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NEWS BOX

Alien-Looking 'Supergiant' Sea Bug Named After Star Wars Villain Darth Vader

WORLD. Scientists have discovered an alien-looking, 'supergiant' sea bug species in Vietnam and named it *Bathynomus vaderi* after Darth Vader from the Star Wars franchise, due to its head resembling the Sith Lord's iconic helmet. This "supergiant" isopod, part of the *Bathynomus* genus, can grow to a length of up to 32.5 cm (12.8 inches) and weigh over a kilogram, according to a study published in *ZooKeys*.

The discovery was made while scientists were exploring culinary trends in Vietnam, where these giant sea bugs, known locally as "bo bein," have become a delicacy, with people comparing the quality of the meat to lobsters. "Smaller eating establishments keep the isopods in ice boxes to be cooked when asked, while large restaurants have dedicated tanks with chilled water to keep and display the animals," the study highlighted.

The scientists do not have complete information if *B vaderi* was available elsewhere but dealers and fishermen informed that they obtained these creatures from deep waters near the Spratly Islands - a contested archipelago located in the South China Sea. Apart from the Darth Vader-like head, *B vaderi* has a pronounced depression in its hip bone and a distinctive bony ridge protruding from its coracoid bone, setting it apart from other supergiant isopods. Appetite for the supergiant bug

In 2017, the price was up to Rs 6,854 (2 million Vietnamese Dong) per kilogram. However, by 2023 the price dropped to around Rs 5,100 (1.5 million Vietnamese Dong) per kilogram and by early 2024, it was about Rs 3,400 (1 million Vietnamese Dong) per kilogram as the demand for the bug increased, leading to more fishing.

"In 2017, specimens had to be pre-ordered, and diners had to wait up to a month to collect their *Bathynomus* specimens in seafood outlets in Hanoi. Today, some seafood markets in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Da Nang City keep up to 30 individuals in their chilled water tanks for customers to buy," the researchers noted.

Softbank, Oracle, OpenAI To Build \$500 Billion Worth AI Infrastructure In US

Washington, United States. President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced a major investment to build infrastructure for artificial intelligence led by Japanese giant Softbank, cloud giant Oracle and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI.

The venture, called Stargate, "will invest \$500 billion, at least, in AI infrastructure in the United States," Trump said in remarks at the White House.

"This monumental undertaking is a resounding declaration of confidence in America's potential," he said, a day after his swearing in for a second term.

OpenAI's chief executive Sam Altman, SoftBank's chief Masayoshi Son and Oracle founder Larry Ellison attended the announcement. Their project is committed to invest an initial \$100 billion and up to \$500 billion over the next four years in the project, according to Son. The venture comes as big tech players are scrambling to meet AI's voracious computing needs, as well as find the electric power necessary to expand the new technology.

Trump said Stargate will be building the physical and virtual infrastructure to power the next generation of advancements in AI, including the construction of "colossal data centers." OpenAI later said in an X post that the project "will not only support the re-industrialization of the United States but also provide a strategic capability to protect the national security of America and its allies." It added that SoftBank and OpenAI were the lead partners for Stargate, with SoftBank having financial responsibility and OpenAI having operational responsibility. The post also said that MGX, a technology fund from the United Arab Emirates, was a fourth investor, while "Arm, Microsoft, NVIDIA, Oracle, and OpenAI are the key initial technology partners."

Panama Complains To UN Over Donald Trump's Threat To Seize Canal

Panama City, Panama. Panama has complained to the United Nations over US President Donald Trump's "worrying" threat to seize the Panama Canal, even as it launched an audit of the Hong Kong-linked operator of two ports on the interoceanic waterway.

In a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the government in Panama City referred to an article of the UN Charter precluding any member from "the threat or use of force" against the territorial integrity or political independence of another. The missive distributed to reporters Tuesday, urges Guterres to refer the matter to the UN Security Council, without asking for a meeting to be convened. Trump, in his inaugural address Monday, repeated his complaint that China was effectively "operating" the Panama Canal through its growing presence around the waterway, which the United States handed over at the end of 1999. "We didn't give it to China, we gave it to Panama. And we're taking it back," Trump said. The Panamanian comptroller's office that oversees public entities then announced "an exhaustive audit" would be launched "aimed at ensuring the efficient and transparent use of public resources" at the Panama Ports Company. The company, part of Hutchison Ports, a subsidiary of Hong Kong-based conglomerate CK Hutchison Holdings, operates the ports of Balboa and Cristobal on either end of the canal. The comptroller's office said the aim was to determine whether the company was complying with its concession agreements, including adequate reporting of income, payments and contributions to the state. Panama's President Jose Raul Mulino has denied that any other nation was interfering in the canal, which he said was operated on a principle of neutrality. "The canal is and will remain Panama's," Mulino said in response to Trump's threats.

Indian-American lawmakers oppose Trump's executive order limiting birthright citizenship

WASHINGTON. Indian-American lawmakers have opposed the executive order by US President Donald Trump on changes in birthright citizenship, a move likely to hit not only illegal immigrants from around the world but also students and professionals from India. On Monday, in the opening hours of his second term as president, Trump signed an order declaring that future children born to undocumented immigrants would no longer be treated as citizens. The order would extend even to the children of some mothers in the country legally but temporarily, such as foreign students or tourists. Trump's executive order asserts that the children of such noncitizens are not "subject to the jurisdiction of the United States," and thus are not covered by the 14th Amendment's longstanding constitutional guarantee. Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna said changes in birthright citizenship as done through the executive order would impact newborn babies of not only illegal and undocumented immigrants

but also those staying in this country legally like on H-1B visas. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. "Trump's order removes birthright citizenship for children born in the US not just to undocumented parents but to 'lawful' immigrants who are temporarily on a student visa, H1B/H2B visa, or business visa. So much for the pretence that the Republicans are for legal immigration," Khanna said. Indians are the main beneficiaries of the H-1B visas, which bring in the best of the talent and brains from across the world.

Highly skilled professionals from India walk away with the overwhelming number of H-1B visas - which is Congressional mandated 65,000 every year and another



20,000 for those who received higher education from the US.

"No matter what Donald Trump says or does, birthright citizenship has and will be the law of the land. I will fight to protect it at all costs," Indian American Congressman Shri Thanedar said. Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal described it as unconstitutional.

"Plain and simple this is unconstitutional and cannot be done with the stroke of a pen. If enacted, it would make a mockery of our country's laws and the precedents set in the

Constitution," she said. A coalition of immigration rights groups has challenged this in court and said that this is unconstitutional. As per the executive order, the US would not give automatic citizenship to newborn babies after February 19, 2025, if one of the parents is not a US citizen or lawful permanent resident. Also, attorneys general from 22 states sued President Trump in two federal district courts on Tuesday to block the executive order that refuses to recognise the US-born children of unauthorised immigrants as citizens, the New York Times reported. Eighteen states and two cities, San Francisco and Washington, DC, challenged the order in the Federal District Court in Massachusetts, arguing that birthright citizenship under the 14th Amendment is "automatic" and that neither the president nor Congress has the constitutional authority to revise it. Four other states filed a second lawsuit in the Western District of Washington.

At least 76 have been killed in a hotel fire at a ski resort in northwestern Turkey

ANKARA. A fire raged through a 12-story hotel at a popular ski resort in northwestern Turkey early Tuesday during a school holiday, killing at least 76 people — at least two of them when they jumped from the building to escape the flames, officials said.

At least 51 people also were injured in the fire at the Grand Kartal hotel in Kartalkaya, in Bolu province's Koroğlu mountains, some 300 kilometers (185 miles) east of Istanbul, said Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya. The fire occurred near the start of a two-week winter break for schools, when hotels in the region are packed.

"We are in deep pain. We have unfortunately lost 66 lives in the fire that broke out at this hotel," Yerlikaya told reporters after inspecting the site.

Atakan Yelkovan, a hotel guest staying on the third floor, told the IHA news agency there was chaos on the upper floors as other guests tried to escape the fire, including by trying to climb down from their rooms using sheets and blankets. "People on the upper floors were screaming. They hung down sheets ... Some tried to jump," Yelkovan said. Yerlikaya said 45 of the



76 people killed have been identified while efforts to identify the other victims were continuing.

Health Minister Kemal Memisoglu said at least one of the injured was in serious condition, while 17 other people were treated and released. The hotel had 238 registered guests, Yerlikaya said. The fire was reported at 3:27 a.m. and the fire department began to respond at 4:15 a.m., he told reporters.

