Satara, some distance away from his happy hunting ground, Thane.

Shinde, who broke away from his party, the Shiv Sena, on Fadnavis' prompting and formed his own faction to head a BJP-mentored government, felt that he was entitled to continue in that role. But the BJP got 132 of the 288 seats, whereas its allies, the Shiv Sena (Shinde) and the NCP (Ajit Pawar faction) got 57 and 41 seats, respectively.

A factor that was not taken into account by most pundits, except those aligned solidly with the BJP, was the role played by RSS swayamsevaks in canvassing door-to-door on behalf of BJP candidates in particular. They emphasised the slogan "Ek hain toh safe hain", coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his campaign in the state. In Vidarbha, the BJP's near total sweep was achieved largely due to these committed volunteers, who had fanned out from Nagpur at the bidding of their leaders. They proved their mettle, like they had done in Haryana a few months earlier.

When he engineered a split in the Shiv Sena and the NCP in recent years, Fadnavis had expected to be catapulted to the throne. His party bosses in Delhi decided otherwise. Fadnavis, like a good soldier, accepted their decision. The choice fell on Shinde, a former autorickshaw driver from the majority Maratha community with proven qualities of leadership. Shinde turned out to be an acceptable choice. He was accessible to the public and cooperative with the senior partner in the ruling alliance. He thought that was enough to guarantee him the CM's chair for the next five years. But the BJP top brass could not ignore Fadnavis this time. He is far more intelligent than Shinde and more capable of plotting political moves. He was the Chief Minister from 2014 to 2019, and a very successful one at that. He concentrated on the development of infrastructure and did not interfere

too much in the day-to-day working of police stations, like many state Home Ministers who preceded him were wont to do. Shinde has reconciled himself to not becoming the CM again. He bargained for the Home portfolio, but did not succeed. In the previous Mahayuti government, Fadnavis, as Deputy CM, had kept the department under his wing. State power is reflected in the policeman's uniform and the ability to trouble dissenters when the rulers so desire. All political parties are aware of this. Hence the eagerness to be

Court has rightly dismissed that plea. The tactics allegedly employed by the BJP to win Assembly byelections in Uttar Pradesh, through the use of the police, cannot be tried in Maharashtra. The political culture there is different. In the UP constituency of Kundarki, where Muslims account for around 63 per cent of the population, the BJP's Ramveer Singh emerged victorious with over 75 per cent of the votes! The seat was traditionally held by the Samajwadi Party (SP), as could be expected.



The police, who are not empowered by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to check identity cards of voters — this is a job allotted exclusively to polling officials — are reported to have ignored the ECI's instructions in UP. They allegedly examined identity cards of would-be voters on their way to polling booths and turned away SP supporters. It should not be difficult for the ECI to verify the truth of such a serious allegation. In my constituency, Mumbai City, the Opposition candidate, Aditya Thackeray, was expected to win, though by a reduced margin this time. That is exactly what happened. If something different to expectations has happened in other constituencies, there is no mention of such instances in the media.

Economist and political commentator Parakala Prabhakar, in an interview with Karan Thapar, said many 'extra' votes were cast in some constituencies between 5 pm and 11 pm, far in excess of the 1 per cent that is the norm. The ECI permits those who joined the queue at or before 6 pm to cast their votes. That overflow should be handled normally in an hour or so. The figures reported by the authorities were far in excess of the normal numbers, said Prabhakar. If that is so, the ECI, for the sake of its credibility, should investigate and clear the doubts of the public and those of a responsible commentator like Prabhakar. Maharashtra's Chief Electoral Officer S Chockalingam issued a statement that those waiting in the queue after 6 pm accounted for only 1 per cent of the total turnout. Apparently, '11 pm' quoted by Prabhakar was the time when, according to the ECI, polling officials reached home after locking the EVMs in the strong room.

the one to control the police. The tussle within Mahayuti lasted far longer than was required. There was talk of Shinde being reluctant to join the government and only promising to support it from the outside. If that had happened, Ajit and his NCP faction would have enhanced their bargaining power in the government. With his party's 41 seats, he can provide stability. Ajit had already declared his preference for Fadnavis. The finance portfolio, which he held in the previous dispensation, was his for the asking. He who controls the purse can throw some weight around. Ajit knows how to manage money. In the meantime, the Congress is busy blaming EVMs for its defeat. There is no evidence to show that EVMs were tampered with. The Supreme

# Civil society leads

**THE Buddha Nullah in Ludhiana, once a lifeline for Punjab, has deteriorated into a toxic drain. Years of unchecked industrial effluents, untreated sewage and lax governance have turned this tributary of the Sutlej river into a health hazard. Despite numerous...**

THE Buddha Nullah in Ludhiana, once a lifeline for Punjab, has deteriorated into a toxic drain. Years of unchecked industrial effluents, untreated sewage and lax governance have turned this tributary of the Sutlej river into a health hazard. Despite numerous court orders and a commitment of Rs 840 crore for its rejuvenation, the government's efforts remain largely ineffective, leaving civil society no choice but to act. The Kale Pani Da Morcha, representing frustrated citizens, on Tuesday staged protests targeting dyeing units discharging pollutants. Their actions spotlight the blatant non-compliance by three Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), which continue to release harmful waste despite orders for zero liquid discharge. The Punjab Pollution Control Board and civic authorities have been slow in enforcing penalties or upgrading infrastructure, further eroding public trust. Adding to the chaos is the confrontation between activists



and industrial workers, highlighting the socio-economic complexities of environmental regulation. Thousands of livelihoods depend on these industries, but public health

cannot be the collateral damage. The authorities must ensure that economic growth aligns with sustainable practices. The establishment of a joint task force by the Centre and the Punjab Government is a positive, though belated, step. Immediate priorities should include upgrading CETPs, expediting the Gaught pumping station and sealing all 120 pollution points identified in recent surveys. A comprehensive action plan involving stringent monitoring and community participation is critical. Residents of Ludhiana and downstream regions continue to suffer from the polluted water as their health and farming are affected. The time for symbolic protests has passed; it is now imperative for all stakeholders — government, industries and civil society — to unite for tangible action. A clean Buddha Nullah is not just an environmental goal but a fundamental human right.

# Politics behind 'redress' of waqf property rows

**UNION Home Minister Amit Shah asserted on November 15 the determination of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, despite resistance from key Opposition leaders. The Union Government's push to amend the Act is ominous. The apparent...**

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah asserted on November 15 the determination of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, despite resistance from key Opposition leaders. The Union Government's push to amend the Act is ominous. The apparent intention behind the move is to reduce the Waqf Board's control over its assets, which are the third largest in the country, after those of the Railways and the defence establishment. The glaring politics behind the thin veil of noble intentions of redressing 'the issues and challenges in regulating and managing Waqf properties', as the government's statement on the issue, is evident from the recent events. The claims of there being temples beneath historic mosques and shrines — from Sambhal in UP to Mu'in al-Din Chishti and Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra in Ajmer, Rajasthan — are affectations of a concerted otherisation. A distinct intensive effort to tar the Muslim community of the country as one carrying the historical legacy of temple demolitions for constructing mosques and, in recent history, sitting on enormous land assets and still whining is conspicuous. Originating from the Arabic word 'waqf', meaning to detain, hold or tie up, waqf is the permanent pledge by a Muslim person of his property, movable or immovable, for a pious, religious or charitable purpose under the Islamic law. Once pledged, such a property can neither be sold nor donated or used for any other purpose. Allah being an inchoate and ethereal entity, a 'waqif' creating a waqf for the benefit of the people appoints a 'mutawalli' for the management of the waqf. Once the waqf transfers the property to Allah, it becomes

irrevocable. Waqfs, however, are not universal to all Islamic countries. Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Tunisia and Iraq do not have them. The history of waqf is traced back to the Ottoman Empire. Thus, the Islamic countries that fell under this empire have waqf in some form or the other.

Waqf in India goes back to the period of the Sultanate, to the reign of Sultan Muizuddin Sam Ghaor in the late 12th century. He dedicated two villages for the upkeep of the Jama Masjid of Multan. With the consolidation of the Muslim rulers in India, waqfs and properties under them expanded.

