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Ranchi | Wednesday | December 18, 2024 | Page 08 | Daily | Volume - 09, Issue - 303

RNI Regn No. JHAMUL/2016/75465

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# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### 11 Indians found dead at restaurant in Georgia's mountain resort of Gudauri: Indian mission

**TBILISI.** Twelve Indian nationals were found dead at a restaurant in Georgia's mountain resort of Gudauri, according to the Indian mission here. Georgia's Ministry of Internal Affairs said in a statement that no signs of injuries or signs of violence were detected in an initial inspection. All victims died from carbon monoxide poisoning, local media reported, citing police. Earlier, the mission had said that all 12 victims were Indian nationals. It is learnt that the victims were employees of an Indian restaurant 'Haveli', in Gudauri. Georgia's internal affairs ministry statement said 11 victims were foreigners while one victim was a citizen. It added that the bodies of all victims, employees in the same Indian restaurant, were found in bedrooms on the second floor of the facility.

"Mission has just learned about the death of 12 Indian nationals in Gudauri, Georgia. Deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Mission is in touch with the local authorities to get details of the Indian nationals who lost their lives. All possible assistance will be given," the Indian mission here said in a statement.

The police started an investigation under Article 116 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, which implies negligent manslaughter. According to the preliminary investigation, a power generator was placed in an indoor area, a closed space near the bedrooms, which was turned on, probably after the power supply was turned off on Friday night. A forensic medical examination has also been appointed to determine the "exact cause of death." Investigative actions are "actively" being carried out, with forensic-criminalistics working on the spot, and interviews of persons related to the case are being conducted.

### Israel And Hamas Inching Toward A Ceasefire Deal: Negotiators; Check Possible Conditions

**NEW YORK.** After months of deadlock, Israel and Hamas appear to be moving closer toward a ceasefire to end their 14-month war. Top officials from the U.S., Qatar and Egypt have resumed their mediation efforts in recent weeks and reported greater willingness by the warring sides to wrap up a deal. In a key concession, Hamas officials say they are prepared to show more "flexibility" on the timing of an Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza, and Israel's defense minister, Israel Kaz, said Monday that a deal is closer than ever. Officials on all sides have cautioned that key details must still be worked out. But there is a general sense of optimism that has been lacking for many months. The changing sentiment appears to be the result of several factors. Israel has inflicted heavy damage on Hamas over the course of the war. The group is more isolated after Hezbollah's ceasefire with Israel, and Iran, a key backer of both militant groups, has suffered a number of setbacks, highlighted by the downfall of its close ally, Syria's Bashar Assad. In the U.S., both the outgoing Biden administration and the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump have signaled they want a deal completed before the Jan. 20 inauguration. According to Egyptian and Hamas officials, the agreement would take place in phases and include a halt in fighting, an exchange of captive Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners, and a surge in aid to the besieged Gaza Strip. Israel says Hamas is holding 100 hostages — over one-third of whom are believed to be dead. Here is a closer look at the emerging deal, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing closed negotiations.

#### Preliminary ceasefire

The first phase would last from six to eight weeks. During that time, Hamas would release some 30 hostages — roughly half of those believed alive. They include three or four dual U.S.-Israeli citizens. Israel would release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including as many as 100 who are serving long sentences for alleged involvement in bloody attacks.

### What Elon Musk said about CNN's controversial release of Syrian prisoner

**World** Tesla CEO Elon Musk has responded to news about a prisoner CNN helped free from a secret Syrian facility, who later turned out to be a notorious torturer for the Assad regime.

A Syrian man, freed from a secret facility with CNN's assistance, has now been revealed as a torturer for the Assad regime, according to a report by Verify-Sy. Last week, footage emerged of CNN journalist Clarissa Ward leading the man to freedom from a Damascus jail in Syria. Ward called the viral moment "one of the most extraordinary moments I have witnessed" in her 20-year career. Verify-Sy, an independent fact-checking group, identified the man as Salama Mohammad Salama, a first lieutenant in Syrian Air Force Intelligence. The group claims Salama committed war crimes and tortured people who refused to pay bribes. Musk's reaction

American activist and former music director Robby Starbuck reacted to the news by posting a New York Post article titled "Prisoner CNN helped free from Syrian prison was actually notorious Assad regime torturer: report on social media platform X, writing: "You don't get more CNN than this." Social media users quickly joined the conversation, mocking CNN in Musk's comment section. One user wrote, "Never expected anything from CNN that would be honest and full of integrity." Another comment read, "They literally become the memes we make for them..." Another user joked, "Amazing humanitarian work, @CNN!" The man, initially identified as Adel Ghurbal from the Syrian city of Homs, was found alone in a locked cell during CNN's search for missing journalist Austin Tice. This discovery occurred when CNN journalist Clarissa Ward and her team, along with a rebel guard, opened a padlocked cell in a Damascus jail.

## Canada's finance minister resigns as unpopular Trudeau faces biggest test of his political career

**TORONTO.** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau faced the biggest test of his political career after Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, long one of his most powerful and loyal ministers, resigned from the Cabinet on Monday. The stunning move raised questions about how much longer the prime minister of nearly 10 years — whose popularity has plummeted due to concerns about inflation and immigration — can stay on as his administration scrambles to deal with incoming U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

Trudeau swiftly named longtime ally and close friend Dominic LeBlanc, the public safety minister who recently joined him at dinner with Trump at Mar-a-Lago, to replace Freeland. After being sworn in, LeBlanc told reporters he and Trudeau are focused on the cost of living facing Canadians and on finding common ground with Trump on border security and economic issues. "It's not been an easy day," Trudeau later told a room of party supporters. He called it one of his party's "toughest days" but he did not say what he planned to do.

Trudeau faces calls to resign

Jagmeet Singh, leader of the opposition New Democratic Party which Trudeau's ruling Liberals have relied upon to stay in power, called for him to resign earlier Monday. "He has to go," NDP leader Singh said.

The main opposition Conservatives have not called for Trudeau's resignation but demand an election. But a no confidence vote in the government is not imminent with Parliament about to break for the holidays. Freeland, who was also deputy prime minister, said Trudeau had told her on Friday he no longer wanted her to serve as finance minister and offered her another role in the Cabinet. But she said in her resignation letter that the only "honest and viable path" was to leave the Cabinet.

"For the past number of weeks, you and I have found ourselves at odds about the best path forward for Canada," Freeland said. Freeland warns against 'costly political gimmicks' Freeland and Trudeau disagreed about a two-month sales tax holiday and 250 Canadian dollar (\$175) checks to Canadians that were recently announced. Freeland said Canada is dealing with



Trump's threat to impose sweeping 25% tariffs and should eschew "costly political gimmicks" it can "afford."

"Our country is facing a grave challenge," Freeland said in her letter. "That means keeping our fiscal powder dry today, so we have the reserves we may need for a coming tariff war."

A Liberal party official said Freeland was offered a position as minister in charge of Canada-U.S. relations without portfolio and without a department. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of not being authorized to speak publicly on the matter, said the position would have been in name only and wouldn't

have come with any of the tools Freeland previously had when she negotiated trade with the United States. Freeland, who chaired a Cabinet committee on U.S. relations, had been set to deliver the fall economic statement and likely announce border security measures designed to help Canada avoid Trump's tariffs. Trump has threatened to impose a 25% tax on all products entering the U.S. from Canada and Mexico unless the neighbors stem the numbers of migrants and drugs.

The statement shows a much larger deficit than expected for the fiscal year and more than a billion for border security.

Can Trudeau survive?

Trudeau has said he plans on leading the Liberal Party into the next election, but some party members have said they don't want him to run for a fourth term, and Freeland's departure was a huge blow.

Trudeau met with his lawmakers on Monday evening. Later, most of them brushed past reporters, declining to say what was said in the meeting. Liberal lawmaker Chad Collins said they were "not united."

## China executes official involved in country's largest corruption case

**BEIJING.** China on Tuesday executed Li Jianping, a former official in the north Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, who was convicted in the largest-ever corruption case in the country totalling to over USD 421 million. The death sentence of Li, former secretary of the ruling Communist Party working committee of the Hohhot economic and technological development zone, was initially issued in September 2022 and upheld on appeal in August 2024. Tuesday's execution followed the approval of the Supreme People's Court and was carried out by a court in Inner Mongolia, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Li, 64 was found guilty by an intermediate court earlier of embezzling a staggering three billion yuan (over USD 421 million) in illegal gains, the largest sum involved in a single corruption case in China's history, according to earlier reports in the Chinese official media. Since he



came to power in 2012, Chinese President Xi Jinping made the anti-corruption campaign the main plank of his governance model. Official media accounts say over a million party officials, including two defence ministers and dozens of military officials, were punished and prosecuted in the campaign.

In his speech delivered at the plenary session of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) in January this year, contents of which

were released for the first time on Sunday by party theoretical magazine Qishi, 71-year-old Xi has called on cadres to confront corruption head-on so that interest groups cannot prey on the ruling Communist Party. Xi said all party members must deeply promote the party's self-revolution referring mainly to the fight against corruption. Significantly, the number of high-ranking officials undergoing punishments for corruption is on the increase despite the relentless campaign. Last year, the CCDI announced that it had launched investigations into a record number of 45 "tigers" or high-ranking cadres, but this year the total has already reached 54, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Monday.

Xi's anti-graft campaign in the military has drawn global attention, which his critics say enabled him to consolidate his hold on power.

## US Shooting: Female Student Opens Fire In Wisconsin School Killing Teacher, Teenager; Six Injured

**World** In yet another shooting incident that is likely to raise a question mark on the US gun laws, a teenage student opened fire with a handgun in a Wisconsin school killing a teacher and another teenager while injuring six others. The shooter girl also died in the incident. Two students are critical after the shooting incident that took place at Abundant Life Christian School. The shooter was a 17-year-old female student. Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes said that a teacher and three students had been taken to a hospital and are stable while two of them had been released by Monday evening. The incident comes close to Christmas, sending shockwaves across the city with families in mourning. "We have three people who have lost their lives. Two of those people, or persons, were pronounced dead at the scene and one while on the way to the hospital. Of the six injured and taken to local hospitals, two students remain in critical condition. Their injuries are life-threatening. A teacher and three other students were taken to area hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries. Two of those victims, two of those survivors, have been released

from the hospital," he said. "Every child, every person in that building is a victim and will be a victim forever. ... We need to figure out and try to piece together what exactly happened," Barnes told AP. The police reported that the shooter was found dead from an



apparent suicide when officers arrived at the scene. Barnes refrained from providing details about the shooter, citing respect for the family. In Wisconsin, with limited exceptions, it is illegal for a 17-year-old to possess a firearm. Barnes mentioned that investigators might be able to share additional information about the shooter during another press

conference scheduled for later on Monday. A motive for the shooting was not immediately known, but Barnes said they're talking with the parents of the suspected shooter and they are cooperating. He also said he didn't know if the person shot had been targeted. Investigators believe the shooter used a 9mm pistol, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The incident is the latest in a long string of school shootings across the US, including particularly devastating tragedies in Newtown, Connecticut; Parkland, Florida; and Uvalde, Texas. These shootings have sparked intense debates over gun control while leaving parents increasingly anxious as their children grow up practising active shooter drills in classrooms. Despite the heightened concerns, school shootings have done little to prompt significant changes to national gun laws. According to KFF, a nonprofit organization focused on healthcare research, firearms were the leading cause of death among children in both 2020 and 2021.

## Teacher, teen student killed in shooting at Christian school in Wisconsin; 15-year-old shooter also dies

**World** A 15-year-old student killed a teacher and another teenager with a handgun Monday at a Christian school in Wisconsin, terrifying classmates including a second grader who made the 911 call that sent dozens of police officers rushing to the small school just a week before its Christmas break.

The female student, who was identified at a press conference Monday night, also wounded six others at a study hall at Abundant Life Christian School, including two students who were in critical condition, Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes said. A teacher and three students had been taken to a hospital with less serious injuries, and two of them had been released by Monday evening. "Every child, every person in that building is a victim and will be a victim forever. ... We need to figure out and try to piece together what exactly happened," Barnes said. Barbara Wiers, director of elementary and school relations for Abundant Life Christian School, said students "handled themselves

magnificently."

She said when the school practices safety routines, which it had done just before the school year, leaders always announce that it is a drill. That didn't happen Monday. "When they heard, 'Lockdown, lockdown,' they knew it was real," she said.

Police said the shooter, identified as Natalie Rupnow, was found with a self-inflicted gunshot wound when officers arrived and died en route to a hospital. Barnes declined to offer additional details about the shooter, partly out of respect for the family. Abundant Life is a nondenominational Christian school — prekindergarten through high school — with approximately 420 students in Madison, the state capital. Wiers said the school does not have metal detectors but uses other security measures including cameras. Children and families were reunited at a health clinic about a mile away. Parents pressed children against their chests while others squeezed hands and shoulders as they walked side by side. One



girl was comforted with an adult-size coat around her shoulders as she moved to a parking lot teeming with police vehicles.

A motive for the shooting was not immediately known, nor was it clear if the victims were targeted, Barnes said.

"I don't know why, and I feel like if we did know why, we could stop these things from happening," he told reporters.

Barnes said police were talking with the shooter's father and other family members, who were cooperating, and searching the shooter's home. "He lost someone as well,"

Barnes said of the shooter's father. "And so we're not going to rush the information. We'll take our time and make sure we do our due diligence." The first 911 call to report an active shooter came in shortly before 11 a.m. First responders who were in training just 3 miles (5 kilometers) away dashed to the school for an actual emergency, Barnes said. They arrived 3 minutes after the initial call and went into the building

immediately. Classes had been taking place when the shooting happened, Barnes said. Investigators believe the shooter used a 9mm pistol, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation. Police blocked off roads around the school, and federal agents were at the scene to assist local law enforcement. No shots were fired by police. Abundant Life asked for prayers in a brief Facebook post.



scheme to hide the payout to Daniels during the final days of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign to keep her from publicizing — and keep voters from hearing — her claim of a sexual encounter with the married then-businessman years earlier. He says nothing sexual happened between them. A month after the verdict, the Supreme Court ruled that ex-presidents can't be prosecuted for official acts — things they did in the course of running the country — and that prosecutors can't cite those actions to bolster a case centered on purely personal, unofficial conduct.

Trump's lawyers then cited the Supreme Court opinion to argue that the hush money jury got some improper evidence, such as Trump's presidential financial disclosure form, testimony from some White House aides and social media posts made while he was in office. In Monday's ruling, Merchan denied the bulk of Trump's claims that some of prosecutors' evidence related to official acts and implicated immunity protections. The judge said that even if he found that some evidence related to official conduct, he'd still conclude that prosecutors' decision to use "these acts as evidence of the decidedly personal acts of falsifying business records poses no danger of intrusion on the authority and function of the Executive Branch."