The government appointed six prosecutors to lead an investigation into the blaze, which is believed to have started in the hotel's restaurant section. Nine people have been detained as part of the investigation into the fire, Yerlikaya said. Earlier, Justice Minister

Yilmaz Tunc said the hotel's owner was among the people detained for questioning in the probe.

At least two of the victims died when they jumped from the building in panic, Gov. Abdulaziz Aydin told the state-run Anadolu Agency earlier. Those killed included Nedim Turkmén, a columnist for *Sozcu* newspaper, his wife and two children, the newspaper announced.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced a day of national mourning to be observed on Wednesday. All flags at government buildings and Turkish diplomatic missions abroad would be lowered to half-staff, he said. Necmi Kepcütan, a ski instructor at the hotel, said he was asleep when the fire erupted and he rushed out of the building. He told NTV television that he then helped some 20 guests out of the hotel. The hotel was engulfed in smoke, making it difficult for guests to locate the fire escape, he said. "I cannot reach some of my students. I hope they are OK," the ski instructor told the station.

How Safe Are India's Nuclear Reactors What Global Watchdog Chief Said

Davos. India's nuclear reactors are "absolutely safe" as it applies the highest levels of safety standards to its civil nuclear programme, the chief of global nuclear watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has told NDTV. In an interview on the sidelines of Davos 2025, IAEA director general Rafael Mariano Grossi was asked how safe India's nuclear reactors are. "Absolutely safe. India applies to its civilian nuclear programme the highest levels of internationally agreed and IAEA established nuclear safety standards and security guidance," he replied. On India's fast-breeder nuclear reactor programme, the first of which is being developed at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu, Grossi said, "It could be an interesting add-on to its fleet."

India has imposed a voluntarily moratorium on nuclear explosive testing since the Pokhran tests in 1998.

Asked if New Delhi would be within its rights to test if China or Pakistan went ahead with nuclear tests, Grossi replied, "Our position and the position of the international community is that we should move to a general ban on nuclear testing so we hope that there won't be a need for further testing, neither in the subcontinent nor elsewhere."

To a question on whether India should be a part of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which currently has 48 countries as its members, the IAEA chief said, "I have been President of the Nuclear Suppliers group and I interacted very actively in trying to bring this to an equitable solution, including with other countries which had similar aspirations. My interactions, even with Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, were extremely useful. We were very close at the time to a good outcome." "Of course, there is a bigger, wider political scene which

enters into the situation when it comes to that. This is for the members to decide," he added. To a question on whether the India-US civil nuclear deal is set to achieve its full potential as Washington DC tries to negotiate the liability clause that will enable it to build reactors in India, Grossi said it was for India and US to decide. What I can say is that the Indian civil nuclear programme is among the biggest and most diverse worldwide. "India has every [nuclear] technology and masters every technology in a very good way. I believe that with the current expansion and interest in nuclear energy, we are the best position to see those levels of cooperation and trade grow," he said. The IAEA chief also took questions on the situation in Ukraine and said there were several occasions when the watchdog feared a nuclear accident.

Trudeau says Canada will respond to US tariffs as Ontario's premier says Trump 'declared war'

TORONTO. Canada's outgoing prime minister and the leader of the country's oil rich province of Alberta are both confident Canada can avoid the 25% tariffs President Donald Trump says he will impose on February 1. Justin Trudeau and Danielle Smith will argue that Canada is the energy super power that has the oil and critical minerals that America needs to feed what Trump vows will be a booming U.S. economy. But Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, the Doug Ford and automobile hub of Canada, said a trade war is 100% coming. Trump "declared an economic war on Canada," Ford said in an interview with *The Associated Press*. "And we are going to use every tool in our tool box to defend our economy." Trudeau said Canada will retaliate if needed but noted Canada has been here before during the first Trump presidency when they successfully renegotiated the free trade deal. Ford said as soon as Trump applies tariffs he will instruct Ontario's liquor control board to pull all American-made alcohol from shelves. We are the largest purchaser of

alcohol in the world. And I'm going to encourage all the premiers to do the exact same," Ford said, adding there will be a dollar-for-dollar tariff retaliation on American goods entering Canada.

"We are going to target Republican held areas as well. They are going to feel the pain. Canadians are going to feel the pain, but Americans will feel the pain as well," he said. "A message to the countries around the world: if he wants to use Canada as an example you are up next. He's coming after you as well." Ontario Premier Doug Ford, wearing a 'Canada Is Not For Sale' hat, speaks as he arrives for a first ministers meeting in Ottawa. Photo | AP/Trump pledged in his inaugural address that tariffs would be coming in a speech in which he promised a golden era for America. He later said Canada and Mexico could be hit with the tariffs as soon as Feb. 1, though he signed an executive order requesting a report coordinated by the Secretary of Commerce by April 1. Trump said Tuesday that the 25% tariffs that he intends to place on Canada and Mexico as soon as Feb. 1



would have "nothing to do" with renegotiating the existing trade pact among the three countries. For him, the tariffs are all about stopping unauthorized migration and the flow of any illicit drugs. The U.S. president told reporters at the White House that, in his opinion, the amount ofentanyl coming through Canada and Mexico is "massive." U.S. customs agents seized just 43 pounds of fentanyl at the Canadian border last fiscal year, compared with 21,100 pounds at the Mexican border. About 60% of U.S. crude oil imports are from Canada. Despite Trump's claim that the U.S. doesn't need Canada,

nearly a quarter of the oil America consumes per day comes from Canada. America's northern neighbor also has 34 critical minerals and metals that the Pentagon is eager for and is also the largest foreign supplier of steel, aluminum and uranium to the U.S. Nearly \$3.6 billion Canadian dollars (\$2.7 billion) worth of goods and services cross the border each day. Canada is the top export destination for 36 U.S. states. "Trump wants to usher in a golden age for the U.S.," Trudeau said at a Cabinet retreat in Quebec called to deal with Trump's threats. "If the American economy is going to see the boom that Donald Trump is predicting they are going to need more energy, more steel and aluminum, more critical minerals, more of the things that Canada sells to the United States every single day." On Tuesday, Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum stressed the need to keep "cool heads" and look at the wording of what Trump signed, rather than listen to the discourse surrounding it.

11 Dead After Passengers Jump Off Train in Maharashtra Amid Rumors

Mumbai: At least 11 people were killed on Wednesday after jumping off a train in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district, following rumors of a fire and an impending collision with another train. The incident occurred between Maheji and Pardhade stations, around 400 km from Mumbai.



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The tragedy unfolded when the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express halted around 5 pm after a passenger pulled the emergency chain due to the fire rumors. Some passengers jumped off the train and were struck by the oncoming Karnataka Express traveling from Bengaluru to Delhi, according to Central Railway officials.

An accident relief train was dispatched from Bhusaval, and medical aid was provided to the injured passengers. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who is at-

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Three New Medical Colleges, 62 ITIs Set to Open Soon in Uttar Pradesh



Prayagraj: Three medical colleges, around 62 new Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and five innovation and training centers will soon be set up to promote industrial and technological growth in UP. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced in a cabinet meeting held at Prayagraj on Wednesday, where several development proposals for the state were approved. During the meeting CM announced the establishment of three new medical colleges in Hathras, Kasganj, and Baghpat to enhance healthcare facilities.

CM Yogi also revealed the renewal of the state's Aerospace and Defence policy, with new incentives aimed at attracting investment. In an effort to boost infrastructure, he announced that municipal corporation bonds would be issued for cities including Prayagraj, Varanasi, and Agra. Furthermore, CM Yogi highlighted the creation of the Prayagraj-Chitrakoot development region, inspired by Lucknow's growth strategies. A major infrastructure project, the Ganga Expressway, will connect key cities in eastern Uttar Pradesh, improving connectivity and fostering economic growth.

Health Ministry Calls for Urgent Action to Combat Rising Stroke Cases in India



New Delhi: Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava highlighted the urgency of addressing the growing number of stroke cases in India during the National Stroke Summit 2025 held in New Delhi. She announced that nearly 500 stroke units are currently operational nationwide, with plans for further expansion to improve access to specialized care. Srivastava pointed out that 66% of deaths in India are due to non-communicable diseases, emphasizing that strokes are preventable with timely intervention. The summit focused on raising awareness about stroke prevention and treatment, addressing issues like delayed patient arrivals, limited understanding of acute stroke therapies, and infrastructural gaps. Two reports were released during the event: the National Stroke Action Plan and Stroke in India: Context and Latest Clinical Evidence.