During the British rule, a dispute over a waqf property in the late 19th century landed in the Privy Council. The Bench of four British judges declared the waqf invalid, describing it as 'a perpetuity of the worst kind.' However, that decision was not accepted in India. The Mussalman Waqf Validating Act, 1913, retained the institution and the waqfs continued after Independence. The Government of India's statement attributes the 'strengthening' of waqfs since the Waqf Act, 1954, under which the Central Waqf Council of India was created in 1964. It says that the Waqf Act of 1995 made it 'even more favourable to Muslims.' It led to the strengthening of the waqf council, the state waqf boards, the chief executive officer and the duties of mutawalli. Further, the waqf tribunals were deemed to be civil courts. An amendment in 2013 made the management more efficient and transparent. The Waqf Repeal Bill, 2022, and amendment to the Waqf

Act, 1995, tabled in the Rajya Sabha on December 8, 2023 are efforts towards doing away with the waqfs or neutralising their roles in the ownership and management of such large chunks of land and property. The Waqf Bill, which is currently with the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), has the following four main features:



1 The Bill changes the composition of the Central Waqf Council and waqf boards to include non-Muslim members. 1 The survey commissioner has been replaced by the collector, granting him powers to conduct surveys of waqf properties. 1 Government property identified as waqf will cease to be waqf. The collector will determine the ownership of such properties. 1 The finality of the tribunal's decisions has been revoked. The Bill provides for direct appeal to the high court. Clearly, as put in the historical context

in the government's statement, the waqfs have been portrayed as an Islamic legacy — the legacy of the invaders. The stress on including non-Muslim members conveys the impression that these bodies, with such rich assets, are prone to misusing the resources. The inclusion of different sections of Muslims, women in particular, would certainly create a representative set-up and is desirable. However, replacing the survey commissioner with the district collector concerned for conducting surveys of waqf properties is a move meant to create a close and day-to-day surveillance mechanism under the respective state governments. The phrase 'government property identified as waqf' creates an impression that the waqfs are prone to encroachment of public land. If there are individual cases of such impingements, they must be checked. But to put it in a legal instrument demonises an institution linked to a community which has been under pressure for over a decade.

Finally, while the provision for an appeal to higher courts is fine, the weakening of the sanctity of the tribunals is problematic. The JPC has not been able to finalise the Waqf Bill for obvious reasons. While the objections of the opposition MPs are not known, the reason why it faced rough weather can be surmised. Whether the JPC's extension will eventually iron out the differences is not known, but the Opposition has its task cut out. It must challenge the demonisation of the Muslims, as attempted by this legal instrument.

## बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाड़खणु थैके बेङ्गले यानवाहन प्रवेश शुरू

प्राय २४ घंटा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाड़खणु थैके बेङ्गले यात्रा समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन प्रवेश शुरू हयैछे। गत सक्ता १८टा पर बेङ्गल सरकार आदेशे बाड़खणु-बेङ्गल मथन सीमाछे पण्यवाही यानवाहन प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा हयैछिल। एर फले रात थैके दुपूर पर्यंत प्राय २० किमी दीर्घ यानजट सृष्टि हय। चालकदेर समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेङ्गल सरकारके चाप देय बाड़खणु सीमाछे थैके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करा समस्त यानवाहन बन्द करार जन। एर फले, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेते बाध्य हय एबं अवशेषे भारी यानवाहन प्रवेश आवा र्शाभाविक हय।

बेङ्गल सरकार एह अनुमति पर, ट्राक चालकरा बन्तिर निश्चय फलेन। प्राञ्चन निरसा विधायक अरुण च्याटर्जि बाड़खणु मुख्याम्बी हेमन्त सोरनेन एह उद्योगे प्रशंसा करेन। तनि बलेन, मुख्याम्बी हेमन्त सोरनेन एह विषये क्रमागत शुरु दियेछेन। बेङ्गल सरकार साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर, बेङ्गल सरकार निषेधाञ्जा तुले नयै। एर पर, सारित्ते दाड़िये बाका समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन बीरे बीरे बेङ्गले प्रवेश करत शुरु करैछे। NH-९ दीर्घ यानजट एथन सीमित ह्छे एबं यानजट ७ भाङ्गते शुरु करैछे।

## भोजपुरी

### देश क बरवकत

- श्याम कुंवर भारती (राजभर)

सीमा पर सटला त कटला बाबू तोहके खबरदार करके बा।  
मित जाई नाम आतंक भारत से नारा असरदार करे के बा।  
चुन चुन के मारेले जवान सेना के मांद आतंकी घुस घुस के।  
शेर ए हिन्द के दहाड़ से देश के दुमन के दु चार करके बा।

राजनीत ना ई दलदल ह जे भी आइल ऊ कीचड़ से सनाइल।  
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चाहे कुछ भी करे केहु बचावे खातिर देश पहरेदार बने के बा।

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## एसएसडीसी इंटरनेशनल ने जापानी कंपनी के साथ मिल कर ग्रेटर नोएडा में शुरू किया नर्सिंग प्रशिक्षण केंद्र

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास निगम (एनएसडीसी) की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली अनुषंगी एनएसडीसी इंटरनेशनल (एनएसडीसीआई) और जापान की स्वस्थ सुश्रुता सेवा सोमो केयर इंक. ने भारत में गुणवत्तापूर्ण नर्सिंग कार्य की मजबूत प्रशिक्षण सुविधा स्थापित करने और प्रशिक्षित मानव संसाधन को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अवसरों से जोड़ने के लिये सहयोग की घोषणा की है। दोनों संगठनों की ओर से जारी एक विज्ञापन अनुसार इस साझेदारी के अंतर्गत एनएसडीसी इंटरनेशनल के ग्रेटर नोएडा प्रशिक्षण केंद्र में एक अत्याधुनिक प्रशिक्षण प्रयोगशाला स्थापित की गयी है, जिसे व्यावहारिक देखभाल कौशल और

जापानी भाषा शिक्षा कार्यक्रमों को बढ़ाने के लिए डिजाइन किया गया है।



यह सुविधा प्रशिक्षणों को जापानी भाषा की प्रवीणता और देखभाल कौशल दोनों में एक ठोस आधार बनाने में सक्षम बनायेगी, जिससे यह सुनिश्चित होगा कि वे देखभाल संचालन की मांगों को

प्रभावी ढंग से पूरा करते हैं। इस पहल के माध्यम से एनएसडीसीआई और

एनएसडीसी के सीओओ (कार्यवाहक सीईओ) और एनएसडीसीआई के एमडी वेद मणि तिवारी ने कहा, यह सहयोग हमें भारतीय नर्सिंग देखभाल कर्मियों के लिये विशेष प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम प्रदान करने, उनके कौशल को बढ़ाने और उन्हें जापान की स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रणाली में मूल्यवान अवसरों के लिये तैयार करने में सक्षम बनाता है। सोमो केयर के कॉर्पोरेट निदेशक हिरू एंडो ने कहा, हम नर्सिंग केयर लैब के उद्घाटन पर खुश हैं। सोमो केयर जापान में नंबर एक नर्सिंग केयर ऑपरेटर है, जो हमारे इन-हाउस प्रशिक्षण केंद्रों के माध्यम से एक शिक्षा प्रणाली स्थापित करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करता है।

## इंडियन ऑयल ने जेल के कैदियों के लिये अपनी अग्रणी पहल का विस्तार किया

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। जेल के कैदियों और सुधार गृहों में रहने वाले बच्चों के जीवन को बेहतर बनाने की अपनी पहल को आगे बढ़ाते हुये सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की दिग्गज पेट्रोलियम कंपनी इंडियन ऑयल ने 'परिवर्तन - जेल से गौरव' के चौथे चरण का शुभारंभ किया है। कंपनी की शुक्रवार को जारी एक विज्ञापन अनुसार इंडियन ऑयल के अध्यक्ष ए एस साहनी ने आज इंडियन ऑयल की इस पहल के चौथे और 'नयी दिशा - भविष्य को फिर से परिभाषित करना' के चरण छह का शुभारंभ किया। इस पहल में, इंडियन ऑयल 28 जेलों और 14 सुधार गृहों में 1650 से अधिक व्यक्तियों के जीवन में सुधार के कार्यक्रम चलाने जा रहा है। विज्ञापन में श्री साहनी के हवाले से कहा गया है कि उन्हें इस बात पर बेहद गर्व है कि इंडियन ऑयल कैदियों को दूसरा मौका दे रहा है और खेल के रूप में उन्हें उद्देश्य दे रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि पिछले 38 महीनों में, ये कार्यक्रम 29 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में 150 स्थानों तक पहुंच चुके हैं। 7,300 से

अधिक लोगों के जीवन प्रभावित हुये हैं और ये प्रयास इंडियन ऑयल के 'राष्ट्र पहले' के सिद्धांत के अनुरूप हैं, जो व्यवसाय से परे जाकर सबसे कमजोर लोगों की सहायता करने की



हमारी प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है। श्री साहनी ने कहा, इन सराहनीय पहलों के अलावा, हम अपनी उम्मीद-ए-होप परियोजना के माध्यम से भी जीवन बदल रहे हैं। राज्यों के जेल विभागों के सहयोग से, हमने वर्तमान और पूर्व कैदियों द्वारा संचालित पेट्रोलियम इंधन स्टेशन स्थापित किये हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त, पिछले साल नयी दिल्ली में इंडियन ऑयल के इंधन स्टेशन पर पहला 'तिहड़ जेल स्टोर

'(टीजे) खोलना हाशिये पर पड़े समुदायों को मुख्यधारा में लाने की दिशा में एक मील का पथर साबित हुआ है। परिवर्तन - जेल से गौरव 15 अगस्त, 2021 को आजादी का अमृत