Even if prosecutors had erroneously introduced evidence that could be challenged under an immunity claim, Merchan continued, "such error was harmless in light of the overwhelming evidence of guilt." Prosecutors had said the evidence in question was only "a sliver" of their case.

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## Sri Lankan President Visits Bodh Gaya, Offers Prayers at Mahabodhi Temple

by Rahul Kumar

Bodh Gaya, Bihar: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake arrived in Bodh Gaya on Tuesday morning as part of his three-day official visit to India. Accompanied by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath, Deputy Finance Minister Anil Jayanta, and a delegation of officials, the President was warmly welcomed by the Mahabodhi Society of India. Bhante P Sivali Thero, General Secretary of the Society, Dr. Mahashweta Maharathi, Secretary of BTMC, and other members greeted the delegation with a traditional food offering near the Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC). Tight security arrangements were in place across Bodh Gaya ahead of his visit. District Magistrate Dr. Tyagarajan SM and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ashish Bharti were also present to



oversee the security measures. The Sri Lankan President arrived at Gaya International Airport at 8:30 am by special plane, and was escorted to the Mahabodhi Temple with stringent security protocols. Upon reaching the temple, President Dissanayake was received by BTMC officials, including the chief priest, who also presented him with a food offering. The Sri Lankan President then visited the

sanctum sanctorum of the Mahabodhi Temple, where he offered special prayers. Following the prayers, he toured the temple premises, including the Bodhi Tree and Chakraman Sthal. In light of the high-profile visit, strict security measures were implemented, with public access to the Mahabodhi Temple restricted from 8:40 am to 10:15 am to ensure safety.

This marks President Dissanayake's first foreign visit since taking office in September. Prior to his arrival in Bodh Gaya, he met with key leaders in New Delhi, including President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and engaged with Indian business leaders. The visit underscores the strengthening of economic and diplomatic ties between India and Sri Lanka.

## India becomes 3rd largest exporter of smartphones in world



New Delhi: India has become the 3rd largest exporter of smartphones in the world, which was on the 23rd rank in 2019. The country's smartphone exports have also breached the 20 thousand crore rupees mark in a single month, in November 2024. Sharing a news article on a social media platform, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Tech-

nology Ashwini Vaishnaw lauded this achievement and termed it as 'Making Bharat Story'. This achievement outshines production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme commitment to export 70-75 per cent of production value in the financial year 2024-25.

## Bokaro Artists Express Deep Sorrow Over the Death of Tabla Legend Zakir Hussain



Bokaro: The music community in Bokaro is mourning the loss of legendary tabla maestro Padma Vibhushan Ustad Zakir Hussain, who passed away recently. Renowned musicians and artists in the city have expressed their sorrow, describing his death as an irreplaceable loss to the world of music.

Prominent figures including Pt. Rana Jha, President of the Indian Music Art Academy and senior classical singer, Dr. Rakesh Ranjan, Secretary and tabla player, and Dr. Sanjay Kumar Chaudhary, National Minister of Sanskar Bharati, extended their heartfelt condolences. Other notable figures like Bokaro District Unit President Amarji Sinha, General Secretary Swaroop Shekhar Pandey, senior tabla player Pt. Bachchanji Maharaj, and musicians such as Shiven Chakraborty, Vicky Anand Pathak, and Karishma Prasad, also expressed their grief.

The Bokaro music community, which includes tabla players, singers, dancers, and theatre artists, has lost an irreplaceable icon, they said. The late Ustad Zakir Hussain's contribution to Indian classical music has left an indelible mark, and his absence will be deeply felt across the globe. Artists from the Bokaro Music Art Academy, Bokaro Artist Association, and various cultural organizations echoed similar sentiments, calling his departure a great loss that has left a void in the world of music. The city stands united in remembering the tabla virtuoso and his immense contribution to the arts.

## NUSRL Ranchi Partners with Vidhi Centre to Launch 'Kautilya Society'



Ranchi: The National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi, has signed a significant agreement with the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy to establish the 'Kautilya Society', a new initiative focused on advancing legal research and public policy. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed virtually by NUSRL Vice-Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil and Arghya Sengupta, Founder and Research Director of the Vidhi Centre.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Patil emphasized how this collaboration will enhance research opportunities for NUSRL students and improve their academic skills. He commended the Vidhi Centre for its impactful work with both state and central governments in driving legal reforms and shaping public policy.

The Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, founded in 2013, is an independent think tank that focuses on critical legal reforms. It works with government bodies and public institutions to address pressing legal and policy issues, while also fostering legal research among law students.

Assistant Professor Dr. Utkarsh Verma, Assistant Professor Soni Bhola, and several students attended the virtual signing ceremony. The 'Kautilya Society' is set to become a hub for legal research, policy analysis, and legal advocacy, offering NUSRL students opportunities to engage in impactful work that will benefit both the legal community and society as a whole.

## DAV-6 Bokaro Hosts Annual Health Mega Camp

Bokaro: An annual health mega camp was held at DAV Public School Sector 6, Bokaro on December 17. The event was inaugurated by Principal Anuradha Singh, along with doctors Dr. Arvind Kumar, Dr. Pankaj Verma, and Dr. Shriya, who lit the ceremonial lamp. The camp saw active participation from students and parents.

Doctors conducted health tests for common ailments like cold, cough, fever, hemoglobin, BP, and sugar. In her address, Principal Anuradha Singh emphasized the importance of maintaining children's health, especially during winter, and advised parents to focus on nutrition, exercise, and proper sleep. She also recommended turning off mobile phones and Wi-Fi during the night for better mental health.

Dr. Arvind stressed the importance of timely treatment to prevent small illnesses from escalating. A total of 632 students and 200 parents underwent health check-ups. The event, supported by health department officials and Sadar Hospital nurses, aimed to promote community well-being and ensure the health and academic performance of children.

## ISM Launches Refresher Training Program for Coal India Executive



Dhanbad: The Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad (IIT-ISM) launched its interdisciplinary Refresher Training Program for executives of Coal India Limited (CIL) on 16th December 2024. The program, which will be conducted in several batches, kicked off with the first batch running from December 16 to December 30, 2024.

The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including Professor Prem Vrat, Chairman of the Board of Governors, IIT-ISM, Professor Sukumar Mishra, Director of IIT-ISM, Professor JK Pattanayak, Ex-Officiating Director and Deputy Director, and Professor Sandeep Mondal, Head of the Department of Management Studies & Industrial Engineering. Executives from Coal India Limited, faculty members, and students were also present.

Program Coordinators Dr. Shikha Singh and Dr. Preeti Roy highlighted the need for executive programs in today's fast-changing and uncertain business world. They emphasized the importance of adapting to complex and volatile business environments, with a focus on feasibility and proactive actions to ensure survival and success. The program aims to strengthen industry-academic collaboration and equip participants with practical insights to achieve organizational excellence.

Professor Prem Vrat, Chairman of IIT-ISM, spoke about the institute's long-standing relationship with CIL, stressing the importance of continuous learning for improving decision-making capabilities. He explained that this training would refresh participants' knowledge and prepare them for technical and strategic decision-making in daily operations and long-term projects.

The program also addresses the challenges faced by industrial organizations, particularly with rising climate concerns and commitments to carbon reduction. Designed specifically for companies like Coal India Limited, the curriculum includes strategies for adapting to evolving regulations and technological advancements, providing executives with a comprehensive understanding of engineering and management aspects in industrial projects.

## CCL Hosts Two-Day Training Program for Karmayogi Portal Registration



Ranchi: The Human Resource Development (HRD) Department of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) organized a two-day training program on 16th and 17th December 2024 to facilitate the registration process on the 'Karmayogi' portal for its non-executive employees. The training aimed to help employees complete the six mandatory courses available on the portal, enhancing their skills and digital literacy.

On the first day, 50 nodal officers from various departments of CCL Headquarters participated, while the second day saw 70 nodal officers from different projects of CCL attending the program. The primary objective was to ensure that all participants successfully registered on the Karmayogi platform and completed the required courses, promoting digital awareness and skill development across the organization.

The program was inaugurated by Shri K. Ramakrishna, GM (HRD), who emphasized the role of digital initiatives in organizational development. The sessions were conducted by Shri Vikas Kumar Singh, Senior Manager (HRD), and Shri C.S.P., Manager (Mining). Shri Sanjay Kumar Thakur, General Manager (Establishment), also motivated the participants to take full advantage of this initiative.

This training program is part of CCL's ongoing efforts to enhance digital literacy, promote skill development, and foster a culture of compliance and capacity building within the organization. It aligns with the Government's initiatives to leverage digital platforms for workforce development and operational efficiency.

## BIT Mesra Pioneers Smart Irrigation for Sustainable Agriculture with Solar-Powered Innovation

Ranchi: Birla Institute of Technology (BIT), Mesra, has made a significant leap in sustainable agriculture with the successful completion of its innovative project, "Adaptive Irrigation Management System Using Sustainable Energy." The project, funded by Central Coalfields Limited, was spearheaded by Dr. Debomita Ghosh, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE).

The project's goal is to transform traditional farming practices by introducing a smart farming ecosystem. It features automated, continuous monitoring of key crop parameters, aimed at increasing crop yields and improving farmers' incomes. Designed to overcome challenges faced by rural and power-deficient areas, the system integrates solar power technology, ensuring consistent operation



while promoting sustainable energy practices. The use of advanced condition monitoring, control mechanisms, and field operations, powered by AI and Machine Learning (ML), helps optimize irrigation management and support high-yield crop patterns through embedded sensors. Aligned with the Government of India's vision for expanding smart farming and promoting groundwa-

ter conservation, the project also focuses on maximizing the use of renewable energy resources. Notably, all the equipment used in the project was indigenously manufactured, supporting the government's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative. Dr. Debomita Ghosh remarked, "This project aims to introduce automation, intelligence, and sustainability to the agricultural sector. By integrating AI

and sustainable energy, we hope to provide farmers with advanced tools that will optimize irrigation, reduce costs, and boost productivity." The successful completion of this project highlights BIT Mesra's dedication to pioneering research and innovation, contributing to technological advancements that support sustainable agriculture and national development.

## DPS Bokaro Wins India School Merit Award 2024, Ranked No. 1 in Bokaro

Bokaro: Delhi Public School (DPS), Bokaro Steel City, has achieved a remarkable milestone by being ranked the No. 1 school in Bokaro in the 'CBSE City-Wise Category' at the prestigious India School Merit Awards 2024.

The awards ceremony took place at The Taj, Bengaluru. The India School Merit Awards, organized by Education Today, a renowned organization in the education sector, assessed 1,760 schools



across the country. DPS Bokaro was the only school from Bokaro to receive this esteemed recognition in the CBSE City-Wise Category. The school stood out in 15 key parameters, in-

cluding academic reputation, leadership and quality management, parental participation, digital learning, teacher development, community service, infrastructure incorporating future

technologies, and the overall holistic development of students.

Principal Dr. A. S. Gangwar extended his heartfelt congratulations to the entire DPS Bokaro community, acknowledging their collective effort and dedication in maintaining the school's educational excellence. He emphasized the importance of continuing the legacy of progress and striving for even greater achievements in the future.

## Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Memorial Tournament Inaugurated at CSIR-NML

Jamshedpur: The 52nd Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Memorial Tournament (SS-BMT) 2024 was inaugurated today at the CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML) with great enthusiasm. The outdoor 4th Zonal Tournament, held from 18-20th December, brings together teams from various CSIR laboratories across the country to honor the legacy of Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, the first Director General of CSIR.

The opening ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including Mrs. Premlata Agarwal, Padma Shri awardee Dr. Anuradha Madhukar, Dr. Sandip Ghosh Chowdhury, Director of CSIR-NML, and other prominent figures from the scientific and sports communities. The event began with a flag march by the eight participating teams, followed by



the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and the sportsmen's pledge.

In her inaugural speech, Mrs. Premlata Agarwal emphasized the importance of sports for health and personal development, while Dr. Anuradha Madhukar highlighted how sports foster teamwork and leadership. Dr. Sandip Ghosh Chowdhury welcomed the teams and paid tribute to Dr. Bhatnagar's contributions to science and technology. The tournament will feature

matches in cricket, volleyball, and other sports disciplines, with teams from CSIR laboratories across India competing for the trophies. The event promotes camaraderie and sportsmanship among CSIR employees. The opening ceremony concluded with the announcement of the CSIR-NPL team as the best flag-marched team, earning a trophy. The tournament will conclude with a closing ceremony on 20th December.

## DPS Chas Student Sujeet, Wins Jharkhand Arithmetic Genius Competition

Chas, Bokaro: DPS Chas Bokaro students have once again brought pride to their school by winning the prestigious All India Arithmetic Genius Competition. Sujeet Kumar Mahatha, a Class IV student, showcased his exceptional mathematical abilities and emerged as the State Champion. He was awarded a cash prize of Rs. 10,000, along with a certificate and a trophy for his achievement.

The competition, held in Ranchi, saw hundreds of participants from various schools across Jharkhand displaying their arithmetic skills. In addition to Sujeet's victory, two other students from DPS Chas, Kian Ojha from Class II and Aadarsh Kumar Singh from Class V, also received certificates for their impressive performances. School Chief Mentor, Dr. Hemlata S. Mohan was present at the event and praised the students for their outstanding achievements. She



highlighted that this success is a reflection of the students' determination and the dedication of their teachers, who worked diligently to prepare them for such a prestigious competition. School Director, Dr. Manisha Tiwari, congratulated the students on their remarkable success, emphasizing that it

was a testament to their hard work, perseverance, and the guidance provided by their teachers. She expressed pride in the school's achievement, noting that this victory not only brings honor to DPS Chas but also serves as an inspiration for other students to set high goals and strive for excellence.

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# MK Stalin hails Dissanayake-Modi talks, calls for Tamil fishermen's release

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin welcomed Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Tamil fishermen issue. Stalin urged Sri Lanka to release detained fishermen and their boats, calling it a confidence-building gesture.

**Tamil Nadu.** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Monday applauded Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on resolving the longstanding Tamil fishermen issue. Stalin demanded the release of detained fishermen and their boats by the Sri Lankan Navy, emphasising the need for humanitarian action to build confidence between the two nations.



In a post on X, Stalin stated: "It is encouraging that the Hon'ble President of Sri Lanka, @anuradisayanake, is engaging in discussions with our Hon'ble Prime Minister @narendramodi, to address the concerns of Tamil fishermen in a humanitarian and peaceful manner, emphasising the need to avoid conflict."

Stalin also appealed directly to President Dissanayake: "I appeal to Hon'ble @anuradisayanake to consider the release of Tamil Nadu fishermen detained by the Sri Lankan Navy and the return of their seized boats. Such a gesture will infuse confidence in these deliberations and mark a constructive step towards

fostering stronger ties and a harmonious future between our two nations."