17 Students of DPS Chas Excel in Maths Olympiad



Bokaro: DPS Chas has yet again showcased its academic prowess as 17 of its students secured top 25 ranks in the prestigious state-level SilverZone Math Olympiad. The young achievers from various grades demonstrated exceptional mathematical aptitude and problem-solving skills. Among the top performers, Alok Anand (Class 7), Aditya Kumar (Class 8), and Aniesh Pandey (Class 7) achieved remarkable 6th, 8th, and 9th ranks respectively. Chief Mentor Dr. Hemlata S. Mohan expressed her delight, stating, "Competitions like these ignite creativity and allow students to realize their potential." Dr. Manisha Tiwari, Director of DPS Chas, emphasized the significance of Olympiads in shaping future leaders in mathematics and commended the school's continuous efforts to provide a nurturing and enriching environment for students. This remarkable accomplishment reflects the relentless dedication of the students and the institution's unwavering commitment to academic excellence. DPS Chas continues to inspire and set new benchmarks in the field of education.

SR DAV School Hosts Army Day Letter Writing Campaign in Ranchi

Ranchi: SR DAV School, Pundag, organized a special Army Day Letter Writing Campaign in collaboration with the Philately Bureau, GPO Ranchi. A total of 92 students participated, writing heartfelt letters to express their gratitude and admiration for the Indian Army. The campaign aimed to foster patriotism and connect students with the sacrifices made by the armed forces. The event was attended by Udaybhan Singh, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Ranchi Division, who played a key role in its organization. Special thanks were given to SK Mishra, Principal of SR DAV School, for his leadership and support. The campaign was further encouraged by the presence of Smriti Singh from SR DAV School and Sandeep Kumar Mahto from the Philately Bureau, Ranchi GPO. Sri Udaybhan Singh emphasized the importance of instilling patriotism in students, while Mishra highlighted the initiative's role in nurturing national pride. The event concluded with students expressing their commitment to supporting similar initiatives in the future.

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CSIR-NML Hosts MIRC'25 Training on Railway Component Failures



Jamshedpur: A three-day training program titled Metallurgical Failure Investigation of Railway Components (MIRC'25) began today at CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML). The workshop, running from January 22-25, 2025, has attracted around 10 participants from the Railway Design and Standards Organization (RDSO).

The program aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of metallurgical principles related to railway components, failure investigation protocols, and the testing procedures used to uncover the root causes of component failures. It will cover topics such as physical metallurgy, component qualification standards, damage mechanisms, and microscopic techniques used for failure analysis.

Dr. Sandip Ghosh Chowdhury, Director of CSIR-NML, inaugurated the session, highlighting the institute's long-standing legacy in component integrity evaluation and failure investigations. He also discussed the recently signed MoU between CSIR-NML and RDSO, focusing on mutual cooperation in R&D, training, and joint research initiatives. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Avani Chandan, Coordinator of MIRC'25.

YBN University Chairman Ramji Yadav Highlights Lord Ram's Ideals on Temple Anniversary



Ranchi: On the first anniversary of the construction and consecration of the Ram Mandir, Ramji Yadav, Chairman of YBN University Namkum, emphasized the importance of embodying the ideals of Lord Ram. Speaking at the occasion, he described Lord Ram's ideals as encompassing service, love, kindness, collectivism, and harmony, urging the need to work in accordance with these values.

Yadav highlighted that India, a land of sages, considers devotion to the nation as a core principle of its religion. He also announced that the 470th birth anniversary of Abdul Rahim Khan Khana would be celebrated over a one-year period, from 17 December 2025 to 17 December 2026, with a series of programs focused on education, health, service, and social harmony.

During his address, Yadav reassured attendees that YBN University Ranchi and YBN School Dhurva are committed to contributing to the development of Jharkhand. He emphasized the university's ongoing dedication to the state's progress.

In a parallel address, Dr. Om Prakash, Assistant Professor at the Government Teacher Training College Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, spoke about India's path towards a developed nation by 2047, centered on the transformation from ego to self, guided by Sanskrit teachings. He affirmed that the values of honesty, loyalty, and sattvik love are fundamental to India's growth, deeply rooted in the nation's culture, civilization, and family values.

JEE Main-1 Exam Starts Peacefully in Bokaro with 33 Absentees

Bokaro: The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main-1, organized by the National Testing Agency (NTA), began smoothly in Bokaro on Wednesday. A total of 658 candidates appeared for the exam across two centers, with 33 candidates absent on the first day.

Dr. A.S. Gangwar, NTA's city coordinator and Principal of DPS Bokaro, confirmed that the exam proceeded without any incidents or malpractice. At the RR Technology Center in Chas, 105 out of 111 candidates appeared in the first shift, and 136 out of 140 in the second shift. At the Alpha ICT Centre in Bokaro, 208 candidates appeared in the first shift, with 209 in the second shift.

Dr. Gangwar thanked the center superintendents, supervisors, and district administration for their efforts in ensuring the peaceful conduct of the exam.

BIT Mesra Explores Green Hydrogen's Role in Shaping the Future of Clean Energy



Ranchi: Birla Institute of Technology (BIT) Mesra is hosting a one-week workshop titled Green Hydrogen: The Future of Clean Energy, running from January 20 to 24, 2025, as part of its Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The event aims to explore green hydrogen's potential as a clean and sustainable energy source. Supported by the Advanced National Research Foundation (ANRF) and the Government of India, the workshop covers key topics such as green hydrogen

production technologies, storage challenges, and its role in achieving net-zero emissions. Green hydrogen, produced using renewable energy, is seen as vital in decarbonizing industries, transportation, and power sectors. The workshop's inauguration featured Prof. Indranil Manja, Vice Chancellor of BIT Mesra, who emphasized the institution's dedication to advancing sustainable energy solutions. The event also saw Dr. Narasinga Rao, Chief Guest

and Adjunct Professor at IIT Hyderabad, discuss industrial advancements in green hydrogen, while Dr. P. Shanmugam, Senior Scientist at CSIR, highlighted its potential to transform energy landscapes and contribute to India's energy security. Key sessions of the workshop include advanced hydrogen production methods, strategies for storage and transportation, and its applications in industries like steel and cement. Experts from academia, re-

search organizations, and the energy sector, including Dr. A.K. Roy, Dr. Anil Kumar, Dr. Om Prakash, and others, are leading the discussions and technical sessions. The workshop provides an opportunity for students, researchers, and professionals to deepen their understanding of green hydrogen and its role in the future of clean energy. It also reinforces BIT Mesra's commitment to fostering innovative solutions for a sustainable future.

Kanpur Police Expands Operation Trinetra with 500+ High-Quality Cameras

by Sunil Bajpai

Kanpur: The installation of high-quality IP cameras to aid in criminal detection continues under the ongoing Operation Trinetra, led by Police Commissioner Akhil Kumar. More than 500 cameras have been installed in the Babu Purwa police station area so far.

Under the leadership of Inspector Arun Dwivedi, known for his transparent and efficient approach, the campaign has proven



successful in combating crime. Recently, the Transport Nagar area also saw the installation of four high-quality CP Plus IP cam-

eras, coordinated by Outpost Incharge Vikas Sharma in partnership with Madhu Factory. This move further enhances security as part of

the campaign. Operation Trinetra, which has seen thousands of cameras installed across the city, has been instrumental in tracking down criminals who flee after committing crimes.

The initiative continues to receive strong public support, with local residents assisting in camera installations, demonstrating a commitment to enhancing safety in the community.

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Jain monk claims he dreamt of DK Shivakumar becoming Karnataka chief minister

A Jain monk's prophetic endorsement and growing supporter rallies have amplified the chorus for Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to be elevated to the chief ministerial position.



wish. But my party will decide everything. We will work as per the party; party is important. There's no need for me to go in search of any post. I'm doing my duty and there's no urgency for me." The monk's endorsement coincided with a show of strength by Shivakumar's supporters during the Gandhi Bharat Event and Congress convention in Belagavi on January 21. Party workers from various regions including Koppal, Hosapete, Ballari, and Chitradurga rallied for Shivakumar, carrying his portraits and raising slogans declaring him as the next Chief Minister. Some supporters went as far as to warn that the state Congress party could face instability if Shivakumar is not elevated to the chief minister's position. However, Shivakumar, who is also the KPCC (Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee)

president maintained a diplomatic stance. Speaking to reporters at Circuit House in Belagavi on Monday, he emphasised his commitment to party unity: "My only responsibility is to save the party and keep the government stable. I don't have any responsibilities other than this. I don't have differences with anyone." Highlighting his history of party loyalty, Shivakumar said: "I have sacrificed a lot for the party for a long time. I have worked for the party without uttering a word during the coalition government of Dharam Singh and the previous government of Siddaramaiah. Party is more important for me." The growing chorus for Shivakumar's elevation comes at a time when the Congress government in Karnataka is working to maintain stability and implement its electoral promises. The increasing demand that DK Shivakumar be made chief minister prompted responses from the party's high command. AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge sought to quell speculation about leadership changes, stating, "We will take the necessary decisions. There is no need for anyone to interpret or speculate." He asserted that decisions about appointments and removals would be made "at the appropriate time" by the high command. When questioned about these developments, Shivakumar revealed that party leadership in Delhi had advised him to maintain silence on the matter.