महोत्सव के तहत शुरू किया गया। इंडियन ऑयल कैदियों के प्रति अपने सुधार कार्यों के तहत अब दस खेलों के माध्यम से 29 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों में 192 स्थानों पर सुधार गृहों में 8950 से अधिक कैदियों और बच्चों को सशक्त बना रहा है। यह पहल न केवल खल-कूद की कोचिंग की सुविधा प्रदान करती है, बल्कि प्रतिभागियों के लिये उपकरण और फिट भी प्रदान करती है।

## विशाल मेगा मार्ट का आईपीओ 11 दिसंबर को खुलेगा



एजेंसी अहमदाबाद। विशाल मेगा मार्ट लिमिटेड (वीएमएम) का प्रारंभिक सार्वजनिक निगम (आईपीओ) 11 दिसंबर को खुलेगा। कंपनी की ओर से यहां जारी बयान के अनुसार विशाल मेगा मार्ट लिमिटेड का आईपीओ बुधवार, 11 दिसंबर को खुलेगा और शुक्रवार 13 दिसंबर को बंद होगा। एकर निवेशक बोली/प्रस्ताव मंगलवार, 10 दिसंबर को खुलेगा और बंद होगा। 8,000 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य के इंडिक्टी शेयर

(प्रत्येक 10 रुपये फेस वैल्यू) कुल ऑफर आकार में केदार कैपिटल के नेतृत्व में समायत सर्विसेज एलएलपी द्वारा बिक्री के लिए ऑफर शामिल है। प्रत्येक दस रुपये के फेस वैल्यू के प्रति इंडिक्टी शेयर 74 से 78 रुपये का प्राइस बैंड तय किया गया है। वीएमएम भारत की अग्रणी रिटेल कंपनियों में से एक है। जिसने वित्तीय वर्ष 2024 में 8,900 करोड़ की रेवेन्यू दर्ज की है। कंपनी के 30 राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के 414 शहरों में 645 स्टोर हैं।

## बैंकों को साइबर धोखाधड़ी से बचाने के लिए उन्नत तकनीक का उपयोग करने के निर्देश

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। सरकार ने बैंकों को साइबर धोखाधड़ी के लिए उपयोग होने वाले बैंक खातों (मुले खातों) का वास्तविक समय पर पता लगाने, धोखाधड़ी का पता लगाने और रोकथाम के लिए बैंक कर्मचारियों को प्रशिक्षण देने और उन्हें बेहतर कौशल प्रदान करने, आम नागरिकों को धोखाधड़ी के झांसे में न आने के लिए अधिक से अधिक प्रचार प्रसार करने और जागरूक करने के लिए ए आई/ एम एल समाधान सहित उन्नत तकनीकों को अपनाने के निर्देश दिए हैं। वित्तीय सेवा विभाग के सचिव एम नागराजु ने इसको लेकर आज डिजिटल वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी, विशेष रूप से मुले खातों के कारण बढ़ती चुनौती

से निपटने के लिए रिजर्व बैंक, नाबाई, सरकारी, निजी और



भुगतान बैंकों के साथ एक महत्वपूर्ण बैठक की। उन्होंने बैंकों को मुले खातों का पता लगाने और निगरानी को मजबूत करने के लिए

रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा विकसित ए आई/एम एल संचालित मॉडल मुले

हंटर डॉट ए आई का पता लगाने और उसे लागू करने के लिए भी प्रोत्साहित किया गया। बैठक में बैंकों से इन खातों से प्रभावी ढंग से

निपटने के लिए सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं को अपनाने, अत्याधुनिक उपकरणों का लाभ उठाने और अंतर-बैंक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने का आग्रह किया गया।

उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि नागरिकों की गाढ़ी कमाई की सुरक्षा के लिए सख्त उपाय किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। नागरिकों के धन की सुरक्षा करना हमारी साझा जिम्मेदारी है। सचिव ने डिजिटल वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी को रोकने के लिए विनियामकों और बैंकों को सामूहिक रूप से काम करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया। एकीकृत और प्रभावी प्रतिक्रिया सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बैंकिंग क्षेत्र में अच्छे तरीकों को साझा करने पर जोर दिया गया।

## इसाइली कंपनी बनाएगी भारत में आईपी फोन, सालाना करेगी 80 करोड़ रुपये का निवेश

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। इसाइल की एकीकृत संचार कंपनी तादिरन टेलीकॉम भारत में आईपी टेलीफोन बनाने की योजना बना रही है। इसमें कंपनी सालाना कम से कम 10 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर (करीब 80 करोड़ रुपये) का निवेश करेगी। कंपनी ने मेक इन इंडिया के तहत आईपी फोन बनाने के लिए भारतीय कंपनी डीसीएम श्रीराम के साथ साझेदारी की है। यह जानकारी भारत में आईपी फोन बनाने के एलान के लिए आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान तादिरन टेलीकॉम के सीईओ मिट्ज ने दी। उन्होंने कहा कि उत्पादन को आगे बढ़ाने के दूसरे चरण में कंपनी की हर साल अधिक निवेश करने की संभावना है। इसमें सॉफ्टवेयर का विकास भी शामिल

होगा। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि हमारी योजना भारत में हर साल 1,00,000 आईपी टेलीफोन बनाने



की है, हालांकि आईपी फोन बनाने की यह संख्या अभी कम है। हम प्रदर्शन के आधार पर निवेश में बढ़ोतरी करेंगे। हमने अभी अपनी आईपी फोन निर्माण परियोजना के लिए सालाना 10 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर आवंटित किए हैं। आईपी टेलीफोन एप के जरिये कॉन्फ्रेंस कॉल सहित कई संचार के काम होते हैं और आम तौर

पर व्यावसायिक संगठनों में इस्तेमाल किए जाते हैं। तादिरन भारत में बीते 26 साल से चैनल भागीदारों के जरिए चरण है। अगर हम निर्माण लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने में कामयाब होते हैं, तो हम सॉफ्टवेयर विकास के लिए भारत में अपने दूसरा चरण का विस्तार शुरू करेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि तादिरन टेलीकॉम पहले से ही सहयोग के लिए एक भारतीय सॉफ्टवेयर दिग्गज के साथ चर्चा कर रहा है। वहीं, तादिरन के साथ साझेदारी के बारे में डीसीएम श्रीराम के अध्यक्ष रुद्र श्रीराम ने कहा कि यह पहली बार है जब समूह कोई इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स उत्पाद बनाएगा। श्रीराम ने कहा, तादिरन टेलीकॉम के पास तकनीक है। हम उनके उत्पादों के निर्माण के लिए एक समर्पित टीम बना रहे हैं। निर्माण के अलावा, हमारा समूह तादिरन टेलीकॉम को वेंचरहाउसिंग, लॉजिस्टिक्स आदि सहित सभी अपूर्ति श्रृंखला में मदद देगा।

काम कर रही है। मिट्ज ने कहा कि कंपनी का 70 फीसदी कारोबार सॉफ्टवेयर से और 30 फीसदी प्रतिगत हार्डवेयर में होता है। उन्होंने कहा कि तादिरन श्रेणी 2 उपकरण बनाएगा। यह एक ऐसी श्रेणी जो तत्काल प्रभाव से सरकारी खरीद के लिए योग्य है। मिट्ज ने कहा कि भारत में निर्माण हमारी विस्तार योजना का पहला

## यूपीआई लेनदेन-ओपन बैंकिंग से कर्ज तक लोगों की पहुंच हुई आसान, फिनटेक कंपनियों का भी आकार बढ़ा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारत ने एकीकृत भुगतान इंटरफेस (यूपीआई) के माध्यम से कर्ज तक लोगों की पहुंच को आसान बनाया है। भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान (आईआईएम) व इंडियन स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस (आईएसबी) प्रोफेसरों की अध्ययन रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक विशेष रूप से वित्त उधारकर्ताओं के लिए यह खासा उपयोगी साबित हुआ है। 2016 में शुरू होने के बाद से यूपीआई ने लाखों लोगों के लिए डिजिटल लेनदेन की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई है। को-ओपन बैंकिंग और डिजिटल पेमेंट्स एपीकेशन फॉर क्रेडिट एक्सेस के अध्ययन के मुताबिक कोई क्रेडिट इतिहास नहीं रखने वाले उधारकर्ताओं को भी

ऋण सुविधा में मदद की है। 30 करोड़ लोग और 5 करोड़ व्यापारी निबंध डिजिटल लेनदेन करने में सक्षम हो गए हैं। यूपीआई लेनदेन में 10 फीसदी की वृद्धि से ऋण उपलब्धता में 7 फीसदी वृद्धि हुई। यह दर्शाता है कि कैसे डिजिटल फाइनेंस ने ऋणदाताओं को उधारकर्ताओं का बेहतर मूल्यांकन करने में सक्षम बनाया। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक अक्टूबर 2023 तक भारत में सभी खुदरा डिजिटल भुगतानों में 75 फीसदी यूपीआई के माध्यम से हो रहे हैं। नए ऋण लेने वालों को दिए गए ऋण में 4 फीसदी की वृद्धि हुई। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक यूपीआई का लाभ उठाते हुए कर्ज देने वाली फिनटेक कंपनियों ने तेजी से अपना आकार बढ़ाया। इनकी ऋण की मात्रा में 77 गुना वृद्धि