The discussions between Modi and Dissanayake were described as "comprehensive and fruitful" in an India-Sri Lanka joint statement issued after their meeting in New Delhi during the Sri Lankan President's state visit to India on December 16.

The arrest of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, especially from districts like Pudukkottai, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, and Ramanathapuram, has been a recurring issue for decades. The fishermen often cross the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) into Sri Lankan waters in pursuit of better fish catches. However, Tamil fishermen in northern Sri Lanka have long accused Indian fishermen of using bottom trawlers, which they say cause significant ecological damage by scraping the seabed.

The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated its commitment to the safety and welfare of Indian fishermen, stressing that the issue should be treated as a humanitarian and livelihood concern. "Sri Lankan Government has been requested to ensure that there is no use of force under any circumstances," the ministry said in a statement last year. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's call for the release of detained fishermen comes as both nations seek to strengthen ties and resolve cross-border disputes.

## Ex-Pak Minister praises 'Nehru's granddaughter' Priyanka Gandhi for Palestine bag

Former Pakistan minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain was all praises for Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi for carrying a bag emblazoned with "Palestine" on it to Parliament. Hussain also slammed Pakistan's MPs for not displaying "such courage".

**New Delhi.** Former Pakistan minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain praised Congress leader and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi for carrying a bag emblazoned with "Palestine" on it to Parliament, saying that the "granddaughter of a towering freedom fighter like Jawaharlal Nehru stood tall amidst pigmies". In his post, Fawad Hussain also slammed Pakistan's Members of Parliament (MPs) for not displaying "such courage". "What else could we expect from a granddaughter of a towering freedom fighter like Jawaharlal Nehru? Priyanka Gandhi has stood tall amidst pigmies, such shame that to date, no Pakistani member of Parliament has demonstrated such courage. #Thank You," the former minister in the Imran Khan government said in his post on X.

On December 16, the Wayanad MP reached Parliament with a bag emblazoned with "Palestine" on it, showcasing her solidarity with the Palestinian people. The bag included a watermelon-- a long-recognised motif of resistance in the region.

Earlier in June this year, Gandhi slammed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over what she had said were the Israel government's "genocidal actions" in Gaza, as she accused him and his government of "barbarism".



The Congress general secretary's remarks had come after Netanyahu defended Israel's ongoing war in Gaza

in a speech to the US Congress. Gandhi had said it was no longer enough to speak up for the civilians, mothers, fathers, doctors, nurses, aid workers, journalists, teachers, writers, poets, senior citizens and the thousands of innocent children who were being wiped out day after day by the "horrific genocide" taking place in Gaza.

"It is the moral responsibility of every right-thinking individual, including all those Israeli citizens who do not believe in hatred and violence, and every government in the world to condemn the Israeli government's genocidal actions and force them to stop," she had said in a post on X.

The Middle East has been witnessing a tumultuous security situation for over one year after Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on Israel, killing about 1,200 people and taking hostage over 200 others.

## Blast noise heard at Amritsar police station, cops verify responsibility claims



The noise was heard around 3 am. Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar confirmed that the sentry at the station heard the sound between 3 am and 3:15 am.

**New Delhi.** A loud noise resembling an explosion was heard at Islamabad Police Station in Punjab's Amritsar, in the early hours of Tuesday. Police said that there were no reports of damage or injuries. The noise was heard around 3 am. Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar confirmed that the sentry at the station heard the sound between 3 am and 3:15 am. He added that no damage was found at the site.

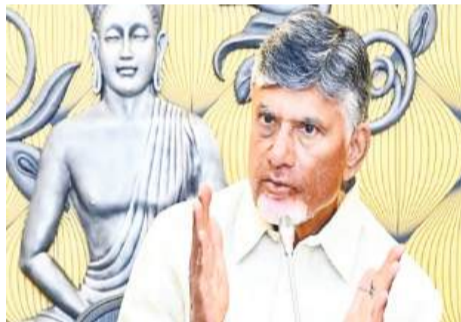
"People claimed responsibility on social media," Bhullar said. "We have verified those claims. Earlier, we had arrested 10 people from a module, including two brothers, one of whom is a juvenile. Another man, Aman Khokhar, along with two or three others, is on our radar, and they will be arrested soon," he was quoted as saying by news agency.

The commissioner said that the authorities were looking into the specifics of the incident and any potential links to previous cases. "We are investigating this and will take it to its logical conclusion. This module will be neutralised," he said, assuring that the police remained on high alert.

# Andhra Pradesh approves Rs 24,276 crore for Amaravati infrastructure projects

Andhra Pradesh announces Rs 24,276 crore for Amaravati's development, including roads, iconic buildings, and public infrastructure, with completion targeted within three years to make it a global city.

**Amaravati.** The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, has approved infrastructure projects worth Rs 24,276 crore for the development of greenfield capital Amaravati, Municipal Minister P Narayana announced on Monday.



Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, Narayana said the approval, given during the 43rd APCRDA meeting, covers the construction of trunk roads, layouts, and iconic buildings in Amaravati. "The 43rd CRDA meeting approved Rs 24,276 crore funds for the construction of trunk roads, layouts, and iconic bhavans (buildings) in Amaravati

capital," he stated.

Highlighting the progress, Narayana noted that a total of Rs 45,249 crore had been approved in the previous four CRDA meetings. Among the approved projects, the upcoming Assembly

building will span 11.2 lakh square feet, occupy an area of 103 acres, and rise to a height of 250 metres. "When the Assembly is not in session, people can visit the top of the building to enjoy a bird's eye view of the capital," Narayana said.

The minister also detailed the plans for the High Court building, which will be constructed on a 42-acre land parcel with a built-up area of 20.32 lakh square feet. The eight-storey structure will reach a height of 55 metres and will be built at a cost of Rs 1,048 crore. Similarly, the General Administration Department (GAD) building will have 47 floors, spanning 17 lakh square feet.

## One Nation One Election bill be sent to parliament panel, PM suggested: Amit Shah

The One Nation, One Election Bill was tabled in the Lok Sabha (December 17), triggering protests from the opposition.

**New Delhi.** The One Nation, One Election Bill was tabled in the Lok Sabha (December 17), triggering protests from the opposition. Two bills — the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill — aiming at facilitating simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies were introduced by Law Minister Arjun Meghwal. Home Minister Amit Shah, speaking in the Lok Sabha, suggested that the bill could be sent to a parliamentary panel for debate.



"When One Nation, One Election bills came up in Cabinet, PM Modi said this should be referred to Joint Committee of Parliament. There should be a detailed discussion over it at every level," said Amit Shah in Lok Sabha.

The tabling of the bill drew sharp criticism from the opposition, with leaders like Supriya Sule from the NCP (Sharad Pawar faction), Congress'

Manish Tewari, Trinamool's Kalyan Banerjee, Samajwadi Party's Dharmendra Yadav, and DMK's TR Baalu leading the attack. Congress MP Manish Tiwari opposed the One Nation One Election bill, saying that it challenges the basic structure of the Constitution.

Samajwadi MP Dharmendra Yadav, on behalf of Akhilesh Yadav, opposed the bill, accusing the

BJP government of imposing dictatorship. He said that the bill will end the diversity of India, and its federal structure. As the Opposition protested the bill, Law minister Arjun Meghwal said that "objections to the One Nation One Election bill are political in nature". The One Nation One Election bill tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, has emerged as the latest point of contention between the BJP and its allies and the INDIA bloc. While the BJP and its allies have backed the bill, several opposition parties, including Congress, Samajwadi Party, and Shiv Sena (UBT) have opposed it. While a total of 32 parties are supporting the One Nation One Election move, 15 others are opposing it. Fence sitters like Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRC have also backed the legislation that would enable simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha as well as state assemblies.

# Mahayuti MLAs express discontent after cabinet expansion, Devendra Fadnavis reacts

Several Mahayuti MLAs, including BJP lawmakers, have expressed discontent over the cabinet expansion in Maharashtra. BJP MLA Sudhir Mungantiwar also met Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to reportedly express his displeasure over not being included in the cabinet.

**Mumbai.** The Devendra Fadnavis-led Maharashtra cabinet got expanded on December 15 with leaders of the Mahayuti alliance taking oath as ministers.

After the swearing-in ceremony, several leaders of the Mahayuti alliance openly expressed their displeasure over being denied ministerial berths during the cabinet expansion while speaking to India Today TV on the first day of the Winter Session of the Maharashtra Assembly. Shiv Sena MLA Vijay Shivtare, speaking to India Today TV, said that the way cabinet positions were given based on caste in Maharashtra, it seems the state is heading towards becoming Bihar.

"The way ministers were selected in the Maharashtra Cabinet based on caste seems like Maharashtra is heading towards Bihar. I'm not upset about not getting a ministerial position, but I'm angry that ministers were appointed based on caste instead of merit," Shivtare, Shiv Sena MLA from Purandar Assembly seat said while speaking to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expanded his cabinet in Nagpur, where the winter session of the state legislature is currently taking place, and inducted 39 new



members into his team - 19 from the BJP, 11 from the Shinde-led Shiv Sena and 9 from Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

Another Shiv Sena MLA, Deepak Kesarkar, said that although he wasn't upset, he believed that if there were a performance audit, his name should have been at the top. Kesarkar earlier served as the Minister for School Education and Marathi Language in Maharashtra.

"I'm not upset, but if there was a performance audit, my name should have been at the top," Kesarkar said. Senior NCP leader, Chhagan Bhujbal, who did not get a ministerial position

this time, said that after taking a stand against Maratha leader Jarange Patil and opposing the Maratha reservation from the OBC category, he received the reward of losing his ministerial position. "I took a stand against Maratha leader Jarange Patil and opposed Maratha reservation from the OBC category. This is the reward I received," Bhujbal said. In addition, senior BJP leader Sudhir Mungantiwar, who did not get a ministerial position, met with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to reportedly express his dissatisfaction. **FADNAVIS DENIES DISSATISFACTION IN**

Mahayuti MLAs express displeasure after cabinet expansion in Maharashtra  
Shiv Sena MLA Vijay Shivtare says cabinet positions given based on caste  
Devendra Fadnavis denies dissatisfaction, promises roles to leaders

**BJP OVER CABINET EXPANSION** Responding to the widespread discontent over the cabinet expansion, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that there was no dissatisfaction within the BJP over the formation of the cabinet. He also mentioned that he spoke with Sudhir Mungantiwar and that he would be given another responsibility within the party. "There is no dissatisfaction within our party regarding the cabinet formation. I spoke with Sudhir Mungantiwar, and he will be given another responsibility in the party," Fadnavis said.

## UniVerse: Your true legacy as a doer

How will posterity see my legacy? This question has recently been raised by no less a person than the retired Chief Justice of India. This reminded me of a story recorded by the Hindi scholar Hazari Prasad Dwivedi in an essay titled 'Bhishma Ko Maaf Nahin Kiya Gaya' (Bhishma Was Not Forgiven). Once, during their regular evening walk on the premises of Kala Bhavan, Rabindranath Tagore had posed an interesting question to him: "Why was Bhishma Pitamah, the grand old warrior, patriarch of the eminent royal clan of Kurus, not anointed as an avatara after his death, but two Yadava brothers, Krishna and Balrama, from a much humbler rural background, were?" The poet said he thought it was so because such questions are decided historically by how posterity views your true legacy as a doer. Hazari Prasadji mulled over it and agreed. After the Mahabharata war, he writes, Balrama, the great farmer warrior, earned the right to be revered as an avatara because he refused to take sides in what he foresaw as a terrible fratricidal war and chose instead to go into the forest for his remaining days.

When the Pandavas and Balrama's younger brother Krishna, the great statesman, asked him to take up arms, he had the guts to stand up and tell the warring royals that whatever the dharma, he shall not participate in a war for throne that will ruin mankind and make the land sterile.

Krishna participated in the war only because of his loyalty to Arjuna, his friend, as his unarmed charioteer and refused to shed blood. When Gandhari cursed him for the death of her sons later, he told her bluntly: "You can curse me all you want, but O Kshatriya queen, it was your own upbringing that led to this." In India, people have always preferred an outspoken karma yogi to an orator. One who throws caution to the winds, swings into action to protect the greater common good and restore sanity of the nation. So what if it meant losing public face and risking ridicule? A later karma yogi, Mahatma Gandhi, whose grand



legacy makes even his political critics bow to him, showed the same presence of mind and daring after the Chauri Chaura violence and stopped the Satyagraha in its tracks. A peaceful movement, he felt, could not be allowed to degenerate into violence. There was criticism from hot heads, but he did not relent. It is not hard to make out the public perception of a man to whom the nation has turned again and again to sort out its moral dilemmas. Bhishma was one such figure of authority — celibate, morally irreproachable and a great warrior. But he let clansmen like the Kauravas misbehave with his granddaughter-in-law, Draupadi, in public. Even when the three abducted princesses — Amba, Ambika and Ambalika — appealed to him that he marry them instead of his impotent brother, he kept quoting his great vow of celibacy and examples and precedents from scriptures and history, but did nothing. When divisions in Bhishma's psyche surfaced again and again at crucial points, resulting in the denial of justice to men, women and clans, his claim to join the pantheon of great avatars shrank in public perception.

Bhishma's case proves that history remembers great heroes less by their recorded speeches and more by prompt, though risky, acts that cause personal loss of reputation, but go on to ensure justice and relief to millions of sufferers.