NEW DELHI. A Jain monk publicly endorsed DK Shivakumar for the Karnataka Chief Minister's position, amid growing calls for him to take over from Siddaramaiah. Gunadhar Nandhi Maharaj, at an event in Hubli on Monday, talked about a dream concerning Shivakumar. "I had two dreams," the monk said, "one is there has to be a Jain Development Corporation Board and next is you should become chief minister." Responding to the monk's endorsement the Deputy Chief Minister said: "What can I say when a monk is giving a blessing? I can't control what he says and it's his

Why Chandrababu Naidu is likely to ignore calls to elevate Nara Lokesh

NEW DELHI. In Andhra Pradesh, a seemingly simple demand to solidify the hierarchy in the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) could send ripples through the state's coalition corridor. But not if Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu could help it. The "innocuous" request that Nara Lokesh be elevated to deputy chief minister was made by TDP politburo member Reddappagari Srinivasulu Reddy. He made the request in presence of party cadre and Naidu himself at an event marking TDP founder NT Rama Rao's 29th death anniversary. The fact that the state already has a deputy chief minister in Jana Sena party chief Pawan Kalyan hasn't seemed to deter the TDP leader. Be it Reddy or former Pithapuram MLA Satyanarayana Varma or Gudur MLA Pasam Sunil, TDP leaders were vocal about wanting Lokesh as the "rightful" Deputy Chief Minister. There is no doubt that Lokesh overcame challenges and worked tirelessly for the party's



growth at grassroot level. It is true that TDP's membership crossed a crore under a drive spearheaded by Lokesh. Within the party ranks, the demand was seen as symbolic, because it honours the party's legacy and solidifies Lokesh's position in the party hierarchy. However, from the outside, the optics of it is worrisome.

IMBALANCE IN CAREFULLY CRAFTED PARTNERSHIP? Although expected, the timing of this request is rather startling. That it has come up so soon is surprising; it has been just over six months since the TDP-led coalition government has come to power. And, let's not forget, it is a coalition government, supported well by Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena. Kalyan's rise to the Deputy Chief Minister's position is his 100 per cent success rate, along with his support extended to Naidu when the TDP chief was in jail in 2023. Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena won both the Lok Sabha seats and all 21 assembly seats it contested as part of the NDA in Andhra Pradesh. Currently, Pawan Kalyan has enough political clout and influence to stave off the equalisation of stature with Lokesh. But for how long? The suggested elevation of Lokesh threatens to disturb the carefully maintained equilibrium, the one that was brokered by Kalyan's hard work.

"Family Planning Now Financial Decision": Arvind Kejriwal's Tax Jab At BJP

New Delhi. The middle class is a victim of tax terrorism and has been reduced to the government's ATM, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal said today. Mr Kejriwal, whose outreach to middle class comes two weeks ahead of the February 5 election in Delhi, also listed seven Budget demands from the Centre that AAP MPs will raise in Parliament for the interests of the middle class. "Some poll promises are made for the underprivileged classes, and some for a few industrialists. On the grounds of caste and religion, other parties have created a vote bank. And they need donations from industrialists, so they are the note bank. Between this vote bank and note bank, a large section is sandwiched. This is India's middle class," he said in a video message. Mr Kejriwal said successive governments after Independence have crushed and squeezed the middle class. "The relationship between the government and the middle class is strange. They don't do anything for the middle class. But whenever the government needs to, they target the middle class through tax. Middle class pays



huge taxes, but gets nothing in return. India's middle class has been reduced to the government's ATM. It is a victim of tax terrorism," he said. The middle class, he said, does not have very big demands. "They want a good job or business, a house of their own, quality education for their children. They just want health and safety for their family. He only hopes for a little help from the government. But the government is making neither schools nor

hospitals, it is not creating jobs and not ensuring safety either," he said. Mr Kejriwal said that if all taxes are added up, a middle class person gives more than 50 per cent of his income to the government. "How can he/she dare to fulfill their dreams amid this tax terrorism? The truth is that for a young middle class couple, family planning has now become a financial decision. Before having a child, they ask themselves if they can afford the upbringing. Where have we reached," he said, adding that people were leaving the country due to high taxes. Mr Kejriwal said the AAP government in Delhi spends the people's money for their welfare. He underlined that Delhi government hiked the education budget, transformed state-run schools and also barred private schools from increasing fees. "We lowered power and water bills to shield you from inflation. Delhi residents get the cheapest power among all major cities," he said. The AAP leader also showcased Delhi government's work in the healthcare sector and said the highest demand for mohalla clinics are in middle-class residential areas.

Telangana, Hyderabad firm sign deal to set up private rocket manufacturing unit

Hyderabad. The Telangana government has signed an agreement with a Hyderabad-based space technology firm Skyroot Aerospace to establish an integrated private rocket manufacturing, integration and testing facility in the state. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and state IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar oversaw the signing of the deal with Skyroot in Davos, where the World Economic Forum is underway. The new project will see Skyroot making an investment of around Rs 500 crore, which will be amongst the largest integrated private sector rocket manufacturing, integration and testing facility.



"I am delighted to see a Hyderabad-based company achieving great success. I welcome their decision to invest in Telangana. This agreement demonstrates how young minds of Telangana are working on every fascinating cutting-edge technology in the world," Reddy said. "The partnership with Skyroot highlights Telangana's strategic focus on the space and aerospace sectors. We will soon make Hyderabad the focal point of private sector space work," he added. Pawan Kumar Chandana, co-founder of Skyroot, said, "We are delighted to be investing in Telangana under the leadership of Revanth Reddy garu. After a long time, there is great energy and optimism about the state and its future. We want to be part of the Telangana Rising and Hyderabad Rising vision and mission."

'Chinese CCTV Cameras' Latest Flashpoint In AAP, BJP's Delhi Tussle

New Delhi. As the contest for Delhi Assembly polls heats up, BJP candidate from the New Delhi constituency Parvesh Verma accused Aam Aadmi Party chief and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal of misusing official machinery from Punjab, apart from "Chinese CCTV cameras", in the capital. "Thousands of vehicles with Punjab registration plates are roaming around in New Delhi. Items like water dispensers, chairs and other materials are being transported to Delhi in trucks belonging to the Punjab government," the BJP leader claimed. He also urged the Election Commission to curb the misuse of resources owned by the Punjab government in Delhi. Verma claimed Kejriwal fears "imminent defeat" from New Delhi and is getting Chinese CCTV cameras installed in the constituency's slums just for the show with the help of the Punjab government. He further claimed that the Chinese CCTV cameras, installed in a "hurried manner", pose a security threat. He further said Punjab government's teachers and employees are "masquerading as AAP workers" in Delhi, as the election campaigns continue in full swing. Verma also claimed that two teachers hailing from Amritsar were arrested by the police. In response, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said Verma has "insulted" Punjabis and demanded an apology from Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Mann said in a post on X that Delhi is the country's capital and vehicles registered in various states ply in the city. He added that vehicles registered in any state can ply anywhere in the country and there is no restriction on it. Mann added that Verma's statement is "dangerous, worrisome and insulting for Punjabis", adding that his statement colludes to the assumption that Punjabis are a "threat" to the country's security and sought an apology from Union home minister Amit Shah over it. "Amit Shahji, you are neither able to keep the country's border safe nor Delhi. Thousands of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas are coming to the country, don't you have a problem with them? But you are calling Punjabis coming from Punjab to Delhi a threat to the country. You should apologise to Punjabis," Mann said.



MK Stalin defends governance, slams EPS for financial mismanagement allegations

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin refuted AIADMK's claims of excessive borrowing, and listed DMK's achievements. He accused the AIADMK of leaving the state in financial disarray during its tenure.