हुई। यह पारंपरिक बैंकों से कहीं आगे है। अध्ययन में कहा गया है कि डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी की सामर्थ्य ने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, जिससे ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों में समान रूप से यूपीआई को व्यापक रूप से अपनाया जा सका। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक कर्ज का आकार बढ़ने के साथ साथ इसकी अदायगी दर भी बढ़ी है। आसान भुगतान प्रणाली होने के चलते कर्ज लेने वाले समय पर इसे वापस कर रहे हैं। जिसके चलते डिफॉल्ट दर में वृद्धि नहीं हुई। रिपोर्ट में यह भी दावा किया गया कि यूपीआई का लोहा दुनिया के कई देशों में भी माना है। यूपीआई के साथ भारत की सफलता अन्य देशों के लिए एक अनुकरणीय मॉडल पेश करती है। यह दिखाता है।

## भारत की समावेशी वृद्धि की अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय ने सराहना की: के सुब्रमण्यम

वाशिंगटन। देश के शीर्ष अर्थशास्त्री और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (आईएमएफ) के कार्यकारी निदेशक कृष्णमूर्ति वी सुब्रमण्यम ने कहा कि दुनिया भारत को लेकर आशावादी है। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत के सार्वजनिक डिजिटल बुनियादी ढांचे और समावेशी वृद्धि के बारे में न सिर्फ चर्चा हो रही है, बल्कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय इसकी सराहना भी कर रहा है। उन्होंने कहा, मुझे लगता है कि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था कुल मिलाकर बहुत अच्छी तरह से बढ़ रही है। कोविड के बाद, वृद्धि दर लगातार सात प्रतिशत रही है। बेशक, इस तिमाही में थोड़ी गिरावट आई है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय के बीच वृद्धि दर में मंदी के कारण है। साथ ही, निर्यात पर भी कुछ प्रभाव पड़ा है। लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि यह गिरावट अस्थायी होगी। भारत के पूर्व मुख्य आर्थिक सलाहकार सुब्रमण्यम ने हाल में एक किताब 'इंडिया 100' लिखी है। उन्होंने दिए साक्षात्कार में कहा, आईएमएफ बोर्ड में बैठने के बाद से मुझे यह कहने में कोई संकोच नहीं है कि दुनिया भारत को लेकर आशावादी है। भारत ने जिस तरह का सार्वजनिक डिजिटल बुनियादी ढांचा बनाया है, उसका जिक्र मेरे बोर्ड के लगभग हर सभ्यी अक्सर करते हैं। वे इसकी इमानदारी से सराहना करते हैं। उन्होंने आगे कहा कि पिछले एक दशक में भारत ने जिस तरह की समावेशी वृद्धि की है, उसकी भी सराहना की जानी चाहिए।

## धीमी जीडीपी वृद्धि पर बोलीं वित्त मंत्री सीतारमण, कहा- तीसरी तिमाही में होगी मंदी की भरपाई

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। सितंबर तिमाही में जीडीपी में मंदी 'व्यवस्थित' नहीं थी और तीसरी तिमाही में बेहतर सार्वजनिक व्यय के साथ आर्थिक गतिविधि मंदी की भरपाई कर सकती है। वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने शुक्रवार को यह बात कही। भारत ने जुलाई-सितंबर वित्त वर्ष 25 में 5.4 प्रतिशत की जीडीपी वृद्धि दर्ज की, जो सात तिमाहियों में

सबसे कम थी। पहली तिमाही में वृद्धि 6.7 प्रतिशत थी। सीतारमण ने एक कार्यक्रम में कहा, यह एक व्यवस्थित मंदी नहीं है। यह सार्वजनिक व्यय, पूंजीगत व्यय और इसी तरह की अन्य गतिविधियों में कमी की वजह से है... मुझे उम्मीद है कि तीसरी तिमाही इन सबकी भरपाई कर देगी। वित्त मंत्री ने कहा, इसलिए, विकास दर की संख्या ऐसी चीज है जो जरूरी नहीं कि बुरी तरह

प्रभावित हो। हमें कई अन्य कारकों पर जोर देने की जरूरत है। वित्त मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत अगले साल और उसके बाद भी सबसे तेजी से बढ़ने वाली अर्थव्यवस्था बना रहेगा। आम चुनाव और पूंजीगत व्यय में कमी को वजह से पहली तिमाही में विकास की गति कम रही। इसका असर दूसरी तिमाही पर भी पड़ा है। पहली छमाही में, सरकार ने वित्त वर्ष 25 के लिए 11.11

लाख करोड़ रुपये के अपने पूंजीगत व्यय लक्ष्य का केवल 37.3 प्रतिशत खर्च किया। वित्त मंत्री की टिप्पणी भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक की ओर से चालू वित्त वर्ष के लिए अपने विकास अनुमान को 7.2 प्रतिशत से घटाकर 6.6 प्रतिशत करने के कुछ ही दूर बाद आई। सीतारमण ने कहा कि विकास को प्रभावित करने वाले अर्थव्यवस्था के वैश्विक मांग में स्थिरता शामिल है, जिसने निर्यात

वृद्धि को प्रभावित किया। उन्होंने कहा, भारतियों की क्रय शक्ति में सुधार हो रहा है, लेकिन भारत में, आपको पर्याप्त वेतन की भी वृद्धि करनी होती है। हम इन कारकों से अच्छी तरह वाकिफ हैं, जिनका भारत की अपनी खपत पर असर हो सकता है। वित्त मंत्रालय ने वित्त वर्ष 24 के लिए अपने आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण में चालू वित्त वर्ष के लिए 6.5-7 प्रतिशत की जीडीपी वृद्धि का अनुमान

लगाया था। उन्होंने कहा, हमारे पास एक ऐसा प्रधानमंत्री है जो हर चुनौती में अक्सर तलाशता है। कोविड-19 के दौरान चुनौती को सुधार लाने के अवसर के रूप में देखा गया। उस समय पांच मिनो बजट पेश किए गए थे, जिनमें से प्रत्येक ने एक तरफ राहत, समर्थन, सहायता दी और दूसरी तरफ यह सुनिश्चित किया कि छोटे और उपेक्षित लॉक वित्त वर्ष के लिए 6.5-7 प्रतिशत की जीडीपी वृद्धि का अनुमान

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लगाया था। उन्होंने कहा, हमारे पास एक ऐसा प्रधानमंत्री है जो हर चुनौती में अक्सर तलाशता है। कोविड-19 के दौरान चुनौती को सुधार लाने के अवसर के रूप में देखा गया। उस समय पांच मिनो बजट पेश किए गए थे, जिनमें से प्रत्येक ने एक तरफ राहत, समर्थन, सहायता दी और दूसरी तरफ यह सुनिश्चित किया कि छोटे और उपेक्षित लॉक वित्त वर्ष के लिए 6.5-7 प्रतिशत की जीडीपी वृद्धि का अनुमान

## बाइक राइडिंग का रखते हैं शौक तो बेस्ट हैं ये जगहें!

अगर आप भी काम करते-करते थक गए हैं और बाइक का भी शौक रखते हैं तो और किसी छोटे वेकेशन की प्लानिंग कर रहे हैं तो निकल जाएं इन शानदार सड़कों के सफर पर। जहां ऊंचे पहाड़, गहरे झरने खूबसूरत हरे-भरे जंगल आपका इंतजार कर रहे हैं। ऐसी जगह खास तौर पर उन लोगों के लिए अच्छी है जो कि बाइक राइडिंग के शौकीन हैं। यहां पर आप कुदरती नजारों, पहाड़ों, झरनों का भी मजा ले सकते हैं। आइए जानते हैं उन जगहों के बारे में....