## Hidden migration of tiny songbirds from Siberian Tundra

Chandigarh is uniquely positioned to welcome migratory birds with its mix of diverse habitats

The mention of bird migration immediately conjures up images of ducks and geese forming the V-shaped skeins across the autumn sky, along with a host of other waterfowls and waders. These large, conspicuous birds are eagerly awaited, heralding the changing season. However, a parallel migration goes largely unnoticed. At the same time as these large waterfowls traverse the sky, tiny non-descript songbirds make an equally arduous journey of more than 6,000 km from their breeding grounds in the Siberian Tundra to the northern plains of India. Both groups use the same Central Asian Flyway, yet their experiences are starkly different. While ducks and geese fly at high altitudes to avoid predators and other vagaries of nature, small songbirds fly at low altitudes, usually under 2,000 m above the sea level. Their route winds through countries like China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and the Himalayan foothills, using the valleys and forests to enter India, and spread out throughout the northern plains. Most migrating birds lose their vibrant breeding plumage before embarking on this annual journey. They arrive in their wintering grounds bearing a dull visage. While helping them to blend into their surroundings, their earthy plumage also renders them easy to overlook. The perseverance of these little heroes often goes unheralded. Chandigarh is uniquely positioned to welcome these birds with its mix of diverse habitats — forests, riverine tracts, grasslands, wetlands, agricultural fields, gardens and parks. The Taiga Flycatcher, the Bluethroat and the Rubythroat are striking examples of these inconspicuous yet fascinating migrants. They are 'robin-like' in appearance — small in size, with cocked-up tails and wings drooping down the sides. The Taiga Flycatcher prefers dense vegetation. It adjusts its migratory route to stay close to forested areas and natural cover flying up to 300 km daily. This small bird finds refuge in the lush gardens and parks of Chandigarh. Its predominantly brown plumage is punctuated by the bright orange patch on its throat, almost like a human thumbprint. With bright inquisitive eyes, this bird spends much of its time perched on the lower branches of a tree, surveying its surroundings. Its stationary, almost meditative, appearance can galvanise into sudden action at the sight of a moth or some innocent bug fluttering nearby. It dives to the ground to grab its prey, revealing the white edges to its tail before returning to its perch. Unlike the Taiga Flycatcher, the Bluethroat is a bird of the marshes and wetlands, skulking in reeds and bushes encircling water bodies. During its breeding season in the Tundra,



this bird builds its nest on the ground in shrubby areas. The Bluethroat is a shy bird, which is often out of sight while it forages in the thick reeds. In birding parlance, it is deemed a skulker! The Bluethroat is well known for its skill in mimicry. In Norway, this talent has earned it the sobriquet of 'Nightingale of the North'. It is capable of mimicking more than 50 different species of birds! At first glance, the Bluethroat appears as another 'little brown bird', but a closer look reveals a spectacular blue patch at its throat, adorned with a rust-coloured spot in the centre. During courtship display, it puffs out the throat feathers, revealing the beautifully hypnotic circle. This vibrant patch, coupled with the bird's special ability at mimicry, is enough to attract mates. The Bluethroat also communicates through frequent tail flicks, revealing orange tail patches that serve as alarm signals. Common names of birds are usually descriptive and the Siberian Rubythroat is no exception. The ruby-red treading at its throat glows against its otherwise greyish-brown plumage. This small secretive bird is often hard to spot, preferring to hide in dense shrubs and vegetation, its presence

revealed only when it flashes the red patch. During the breeding dance display of the Rubythroat is spectacular. Its ability to mimic other birds shows a degree of vocal versatility. However, in its wintering habitat around Chandigarh, it is silent and its occasional appearance in the thickets adds a touch of mystery. While these God's little creatures brighten up our winter landscape, we are oblivious to the incredible dangers and hardships the migratory birds face. Crossing vast landscapes and navigating diverse ecosystems pose significant challenges. En route, the migrating birds rely on stopover habitats to rest and recuperate. These sites are critical in providing food and shelter to enable the birds to continue their journeys. Climate change, habitat loss and violent human conflict along the Central Asian Flyway can disrupt migration patterns. Conservation of stopover habitats, thus, becomes a global responsibility to ensure the survival of these delicate, yet tenacious, travellers. — The writer is president of the Chandigarh Bird Club.

## World chess champ

Gukesh Dommaraju, take a bow

IT'S been Gukesh Dommaraju's year. In September, he led the Indian team to a historic gold medal at the biennial Chess Olympiad. Now, the 18-year-old prodigy from Chennai has fulfilled a childhood dream by becoming the youngest world champion in chess history. He is the first Indian to hold the title after Vishwanathan Anand. Twists and turns marked the 14 games in Singapore. Gukesh and China's Ding Liren, the reigning champ, were tied with two wins each before the final game. Just when a draw seemed imminent, setting the stage for high-speed games to break the tie, Ding committed a dramatic blunder. He was gracious in defeat, marking the end of the three-week match that kept fans riveted across the globe. Former world champions Magnus Carlsen and Vladimir Kramnik may have criticised the quality of play, but in the larger scheme of things, it's the



game of chess that won. Gukesh's victory signals a generational shift in the chess

world. Yet, the new champion does not harbour any illusions. He remains outside the world's top three by rating, and is not even the highest-rated Indian. That spot goes to 21-year-old Arjun Erigaisi. In his post-match press conference, Gukesh acknowledged that 'becoming the world champion doesn't mean that I'm the best player in the world, there's obviously Magnus.' The 34-year-old Norwegian, who is regarded as possibly the greatest chess player of all time, said Gukesh has shown the potential to establish himself as the 'number two player in the world, who knows, maybe the number one'.

The surging popularity of chess as a spectator sport could ignite a new wave of enthusiasm. Gukesh's achievement also cements India's growing influence in the chess world. What's needed is more government and private support to nurture a robust ecosystem.

## 10 yrs of a unique classical library

Murty Classical Library is unique initiative with a 100-year plan to publish the English translations of some of the greatest literary works of India from the past two millennia

Entrepreneur and computer scientist Rohan Narayana Murty's ambitious plans for the Murty Classical Library are more or less on course. The Library 'opened' in 2010 and started publishing, after five years, the English translations of some of the greatest literary works of India from the past two millennia. It's probably the only publishing house with a 100-year plan to publish 500 manuscripts of authors ranging from Kalidasa to Mir Taqi Mir. To mark the first 10 years, the Library recently released 'Ten Indian Classics', an anthology featuring ghazals and devotional poems, journeys of nirvana by women Buddhist followers, words of Sikh Gurus and poets, and epic Ramayana's hero Ram's battle for justice and honour. This English edition captures almost 2,500 years of literary tradition, translated by experts and richly introduced by poet and art critic Ranjit Hoskote.

The Murty Library books are available worldwide in bookstores and on conventional e-commerce platforms.

Rohan founded the Library by making a generous contribution (around \$5.2 million, according to some media reports) to Harvard University, the institution from where he earned his PhD. With close to a century's experience in publishing bilingual editions (both for Greek and Latin classics), Harvard appeared the perfect choice. For the firm believers in India's glorious past, the Murty Library may appear as another visionary idea from a family (father NR Narayana Murthy and mother Sudha Murthy) with a remarkable success record. For many modernists though, the Library is a brave attempt to reboot India's humanities education programme, long hijacked by the IIT brigade.

Subjects like philosophy, literature and history are often viewed in India as "future-less", compared to the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. Humanities degrees are less pursued though they are more likely to stir students towards critical thinking and ethical reasoning. Rohan's dream is simple. He imagines students in schools and colleges to read

classical Indian poets like Kalidas and Tulsidas, besides consuming Shakespeare or Homer. "I dream of a day when students across India will voluntarily read these texts," he says. The Library, he believes, has done a commendable job, having already published close to 50 volumes translated from more than 10 classical languages like Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Pali, Persian, Sanskrit, Urdu and Sindhi. The author list includes Guru Nanak, Bulle Shah, Kalidas, Surdas and Nandi Timmana. For the first time, it is pointed out, a wide international audience is reading these texts in English. "Several universities around the world have started incorporating these texts into their classrooms," he says. For Murty Library, the Harvard University Press, with a team of distinguished scholars, editors and translators, has published English translations of great Indian classics that include 'The Sea of Separation: A Translation from the Ramayana of Tulsidas' by 16th century poet Tulsidas; 'Theft of a Tree, A Tale by the Court Poet of the Vijaynagara Empire' by Telugu poet Timmana; 'The Kannada Mahabharata V.1' by 15th century Kannada poet Kumaravyasa, and 'God at Play V.1', the oldest extant Marathi work by 13th century biographer Mhaimbhat.

Rohan finds it difficult to pick his favourites from the impressive selection, but says he often revisits Raghavanka's 'The Life of Harishchandra' (Kannada) and Shah Abdul Latif's 'Risalo' (Sindhi). Sharmila Sen, Editorial Director and Director of Special Initiatives, Harvard University Press, says, "To publish original books that instruct and delight in equal measure is never easy." Book trade in North America, Europe and Asia varies, and only complicates the task for them. She claims that compared to Greek and Latin translations, their publications are far more complex, varied, richer and more alive to literary tradition.

Indeed, the task has been demanding as Murty Library does not reproduce previously published translations



and every work is originally commissioned. It produces the original Indic text in the relevant script on the verso (the left-hand side of the books). It has also faced some criticism in the past, mostly from the Indian scientist community and strong believers of India's glorious past,

regarding the choice of certain editors (like distinguished Sanskrit scholar Sheldon Pollock) of the Library. Rohan has treated the attacks merely as "noise". According to a media report, he likened the attacks to people throwing empty shells in a "peanut gallery". Defending Pollock, he declared that nationality, gender, race, creed or colour will not decide who the editors shall be. Rohan says he has envisioned a "living library" that continuously interacts with its readers and is not shackled by the ivory towers of an academic project. He claims he does not micro-manage the project and "it relies little, if at all, on any single individual".

He has planned for the centenary of Murty Library. Those who will celebrate it may not have been born yet, but both Rohan and Team Murty believe they are doing their bit in "elevating Indian classics as first-class members of world literature".

## The extraordinary Champa

We store memory in multiple layers. Some may become a burden, some are uplifting, and some are just there — parked in a corner to be pried out when the moment comes. Many are connected with the people one has known and who have impacted one's life. Recently, writing about Nek Chand, Amitabh Pande, a former civil servant, mentioned another extraordinary person of Chandigarh of that era, Champa Mangat Rai. This triggered yet another memory and the close friendship that my parents, especially my father, had with the Mangat Rais. Some distance came after they separated and when Mangat Rai married the writer Nayantara Sahgal. The close ties with Champa Mangat Rai remained till her death on March 7, 1999, at the age of 79. When we heard of her passing, my

father and I drove down from Shimla to Chandigarh and were just in time for the burial. All the way down and on most of the way up, he hardly spoke. When he did, all he said was: "The world has lost a very fine person." While this is something unclear, the connection with Champa Mangat Rai, if any — and certainly tenuous — may have gone back to Lahore where my grandfather was teaching both at the university and at Kinnaid College. Her father, Satya Prakash Singha, an Indian Christian, was the university's Registrar and went on to become the Speaker of the British-Indian Punjab Assembly; he stayed on in Pakistan after Partition. Champa's future husband, Edward Nirmal Mangat Rai, 'Bunchi' to his friends.

## बेजल सरकार पिछू हट्टे, बाडुथुं थेके बेजले यानवाहनेर प्रवेश शुरु

प्राय २८ घंटा पर, बेजल सरकार पिछू हट्टे एवम् बाडुथुं थेके बेजले याओया समुत्त पण्यवाही यानवाहनेर प्रवेश शुरु हय्ये। गत सन्धा १८र पर बेजल सरकारे आदेशे बाडुथुं-बेजल मथन सीमाथे पण्यवाही यानवाहनेर प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा हय्येछिल। एर फले रात थेके दूपर पर्यन्त प्राय २० किमी दीर्घ यानजट सृष्टि हय। चालकदेर समुत्तर कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेजल सरकारके चाप देय बाडुथुं सीमाथे थेके बेजले प्रवेश करा समुत्त यानवाहन बन्ध करार जन्य। एर फले, बेजल सरकार पिछू हट्टे बाधु हय एवम् अवशेषे भारी यानवाहनेर प्रवेश आबार स्वाभाविक हय। बेजल सरकारे एहि अनुमति पर, द्वाक चालकरा वस्तिर निःशुवास फेलन। प्राङ्कन निरुसा विधायक अरुण च्याटिर्जि बाडुथुं गुरे मुख्याम्बी हेमन्त सोरनेर एहि उद्योगे प्रशंसा करेन। तनि बेलन, मुख्याम्बी हेमन्त सोरनेर एहि विषये क्रमागत शुक्रत्रु दिनेर छेन। बेजल सरकारे साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर बेजल सरकार निषेधाब्जा तुले नेय। एर पर, सारिथे दांड़िये धाका समुत्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन बीरे बीरे बेजले प्रवेश करत शुरु करेछे। NH-०९ दीर्घ यानजट एथन सीमित ह्छे एवम् यानजट उ भाडुते शुरु करेछे।

## भोजपुरी

### देश क बरकत

- श्याम कुंवर भारती (राजभर)

सीमा पर सटला त कटला बाबू तोहके खबरदार करके बा। मिट जाई नाम आतंक भारत से नारा असरदार करे के बा।

चुन चुन के मारेले जवान सेना के मांदा आतंकी घुस घुस के। शेर ए हिन्द के दहाड़ से देश के दुश्मन के दु चार करके बा।

राजनीत ना ई दलदल ह जे भी आइल ऊ कीचड़े से सनाइल। कुर्सी खातिर मिलावे हाथ बैरी से उनके शर्मसार करके बा।

जब देश रही त सब कुछ रही आबाद रही देश से बड़ा कुछ ना। चाहे कुछ भी करे केहु बचावे खातिर देश पहरेदार बने के बा।

भ्रष्टाचार औरी बेइमानी दीमक बा चाट जाला बरकत के। मिटा के सब बुराई देश से हर गांव शहर खुशाबूदार करे के बा।

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## धनलक्ष्मी क्रॉप की स्टॉक मार्केट में जोरदार एंटी, पहले दिन ही डबल हुए निवेशकों के पैसे

### एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। चना, कपास और गेहूँ जैसी कई फसलों की हाई क्रालिटी बीज तैयार करने वाली कंपनी धनलक्ष्मी क्रॉप साइंस के शेयरों ने आज स्टॉक मार्केट में जोरदार एंटी की। आईपीओ के तहत कंपनी के शेयर 55 रुपये के भाव पर जारी हुए थे। आज नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज के एसएम्ई प्लेटफॉर्म पर इसकी लिस्टिंग 104.50 रुपये के स्तर पर हुई। लिस्टिंग के तुरंत बाद खरीदारों के सपोर्ट के शेयर 109.70 रुपये के अपर सर्किट लेवल पर पहुंच गए। इस तरह पहले दिन ही कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशकों का पैसा लगभग डबल हो गया। धनलक्ष्मी क्रॉप साइंस का

23.80 करोड़ रुपये का आईपीओ 9 से 11 दिसंबर के बीच सब्सक्रिप्शन के लिए खुला था। इस आईपीओ को



निवेशकों की ओर से जोरदार रिस्पांस मिला था, जिससे ये ओवरऑल 555.83 गुना सब्सक्राइब हुआ था। इसमें क्रायिफाइंड इंस्टीट्यूशनल वार्स (क्यूआईबी) के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन में 197.65 गुना सब्सक्रिप्शन आया