Chennai. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday refuted Opposition Leader Edappadi K Palaniswami's (EPS) claims of excessive borrowing by the state government, asserting that loans acquired were being utilised for the benefit of the people. Stalin also criticised the AIADMK's governance record, accusing the party of leaving the state in a financial deficit. Addressing EPS's accusations, Stalin said: "The Opposition leader is only speaking in such a manner because he cannot accept the DMK's accomplishments. As we govern, I present you with statistics. The DMK made 505 poll promises, of which 383 have been fulfilled, while 116 are pending. Only a few schemes per department remain unfinished."

EPS had earlier questioned the DMK government's financial management, asking, "How are you going to pay the loans back when you are spending more on income than on investment? If you are going to borrow year after year, how do you plan to repay? The



Finance Minister in the Assembly said the profit for 2024-2025 is Rs 1.10 lakh crore, of which Rs 17,000 crore could be excess, along with Rs 500 crore. After all expenses, Rs 60,000 crore should remain. Then why are you borrowing Rs 3.53 lakh crore? What new scheme have you implemented with this amount?" Stalin countered the criticism, challenging the AIADMK to release statistics on its own performance during its decade-long rule. "The AIADMK has only made fake promises and destroyed Tamil Nadu. Is the AIADMK ready to publish data on how many of their schemes were implemented and how

- ▶ Stalin defends DMK's spending and poll promise record
- ▶ Challenges AIADMK to release its governance statistics
- ▶ Mocks EPS's predictions about DMK's 2026 electoral fate

many people benefitted? They converted Tamil Nadu into a deficit state despite being in alliance with the Centre, focusing only on securing posts in Delhi," Stalin remarked. He further accused the AIADMK of leaving Tamil Nadu at the mercy of the Union government's "lackadaisical attitude." "When we came to power, the Union government viewed us as ideological enemies instead of as a state government. Several schemes were curtailed, yet we overcame these challenges and developed Tamil Nadu. Now, the state is also bearing the burden of funding Union

government schemes," Stalin said. Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu, Stalin pointed out, had already detailed how the Union government's policies had adversely affected Tamil Nadu. "The Opposition leader is turning a deaf ear to these explanations and claiming that the government is spending on useless schemes. He should understand the difference between useful and useless schemes. His calculations are entirely wrong," Stalin added. In a final swipe, Stalin mocked EPS for his repeated claims that the DMK government's tenure.

Consumers Beware: Make sure children wear helmets

Last fortnight, a 10-year-old boy, Khagendra, died in a road accident while being taken to school by his father on his two-wheeler in Whitefield, Bengaluru. The father survived the collision with an SUV but suffered serious injuries. Both were not wearing helmets. Such tragic incidents involving children on two-wheelers, particularly while on way to school or returning from school, are many. In October last year, six-year-old Nandini Shakya died and four others, including three minor girls, suffered injuries when the motorbike on which they were returning home from school was hit by a speeding truck in Noida. As per the Motor Vehicles Act, only two persons are permitted to travel on a two-wheeler, but here, there were five. And the girls were not wearing crash helmets, mandated under the law.

I quote these two accidents to draw attention to the urgent need to ensure the safety of the most susceptible group of passengers on the road — children, particularly while travelling on the most vulnerable mode of transport in the country, the two-wheelers. Given the high percentage of road accident fatalities among two-wheeler riders, children should not be travelling on them at all! However, keeping in mind the Indian reality, the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules permit them to travel on two-wheelers, but with some safety stipulations. If they are above four years, they must wear a helmet conforming to Indian Standards, formulated and enforced by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Helmets are mandatory even for children aged nine months to four years, except that the parents have an option of using a crash helmet with an ISI mark or bicycle helmets complying with American or European standards, depending on the age of the child. Children who are above nine months and under four must also wear safety harnesses and be strapped to the driver of the vehicle. And the speed of the vehicle should not exceed 40 km per hour. However, none of these safety stipulations are being strictly enforced, exposing young children to great risks. Since many schools do not provide buses for the transportation of pupils, and in most Indian cities and towns, pavements are either non-existent or in a state of neglect, parents drop them to school and pick them up on two-wheelers and the children are invariably not wearing any helmet. Studies have revealed that even in large cities, only about 7 per cent of the children wear helmets, and, even here, only 4.5 per cent are ISI-marked.

Even more shocking is the sight of young mothers riding pillion on two-wheelers and carrying sleeping babies in their arms! In case of an accident, the child is far more vulnerable than adults and exposing an infant to such risks is a violation of the child's right to safety and life guaranteed under the Constitution. As we observe the 'National Road Safety Month' this January, it is critical to address these issues concerning child safety through consumer education and stringent law enforcement. Harnesses for young children are available in the market and state governments must ensure that they are used as required under the law. It is also essential to make sure that bicycle helmets sold in the market conform to the stipulated standards. Use of helmets for children should also be encouraged through tax incentives and subsidies that make them highly affordable. Having said that, I do feel that the minimum age for a child on a two-wheeler should be raised from nine to 12 months, given the fact that a baby is not very stable at nine months and its neck may not be strong enough to wear a helmet. It is also critical to ensure that non-standard, non-ISI-marked helmets are not sold in the country, through stringent implementation of the Quality Control order that makes ISI certification mandatory for helmets.

Consumers, in turn, should check the authenticity of the ISI mark on the helmet they wish to buy, using the BIS Care App or the BIS website — manakonline.in. At present, about 150 helmet manufacturers have a valid licence to use the ISI mark. Out of 1,68,491 road accident fatalities in the country reported in 2022, persons travelling on two-wheelers constituted 74,897 or 44.5 per cent.

Sustainable farm income key to food security

The letter by Nobel and World Food Prize winners is silent on the biggest scourge — the failure of markets to raise farm incomes the world over.



THE Cambridge dictionary describes moonshot as a bold plan to do something impossible. So, when more than 150 Nobel laureates and World Food Prize winners sign an open letter calling for "planet-friendly moonshot efforts leading to substantial, not just incremental, leaps in food production" — which at the present pace appears almost impossible to meet the enormous challenge of feeding the world by 2050 — the loud and clear warning comes as a timely wake-up call. "We are not on track to meet the future food needs. Not even close," the letter has warned. It has been signed by some of the greatest figures of our times — Nobel laureates such as the 14th Dalai Lama, Joseph Stiglitz, Kailash Satyarthi, Robert Huber, Daron Acemoglu and Sir John E Walker, and World Food Prize recipients like Dr Gurdev S Khush, Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Rattan Lal and Hans R Herren. "As leaders of science and innovation, we ask you to join us in sounding the alarm, raising collective ambitions, and advocating for research moonshots to ensure the world's food and nutrition security," the letter concludes. At a time when the world already produces enough food to meet the requirement of 9.8 billion people by 2050, it only shows that food deficiencies — there are close to 800 million people living in hunger — are not because of any shortfall in production. The food deficiencies are an outcome of faulty policies. The letter entitled 'Hunger's Tipping Point' makes no mention of the global thrust on feeding cattle and diverting food for automobiles but does talk of

"increasingly common extreme weather events associated with climate change", the food and nutrition crisis is only going to worsen by the middle of this century. As the letter rightly adds, additional factors such as soil erosion and land degradation, biodiversity loss, water shortages and conflicts will drag the productivity down. This is certainly a cause for worry. Although the letter does make a mention of maize, a staple food for Africa, which is under threat from future predictions of decreasing yield, meeting the global challenges of food and nutrition security cannot be addressed till the world realises the urgent need to join hands and collaborate. In the US, for instance, 44 per cent of the domestic maize production is diverted for ethanol production, even as Africa faces shortages. Similarly, a report in the New Scientist journal (March 14, 2022) shows that 90 million tonnes of foodgrains was diverted for ethanol, and the European Union utilises 12 million tonnes, including wheat and maize, for feeding automobiles. The EU also diverted 3.5 million tonnes of palm oil to diesel production. All this was happening when the global supplies of staple food were hit by the Russia-Ukraine war. If only 50 per cent of the biofuel production was reduced in the US and EU, the grain saved could have met the entire food shortages created by the war. Among the transformation efforts required, the letter calls for enhancement of photosynthesis in crops like wheat and rice, biological nitrogen fixation of major cereals, transformation of annual crops to perennial ones,

diversification of the cropping systems and the creation of nutrient-rich foods from microorganisms and fungi. What has to be acknowledged is that "the benefit of enabling healthy, productive and secure lives for billions of people has returns that flow broadly through the global economy," says the letter. While there is enough evidence to show that investment in agricultural research has multiple returns, the report calls for "society sponsored research to be the foundation of the innovation that drives a successful food system of the future". What remains unclear is whether the emphasis is essentially on state-sponsored research or dominance of private research. The letter speaks of multiple market failures when it comes to providing people with healthy, cost-effective and sustainable diets. It does point to "market failures" within appropriate regulatory and "pricing" frameworks, but makes a mention of only carbon and water prices and remains conspicuously silent on the biggest scourge — the failure of markets to enhance farm incomes everywhere in the world.