### 1. लेह, लद्दाख

चारों तरफ पहाड़ों से घिरे इस रूट पर ड्राइविंग का अपना एक अलग ही मजा आता है। ऊंचे पहाड़ों के बीच से निकलता खारदूंगला रोड, जो दुनिया भर में अपनी ऊंचाई के लिए जाना जाता है पर घूमने का अलग ही मजा है। इसके अलावा यहां का मैनेस्टिक रोड खासतौर से मशहूर है। यहां पर टूरिस्ट अप्रैल से अगस्त तक बाइक राइडिंग करने के लिए आते हैं।



### 2. स्पीति वैली, हिमाचल

लद्दाख से थोड़ी ही दूर हिमाचल की स्पीति वैली है। बाइक से स्पीति वैली तक पहुंचने के लिए काजा, टैको, स्पीति और पीन वैली जैसी कई खूबसूरत जगहें देखने को मिलती हैं। यहां पर सड़कों के किनारे सेब, खूबानी के पेड़ और सतलुज नदी की खूबसूरती के साथ प्राचीन मंदिरों को भी देख सकते हैं।

### 3. वालपराई और वाड़ावल फॉरेस्ट

बाइक राइडिंग के लिए यह सबसे बेस्ट रूट है। यहां राइडिंग के दौरान घने, हरे-भरे जंगल और कई सारे छोटे-छोटे वाटर फॉल्स का नजारा देखने को मिलता है।

### 4. गोवा, मुंबई

इंडिया के बिजनेस कैपिटल मुंबई से गोवा तक बाइक से सफर करना भी काफी मजेदार है। अमेरिका के 101 हाइवे से काफी मिलती-जुलती इस सड़क को इंडिया में बेस्ट कोस्टल राइडिंग के लिए जाना जाता है।

### 5. वेस्टर्न, अरुणाचल प्रदेश

हिमालय की ऊंची चोटियों को राइडिंग के वक्त देखना बहुत ही अच्छा एक्सपीरिएंस होता है। हालांकि यहां सड़कों की कमी है जिसके चलते ऊंचे-नीचे पहाड़ी रास्तों से गुजरना होता है। सफर के दौरान बर्फ से ढकी सड़कें, ट्राइबल कल्चर और उनकी अलग सी लाइफस्टाइल को कैमरे में आसानी से कैद किया जा सकता है।

### 6. जैसलमेर, जयपुर

दोनों तरफ रेगिस्तान और बीच में हाईवे का सफर में आपको राजस्थानी कल्चर देखने के कई मौके मिलते हैं। इसके साथ ही बीच-बीच में जोधपुर, ओसिया, पोकरन जैसे स्टॉकपेज आते हैं जो आपको सैर को और भी मजेदार बनाएं।



एलीफेंट बीच अंडमान के मशहूर बीचों में से एक है। हैवेलॉक द्वीप पर स्थित इस बीच तक आप नाव से या फिर जंगल ट्रेक करके पहुंच सकते हैं। नीले पानी और चमकदार रेत वाले इस बीच पर आकर आपको बहुत सुकून मिलेगा। यह बीच शानदार कोरल रीफ और स्नॉर्कलिंग के लिए भी जाना जाता है। छुट्टियों में परिवार के साथ यदि आप भीड़भाड़ से अलग शांति और सुकून वाली जगह की तलाश में हैं तो अंडमान-निकोबार बेस्ट जगह है। खूबसूरत कुदरती नजारों और साफ समुद्री तटों वाले अंडमान की शांति और सुंदरता हर किसी का मन मोह लेती है।

## खूबसूरत कुदरती नजारों और बीचों की सैर करनी है तो जाएं अंडमान-निकोबार



साफ-सुंदर बीच

पानी से अटखेलियां करना पसंद है तो अंडमान के बीच आपको चुना रहे हैं। यहां के साफ पानी में आप स्नूबा डाइविंग, स्विमिंग, स्कीइंग, पैरास्लाइडिंग, बनान बोट राइड, अंडर वॉटर वॉकिंग आदि एडवेंचर गेम्स का मजा ले सकते हैं। स्नूबा डाइविंग के दौरान समुद्र के नीचे रंग-बिरंगी मछलियों से मिलने का अनुभव यादगार बन जाएगा। यहां के बीच अपनी खूबसूरती और स्वच्छता के लिए मशहूर हैं। बीचों की सफेद और चमकीली रेत पर लेटकर जूस और कोल्ड ड्रिंक का मजा लें। क्योंकि अंडमान अपने बीचों के लिए ही मशहूर है तो कुछ खास बीचों की सैर करना न भूलें।



एलीफेंट बीच

यह अंडमान के मशहूर बीचों में से एक है। हैवेलॉक द्वीप पर स्थित इस बीच तक आप नाव से या फिर जंगल ट्रेक करके पहुंच सकते हैं। नीले पानी और चमकदार रेत वाले इस बीच पर आकर आपको बहुत सुकून मिलेगा। यह बीच शानदार कोरल रीफ और स्नॉर्कलिंग के लिए भी जाना जाता है।

### राधानगर बीच

हैवेलॉक द्वीप पर स्थित यह बीच भी बहुत मनोरम है यहां के दृश्य बेहद सुंदर हैं। अंग्रेजी मैगजीन टाइम द्वारा इसे भारत के सबसे अच्छे बीचों में से एर माना गया और पूरी दुनिया का यह सांतवा बेस्ट बीच



विजयनगर बीच

है। फोटोशूट के लिए यह बीच एकदम परफेक्ट है तो यदि आप अंडमान जाएं तो इस बीच पर फोटो खिंचवाना न भूलें।



काला पत्थर बीच

यह बीच भी बहुत सुंदर और शांत है। परिवार के साथ सुकून भरे तो पल बिताने वालों के लिए यह परफेक्ट जगह है। यहां की रेत चंदी की तरह चमकती है। इस बीच पर आप सनबाथ का मजा ले सकते हैं।

### बेस्ट टाइम

572 छोटे-बड़े द्वीपों से मिलकर बना है अंडमान। यह देश के सबसे आकर्षक टूरिस्ट प्लेसेज में से एक है। सितंबर से लेकर मार्च तक का समय यहां जाने के लिए सबसे अच्छा है, क्योंकि तब आप यहां की कुदरती खूबसूरती के साथ ही सुहाने से मौसम का पूरा मजा ले सकेंगे।

मलेशिया की राजधानी क्वालालम्पुर के अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर कदम रखते ही मुझे लगा कि मैं यूरोप, आस्ट्रेलिया या अमेरिका जैसे किसी विकसित देश की धरती पर खड़ी हूं। क्रोम और शीशे से बना यह हवाई अड्डा विश्व के सबसे आधुनिक हवाई अड्डों में एक है। चमकते हुए ग्रेनाइट के फर्श, नवीनतम तकनीक से लैस सभी सुविधाएं तथा ड्यूटीफ्री सामानों से भरी चमकती हुई दुकानें यहां आने वाले हर पर्यटक को सहज ही प्रभावित कर लेती हैं। मुझे लगा कि जब इतने ही दिनों में मलेशिया इतनी तरक्की कर सकता है तो हम क्यों नहीं? पर इस प्रश्न का जवाब सोचने से पहले ही मुझे पता लगा कि क्वालालम्पुर से पिनांग जाना है और वहां पहुंचने के लिए लगभग 40 मिनट की उड़ान फिर भरनी है। अभी भारतीय समय के अनुसार सुबह के पांच बजे थे, पर हवाई अड्डे की घड़ी सुबह साढ़े सात का समय दिखा रही थी यानी मलेशिया व भारत के समय में ढाई घंटे का अंतर था। मैंने स्थानीय समय के अनुसार अपनी घड़ी मिलाई और पिनांग जाने वाले विमान में बैठ गई।



## मलेशिया है बेहद ही खूबसूरत, बिताए गर्मियों की छुट्टियां

### सुपारी के पेड़ों वाला द्वीप

मलेशिया पर्यटन विभाग की ओर से गए हम आठ लोग थे जिनका स्वागत बहुत ही गर्मजोशी से पिनांग हवाई अड्डे पर टूर गाइड लेना व एडी ने किया। हवाई अड्डे से अपने होटल मुतियारा बीच रिसोर्ट तक जाते हुए लेना व एडी ने हमें पिनांग के बारे में तमाम जानकारी दी। पिनांग की खूबसूरती की एक झलक हमें रास्ते में ही मिल गई। हरी-भरी पहाड़ियों से घिरा पिनांग एक द्वीप है जिसका आकार एक तैरते हुए कछुए की तरह है। पिनांग की खूबसूरती से प्रभावित होकर ही ब्रिटिश रचनाकार सॉमरसेट मॉम ने लिखा था, यदि किसी ने पिनांग नहीं देखा, तो उसने संसार नहीं देखा। मुझे भी यहां आकर लगा कि मॉम ने कुछ गलत नहीं लिखा है। पूर्वी देशों के सबसे सुंदर शहरों में गिना जाता है पिनांग, जिसका नाम इस द्वीप पर बहुतायत से पाए जाने वाले सुपारी के पेड़ों के कारण पड़ा। मलय भाषा में पिनांग पान की सुपारी को कहते हैं। पूरब का मोती कहा जाने वाला यह द्वीप 1786 में सुदूर पूर्वी देशों में ब्रिटिश राज्य का पहला व्यापारिक केंद्र बना, पर आज यह पूरब और पश्चिम के मिलन का एक आकर्षक बिंदु है। चूंकि विश्व के लगभग सभी देशों से पर्यटक यहां वर्ष भर आते रहते हैं, अतः यहां की अर्थव्यवस्था का एक प्रमुख स्रोत पर्यटन है। पर्यटन संबंधी सुविधाएं यहां बहुत विकसित हैं और कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स कंपनियों का विकास भी काफी अच्छा है।