था। इसी तरह नॉन इंस्टीट्यूशनल इन्वेस्टर्स (एनआईआई) के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन 1,241.27 गुना सब्सक्राइब हुआ था। इसके अलावा रिटेल इन्वेस्टर्स के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन में 441.18 गुना सब्सक्रिप्शन आया था। आईपीओ के तहत 10 रुपये फसल वैल्यू वाले 43.28 नए शेयर जारी किए गए हैं। आईपीओ के जरिए जुटाए गए पैसे का इस्तेमाल कंपनी वॉकिंग कैपिटल को जरूरत को पूरा करने के साथ ही आम कॉर्पोरेट जरूरत को पूरा करने और इश्यू से जुड़े खर्चों को पूरा करने में करेगी। धनलक्ष्मी क्रॉप साइंस 2005 से ही चना, कपास, गेहूँ जैसी 24 अलग अलग फसलों और सब्जियों के लिए हाई क्रालिटी बीज तैयार करती है।

कंपनी का कारोबार देश के पांच राज्यों में फैला हुआ है। कंपनी की वित्तीय सेहत की बात करें तो 2021-22 में इसे 58.28 लाख रुपये का शुद्ध मुनाफा हुआ था, जो आगे वर्ष 2022-23 में उछल कर 3 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर पहुंच गया, जबकि 2023-24 में कंपनी का मुनाफा 4.65 करोड़ रुपये हो गया?। इस दौरान कंपनी का रेवेन्यू सालाना 34 प्रतिशत की चक्रवृद्धि दर से बढ़ कर 63.75 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर पहुंच गया। मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष में अप्रैल से सितंबर के बीच की पहली छमाही में कंपनी को 8.21 करोड़ रुपये का शुद्ध लाभ और 119.96 करोड़ रुपये का रेवेन्यू हासिल हो चुका था।

## आईजीआई से अब 150 गंतव्यों के लिए उड़ान सेवाएं उपलब्ध

### एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी नई दिल्ली का इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा (आईजीआईए) 150 गंतव्यों के लिए उड़ान सेवाएं संचालित करने वाला देश का पहला एयरपोर्ट बन गया है। दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड (डायल) ने यह जानकारी दी। डायल ने एक बयान में बताया कि दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट 150 गंतव्यों तक संपर्क मुहैया कराने वाला देश का पहला हवाई अड्डा बन गया है। रविवार को थाई एयरएशिया एक्स ने दिल्ली और बैंकॉक-डॉन मुआंग (डीएमके) के बीच सीधी उड़ानें शुरू कीं, जो दिल्ली हवाई अड्डे से जुड़ा 150वां गंतव्य है। नए मार्ग पर हफ्ते में दो बार एयरबस 330 विमानों के साथ संचालित होगा,

जनवरी 2025 के मध्य तक आवृत्ति को साहस में चार बार बढ़ाने की योजना है।

दिल्ली इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट लिमिटेड ने कहा कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों में दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट ने 20 से ज्यादा एक्सक्लूसिव इंटरनेशनल डेस्टिनेशन जोड़े हैं। इन गंतव्यों में नोम पेन्, बाली डेनपसार, कैलगरी, मॉन्ट्रियल, वैंकूवर, वाशिंगटन डेल्टेस, शिकागो ओ हॉर और टोक्यो हनाडा शामिल हैं। उल्लेखनीय है कि भारत से सभी लंबी दूरी के गंतव्यों के लिए उड़ानों में 88 फीसदी गंतव्य राजधानी दिल्ली से जुड़े हुए हैं। भारत से प्रस्थान करने वाली सभी लंबी दूरी की साप्ताहिक उड़ानों में से 56 फीसदी दिल्ली स्थित इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से संचालित होती हैं।

## एचपीसीएल ने यूएलआईपी के साथ एपीआई के एकीकरण के लिए एनएलडीएस के साथ समझौता किया

### एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कंपनी हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (एचपीसीएल) ने अपने एपीआई को यूनिफाइड लॉजिस्टिक्स इंटरफेस प्लेटफॉर्म (यूएलआईपी) के साथ एकीकृत करने के लिए एनआईसीडीसी लॉजिस्टिक्स डेटा सर्विसेज लिमिटेड (एनएलडीएस) के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। यह साझेदारी देश के लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्र में पारदर्शिता, परिचालन दक्षता और नवाचार को बढ़ाने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय ने जारी एक बयान में बताया कि इस समझौते पर एनआईसीडीसी के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (सीईओ) और प्रबंध निदेशक (एमडी) तथा एनएलडीएस के चेयरमैन रजत कुमार सैनी और एचपीसीएल के उत्तरी क्षेत्र के मुख्य महाप्रबंधक अविनाश जैन की उपस्थिति में एनएलडीएस के सीईओ गिरिश कुमार सुपूर और एचपीसीएल के दिल्ली रिटेल क्षेत्र की महाप्रबंधक

अंजू जय मिश्रा के बीच हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। यूनिफाइड लॉजिस्टिक्स इंटरफेस प्लेटफॉर्म एक डिजिटल गेट-वे है, जो उद्योग जगत को एपीआई-आधारित एकीकरण के जरिए विभिन्न सरकारी प्रणालियों से लॉजिस्टिक्स-संबंधित डेटासेट



तक पहुंचने की अनुमति देता है। वर्तमान में ये प्लेटफॉर्म 125 एपीआई के माध्यम से 11 मंत्रालयों की 41 प्रणालियों के साथ एकीकृत है, जो 1800 से अधिक डेटा फीलड

को कवर करता है। यूएलआईपी में निजी क्षेत्र और सरकारी विभागों की भागीदारी इसके प्रभाव को बढ़ाने में सहायक रही है। उल्लेखनीय है कि यूएलआईपी पोर्टल www.goulip.in पर 1200 से ज्यादा संस्थाएं पंजीकृत हैं। इसके

## थोक महंगाई दर नवंबर महीने में घटकर 1.89 फीसदी पर आई

### एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। खुदरा के बाद थोक महंगाई दर में गिरावट आई है। सफ्तियों और खाने-पीने के चीजों के दाम घटने से थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (डब्ल्यूपीआई) पर आधारित थोक महंगाई दर नवंबर माह में घटकर 1.89 फीसदी पर आ गई है। इससे पिछले महीने अक्टूबर में यह 2.36 फीसदी थी। सितंबर में थोक महंगाई दर 1.84 फीसदी पर थी। पिछले वर्ष नवंबर में थोक मूल्य सूचकांक पर आधारित थोक महंगाई दर 0.39 फीसदी थी।

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय ने जारी आंकड़ों में बताया कि नवंबर में खाद्य वस्तुओं की महंगाई घटकर 8.29 फीसदी पर आ गई है, जबकि अक्टूबर में यह 11.59 फीसदी थी। इसकी वजह सफ्तियों की कीमतों में गिरावट रही, जो अक्टूबर में 63.04 फीसदी के मुकाबले नवंबर में घटकर 28.57 फीसदी पर आ गई है। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक प्याज की कीमतों में तेज

गिरावट दर्ज हुई है, जिससे नवंबर के दौरान 2.85 फीसदी की



गिरावट देखने को मिली है। इसी तरह पयूल और बिजली में भी नवंबर में 5.83 फीसदी की गिरावट देखी गई, जबकि अक्टूबर में यह 5.79 फीसदी पर थी। वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय ने बताया कि मैयूफेकबर्ड प्रोडक्ट्स

की कैटेगिरी में महंगाई नवंबर महीने में बढ़कर 2 फीसदी हो गई है, जो

अक्टूबर महीने में 1.50 फीसदी थी। हालांकि, आलू की महंगाई 82.79 फीसदी के उच्चतम स्तर पर बनी रही। नवंबर माह में उपभोक्तृ मूल्य सूचकांक (सीपीआई) पर आधारित खुदरा महंगाई दर 5.48 फीसदी पर थी।

## देश का निर्यात नवंबर में 4.85 फीसदी घटकर 32.11 अरब डॉलर रहा

### एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। देश के वस्तुओं का निर्यात नवंबर में 4.85 फीसदी घटकर 32.11 अरब डॉलर रहा है। पिछले साल इसी महीने में 33.75 अरब डॉलर का निर्यात हुआ था। वहीं, नवंबर में आयात 27 फीसदी बढ़कर 69.95 अरब डॉलर पर पहुंच गया है, जबकि एक साल पहले इसी महीने में यह 55.06 अरब डॉलर रहा था। इस तरह नवंबर में व्यापार घाटा (आयात और निर्यात) के बीच का अंतर बढ़कर 37.84 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर हो गया है। वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय ने जारी आंकड़ों में बताया कि देश के वस्तुओं का निर्यात नवंबर में 4.85 फीसदी घटकर 32.11 अरब डॉलर रहा है। इससे पिछले महीने अक्टूबर में भारत का वस्तुओं का निर्यात 17.25 फीसदी बढ़कर 39.2 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर हो गया था। वहीं,

नवंबर के लिए भारत का कुल निर्यात (वस्तुएं और सेवाएं संयुक्त) 67.79 अरब यूएस डॉलर होने का अनुमान है, जो नवंबर 2023 की



तुलना में 9.59 फीसदी की सकरात्मक वृद्धि दर्ज करता है। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में अप्रैल-नवंबर के दौरान देश का निर्यात 2.17 फीसदी बढ़कर 284.31 अरब डॉलर और आयात 8.35 फीसदी बढ़कर 486.73 अरब डॉलर हो गया है। वहीं, अप्रैल-नवंबर 2024 के दौरान देश का संयुक्त निर्यात 536.25 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर होने का अनुमान है।

## आनंद राठी शेयर एंड स्टॉक ब्रोकर्स ने आईपीओ के लिए सेबी के पास डीआरएचपी दाखिल किया

### एजेंसी

मुंबई/नई दिल्ली। आनंद राठी समूह की 'ब्रोकरेज' शाखा आनंद राठी शेयर और स्टॉक ब्रोकर्स लिमिटेड कंपनी ने आरंभिक सार्वजनिक निर्गम (आईपीओ) के लिए पूंजी बाजार नियामक भारतीय प्रतिभूति एवं विनियम बोर्ड (सेबी) के समक्ष अपना ड्राफ्ट रैड हेंडिंग प्रॉस्पेक्टस (डीआरएचपी) दाखिल किया है। यह समूह इस आईपीओ के जरिए 745 करोड़ रुपये जुटाना चाहता है। सेबी के समक्ष जमा दस्तावेज के अनुसार आनंद राठी समूह की 'ब्रोकरेज' इकाई आनंद राठी शेयर एंड स्टॉक ब्रोकर्स कंपनी नए निर्गम से प्राप्त 550 करोड़ रुपये की राशि का उपयोग दीर्घकालिक कार्यक्रमों के लिए आवश्यकताओं और सामान्य कॉर्पोरेट उद्देश्यों के लिए करेगी। कंपनी के इंडिक्टी शेयरों को नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज



(एनएसई) और बॉम्बे स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (बीएसई) में सूचीबद्ध करने का प्रस्ताव है। आनंद राठी शेयर एंड स्टॉक ब्रोकर्स का 5 रुपये के अंकित मूल्य वाला यह आईपीओ पूरे तरह से 745 करोड़ रुपये तक

के शेयरों का नया निर्गम है। कंपनी के इस प्रस्ताव में पात्र कर्मचारियों

जाता है। शुद्ध प्रस्ताव का 15 फीसदी और 35 फीसदी से कम हिस्सा क्रमशः रै-संस्थागत और खुदरा व्यक्तिगत निवेशकों को आवंटित नहीं किया जाता है। आनंद राठी ग्रुप की ब्रोकरेज शाखा, आनंद राठी शेयर और स्टॉक ब्रोकर्स लिमिटेड कंपनी भारत में 30 से अधिक वर्षों के अनुभव के साथ एक स्थापित पूर्ण-सेवा ब्रोकरेज हाउस है। यह 'आनंद राठी' ब्रांड नाम के तहत ब्रोकिंग, मार्जिन ट्रेडिंग और वित्तीय उत्पादों के विस्तृत सहित वित्तीय सेवाओं की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला प्रदान करता है। कंपनी की निवेश परामर्शकों में इंडिक्टी, डेरिवेटिव, पैसावैट्टीज और मुद्रा बाजार सहित परिपक्व वित्तीय सेवाओं की एक विस्तृत श्रृंखला शामिल है।

## रुपये में हालिया गिरावट सबसे तीव्र गिरावट नहीं है: वित्त राज्यमंत्री

### एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। केंद्र सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि देश के विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार (एफडीआई) में हालिया गिरावट देश के इतिहास में सबसे बड़ी गिरावट नहीं है। भारतीय रुपये और विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार पर हाल में आए दबाव के लिए विभिन्न बाहरी और घरेलू कारक जिम्मेदार हैं। केंद्रीय वित्त राज्यमंत्री पंकज चौधरी ने लोकसभा में एक सवाल के लिखित जवाब में यह जानकारी दी। वित्त राज्यमंत्री चौधरी ने सदन को बताया कि 15 नवंबर, 2024 को समाप्त हफ्ते के दौरान इससे पिछले हफ्ते की तुलना में विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार में 2.63 फीसदी की कमी आई। हालांकि, मंत्री ने कहा कि यह पिछले दो दशकों में फीसदी के लिहाज से सबसे बड़ी गिरावट नहीं है। सबसे

बड़ी गिरावट 24 अक्टूबर, 2008 को समाप्त हफ्ते में दर्ज की गई थी, जब वैश्विक वित्तीय संकट के दौरान विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार में 5.65 फीसदी



की गिरावट आई थी। चौधरी ने कहा कि 15 नवंबर, 2024 को समाप्त हफ्ते के दौरान विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार में पिछले हफ्ते की तुलना में 2.63 फीसदी की कमी आई। हालांकि, मंत्री ने कहा कि यह पिछले 20 वर्षों में अब तक की सबसे ज्यादा गिरावट 24 अक्टूबर, 2008 को

समाप्त हफ्ते में देखी गई थी। भारत के विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार और भारतीय रुपये पर हाल ही में आए दबाव के लिए विभिन्न बाहरी और घरेलू कारक जिम्मेदार हैं। इनमें पूंजी का बहिर्वाह, डॉलर इंडेक्स में उतार-चढ़ाव, वैश्विक व्याज दरों में वृद्धि और कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में वृद्धि शामिल हैं। वित्त राज्यमंत्री ने कहा कि इन सभी कारकों ने मिलकर भारतीय मुद्रा के लिए चुनौतीपूर्ण माहौल तैयार किया है। भारतीय रुपये