In my understanding, unless strenuous efforts are made to ensure sustainable farm livelihoods, it may be difficult to meet the challenges of future food and nutrition security. For example, while the US Farm Bill — which provides for budgetary provisions to farmers and farming for the next five years, with the last one ending in September 2024 — has made a provision of \$1.8 trillion, the US is expecting one in five farmers to quit agriculture this year. And this is despite the immediate promise of \$10 billion to offset the loss farmers suffered from low commodity prices and higher cost of production. The new Farm Bill 2024 is awaiting clearance. In the EU, after the farmers' protest in 24 countries in the first four months of last year, an assured farm income has emerged as a common thread. Only a fortnight back, the small farmers' federation in France, the Confederation Paysanne, called for agriculture income to not being left as adjustment variable of the agricultural food supply chain. It denounced the excess margins downstream to the detriment of farmers. This means that while all other stakeholders in the food chain walk away with hefty profits, the farmer is left to survive at the margins. In India, in the midst of the farmers' protest 2.0 that has been going on for over 11 months at the Punjab-Haryana border, a recent news report said the market prices for seven of the 14 kharif crops are hovering at 12 to 26 per cent below the minimum support price (MSP). Over the years, farm incomes have been stagnating or sliding.

The challenge to feed 1.5 billion additional mouths in 2050 is surely possible. But the action plan should work on a moonshot approach that should first turn farming into a viable and profitable enterprise.

Custodial hell

Conviction of HP cops sends strong message

THE conviction of IGP Zahur Haider Zaidi and seven other policemen in a custodial death case serves as a grim reminder of the tragic events that unfold when cops take the law into their own hands. The Kotkhai gangrape-murder of a schoolgirl had jolted the peaceful hill state of Himachal Pradesh in 2017. The horrifying crime led to a public outrage that prompted the state government to set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Zaidi. The SIT managed to arrest six suspects but it came under sharp scrutiny itself when one of them died in police custody. Now, a special CBI court has found the probe team's members guilty of murder, torture in police custody for extracting a confession, fabrication of evidence and other serious offences.

Under pressure to produce 'quick results', the SIT crossed one red line after another. It's true that public anger over the gruesome gangrape-murder had reached a crescendo, but this was not reason enough



for the cops to resort to 'instant justice'. This is a cautionary tale for police personnel around the country who let their overzealousness get the better of them during investigations. They are emboldened by the acceptance of violence as par for the course at police stations. A suspect in a lock-up often finds himself at the receiving end of police brutality. In 2021, then Chief Justice of India NV Ramana had rightly stated that police stations posed the biggest threat to human rights as custodial torture and police atrocities were prevalent despite constitutional guarantees. Several states and UTs continue to drag their feet on implementing the Supreme Court's order about installing CCTV cameras at police stations. The onus is on the respective police top brass to ensure that there is no laxity on this count. It is a must to crack down on cops who brazenly abuse their authority. At stake is the credibility of the law enforcers.

The wise old owl, sentinel of the night

The complex, and often conflicting, relationship between humans and owls ranges from reverence to superstition

Owls are among the most intriguing species in the world, with their presence deeply rooted in folklore and mythology. Their very appearance and nocturnal habits evoke a sense of mystery and wonder. With more than 200 owl species inhabiting every continent, except Antarctica, they have adapted to diverse ecosystems, from open grasslands and dense forests to urban areas and deserts. Unlike other birds, owls have unique physiological features that help them adapt to their nocturnal lifestyle — silent, stealthy flight, a disc-like face and large, round, forward-facing eyes with binocular vision. Specialised wing feathers reduce turbulence and noise, allowing owls to approach their prey undetected. Owls also have extraordinary vision. Their forward-facing eyes are designed for depth perception and sensitivity to low light. Though their eyes are fixed in their sockets, owls can swivel their heads up to 270°, allowing them a nearly complete field of view. Their retinas have a higher concentration of rods than cones, enabling them to detect prey in near-total darkness. Coupled with their exceptional vision and silent flight, owls have a keen sense of hearing, which is considered one of the most sensitive in the animal kingdom. The concave, disc-like shape of their face, formed by orbital feathers, acts as a dish antenna, collecting sound waves and funneling them toward their asymmetrically placed ears. This remarkable feature allows owls to pinpoint the exact location of prey in the dark, making them highly efficient nocturnal hunters. Owls are carnivorous, primarily feeding on small birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Prey is swallowed whole, and later, pellets of undigested parts such as bones, feathers and fur are regurgitated. India is home to 35 owl species, distributed across diverse habitats. While most are resident or local migrants, the Short-Eared Owl — named for the small ear tufts on its head



— migrates to India in the winter from its breeding grounds in the Taiga and Tundra regions of the Northern Hemisphere. It also breeds in the corresponding latitudes of the Southern Hemisphere. Populations from the Northern Hemisphere use the Central Asian Flyway,

passing through countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Unlike the flocks of songbirds on the same migration route, the Short-Eared Owl is a solitary traveller, covering more than 1,000 km in a single flight over land and oceans, with occasional halts to rest and

hunt for food. It enters India through Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab before settling in the grasslands, scrublands, agricultural fields, and wetlands in North, West and Central India. Since the Short-Eared Owl is a winter visitor to our country, we don't observe its courtship display or nesting behaviour. However, in its breeding areas, it is a ground nester. The female excavates a shallow hollow in the ground, which she lines with stones and leaves. She can lay anywhere from five to 14 eggs at a time, which are solely incubated by her. During this period, if she needs to leave the nest for any reason, she defecates on the eggs, covering them with foul-smelling faeces, which helps keep predators at bay. Although owls are generally nocturnal or crepuscular, the Short-Eared Owl is one of the few that can hunt during the day as well. Its silent, gliding flight low over the ground can come as a surprise to its quarry. Interestingly, it clips off the wings of its avian prey before consuming it and then spits out the pellets of undigested parts. Asian Barred Owlet. The complex, and often conflicting, relationship between humans and owls ranges from reverence to superstition. In many cultures, owls are revered as symbols of wisdom, knowledge, prosperity and good fortune. In others, they are believed to be harbingers of death and bad luck, foretelling doom. Owls play a crucial role in the ecosystem as apex predators, keeping rodent populations in check and maintaining balance in their habitats. Unfortunately, like all other wild species, they face the dangers of losing the habitats that are essential to their survival. The story of the owl is one of resilience and adaptation. Despite the challenges they face, owls continue to captivate the human imagination. Their haunting calls in the silence of the night and their mysterious behaviour bring endless fascination to those fortunate enough to encounter them.

बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाङ्गखण्ड থেকে বেঙ্গলে যানবাহনের প্রবেশ শুরু

प्राय २४ घन्टा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाङ्गखण्ड থেকে बेङ्गले वायुयान सभ प्रयागी यानवाहननर प्रवेश शुरू हयल्ले। गत सङ्घा १७७१००० पर बेङ्गल सरकारनर आदेशे बाङ्गखण्ड-बेङ्गल मधन सीमान्ते पन्पन्वाही यानवाहननर प्रवेश निषिद्ध करल हयल्ले। एर फले रात थके दूपुर पर्यन्त प्राय २० किमी दीर्घ यानजट्ट सुष्टि हय। चालकनर समस्यार कथा बिबेचना करे, MASS बेङ्गल सरकारके चाप देय बाङ्गखण्ड सीमान्ते थके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करल समन्त यानवाहन बन्ध करार जन्म। एर फले, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेते बाध्य हय एबं अबशेषे भारी यानवाहननर प्रवेश आवार बाटाबिक हय। बेङ्गल सरकारनर एह अनुमतिर पर, ट्रक चालकरा शक्तिर निश्चास फेलेन। प्राञ्चन निरसा बिधायक अरुण चाटार्जि बाङ्गखण्डेर मुख्यामन्त्री हेमन्त सारेनेनर एह उद्योगेनर प्रशंसा करेन। तिन बलेन, मुख्यामन्त्री हेमन्त सारेनेनर एह बिषये क्रमागत शुक्रुठु दिङ्गेल्लेन। बेङ्गल सरकारनर साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर बेङ्गल सरकार निबेधाञ्छा तुले नेय। एर पर, सारिन्ते मांङ्गिये थाका समन्त पन्पन्वाही यानवाहन बीरके बीरके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करते शुरू करेछे। NH-ए दीर्घ यानजट्ट एखन सीमित हएछे एबं यानजट्टो डाङ्गते शुरू करेछे।