### असर चीनी संस्कृति का

कई वर्षों तक ब्रिटिश शासन के अधीन रहने के कारण यहां की पुरानी इमारतों में ब्रिटिश स्थापत्य की झलक दिखती है। साथ ही चीनी संस्कृति का प्रभाव आज भी यहां के लोगों पर देखा जाता है। लेना व एडी ने चीनियों द्वारा बनाए गए कुआन यिन तेंग, वाट चैया मांगकालाराम तथा अन्य बौद्ध मंदिरों को दिखाते हुए बताया कि पिनांग की राजधानी जॉन टाउन में चीनियों द्वारा बनाए गए ऐसे कई बौद्ध मंदिर हैं, जहां एक विशेष जाति के चीनी लोग विभिन्न त्योहार मनाने के लिए आज भी इकट्ठे होते हैं। इन मंदिरों पर बनी अत्यंत महीन चीनी पेंटिंग व लकड़ी की नक्काशी से सजे फैनल इस देश के कलाकारों की प्रतिभा का परिचय देते हैं। थाईलैंड की स्थापत्य कला से प्रभावित वाट चैया मांगकालाराम मंदिर में भगवान बुद्ध की लेटने की मुद्रा में विश्व की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी प्रतिमा है।

### एक अनुभव अनोखा सा

मीलों तक फैले रेतीले मैदान व नारियल के पेड़ों की कतारों से सजे पिनांग के समुद्र तट विदेशी पर्यटकों को वर्षों से आकर्षित करते आ रहे हैं। दो दिन की पिनांग यात्रा के दौरान लेना व एडी हमें यहां के लगभग सभी दर्शनीय स्थलों पर ले गए, हमने स्थानीय भोजन का स्वाद लिया और बटरवर्थ तथा पिनांग के द्वीप के बीच चलने वाली फेरी में बैठकर द्वीप के चारों ओर फैले नीले पानी की सैर की। इस फेरी में लगभग 100 से अधिक गाड़ियां लोड की जा सकती हैं और 20-25 मिनट



### ऐतिहासिक इमारतों के शहर में

क्वालालम्पुर जाते हुए हम मलेशिया के एक और राज्य पेरक से गुजरे जिसका मलय भाषा में अर्थ है चंदी। इस राज्य का यह नाम यहां पाई जाने वाली टिन की खानों के कारण पड़ा जिसका पेरक के इतिहास और अर्थव्यवस्था पर काफी गहरा प्रभाव रहा। पेरक की राजधानी इंपोह भी साफ सुथरे पार्क, चौड़ी सड़कों व आकर्षक ऐतिहासिक इमारतों के कारण दर्शनीय है। क्वाला कांगसार पेरक का शाही शहर है और यहां की प्राचीन खूबसूरत इमारतों में उबूदिहाह मसजिद व इस्कंदरियाह महल खास हैं। उबूदिहाह मसजिद का निर्माण पेरक के 28वें सुलतान इदरीस मुहिंदिन अदजाम शाह प्रथम के जमाने में शुरू हुआ पर इसके पूरा होने में काफी अड़चने आईं। प्रथम विश्वयुद्ध के दौरान हाथियों द्वारा यहां के इटैलियन मार्बल के फर्शों को तोड़ दिया गया और इसका उद्घाटन 1917 में हो सका। लगभग 100 वर्ष से भी अधिक पुराना

### रेशनी के बाग में

क्वालालम्पुर देखने की उत्सुकता ने हमें चैथे दिन मलेशिया की राजधानी पहुंचा दिया। गार्डन सिटी ऑफ लाइडस कह जाने वाले अपने शहर को यहां के लोग प्यार से केएल कहते हैं। 88 मंजिलों वाले विश्व के सबसे ऊंचे फ्री स्टैंडिंग टॉवरस पेट्रोनाज टिवन टॉवरस क्वालालम्पुर में प्रवेश करते ही दिखने लगते हैं। इस्लाम के पांच स्तंभों से प्रेरित यह इमारत मलेशिया की पहचान है। रात को ये टॉवरस इतने खूबसूरत दिखते हैं कि इनकी ओर से आंखें हटाने की इच्छा नहीं होती। क्वालालम्पुर सिटी सेंटर के बीचोंबीच निर्मित पेट्रोनाज टॉवरस मलय व आधुनिक आर्किटेक्चर का बेमिसाल नमूना है। इसके भीतर पेट्रोनाज फिलहारमोनिक हॉल है तथा पेट्रोनाज परफॉर्मिंग अटर्स स्थू भी। क्वालालम्पुर में हमने विश्व की चैथी सबसे लंबी (421 मीटर) तथा एशिया की सबसे ऊंची मीनार क्वालालम्पुर भी देखी, जिसके भीतर जाकर ऑब्जर्वेटरी डेक से आप पूरे क्वालालम्पुर तथा क्लिंग वैली का नजारा देख सकते हैं। यहां के रिवाल्विंग रेस्टोरेट में कई तरह के स्वादिष्ट भोजन का मजा लेते हुए आप क्वालालम्पुर की एक-एक इमारत, पार्क, संग्रहालय व घर आदि दूरबीन से देख सकते हैं। क्वालालम्पुर टॉवर दूरसंचार नेटवर्क, रेडियो व टीवी स्टेशन की ट्रांसमिशन टॉवर भी है।

NEWS BOX

### Vinod Kambli like my son, 1983 team will take care of him: Sunil Gavaskar

New Delhi. Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar extended a helping hand to the ailing Vinod Kambli. India's legendary 1983 World Cup-winning cricket team has stepped forward to support former cricketer in overcoming his struggles. Sunil Gavaskar, one of India's cricketing greats, confirmed this development, following similar sentiments expressed by Kapil Dev, the captain of the historic 1983 squad. Expressing a deep sense of responsibility, Gavaskar referred to players like Kambli as 'sons' and reassured fans that the 1983 team members would rally together to assist their fellow cricketer.

"The 1983 team is very conscious of the younger players. For me, they are like grandsons. If you see their age, some are like sons. We are all very concerned, particularly when fortunes desert them. I don't like the word help. What the 83 team wants to do is take care of him. We want to take care of Vinod Kambli and help him get back on his feet. How we will do, we'll see in the future."



We want to take care of cricketers who are struggling when fortunes don't smile on them," Gavaskar, who is currently in Adelaide as part of the broadcasting team covering the India vs Australia second Test, told Sports Today. Recent years have seen Kambli embroiled in several controversies and facing significant personal and health challenges. Kambli, who has been battling severe health challenges, has found a strong support system in the cricketing fraternity that recognises his contributions to the sport.

Concerns regarding Kambli's well-being escalated after a video from a memorial event for coach Ramakant Achrekar went viral. In the footage, Kambli was seen holding the hand of his childhood friend, Sachin Tendulkar, and refusing to let go, which sparked widespread attention and worry. One of the most recent and alarming incidents involves a viral video showing Kambli struggling to walk steadily and maintaining his balance. The video, which has sparked widespread concern among fans and well-wishers, which showed Kambli in a disoriented state and requiring assistance from others to navigate safely.

### Real Madrid closes gap on Barcelona with 3-0 win against Girona

GIRONA. Jude Bellingham inspired champions Real Madrid to a comfortable 3-0 victory at Girona on Saturday in La Liga, with Kylian Mbappe also on the scoresheet after two high-profile penalty misses.

Los Blancos cut the gap on league leaders Barcelona to two points after the Catalans drew 2-2 at Real Betis, with Madrid having played one fewer match. Bellingham opened the scoring before half-time and set up Arda Guler for Madrid's second, before Mbappe produced a clinical finish for their third.

Both Bellingham and defender Ferland Mendy were replaced with apparent knocks in the second half ahead of Tuesday's Champions League clash at Atalanta. Coach Carlo Ancelotti confirmed Bellingham would be fit for the game but said Mendy had suffered a muscular injury. After Madrid's fifth defeat across all competitions in midweek against Athletic Bilbao, having lost just twice last season, Ancelotti pledged his team would improve and they were significantly better against Girona. "Bellingham scored his fifth goal running (in La Liga), Mbappe scored, Brahim (Diaz) did good work, Arda scored a



great goal, as I said, bit by bit we will come back (to form)," said Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti. With Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo sidelined, Ancelotti selected Bellingham and Diaz in support of Mbappe.

The French forward has been the focus of criticism in recent weeks after blowing penalties against Liverpool and Athletic Bilbao, and struggling to find the form which made him a star with Paris Saint-Germain and his country. Girona, who ran Madrid close for the Spanish title for much of last season before eventually finishing third, started the stronger and Bryan Gil fired wide, with Donny van de Beek lashing over. Madrid settled into the game and, keeping the hosts at arm's length, began to create chances of their own. Paulo Gazzaniga saved Brahim Diaz's fierce drive from the edge of the box as the champions clicked into gear. Bellingham broke the deadlock after 36 minutes when Diaz's cross was blocked and the ball fell kindly to the England international, who fired home through a crowd of players.