का मूल्य बिना किसी निश्चित लक्ष्य या बैंड के बाजार की ताकतों द्वारा निर्धारित किया जाता है। कई कारक विनियम दर को प्रभावित करते हैं, जैसे पूंजी प्रवाह, डॉलर सूचकांक, व्याज दर का स्तर, कच्चे तेल की कीमतें और चालू खाता घाटा। मंत्री ने कहा कि भारतीय रुपये का मूल्य बाजार के द्वारा निर्धारित होता है, जिसका कोई लक्ष्य या विशिष्ट स्तर या बैंड नहीं होता है। आरबीआई भी रुपये के मूल्य में अत्यधिक अस्थिरता को रोकने के लिए जरूरी होने पर विदेशी मुद्रा बाजार में हस्तक्षेप करके महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। उन्होंने सदन को बताया कि स्थिति नियंत्रण में है, आरबीआई और अन्य तंत्र अनुचित उतार-चढ़ाव को दूर करने और वित्तीय स्थिरता बनाए रखने के लिए मौजूद हैं।

## जीके एनर्जी ने आईपीओ के लिए सेबी के समक्ष दाखिल किया डीआरएचपी

### एजेंसी

मुंबई/नई दिल्ली। सौर ऊर्जा चालित कृषिजल पंप प्रणाली प्रदाता जीके एनर्जी लिमिटेड ने आरंभिक सार्वजनिक पेशकश (आईपीओ) के लिए भारतीय प्रतिभूति एवं विनियम बोर्ड (सेबी) के समक्ष अपना ड्राफ्ट रैड हेंडिंग प्रॉस्पेक्टस (डीआरएचपी) दाखिल किया है। पूंजी बाजार नियामक सेबी के समक्ष जमा दस्तावेज के मुताबिक पुणे स्थित ईपीसी प्लेयर सौर ऊर्जा चालित कृषि जल पंप प्रणाली प्रदाता जीके एनर्जी लिमिटेड इसके जरिए 500 करोड़ रुपये जुटाना चाहती है। कंपनी का प्रस्तावित यह आईपीओ 500 करोड़ रुपये के नए शेयर और 84 लाख शेयर की बिक्री पेशकश (ओएफएस) का

संयोजन है। पुणे स्थित ईपीसी प्लेयर जीके एनर्जी लिमिटेड के



मुताबिक निर्गम से प्राप्त 422.46 करोड़ रुपये का उपयोग कंपनी दीर्घकालिक कार्यशील पूंजी की

जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए करेगी। इसके अलावा शेष धनराशि

जुटाएगा। इसके अलावा शेष धनराशि

## पूरे दिन दबाव में कारोबार करता रहा शेयर बाजार, गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए सैसेक्स और निफ्टी

### एजेंसी

नई दिल्ली। घरेलू शेयर बाजार में ज्यादात समय दबाव बना रहा। आज के कारोबार की शुरुआत भी कमजोरी के साथ हुई थी। शुरुआती कारोबार में खरीदारी के सपोर्ट से कुछ देर के लिए बाजार में पनबुली आती हुई नजर आई, लेकिन इसके बाद बिकवाली का जोर बन जाने के कारण सैसेक्स और निफ्टी दोनों सूचकांक लगातार दबाव में ही कारोबार करते रहे। पूरे दिन के कारोबार के बाद सैसेक्स 0.47 प्रतिशत और

निफ्टी 0.40 प्रतिशत की कमजोरी के साथ बंद हुए। पूरे दिन के कारोबार के बाद फार्मास्यूटिकल, रियल्टी और पीएसयू बैंक इंडेक्स में तेजी बनी रही। इसी तरह ऑटोमोबाइल, कैपिटल गूड्स और कंज्यूमर ड्यूरेबल सेक्टर के शेयरों में भी खरीदारी होती रही। दूसरी ओर, आईटी, मेटल और एनर्जी सेक्टर के शेयरों में बिकवाली का दबाव बना रहा। इसके अलावा एफएमसीजी, ऑथल एंड गैस, टेक और पीएसई इंडेक्स भी गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए। ब्रॉड मार्केट में भी

आज लगातार खरीदारी होती रही, जिसके कारण बीएसई का मिडकेप इंडेक्स 0.73 प्रतिशत की तेजी के साथ बंद हुआ। इसी तरह स्मॉलकैप इंडेक्स ने 0.47 प्रतिशत की बढ़त के साथ आज के कारोबार का अंत किया। आज शेयर बाजार में आई कमजोरी के बावजूद स्मॉल और मिडकेप शेयरों में हुई खरीदारी के कारण स्टॉक मार्केट के निवेशकों की संतुष्टि में 60 हजार करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की बढ़ोतरी हो गई। बीएसई में लिस्टेड कंपनियों का मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन आज के कारोबार

के बाद बढ़ कर 460.04 लाख करोड़ रुपये (असएड) हो गया। पिछले सप्ताह के आखिरी कारोबारी दिन यानि शुक्रवार को इनका मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन 459.42 लाख करोड़ रुपये था। इस तरह निवेशकों को आज के कारोबार से करीब 62 हजार करोड़ रुपये का मुनाफा हो गया। आज दिन भर के कारोबार में बीएसई में 4,240 शेयरों में एंक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें 2,342 शेयर बंद के साथ बंद हुए, जबकि 1,798 शेयरों में गिरावट का रुख रहा, वहीं 100 शेयर

बिना किसी उतार चढ़ाव के बंद हुए। एनएसई में आज 2,555 शेयरों में एंक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें से 1,359 शेयर मुनाफा कमा कर रहे निशान में और 1,196 शेयर नुकसान उठा कर लाल निशान में बंद हुए। इसी तरह सैसेक्स में शामिल 30 शेयरों में से 6 शेयर बढ़त के साथ और 24 शेयर गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए। जबकि निफ्टी में शामिल 50 शेयरों में से 15 शेयर रहे निशान में और 35 शेयर लाल निशान में बंद हुए। बीएसई का सैसेक्स आज 132.81 अंक की

गिरावट के साथ 82,000.31 अंक के स्तर पर खुला। कारोबार की शुरुआत होने के बाद खरीदारी के सपोर्ट से ये सूचकांक उछल कर 82,116.44 अंक तक पहुंचा, लेकिन इसके बाद बिकवाली का दबाव बन जाने की वजह से इसमें गिरावट आ गई। लगातार हो रही बिकवाली के कारण दोपहर 12 बजे के थोड़े देर बाद ये सूचकांक 81,518.84 अंक टूट कर 81,551.28 अंक के स्तर तक गिर गया। हालांकि, इसके बाद खरीदारी का सपोर्ट मिलने की वजह से इस सूचकांक की

स्थिति में मामूली सुधार भी हुआ। पूरे दिन के कारोबार के बाद सैसेक्स 384.55 अंक की कमजोरी के साथ 81,748.57 अंक के स्तर पर बंद हुआ। सैसेक्स की तरह ही एनएसई के निफ्टी ने आज 14.90 अंक टूट कर 24,753.40 अंक के स्तर से कारोबार की शुरुआत की। शुरुआती कारोबार में खरीदारी के सपोर्ट से ये सूचकांक कुछ देर के लिए हरे निशान में 24,781.25 अंक तक पहुंचा, लेकिन इसके बाद बिकवाली का दबाव बनने के कारण इसमें गिरावट आती चली गई।



वास्तु-दोष से निपटने के लिए सबसे पहले दिशा-ज्ञान होना जरूरी है। ऐसा होने पर आप खुद समझ जाएंगे आप कहां गलत हैं और कहां सही...

# सुख-समृद्धि के लिए दिशा ज्ञान जरूरी

घर में कौन-सा सामान कहां रखें? कहीं कबाड़ का इस दिशा में होना नुकसानदेह तो नहीं! किचन किस दिशा में हो, टॉयलेट का फ्लाट दिशा में होना अशुभ तो नहीं? दिशा से जुड़े इस तरह के सवाल आपको परेशान करते हैं? वास्तु-दोष से निपटने के लिए सबसे पहले दिशा-ज्ञान होना जरूरी है। ऐसा होने पर आप खुद समझ जाएंगे आप कहां गलत हैं और कहां सही। जानिए और आज ही अपने घर के इटीरियर को बदलकर शुरू कर दीजिए पॉजिटिव नतीजे पाना...

ईशान कोण की संज्ञा दी गई है। यह दो दिशाओं का सर्वोत्तम मिलन स्थान है। यह स्थान भगवान शिव और जल का स्थान भी माना गया है। ईशान कोण को सदैव स्वच्छ और शुद्ध रखना चाहिए। इस स्थान पर जलीय स्रोतों जैसे कुआ, बोरिंग वगैरह की व्यवस्था सर्वोत्तम परिणाम देती है। पूजा स्थान के लिए ईशान कोण को विशेष महत्व दिया जाता है। इस स्थान पर कूड़ा करकट रखना, स्टोर, टॉयलेट वगैरह बनाना वर्जित है।  
आग्नेय कोण - दक्षिण और पूर्व के मध्य का कोणीय स्थान आग्नेय कोण के नाम से जाना जाता है। नाम से ही साफ हो जाता है कि यह स्थान अग्नि देवता का प्रमुख स्थान है इसलिए रसोई या अग्नि संबंधी (इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों आदि) के रखने के लिए विशेष स्थान है। शुक ग्रह इस दिशा के स्वामी हैं। आग्नेय का वास्तुसम्मत होना निवासियों के उत्तम स्वास्थ्य के लिए जरूरी है।  
नैऋत्य कोण - दक्षिण और पश्चिम दिशा के मध्य के स्थान को नैऋत्य दिशा का नाम दिया गया है। इस दिशा पर निरुत्ति या पूतना का आधिपत्य है। ज्योतिष के अनुसार राहु और केंतु इस दिशा के स्वामी हैं। इस क्षेत्र का मुख्य तत्व पृथ्वी है। पृथ्वी तत्व की प्रमुखता के कारण इस स्थान को ऊंचा और भारी रखना चाहिए। इस दिशा में गड्ढे, बोरिंग, कुएं इत्यादि नहीं होने चाहिए।  
वायव्य कोण - उत्तर और पश्चिम दिशा के मध्य के कोणीय स्थान को वायव्य दिशा का नाम दिया गया है। इस दिशा का मुख्य तत्व वायु है। इस स्थान का प्रभाव पड़ोसियों, मित्रों और संबंधियों से अच्छे या बुरे संबंधों का कारण बनता है। वास्तु के सही उपयोग से इसे सदोपयोगी बनाया जा सकता है।

उत्तर दिशा - उत्तर दिशा के अधिष्ठाित देवता कुबेर हैं जो धन और समृद्धि के द्योतक हैं। ज्योतिष के अनुसार बुद्ध ग्रह उत्तर दिशा के स्वामी हैं। उत्तर दिशा को मातृ स्थान भी कहा गया है। इस दिशा में स्थान खाली रखना या कच्ची भूमि छोड़ना धन और समृद्धि कारक है।  
पूर्व दिशा - पूर्व दिशा के देवता इंद्र हैं। आत्मा के कारक और रासुष्टि प्रकाश सूर्य पूर्व दिशा से उदय होते हैं। पूर्व दिशा पितृस्थान का द्योतक है। इस दिशा में कोई रुकावट नहीं होनी चाहिए। पूर्व दिशा में खुला स्थान परिवार के मुखिया की लम्बी उम्र का प्रतीक है।  
पश्चिम दिशा - वरुण पश्चिम दिशा के देवता हैं और ज्योतिष के अनुसार शनिदेव पश्चिम दिशा के स्वामी हैं। यह दिशा प्रसिद्धि, भाग्य और ख्याति का प्रतीक है।  
दक्षिण दिशा - यम दक्षिण दिशा के अधिष्ठाित देव हैं। दक्षिण दिशा में वास्तु के नियमानुसार निर्माण करने से सुख, सम्पत्तता और समृद्धि की प्राप्ति होती है।  
ईशान कोण - पूर्व और उत्तर दिशाएं जहां पर मिलती हैं उस स्थान को



# घर में सुख शांति और धन लाभ हेतु चमत्कारी उपाय

- घर की दक्षिण-पश्चिम दिशा कटी हो अथवा पारिवारिक सदस्यों में मतभेद रहते हो तो घर में पितृशांति, पिंडदान, नागबली, नारायण बली करावाएं।
- प्रत्येक सप्ताह में पड़ने वाले सोमवार को और महीने में आने वाली अमावास्या के दिन रुद्री करें।
- भंडार घर को हमेशा भर कर रखने से घर में सकरात्मकता आती है।
- हर साल ग्रह शांति करवाने से पापों का क्षय होता है।
- परिवार के सभी सदस्यों का एक साथ खींचा हुआ चित्र किसी उपयुक्त स्थान पर लगाना चाहिए। ध्यान रहें कि सभी सदस्य प्रसन्न मुद्रा में मुस्कुराते हुए दिखाई दें। यह चित्र दक्षिण-पश्चिम दिशा में लगाएं।
- घर की दक्षिण-पश्चिम दिशा कटी हो अथवा पारिवारिक सदस्यों में मतभेद रहते हो तो घर में पितृशांति, पिंडदान, नागबली, नारायण बली करावाएं।
- प्रत्येक सप्ताह में पड़ने वाले सोमवार को और महीने में आने वाली अमावास्या के दिन रुद्री करें।
- भंडार घर को हमेशा भर कर रखने से घर में सकरात्मकता आती है।
- हर साल ग्रह शांति करवाने से पापों का क्षय होता है।
- परिवार के सभी सदस्यों का एक साथ खींचा हुआ चित्र किसी उपयुक्त स्थान पर लगाना चाहिए। ध्यान रहें कि सभी सदस्य प्रसन्न मुद्रा में मुस्कुराते हुए दिखाई दें। यह चित्र दक्षिण-पश्चिम दिशा में लगाएं।
- घर की दक्षिण-पश्चिम दिशा कटी हो अथवा पारिवारिक सदस्यों में मतभेद रहते हो तो घर में पितृशांति, पिंडदान, नागबली, नारायण बली करावाएं।
- प्रत्येक सप्ताह में पड़ने वाले सोमवार को और महीने में आने वाली अमावास्या के दिन रुद्री करें।
- भंडार घर को हमेशा भर कर रखने से घर में सकरात्मकता आती है।
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# जीवन में आकर्षण निर्धारित करना चाहते हैं तो...