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वैश्विक दबाव में ध्वस्त हुआ घरेलू शेयर बाजार, सेंसेक्स ऊपरी स्तर से 1,695 अंक तक टूटा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप द्वारा ब्रिक्स देशों पर टैरिफ लगाने के संकेतों में दिए गए बयान, कंपनियों के कमजोर तिमाही नतीजे और विदेशी निवेशकों की जोरदार बिकवाली के कारण घरेलू शेयर बाजार आज बड़ी गिरावट का शिकार हो गया। आज के कारोबार की शुरुआत मजबूती के साथ हुई थी। बाजार खुलने के बाद खरीदारी के सपोर्ट से शेयर बाजार में कुछ देर तेजी का रुख भी नजर आया, लेकिन पहले 20 मिनट के कारोबार के बाद ही बाजार में चिरफा बिकवाली शुरू हो गई। हालांकि बीच-बीच में खरीदारों ने लिवाली का जोर बनाकर बाजार को सहारा देने की कोशिश भी की, लेकिन बिकवाली का दबाव इतना अधिक था कि शेयर बाजार संभल नहीं सका। पूरे दिन के कारोबार के बाद सेंसेक्स 1.60 प्रतिशत और निफ्टी 1.37 प्रतिशत की कमजोरी के साथ बंद हुआ। आज के कारोबार के दौरान बिकवाली के दबाव की वजह से सेंसेक्स ऊपरी स्तर से लगभग 1,700 अंक लुढ़क गया। इसी तरह निफ्टी ने भी दिन के ऊपरी स्तर से करीब 450 अंक का गौता लगाया। बाजार पर बने दबाव का अनुमान इसी बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि 7 जून 2024 के बाद आज पहली बार निफ्टी 23 हजार अंक के स्तर से भी नीचे चला गया। हालांकि आखिरी वक्त में हुई खरीदारी के कारण निफ्टी दोबारा 23 हजार

अंक के स्तर के ऊपर आने में सफल रहा। बाजार में बने बिकवाली के दबाव की वजह से आज 1 दिन के कारोबार में ही घरेलू शेयर बाजार के निवेशकों को लगभग साढ़े सात लाख करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हो गया। आज दिनभर के कारोबार में बीएसई के सभी सेक्टोरल इंडेक्स गिरावट के साथ लाल निशान में बंद हुए। रिजर्व, पीएसई और एनर्जी सेक्टर के शेयरों में आज सबसे अधिक बिकवाली होती रही। इसी तरह आईटी, बैंकिंग, ऑटोमोबाइल, कैपिटल गुड्स, कंज्यूमर ड्यूरेबल्स, एफएमसीजी, हेल्थ केयर और टेक इंडेक्स भी गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए। ब्रांड मार्केट में भी आज लगातार बिकवाली का दबाव बना रहा,

जिसके कारण बीएसई का मिडकैप इंडेक्स 2 प्रतिशत की कमजोरी के साथ बंद हुआ। इसी तरह स्मॉलकैप इंडेक्स ने 1.94 प्रतिशत की गिरावट के साथ आज की कारोबार का अंत किया। आज शेयर बाजार में आई गिरावट के कारण स्टॉक मार्केट के निवेशकों की संभ्रि में करीब साढ़े सात लाख करोड़ रुपये की कमी हो गई। बीएसई में लिस्टेड कंपनियों का मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन आज के कारोबार के बाद घट कर 424.11 लाख करोड़ रुपये (अस्थाई) हो गया। जबकि पिछले कारोवारी दिन यानी सोमवार को इन्का मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन 431.59 लाख करोड़ रुपये था।

भारत, बेल्जियम ने औषधि एवं कृषि उत्पादों में व्यापार बढ़ाने के तरीकों पर की चर्चा

नई दिल्ली। भारत और बेल्जियम ने द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए फार्मा और कृषि उत्पादों जैसे क्षेत्रों में व्यापार मुद्दों को हल करने के लिए तंत्र स्थापित करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है। वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय ने जारी एक बयान में कहा कि केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल और बेल्जियम के विदेश एवं विदेशी व्यापार मंत्री बर्नार्ड ब्रिटन के बीच ब्रसेल्स में हुई बैठक के दौरान इन मुद्दों पर चर्चा की गई। इस बैठक में औषधि तथा कृषि उत्पादों के लिए अनुमोदन प्रक्रियाओं में नियामक बाधाओं पर भी चर्चा की गई। इसके साथ ही दोनों पक्षों ने निरंतर बातचीत के जरिए इन चुनौतियों से निपटने पर सहमति व्यक्त की। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि दोनों मंत्रियों ने इस बैठक के दौरान व्यापार मुद्दों के समाधान के लिए

मजबूत तंत्र स्थापित करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की। इन नेताओं ने यूरोपीय संघ-भारत मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (एफटीए) वार्ता की प्रगति पर भी चर्चा की। इसके साथ ही बातचीत को सुचारू बनाने तथा आर्थिक संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए व्यापार मुद्दों को प्राथमिकता देने के महत्व पर बल दिया गया। बैठक के निष्कर्ष के तौर पर भारत और बेल्जियम के बीच लोकतंत्र, कानून के शासन और स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका के साझा मूल्यों पर आधारित दीर्घकालिक संबंधों को मजबूती मिली। वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के मुताबिक इस बैठक में नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, जीवन विज्ञान, बुनियादी ढांचे, डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकियां और खाद्य उत्पादों जैसे उभरते क्षेत्रों को दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग के प्रमुख क्षेत्रों के रूप में रेखांकित किया गया।

केंद्रीय मंत्री किशन रेड्डी ने कोणार्क के सूर्य मंदिर में डीएमएफ प्रदर्शनी का दौरा किया

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय खान मंत्री जी. किशन रेड्डी ने कोणार्क के प्रतिष्ठित सूर्य मंदिर में आयोजित जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन (डीएमएफ) प्रदर्शनी का दौरा किया। रेड्डी ने अपने दौर में विभिन्न स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एसएचजी) के सदस्यों के साथ बातचीत की। खान मंत्रालय की तरफ से जारी बयान में कहा गया है कि केंद्रीय खान मंत्री जी. किशन रेड्डी ने डीएमएफ प्रदर्शनी में प्रदर्शित कई नवीन उत्पादों और समाधानों की जानकारी प्राप्त की, जिसमें खनिज प्रभावित समुदायों पर जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन फंड के परिवर्तनकारी प्रभाव को प्रदर्शित किया गया। खान मंत्रालय द्वारा ओडिशा सरकार के सहयोग से आयोजित प्रदर्शनी 18 से 21 जनवरी, 2025 तक चलेगी। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक प्रदर्शनी का विषय सतत विकास द्वारा समुदायों को सशक्तीकरण को 18 जीवन स्टालों के माध्यम से

जीवंत किया गया, जिसमें डीएमएफ-समर्थित स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एसएचजी), भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (जीएसआई), और जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन द्वारा वित्त पोषित स्थायी बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं के मॉडल शामिल हैं। उल्लेखनीय है कि इस प्रदर्शनी



हिंदुस्तान कॉपर लिमिटेड (एचबीएल), नाल्को, एचजेडएल/वेदांता और ओडिशा सरकार के कार्यों को प्रदर्शित किया गया। प्रदर्शित उत्पादों में पर्यावरण के अनुकूल और स्थायी समाधानों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया, जिसमें स्वयं सहायता समूहों द्वारा हस्तनिर्मित वस्तुएं, हाथ से बुने हुए कपड़े, धागे

का उद्घाटन खान मंत्रालय की संयुक्त सचिव फरीदा एम. नाहक ने 18 जनवरी को किया, जिसमें मंत्रालय, नाल्को और ओएमसी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी भी शामिल थे। इस कार्यक्रम में सतत विकास और सामुदायिक कल्याण को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए मंत्रालय की प्रतिबद्धता को रेखांकित किया गया।