# Jasprit Bumrah faces injury scare: Should India rush in Shami for Brisbane Test

**AUS vs IND, 2nd Test: Jasprit Bumrah has been a vital member of the Indian team, but he faced an injury scare during his spell on Day 2 of the second Test against Australia at the Adelaide Oval. Should India rush Mohammed Shami to Australia?**

New Delhi. Before the Test series against Australia started, it was known that Jasprit Bumrah would need to be on top of his game for India to win. In Perth, Bumrah put his best foot forward. He did not give Australian batters much breathing space as India secured a 295-run win. Bumrah also became the first visiting captain to win a Test at the Optus Stadium in Perth. But Bumrah was on the firing line to some extent. In the absence of Mohammed Shami, he had to carry a chunk of the workload. With the likes of

Harshit Rana and Akash Deep not having enough experience at the international level, it was always going to be Bumrah who had to take additional responsibilities and fill in for the inexperience of the rest of the pace attack. In Adelaide, Bumrah again stepped up, picking up four wickets, including that of Steve Smith, one of the best in the business. But the pacer felt the heat to some extent on Day 2. Not because of his bowling, but for the strain his body has had to take over the last two weeks. In the 81st over of the Australian innings, after India opted for the second new ball, Bumrah faced a minor injury scare. The speedster looked in some sort of discomfort while bowling his 20th over. Ravi Shastri, India's former head coach, said that Bumrah was holding his adductor muscle. Soon after, Bumrah was up on his feet having received treatment from the physio. Although Bumrah resumed bowling, the question remains, can he carry on with the same workload throughout the series? Even for a fast bowler of Bumrah's calibre, it can be challenging to say the least. The extra workload was pretty evident when he bowled 11 out of 33 overs on Day 1 at the



Adelaide Oval. Bumrah, desperately, needs someone to share his workload and give him a breather. Here's where India are faced with a conundrum regarding the prospects of bringing in Shami. Can Shami be ready for the Brisbane Test? Needless to say that Bumrah would heave a sigh of relief if Shami joins the Indian squad. The question is when is the appropriate time to rope in Shami? The speedster hasn't donned the national colours since the ODI World Cup final in November 2023 against the Aussies at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

It was only recently that he made his comeback to competitive cricket in the Ranji Trophy, after which he also represented Bengal in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy. PTI earlier

reported that preparations to send Shami are already underway and the pacer will be available for the last two Tests.

"Shami's India kit has already been dispatched to Australia. He will complete the Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 assignment and then leave," a source said, adding that Shami's "fitness certificate" from the NCA will also come soon. But with less than a week left for the third Test in Brisbane to start, Bumrah is racing against time to make the cut. The Indian team management would be wary of making a hasty decision and do more harm than good by trying to make Shami available for the upcoming game.

**'Difficult for Shami'**

After the end of the second day's play of the Adelaide Test, the legendary Sunil Gavaskar also reckoned that it would be tough for Shami to take the field in the Brisbane Test.

"It might be a little bit difficult for him to be in Australia in time for the third Test, which is starting next week. It might be just a little bit difficult," Gavaskar told India Today in an interview. Gavaskar also said that for the Brisbane Test, there might be a toss-up between Akash Deep and Harshit Rana, who came under fire for leaking runs on Day 2.

## Siraj vs Head continues: More boos for pacer, Aussie star wildly celebrates catch

**The Mohammed Siraj vs Travis Head battle continued as the Australian batter picked his catch on Day 3 of the 2nd Test in Adelaide. Moreover, Siraj had to battle with boos for the 2nd straight day by the hostile Adelaide crowd.**



New Delhi. There is no toning down to the ongoing battle between Travis Head and Mohammed Siraj in the Border Gavaskar Trophy series. It all started on Day 2 of the 2nd Test at Adelaide Oval, when Siraj gave an aggressive send-off to Head after dismissing him. Day 3 witnessed Head taking Siraj's catch and celebrating aggressively. Jasprit Bumrah and Siraj were batting after India lost 9 wickets for 166 runs. While facing Scott Boland, Siraj stepped to the leg side, cleared his front leg for a big swing across the line. The bat twisted at the moment of contact and was not

well-timed. The delivery ballooned high into the air and the 'crowd-favourite' Travis Head back-peddled from mid-wicket to take an excellent catch. He punched in the air after taking Siraj's catch and showed the pink ball to the crowd. With the catch, Australia also managed to bundle India out for 175 runs in the 2nd innings. The fierce battle between Siraj and Head was the highlight of the 2nd Test. After a fiery exchange on Day 2, Siraj walked out to bat while facing boos from a hostile Adelaide crowd. However, Siraj and Head were spotted chatting in between the overs and settled things down. The duo took out time to clarify and get things sorted

between each other. Even after the Test match ended, Head and Siraj hugged it out. Travis Head scored a magnificent hundred in front of his home crowd on Day 2. His 140-run knock put India on the backfoot, but the Aussie star was knocked over by Siraj. The Indian pacer gave him an aggressive send-off and things got heated up when Head abused him back. Speaking to the broadcasters after the day 2's play, Head said he told Siraj that he had bowled well, and the Indian pacer misinterpreted it. The Australian batter said he was slightly disappointed with how things transpired. Head concluded by saying that if the Indian team wants to act in such a fashion, then so be it. Siraj claimed that Head was lying when the Australian asserted that all he said was "well-bowled" to the bowler. Siraj insisted that the Indian team respects every player, and he did not engage in an aggressive celebration in the first place. The pacer said that it was Head who abused him and that triggered him to give an aggressive send-off.

### AUS-W vs IND-W: Ellyse completes 4000 ODI runs, hits fastest hundred vs India

New Delhi Australia's veteran Ellyse Perry achieved a monumental feat in the 2nd ODI match vs India in Brisbane on December 8, Sunday. Perry hit her 3rd ODI hundred and also completed 4000 runs in the format. In a scintillating display of batting, she completed her hundred within 72 balls. This was the fastest ODI hundred hit against India women's cricket team. She also became the 4th Australian to score 4000 runs in women's ODIs. She shattered plenty of records as Perry became the first woman to complete the double of 7000 runs and 300 wickets in international cricket. Her 72-ball hundred was the joint-fourth fastest for Australia in women's ODIs. Perry produced a masterclass



in Brisbane by playing a 105-run knock from 75 balls which included 7 fours and 6 sixes. Australia opted to bat first and the openers Phoebe Litchfield and Georgia Voll set the tone early as they shared a 130-run stand. After Litchfield was dismissed for 63-ball 60, Perry walked into bat. Voll anchored the innings brilliantly, smashing her maiden ODI century. She was joined by the experienced Ellyse Perry, who also brought up a hundred, as the duo dismantled India's bowling attack during the middle overs. Australia delivered a commanding batting performance, posting a massive 371 runs in their innings — the highest score ever recorded against India in an ODI.

**Mammoth chase for India**

Indian bowlers struggled to contain the onslaught, with Priya Mishra and Minnu Mani proving particularly expensive. However, the hosts did manage to pull things back slightly in the final five overs, claiming a flurry of wickets to restrict Australia from going beyond 400. Despite the late breakthroughs, Australia managed to put up a daunting total on the board, leaving India with a monumental chase ahead. The visitors will need a herculean batting effort to pull off this game.

## England's historic Test series triumph in New Zealand after 16 years, win 2nd Test

New Delhi. England delivered a dominant performance to defeat New Zealand by 323 runs in the 2nd Test, securing the 3-match series with a 2-0 lead. The visitors outplayed the hosts in all departments of the game and continued their impressive form. It was a historic win for England, their very first win on New Zealand soil in 16 years. England's first innings began shakily, with four quick wickets falling early. However, Harry Brook rescued the team with a brilliant century, guiding them to a strong total of 280 runs. Brook's knock was the turning point as it provided England momentum for the remainder of the match.

With the ball, England took control through Brydon Carse and Gus Atkinson, who ripped through New Zealand's batting lineup. Their efforts helped England gain a



big 155-run lead in the first innings, putting New Zealand under pressure. In their second innings, England's batters ensured the target would be beyond the reach of the hosts. Jacob Bethell and Ben Duckett played key roles, building a strong platform. Joe Root then scored a classy 36th Test century, which helped England set New Zealand a massive target of 583 runs. England declared their innings at 427/6 as all the batters stepped up

to put the team in a winning position.

**England beat New Zealand**

Root, Brook and Atkinson set-up win

New Zealand's chase began poorly as the England bowlers struck early on by exploiting the overcast conditions. Tom Blundell showed resistance with a fine century, his fifth in Test cricket, after being dropped on zero by Bethell. Nathan Smith also made a useful contribution down the order, but the rest of the batters failed to step up. England's bowlers, led by Atkinson, kept up the pressure. Atkinson's hat-trick was a standout in what was an overall clinical display by the visitors. The hosts were bowled out far short of the target, sealing England's win by a huge margin.

Harry Brook's second century of the series, Root's return to form, and the bowlers' sharp performances were the key factors for England's win.