बांस का पौधा फेंग शुई का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है। सौभाग्य के लिए लम्बी आयु का होना आवश्यक है। बांस का पौधा लम्बी आयु तथा अच्छे स्वास्थ्य का प्रतीक है। भाग्य के लिए बांस के पौधे प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियों में भी भरपूर वृद्धि का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं। यह पौधा अच्छे स्वास्थ्य का प्रतीक है। यह अच्छे भाग्य का भी संकेत देता है। आफिस या दुकान के मुख्य द्वार के ऊपर बांस के दो टुकड़े छ डंच या नौ डंच के लाल रिबन में बांध कर टांग सकते हैं। बांस के टुकड़े के दोनों सिरे खुले होने चाहिए। इससे व्यवसाय प्रतीकात्मक रूप में बांस के पौधे की भांति संकट काल में स्थिर रहेगा तथा अनुकूल समय आने पर खुद समृद्ध होगा। बांस का पौधा ऊर्जा के संरक्षण और जीवन में आकर्षण निर्धारित करता है। बागान में जितने अधिक डंडल का पौधा होगा। जातक को उतनी अच्छी किस्मत और भाग्य का आशीर्वाद मिलेगा। लकी लॉग बांस समृद्धि से भरा है और मजबूत जीवन का प्रतीक है। बहुत से लोग उपहार, जन्मदिन, वर्षगांठ, भव्य उद्घाटन, पुरस्कार, उपलब्धियों और अन्य शुभ अवसरों पर बांस का पौधा उपहार के रूप में देते हैं। उपहार प्राप्त करने वाले का भाग्य चमकने लगता है। आप अपने घर में सद्भाव को प्राप्त करने के लिए भाग्यशाली बांस का उपयोग कर सकते हैं।

# रसोई होगी समृद्धशाली तो घर में आएगी खुशहाली

घर की रौनक होती है रसोई। गृह लक्ष्मी का भी ज्यादातर समय रसोई में ही बीतता है। ऐसे में रसोई का वास्तु के अनुसार होना बेहद जरूरी है क्योंकि इसका सीधा संबंध हमारे स्वास्थ्य से होता है। स्वच्छ चित्त, प्रसन्न मन और सर्वोत्तम आहार सभी में रसोई की अपनी भूमिका होती है। रसोई बनाने से पहले वास्तु के अनुसार आदर्श स्थान दक्षिण-पूर्व कोना (आग्नेय कोण) होता है। दूसरे स्थान के रूप में उत्तर-पश्चिम या वायव्य कोण में भी रसोई का निर्माण किया जाए तो अच्छा रहता है। दक्षिण, पश्चिम, उत्तर, ईशान कोण एवं नैऋत्य कोण रसोई के लिए वर्जित होते हैं। रसोई में गैस सिलेंडर और चूल्हा स्थापन इस प्रकार होना चाहिए कि खाना बनाने वाले का चेहरा पूर्व की तरफ हो। साथ ही प्लेटफॉर्म उत्तर एवं पूर्व की दीवार में एकदम न लगाता हों। जल और अग्नि साथ-साथ न हों इसके लिए बर्तन धोने का सिंक और पानी के नल चूल्हे से दूर होने चाहिए। रसोई घर में अवन इत्यादि बिजली उपकरण अग्नि कोण में होने चाहिए। फ्रिज दक्षिण-पश्चिम में तथा एग्जॉस्ट फैन ईशान कोण में होना चाहिए। गैस चूल्हे के ऊपर सामान रखने के लिए अलमारियों का निर्माण नहीं करवाना चाहिए। हवा का आवागमन सुगमता से हो सके, इसका विशेष ध्यान रखना चाहिए। रसोई घर की दीवार से सटा कर, इसके ऊपर या नीचे टॉयलेट नहीं होना चाहिए। रसोई घर के एकदम मध्य में बैठकर कभी भी भोजन नहीं करना चाहिए साथ ही रसोई घर का चूल्हा बाहर बैठे व्यक्ति को दिखाई नहीं देना चाहिए। रसोई के ऊपर या नीचे सोने का कमरा या पूजा कक्ष न हो, इसका भी ध्यान रखना जरूरी है। रसोई के उत्तर-पूर्व की ओर हल्के सामान का भंडारण करें, जबकि दक्षिण और पश्चिम की ओर भारी वस्तुओं का।



# घर में ईश्वरीय शक्तियों के प्रवेश से खोलें किस्मत का ताला

सनातन धर्म में व्रत व पूजा-पाठ का विशेष महत्व है। यह हमारे रीति-रिवाज व परंपरा के द्योतक हैं। पूजा-पाठ करने से पूर्व सिर पर पल्लू, हाथों में पूजन सामग्री और समर्पण भाव से झुकी हुई आंखें रखना हमारी विरासत है, जिसकी जिम्मेदारी विशेष रूप से घर की महिलाएं सभालती हैं। जब आप किसी कारणवश मानसिक रूप से कमजोर पड़ जाते हैं अथवा घर में क्लेश, रोग या आर्थिक तंगी से परेशान होते हैं तो उस समय जादू टोने तंत्र मंत्र में पड़ने से बेहतर है भगवान की शरण में जाएं। पूजा-पाठ से समस्त कार्यों के अच्छा होने की उम्मीद जाग जाती है। भक्ति में बड़ी शक्ति है अवश्यकता है तो केवल विश्वास रखने की। यही विश्वास घर और ऑफिस की जिम्मेदारियों के बीच पूजन करने को विवश करता है। जब किसी भौतिक समस्या का निदान हम अपने प्रयासों से नहीं ढूँढ़ पाते तब पूजा-पाठ ही आखिरी रास्ता बचता है। यह

महज धारणा नहीं, बल्कि हकीकत है। घर में देवालाय वास्तु शास्त्र के अनुरूप हो तो अत्यन्त शुभ फल प्रदान करता है और देवालाय के माध्यम से आपकी किस्मत का ताला भी खुल जाता है। देवालाय पूर्वी या उत्तरी ईशान कोण में बनाएं क्योंकि ईश्वरीय शक्तियां ईशान कोण से प्रवेश करती हैं और नैऋत्य कोण पश्चिम-दक्षिण से बाहर निकलती हैं। इसका एक हिस्सा शरीर द्वारा ग्राह्य बायोशक्ति में बदलकर जीवनोपयोगी बनता है। वास्तुशास्त्र प्रकृति से पूर्ण लाभ प्राप्त करने की व्यवस्था करता है न कि भाग्य को बदलने की। पूजा-पाठ करते समय जातक का मुंह पश्चिम दिशा में होना शुभ फलदायी होता है इसके लिए पूजा स्थल का द्वार पूर्व की ओर होना चाहिए। शौचालय तथा पूजा घर पास-पास नहीं होना चाहिए। जब भी आपका मन अशांत हो, यहां आकर आप नई ऊर्जा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। कर्मों का फल शुभाशुभ जैसा भी हो हमें भोगना अवश्य पड़ेगा। इतना है कि सुकर्म कष्ट को कम कर देते हैं।



## NEWS BOX

**Australia's Hazlewood decision backfires, injured pacer likely to miss rest of series**

**New Delhi.** Josh Hazlewood is likely to miss the rest of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after suffering a calf injury on Day 4 of the third Test against India. Cricket Australia confirmed that the scans revealed a strain in his right calf. The senior fast bowler bowled only one over on Tuesday at the Gabba, Brisbane after suffering the injury during training in the lead-up to the day's play. Australia's decision to bring Josh Hazlewood back into the XI after he missed the second Test due to a side strain has backfired. Scott Boland played in Hazlewood's absence in Australia's 10-wicket win in the pink-ball Test. Hazlewood recovered in time for the third Test, but suffered a fresh injury.

"He is likely to miss the remainder of the Test series. A squad replacement will be made in due course," a Cricket Australia spokesperson said.

Hazlewood limped off the field after his only over on Day 4 of the third Test. The pacer bowled five overs on Day 3, picking up the crucial wicket of Virat Kohli for just 3.

Hazlewood did not look in his best shape when he walked out to the field on Tuesday. He had a lengthy chat with captain Pat Cummins and vice-captain Steve Smith before walking off the field. Without



Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc did the bulk of the bowling on another rain-affected day in the Brisbane Test. Mitchell Marsh, who has had his fair share of injury concerns in the past, bowled two overs without much success.

India were reeling at 74 for 5 when they lost captain Rohit Sharma in the first session. However, Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul stitched a 67-run stand to steer the team out of trouble. Rahul missed out on a well-deserved hundred as he was dismissed for 84 by Nathan Lyon after a stunning catch from Steve Smith in the slip cordon. Jadeja, however, carried on and scored a crucial fifty, taking India closer to the mark needed.

**D Gukesh's heartfelt message to Viswanathan Anand: Inspiration from start**

**New Delhi.** World Champion D Gukesh sent a heartfelt message to Viswanathan Anand after returning home from his incredible win over Ding Liren in Singapore. Gukesh defeated Liren 7.5-6.5 in an intense battle across 14 games to win the World Chess Championship match. With this, the 18-year-old became the second Indian after Anand to win the prestigious title.

After landing in Chennai on December 16, Gukesh would take to his official X account and thanked the Indian grandmaster. The World Champion hailed Anand as his inspiration from the start and said he learnt a



lot from him while discussing chess. Gukesh also shared a throwback image of both men in his post, something that Anand shared after the 18-year-old's World Championship win.

Anand's bond with Gukesh Anand would share his bond with Gukesh and claimed that they speak a lot. The former World Champion hailed the 18-year-old as a fun guy and said he often calls him when he is in Chennai to share his thoughts about the sport. "The thing with Gukesh is I'm quite close to him. We speak a lot. We hang out at tournaments. He's a fun guy.Laughs a lot, is very good company and I've always enjoyed that. Besides that, I know his team well. Gukesh and I often sit and discuss chess. Every time he gets back home to Chennai, he often calls me and says, 'Sir, I want to share my thoughts', and we would go over stuff together. All these things I enjoy very much with him," Anand said. Gukesh will now take a bit of a rest before getting set for an epic clash with Magnus Carlsen in the Norway Chess tournament in 2025. The tournament will take place in Stavanger, Norway, from May 26 to June 6, 2025.

# Man United secures stunning late 2-1 comeback win against Man City

**City fans jeered at the final whistle as their once dominant team's woeful run of form extended to one win and eight losses in 11 games.**

**MANCHESTER.** Amad Diallo struck a 90th-minute winner as Manchester United staged a stunning late comeback to beat Manchester City 2-1 in the Premier League on Sunday.

Four-time defending champion City led the Manchester derby 1-0 going into the 88th minute at the Etihad Stadium. But the game was turned round in dramatic fashion as Bruno Fernandes leveled from the penalty spot and Diallo sealed victory for United—prompting head coach Ruben Amorim to declare "something magic happened."

"It was a very tough match but we believe until the end. We managed to score. We needed that win. It was important for us and for our fans," Amorim said. City fans jeered at the final whistle as their once dominant team's

woeful run of form extended to one win and eight losses in 11 games. "I'm the boss, I'm the manager and I'm not good enough. It's as simple as that," Guardiola said. It was a first derby victory for new United head coach Ruben Amorim, who led Sporting Lisbon to a 4-1 win against City in one of his last games in charge of the Portuguese club in November. But for a long time it looked like being a third-straight league loss for United after Josko Gvardiol's headed goal in the 36th. Fernandes was guilty of missing the target when through on goal in the second half and United struggled to create chances against a City team that rarely looked like adding to its lead. But in a dramatic end to the match, Diallo raced after an underhit backpass from Matheus Nunes. Nunes then brought down the United forward in the box and referee Anthony Taylor pointed to the penalty spot. Fernandes made no mistake this time—sending Ederson the wrong way.

Moments later, Diallo ran onto a long pass from Lisandro Martinez, flicked the ball high and past Ederson before rolling it into the net from a tight angle. "We have a lot to do



but it was massive for our fans," Amorim said. United is 13th and five points behind fifth-place City, which has seen its title defense unravel during its losing run. "This is a big club and in a big club when you lose eight in 10 (11) something wrong is happening," Guardiola said. Chelsea, in second, closed the gap on Liverpool to two points after a 2-1 win against Brentford. It's now seven straight wins in all competitions for Enzo Maresca's team, which is unbeaten in 10. Its last league defeat was in October—a 2-1 loss to Liverpool. Marc Cucurella scored in the 43rd and Nicolas Jackson made

it 2-0 in the 80th for his ninth goal of the season. Bryan Mbeumo scored for Brentford in the 90th and Cucurella was sent off for a second yellow card in added time. Chelsea is four points ahead of third-place Arsenal.

Martin fired Southampton fired manager Russell Martin after being routed 5-0 by Tottenham. Last-place Southampton is nine points from safety and appears to be heading straight back to the second tier after earning promotion to the top flight last season.

The decision came on the same day as another relegation-threatened team, Wolverhampton, fired head coach

Gary O'Neil. Wolverhampton is second to last in 19th. Spurs scored all five goals against Southampton before halftime at St Mary's Stadium, with James Maddison getting two. Son Heung-min, Dejan Kulusevski and Pape Sarr also scored. Sarr double

Ismaila Sarr scored twice as Crystal Palace beat Brighton 3-1 in the Premier League on Sunday. The forward also provided an assist for Trevoh Chalobah in the win at the Amex Stadium, which lifted Palace four points clear of the relegation zone.

**AUS v IND, 3rd Test: Frustrated by rain breaks, Mitchell Starc argues with umpire**

**New Delhi.** Mitchell Starc was left frustrated by the constant rain breaks and was seen arguing with the umpire as the players were forced to leave the field once again on Day 4 of the Gabba Test. The weather in Brisbane has been a villain for Australia right from the start with only Day 2 being the only time the game went on without any interruption.

For the rest of the time, the weather conditions forced the day's play to a complete halt and at times, umpires being forced to call for early stumps. The game on Tuesday was heading towards the tea break when another drizzle started in Brisbane. However, as compared to the previous ones, it was of less intensity and the players could have stayed on. However, the umpires Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough felt it was best for the players to go back in.

This would create a hilarious moment as Starc was left fuming and argued with the umpires. There was a moment when Starc was seen rolling his eyes before walking off. You can see the full video below: This was not the first time that Starc was left frustrated by the weather. During Day 3, both him and KL Rahul were visibly irritated to have the rain



stop proceedings. Rain halts Australia's momentum

The recent rain break at the stroke of team came not at the best time for Australia. The hosts had just ended the partnership between Nitish Kumar Reddy and Ravindra Jadeja, which had been frustrating them. Nitish was bowled by Cummins, which gave Australia a chance to clean up the tail of India.

KL Rahul's 84 and Jadeja's 65 not out has kept the hosts at bay for now. With rain being predicted for Day 5 as well, Australia will be hoping that there no further breaks in proceedings.

## My dream is to meet Virat Kohli, says Dharavi's Simran Shaikh after WPL mega deal

**WPL Auction: After securing a Rs 1.9 crore deal with Gujarat Giants, 22-year-old Simran Shaikh revealed her ambitions of playing for India. The Dharavi cricketer also said she wanted to meet her idol Virat Kohli.**

**New Delhi.** Simran Shaikh revealed said she dreams of playing for India after having secured a life-changing deal of Rs 1.9 crore in the Women's Premier League (WPL) auction on Sunday. The 22-year-old from Dharavi, India's biggest slum, said she also wishes to meet her idol Virat Kohli. Simran, the third of eight siblings, hails from a humble family. Her father, Jahid Ali, works as a wireman, while her mother, Akhtari Bano, has been her rock of support. Despite facing financial struggles and societal norms that discouraged girls from playing sports, Simran's family stood firmly by her side.

Speaking to the media after the auction, Simran, who will play for Gujarat Giants, revealed her ultimate ambition. "My journey has started now. I want to give my best, work

hard. I want one more jersey, which is the India jersey. I will work hard to achieve that dream," she told ANI news agency. "I like Virat Kohli a lot. My dream is to meet him," she added. Simran's passion for cricket



began as a child playing gully cricket in Dharavi. However, her path was riddled with taunts and criticism. Neighbours questioned her dedication to the sport, often advising her parents that she should focus on household chores instead. "When I used to play gully cricket as a kid, my neighbours kept saying, 'Why is a girl playing with boys? Go home and work.' They taunted my mom and dad, saying I should learn to wash utensils and other household chores," Simran recalled. "I felt bad, but their words

only made me more determined to play cricket and prove myself."

MY PARENTS ALWAYS SUPPORT ME: SIMRAN

Simran's parents, especially her mother, remained unwavering in their support. Her mother once sacrificed Rs 3,000—a considerable sum for the family at the time—to buy Simran her first cricket kit. "I thank my parents because there is not much support for such things in my community, but they always supported me," she said. Simran's career has seen its share of ups and downs. After being bought for Rs 10 lakh by UP Warriorz in the inaugural WPL season, she struggled to make an impact, scoring just 29 runs in nine matches. She even went unsold in last year's auction. However, Simran bounced back strongly, impressing scouts with her big-hitting skills in the T20 Challenger Trophy earlier in 2024. While Simran's journey has just begun, her determination to don the India jersey and meet her idol, Virat Kohli, reflects her unwavering spirit. Simran Shaikh's story is not just about cricket but about breaking barriers and inspiring countless others to dream big, no matter where they come from.

## England captain Ben Stokes 'not holding back' from bowling after latest injury

**England captain Ben Stokes isn't ready to hold back on bowling after his latest injury setback during the 3rd Test against New Zealand. Stokes picked up a hamstring injury on December 16 after increasing his bowling workload during the match against the Blackcaps.**

**New Delhi.** England captain Ben Stokes has claimed that he won't be cutting down on his bowling workload after his latest injury setback during the third Test against New Zealand. Stokes, who had previously missed four Tests due to a torn hamstring sustained during The Hundred in August, was ruled out of further participation in the match after aggravating the same injury on Monday. He had shouldered a significantly heavier workload compared to the first two Tests,



bowling 24 overs in New Zealand's first innings. The setback occurred two deliveries into his 13th over during New Zealand's second innings, leaving England without their captain for the remainder of the game. The visitors would end up losing the game by 423 runs as Stokes decided not to come out to bat in the second innings. Speaking to BBC Sport, the England skipper said it was unfortunate to sustain the injury, but it is something that is part of the process of being

an athlete. "Every time you walk out on the field you're at risk of injury. You can't play for anything in this game." Stokes revealed that he was incredibly frustrated after sustaining the injury as he had felt that he was back in rhythm with the ball in hand. "There's no doubt I was incredibly frustrated last night, in particular with how much graft I'd put in until then," said Stokes. "I felt so good about everything. I felt my rhythm was back with the ball, I bowled a lot of overs, my body was feeling good."

"The first time I feel like a young man again is when I pick something else up."

Stokes vowed that he would come back stronger from the injury as he has always done in his career. "I'm obviously very disappointed, but every setback I come back stronger," Stokes told BBC Sport.

## AUS vs IND, 3rd Test: KL Rahul's solidity reminds Sunil Gavaskar of Murali Vijay

**Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Batting great Sunil Gavaskar reckons KL Rahul's composed 84-run knock in the third Test at Gabba reminds him of former Indian opener Murali Vijay.**

**New Delhi.** KL Rahul's composed 84-run knock in the third Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia drew high praise from batting legend Sunil Gavaskar, who likened Rahul's off-side judgment to that of former Indian opener Murali Vijay. Rahul's composed 84-run knock stood out amid India's top-order struggles, as he showcased remarkable patience and precision, earning accolades from cricket pundits and fans alike.

Rahul, who has amassed 231 runs in five

innings during the series, has been a shining light for India. His elegant strokeplay combined with intelligent judgment in leaving deliveries caught the eye, particularly on a challenging Day 4 pitch. Despite being dropped on the very first ball of the day, Rahul capitalized on the reprieve, crafting his innings with grit and determination. He reached his half-century off 85 balls and looked set for a century before being dismissed by a stunning catch from Steve Smith. Speaking on Star Sports, Gavaskar highlighted the technical brilliance that set Rahul apart from his teammates. "Except for the first ball today, where he slightly followed the delivery, his judgment outside off-stump was fantastic," Gavaskar said. He compared Rahul's technique to that of Australian batter Marnus Labuschagne and former Indian opener Murali Vijay, both known for their exceptional off-stump awareness. "KL Rahul left deliveries very



close to the off-stump so consistently that it reminded me of Marnus Labuschagne yesterday and, before him, Murali Vijay, who also had exceptional off-side judgment," Sunil Gavaskar said while speaking on Star Sports. The former Indian captain emphasized Rahul's ability to play deliveries late, a crucial skill when facing a new or swinging ball. "If you play the ball further forward, you risk edging it to slips. Rahul's ability to play late and leave balls at the last

moment was commendable. It's a level of patience and skill that stood out in this innings," Gavaskar explained.

**Rahul Outshines Rohit and Kohli**

Rahul's performances have been a stark contrast to the struggles of Indian stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, whose form in 2024 has been underwhelming. Since 2020, Rahul boasts the highest Test average amongst Indian batters in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia) countries, outperforming Rohit and Kohli. Both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have been grappling with significant dips in form in 2024. Rohit averages a mere 8.85, with his highest first-innings score being 23, while Kohli fares only slightly better, averaging 9.12 with a top score of 47. Their struggles have been particularly evident in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy, where both have failed to deliver meaningful contributions.



# Rasha Thadani

Visits Jaipur For Azaad's Promotions, Calls It An 'Unforgettable Experience'

Ajay Devgn's nephew, Aaman Devgan, and Raveena Tandon's daughter, Rasha Thadani, are on a promotional spree for their upcoming debut film, *Azaad*. Ahead of their big release, the duo has been out and about in the city promoting their film. Recently, Rasha and Aaman travelled to Jaipur to promote their film, and their visit was every bit heartwarming. For the Jaipur event, Rasha Thadani went all traditional and opted for a beautiful, vibrant pink salwar kurta set. Her right choice of accessories, perfectly styled hair, coupled with on-point makeup, stole the limelight. The actress dropped a video of their visit on her social media. In a humble demeanour, she can be seen interacting with the huge crowd. Sharing a video on Instagram, Rasha penned, "KHAMMA GHANNI JAIPURRR... this was one of the most special and unforgettable experiences for me, with my favourite 2 right by my side @gattukapoor @aamandevgan So grateful."

As the film nears its release, the makers are leaving no stone unturned to keep the excitement intact. Recently, they also unveiled the first single, *Birangay*, giving fans a peek into the world of 'Azaad'. In the video, both the debutants, Rasha Thadani and Aaman

Devgan, are seen enjoying the vibrant celebration of Holi while grooving to the peppy track. Ajay Devgn, who also stars in the film, shared the song video on his Instagram. Sharing the video, Ajay Devgn wrote, "Holi ke ho koi bhi rang, aaj dikhenge sab in do Birangay patangon ke sang! #Birangay Song Out Now. Witness the adventure of #Azaad on big screens on 17th January 2025."

Speaking about *Azaad*, the film stars Ajay Devgn, Rasha Thadani, Aaman Devgan and Diana Penty in pivotal roles. Directed by Abhishek Kapoor and backed by Ronnie Screwvala and Pragya Kapoor, the film is set against the backdrop of pre-independence India. In the film, Ajay Devgn plays a master horse rider who escapes from the brutal English army. However, the plot takes a turn as his horse goes missing. To find the missing horse, he sets out on a mission with the help of a young boy, played by Amaan. Mark your calendars! The film is scheduled for a grand release in January 2025.



Bigg Boss 18: Kamyaj Panjabi Questions Avinash And Eisha's Loyalty Towards 'Friend' Vivian



With non-stop drama, unexpected twists and turns and intense brawls in the house, Bigg Boss 18 is undoubtedly providing ample entertainment for viewers in each episode. Tensions are running high as contestants clash over tasks and the recent task was no different. Recently, contestants were asked to grab a photo, run to the garden area and hand it over to Avinash Mishra, the current Time God. This task was performed to save one of the contestants from the nominations this week, but it eventually made the entire house chaotic. While Chum Darang saved Karan Veer Mehra from this week's nominations, Eisha Singh had an emotional breakdown as she handed over Vivian's frame last and failed to save the actor. As the drama unfolds, former Bigg Boss contestant and ardent follower of the reality show Kamyaj Panjabi recently posted a tweet on X criticising Avinash Mishra and Eisha Singh for their unfavourable decisions for Vivian.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), the actress wrote, "Tum itna jo muskura rahe ho kya gumma hai jisko chhupa rahe ho... Ek dost nominate karta hai aur dusra make sure karta hai you stay nominated...!! (You are smiling so much; what is the secret that you are hiding... One friend nominates and the other makes sure that he stays nominated!!)." In another tweet, Kamyaj questioned Avinash about the reason for the change towards Karan Veer Mehra. Her tweet read, "Yeh jo ??? ???? hua hai #AvinashMishra ka towards #KaranveerMehra iski wajah kya hai jo bhi hai as I said before also Avinash jab apne liye aur solo khelega stand out hoga... (What is the reason behind #AvinashMishra's change towards #KaranveerMehra? Whatever it be, as I said before also, when Avinash plays solo for himself, he will stand out.)"

This week, watch the Weekend Ka Vaar episode on ColorsTV to see who gets evicted from the remaining nominated contestants - Chaahat Pandey, Tajinder Bagga, Digvijay Rathee, Edin Rose and Vivian Dsen. Speaking about Kamyaj Panjabi's work, the actress has been part of several hit shows like *Shakti: Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki*, *Sanjog* and *Doli Armano Ki*. She also was part of the controversial reality show *Bigg Boss 7*.

Alia Bhatt-Ranbir Kapoor Arrive For Raj Kapoor's Centenary Celebration; Neetu Kapoor Compliments Bahu



Bollywood's favourite couple Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt made a dazzling appearance as they arrived for the centenary celebrations of the late filmmaker-actor Raj Kapoor on Friday. Neetu Kapoor and her daughter Riddhima Kapoor Sahni also joined them. The family shared an endearing moment as they posed together for paparazzi pictures. Neetu was seen complimenting Alia's look for the night, while Riddhima chatted with her brother Ranbir before they all came together to pose for pictures. Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt were seen walking hand-in-hand as they arrived at the venue for Raj Kapoor's 100th birth anniversary celebrations. Ranbir rocked a moustache, and was seen wearing a black velvet bandhgala with white pajamas, Alia looked stunning in a flowy white saree with dainty floral print over it. She simply accessorized with a golden neckpiece. Meanwhile, Neetu Kapoor and Riddhima also joined them for the pictures. Alia greeted her mother-in-law lovingly and hugged her. Neetu, was then seen complimenting her daughter-in-law's look for the night. The family then posed for some lovely pictures for the paparazzi. Check out the videos below.

Neetu Kapoor was seen in a light grey kurta set, while Riddhima donned an ethnic white and brown printed suit. Not just the Kapoor clan, the stalwarts of the Indian film industry will be seen coming together for the grand event of Raj Kapoor's centenary celebration, and honouring the late filmmaker. Apart from Ranbir Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and others, the biggest stars of Hindi cinema including Rekha, Jeetendra, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Rajkumar Hirani, and Karan Johar, Aamir Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Anil Kapoor, Vicky Kaushal, Kartik Aaryan, Sunny Deol, and Bobby Deol are expected to attend the grand event tonight. The Raj Kapoor 100 film festival will commemorate the legendary actor-director's centenary across ten cities, 40 cinemas, and 135 screens.

Meanwhile, the Kapoor family recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to invite him to the 100th birth anniversary celebrations of legendary actor-filmmaker Raj Kapoor. Speaking about the meeting, Ranbir Kapoor admitted to being nervous. In a video shared by the Prime Minister's office, Ranbir called it a special day for his family and expressed gratitude to PM Modi for his time and respect.



# Kubbra Sait

Praises 'Dearest' Ananya Panday For Being Honest About What Hurts Her The Most

Ananya Panday is one such actress in B-town who never shies away from revealing her honest feelings. The actress, who has a history of being in a relationship with eminent names in the industry, once revealed that "not feeling loved" hurts her the most. As the video from her interview went viral, Kubbra Sait came in support of her and penned a heartfelt note for her.

The video making rounds on the internet features one of the segments from Ananya Panday's interview with YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia, in which the host asked her, "What hurts you in your heart?" The Kho Gaye Hum Kahan actress replied, "What hurts me in my heart - not feeling loved. Because I feel like... that could be by anyone." She then went on to explain that the love she gives doesn't come back to her. In a grief-filled tone, she expressed, "Like I just feel like I have a lot of love to give, and I try to be as pure, again I'm using the word honest as I said I can, and I really wear my heart on my sleeve."

Ananya also mentioned that she trusts people very easily, which results in oversharing from her side. She added, "It really hurts me sometimes when someone says you shouldn't have overshared, or if you said that, you know they can go and tell someone else. I say like I never thought of it in that way. I do like to see the best in people, and I..." Soon, Ranveer interrupted her, saying, "You are just 23, man," and before he could finish the entire sentence, the CTRL fame stated, "I know, and I'm still untouched by the world, but yeah, I think not being loved back is that could really hurt."

Kubbra Sait reshared the video on her Instagram stories. Alongside it, the Sacred Games actor gave Ananya two cents of her advice and wrote, "Dearest @ananyapanday it don't matter if you are 20 whatever old or blah just continue to be you... coz the reward in the end is you knowing you did best and were truthful and honest to your own self. MORE POWER TO YOUR BIG HEART and GO GET BIGGER SLEEVES! Kubbra even signed the note with experience of a "40 Year BIG HEART." Ananya seemingly got a bit emotional and reposted Kubbra's meaningful words in her Instagram stories. The Student of the Year 2 fame showed love towards Kubbra and penned, "Kubraaaaa! Sooo sweet BIG love to you," followed by a heart emoji. Coming to Ananya's rumoured relationship, she was alleged to be dating Karan Jaising, Kartik Aaryan, Ishaan Khatter, and Vijay Deverakonda as a friendly date, followed by Aditya Roy Kapur which went from almost August 2022 to March 2024.