# Travis Head lied: Mohammed Siraj calls out batter on aggressive send-off in Adelaide

**Mohammed Siraj opened up about his aggressive send-off to Travis Head on Day 2 of the Adelaide Test. Siraj claimed Travis Head was lying when he said 'well-bowled' after getting dismissed.**

New Delhi India pacer Mohammed Siraj opened up about his fierce battle with Travis Head on Day 2 of the 2nd Test at Adelaide Oval on Saturday. Siraj claimed that Head

was lying when the Australian asserted that all he said was "well-bowled" to the bowler. Siraj insisted that the Indian team respects every player, and he did not engage in an aggressive celebration in the first place. The pacer said that it was Head who abused him and that triggered him to give an aggressive send-off. "I was enjoying bowling to him. It was a good battle because he batted really well. When a batter hits you for a six on a good ball, it feels bad. That gave me an energy. After bowling him out, I celebrated. Then he abused me. You can see on TV as well. In the start, it was my celebration. I didn't say anything to him. In the press conference, he said wrong thing. He lied. Noway he said well-bowled. We respect everyone. I always respect everyone because cricket is a gentleman's game. Travis Head's actions were wrong. I did not feel good,"



Siraj told Star Sports before start of Day 2 proceedings. Speaking to the broadcasters after the day 2's play, Head said he told Siraj that he had bowled well, and the Indian pacer misinterpreted it. The Australian batter said he was slightly disappointed with how things transpired. Head concluded by saying that if the Indian team wants to act in such a fashion, then so be it.

Can India make comeback?

Siraj also showcased confidence in the Indian team and their ability to make a comeback and win games from any position.

"The Indian team knows how to make a comeback really well. We never give up. Whenever we fall, we keep the strength to get back up. We are always positive that we can score runs from any position and even win the contest. We will take the field with a positive mindset and whatever God has planned for us, we will get that," he added.

**Travis Head vs Mohammed Siraj**

The Indian team were put on the back foot with a scintillating knock of 140 runs from 141 balls by Travis Head. However, the Australian was knocked over by Siraj after being hit for a six a delivery earlier. It was Siraj who had the last laugh and gave an animated send-off to the centurion. Head did not like the animated bowler's actions as he swore back at Siraj, leading to a heated moment on the field.

# Nargis Fakhri

Shares FIRST Post After Sister's Arrest In Murder Case In The US, Says 'We Are...'



Nargis Fakhri has been grabbing headlines after her sister Aliya Fakhri has been accused of murdering her ex-boyfriend, Edward Jacobs. Well, the actress is yet to react. However, amid this, she has shared the first post featuring Housefull 5 actors. The photo has gone viral on social media. Taking to her Instagram stories, Nargis shared a photo featuring Sonam Bajwa and Jacqueline Fernandez. She wrote, "We are coming for you" as the caption. The latest installment in the beloved comedy franchise stars Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Fardeen Khan, and an ensemble cast. A special treat awaits fans as the entire cast is reportedly gearing up to shoot a grand song celebrating 14 years of the Housefull series. Directed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, Housefull 5 is set to release in cinemas on June 6, 2025. Coming to Nargis's sister, a source close to the actress has revealed that she found out about the incident through the news. Meanwhile, Nargis and Aliya's mother has denied the charges leveled against Aliya. A source told India Today that Nargis Fakhri has not been in touch with her sister for 20 years now. "She has not been in touch with her sister for over 20 years. The actor learned about the incident through the news, just like everyone else," the report stated.

Aliya Fakhri was arrested in connection with the deaths of her ex-boyfriend, Edward, and his friend, Anastasia Star Ettienne. They lost their lives in a fire in Queens, New York. According to Daily News, authorities accused Aliya of setting a two-storey garage on fire, causing the victims to die from smoke inhalation and thermal injuries. She has been denied bail and charged with their murders.

Nargis and Aliya's mother reacted to the turn of events. "I don't think she would be killing someone. She was a person who was caring for everybody. She tried to help everybody," as reported by multiple news outlets. Aliya Fakhri has been detained at Rikers Island, New York City's largest jail. She pleaded not guilty. However, if she is found guilty, she could face a life sentence.



# Urfi Javed

## Impresses Netizens With Her Latest Look, Fans Say 'Didi Creative Ho Gaye'

Urfi Javed turned heads yet again with her unique sartorial experiment, this time layering one outfit over another. Someone in the background continuously pulled away each outer layer, dramatically uncovering a new outfit beneath. This continued until she had unveiled a total of five different looks. Urfi loves the theatrics when it comes to fashion and has a unique ability to keep her fans intrigued with her style statements. She is first seen wearing a frilly blue dress, which is then uncovered to reveal a one-shoulder silver dress. Urfi then asks the paparazzi, "Ye outfit kaisa laga?" When the paps reply with a "no," Urfi unveils yet another dress layered under the current one. This went on for a few more times, and Urfi She left everyone impressed with her creativity. The video went viral on social media, and netizens commended Urfi's originality. "Urfi's creativity level day by day increasing," wrote one fan, while another one commented, "Didi creative ho gaye." "She is a real-life magician," read a third comment, while another netizen wrote, "Earlier this year, Urfi Javed talked about her fashion when she shared how people do not respect her and therefore want to refrain from working with her. 'I have achieved popularity? Yes. Fame? Yes. Work? No. People don't respect me. People don't want to work with me,'" she told BBC World and then added, "I scream attention. I want attention so I dress like that."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Urfi Javed made headlines earlier this year after her series 'Follow Kar Lo Yaar' was released on Prime Video. It was a nine-episode series which presented "an unfiltered and immersive viewpoint into the vibrant and captivating life of Javed, India's biggest viral sensation". The show premiered on Amazon Prime Video in August this year.



### Samanta Calls Bride Sobhita Dhulipala 'Affectionate' Ahead Of Wedding With Naga Chaitanya: 'Only Love...'



Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala are getting married on Wednesday, December 4. The couple is set to exchange their wedding vows at the Annapurna Studios, owned by actor and Naga Chaitanya's father Nagarjuna Akkineni. Ahead of the wedding, Sobhita's sister Samanta Dhulipala took to Instagram and showered the bride-to-be with love. Samanta shared photos from Sobhita's Pelli Kuthuru ceremony and called the Made In Heaven actress 'most affectionate person.' She wrote, "Cheers to the most beautiful pelli kuthuru and the most affectionate person ever. Only love for you akka. #SoChay."

In the photos, Sobhita decked up in red, giving a glimpse of her look as a bride. Dressed in a traditional saree and sporting gold jewellery, Sobhita looked stunning in the ceremony. She posed with her sister and their parents. Sobhita and Naga Chaitanya announced their wedding plans in August this year. The couple had a secret engagement ceremony in Hyderabad. The news about their engagement was then shared by Nagarjuna on his social media accounts. "We are delighted to announce the engagement of our son, Naga Chaitanya, to Sobhita Dhulipala, which took place this morning at 9:42 a.m.!! We are overjoyed to welcome her into our family. Congratulations to the happy couple! Wishing them a lifetime of love and happiness. ?? God bless! ?? 8.8.8. A beginning of infinite love??," Nagarjuna wrote.

Naga Chaitanya opened up about his bond with Sobhita and her family. He said, "It's been lovely getting to know Sobhita and her family the past few months, watching the families interact has been a joy. I am really looking forward to and excited for the wedding day, going through all the rituals and watching the families come together." Naga Chaitanya's first marriage was with actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu. They got married in October 2017 after dating for a long time. Unfortunately, the couple announced their separation in October 2021, citing personal differences, and later finalised their divorce in 2022.

### 'Small Circle, Private Life And ...': Malaika Arora's Mantra For A Happy Soul



Malaika Arora is known for her sartorial choices and exceptional acting and dance skills. She has already etched a special place in millions of hearts with her dance performances in songs like Chaiyya Chaiyya (1998), Maahi Ve (2002), and Munni Badnaam Hui (2010), among many others. In her latest Instagram stories, Malaika has underlined the significance of keeping a private life. Revealing the key factors she believes leads to a clear mind and a happy soul, Malaika suggests maintaining a small circle and a private life, a wisdom that resonates with many. She wrote, "Small circle, private life, clear mind, happy soul."

In another story, the 51-year-old advised to maintain a close group with well-wishers. Further, cementing her thoughts, she wrote, "Stay close to people that inspire you, believe in you, support you and celebrate with you." This was followed by a "Good Morning" sticker and a fall leaf emoji.

Before this, the actress talked about the challenging phase of her life and reflected on her strength on those days in Instagram stories. The post featured a quote about the motivation and resilience to keep moving. It read, "Push yourself to get up and keep moving even on the toughest days."

Ahead of this, she has also revealed her relationship status with a slight twist. She dropped a post on her Instagram stories, including a cartoon character, Snoopy, and his friend Charlie Brown. Alongside it, the note attached to the picture read, "I don't have time to worry about who doesn't like me. I'm too busy loving the people who love me." Not only this, but talking about her relationship status in another Instagram post, she shared a photo with a caption that read, "My status right now", followed by three options - "In a relationship, Single, Hehehe."

Of all the options, she picked the one reading "hehehe", leaving her fans wondering if she was still with the actor Arjun Kapoor or if they parted ways due to reasons best known to them.