दूरसंचार क्षेत्र में वृद्धि के लिए प्रभावी रूपक प्रबंधन महत्वपूर्ण: ट्राई प्रमुख

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण (ट्राई) के अध्यक्ष अनिल कुमार लालोटी ने कहा कि दूरसंचार क्षेत्र में नवाचार, सार्वभौमिक कनेक्टिविटी और आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रभावी रूपक प्रबंधन रणनीति महत्वपूर्ण है। संचार एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय ने जारी बयान में बताया कि ट्राई के अध्यक्ष अनिल कुमार लालोटी ने एशिया प्रशांत दूरसंचार समुदाय (एपीटी) के महासचिव मसनोरी कॉडे की उपस्थिति में स्पेक्ट्रम पर दक्षिण एशियाई दूरसंचार विनियामक परिषद (एसएटीआरसी) कार्यशाला का उद्घाटन किया। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक तीन दिवसीय कार्यशाला में एसएटीआरसी के सदस्य देशों के प्रतिनिधि, कार्य समूह के सदस्य, उद्योग विशेषज्ञ, कई

सरकारी विभागों के प्रतिनिधि आदि भाग लेंगे। इस कार्यशाला का आयोजन एशिया प्रशांत दूरसंचार समुदाय की ओर से किया गया है, जिसकी मेजबानी भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक बोर्ड के होटल डबल ट्री बाय हिल्टन में कर रहा है। इस कार्यशाला का उद्देश्य तेजी से विकसित हो रहे दूरसंचार परिसर में प्रभावी रूपक प्रबंधन के महत्व पर चर्चा करना है। कार्यशाला के प्रमुख बिंदु -स्पेक्ट्रम पर इस एसएटीआरसी कार्यशाला से प्रतिभागियों के बीच स्पेक्ट्रम प्रबंधन के प्रमुख मुद्दों के बारे में बेहतर समझ विकसित होने की उम्मीद है, जिससे एसएटीआरसी कार्य समूह के लिए कार्यायुक्त योग्य दिशा-निर्देश तैयार होंगे। इसके अतिरिक्त, कार्यशाला का उद्देश्य सदस्य देशों और उद्योग विशेषज्ञों के बीच सहकार्यता को बढ़ावा देना है।

लिस्टिंग के पहले शेयरों की ट्रेडिंग के लिए लॉन्च हो सकता है प्लेटफॉर्म, ग्रे मार्केट की हो सकती है छुट्टी

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। मार्केट रेगुलेटर सिक्वोरिटीज एंड एक्सचेंज बोर्ड ऑफ इंडिया (सेबी) शेयरों की स्टॉक मार्केट में लिस्टिंग के पहले भी ट्रेडिंग करने के लिए एक फॉर्मल प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च करने की बात पर विचार कर रहा है। अगर इस तरह के किसी प्लेटफॉर्म को लॉन्च किया जाता है, तो निवेशक ग्रे मार्केट में होने वाली ट्रेडिंग को जगह सेबी द्वारा अधिकृत प्लेटफॉर्म पर प्री लिस्टिंग ट्रेडिंग कर सकेंगे। इससे निवेशकों के साथ ग्रे मार्केट में कई बार होने वाली धोखाधड़ी की घटनाओं पर भी अकृश लगे सकेंगे। सेबी की चेयरपर्सन माधवी पुरी बुच ने आज एक कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए इस भावी योजना की जानकारी दी। कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए सेबी की चेयरपर्सन ने ग्रे मार्केट

ट्रेडिंग का उल्लेख करते हुए कहा कि शेयरों के अलॉटमेंट से लेकर शेयरों की लिस्टिंग होने तक लगभग तीन दिन की अवधि में काफी बड़े स्तर ही निवेशक के पास उन शेयरों का स्वाभिमि आ जाता है। ऐसे में अभी निवेशक लिस्टिंग के पहले ट्रेडिंग करने के लिए ग्रे मार्केट की मदद लेते हैं, लेकिन अगर सेबी की ओर से एक रेगुलेटेड प्लेटफॉर्म शुरू कर दिया जाए, तो निवेशक शेयरों का अलॉटमेंट होने के तुरंत बाद से ही औपचारिक ट्रेडिंग कर सकते हैं। अभी तक की व्यवस्था में आईपीओ क्लोज होने के बाद निवेशक के डी-मैट अकाउंट में शेयरों का अलॉटमेंट कर दिया जाता है। लिस्टिंग होने तक ये शेयर डी-मैट अकाउंट में फ्रीज रहते हैं। यानी इन शेयरों की लिस्टिंग होने तक ट्रेडिंग नहीं की जा सकती है। शेयरों को फ्रीज रखने का

उद्देश्य अनलिस्टेड शेयरों की अनऑर्गनाइज्ड प्लेटफॉर्म पर ट्रेडिंग को रोकना होता है, ताकि निवेशकों के साथ किसी तरह की धोखाधड़ी न हो जाए। इसके बावजूद ग्रे मार्केट में अनलिस्टेड शेयरों की ट्रेडिंग काफी लंबे समय से हो रही है, जिसमें कई बार निवेशकों के साथ धोखाधड़ी भी हो जाती है। ग्रे मार्केट पूरी तरह से अनरेगुलेटेड प्लेटफॉर्म है। इसलिए इसमें होने वाली ट्रेडिंग को वजह से किसी भी तरह के नुकसान के लिए स्टॉक मार्केट या मार्केट रेगुलेटर सेबी जिम्मेदार नहीं होता है। हालांकि ग्रे मार्केट में होने वाली ट्रेडिंग को आमतौर पर किसी भी शेयर की लिस्टिंग का इंडिकेटर माना जाता है। अगर ग्रे मार्केट में शेयर को अच्छे प्रीमियम मिलता है, तो लिस्टिंग के समय उस शेयर का मूल्य भी उसी हिसाब चढ़ने का अनुमान लगाया जाता है।

शेयरों के अलॉटमेंट के बाद लिस्टिंग होने तक निवेशक औपचारिक रूप से ट्रेडिंग नहीं कर पाते हैं, लेकिन शेयरों के अलॉटमेंट के पहले से ही निवेशक के पास उन शेयरों का स्वाभिमि आ जाता है। ऐसे में अभी निवेशक लिस्टिंग के पहले ट्रेडिंग करने के लिए ग्रे मार्केट की मदद लेते हैं, लेकिन अगर सेबी की ओर से एक रेगुलेटेड प्लेटफॉर्म शुरू कर दिया जाए, तो निवेशक शेयरों का अलॉटमेंट होने के तुरंत बाद से ही औपचारिक ट्रेडिंग कर सकते हैं। अभी तक की व्यवस्था में आईपीओ क्लोज होने के बाद निवेशक के डी-मैट अकाउंट में शेयरों का अलॉटमेंट कर दिया जाता है। लिस्टिंग होने तक ये शेयर डी-मैट अकाउंट में फ्रीज रहते हैं। यानी इन शेयरों की लिस्टिंग होने तक ट्रेडिंग नहीं की जा सकती है। शेयरों को फ्रीज रखने का

मुफ्त बिजली से बढ़ रहा आर्थिक बोझ, यह व्यवस्था लंबे समय के लिए ठीक नहीं : केंद्रीय मंत्री प्रहलाद जोशी

एजेंसी जयपुर। केंद्रीय ऊर्जा मंत्री प्रहलाद जोशी ने मुफ्त बिजली देने वाले राज्यों पर सवाल उठाए हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि कुछ राज्य राजनीतिक कारणों से मुफ्त बिजली दे रहे हैं। इससे एक बड़ा आर्थिक बोझ बढ़ रहा है। केंद्रीय मंत्री प्रहलाद जोशी जयपुर में नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय के तत्वावधान में आयोजित नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा पर क्षेत्रीय समीक्षा बैठक को संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि किसी राज्य पर नहीं बोल रहा लेकिन यह व्यवस्था लंबे समय के लिए ठीक नहीं है। हमें कोशिश करनी चाहिए कि फ्री बिजली की जगह उपभोक्ताओं को इस तरह संभम बनाए कि वे न सिर्फ सस्ती बिजली का घर में उपयोग कर सकें, बल्कि सरलसर बिजली को ग्रिड में देकर देश की जरूरतों को भी पूरा कर सकें। जोशी ने कहा कि इसी बात को ध्यान में रखकर केंद्र सरकार पीएम सूर्य घर योजना लेकर आई है, जो फ्री बिजली देने वाले राज्यों के लिए वरदान साबित हो सकती है। यदि फ्री बिजली देने वाली राज्य सरकारें अपनी सन्विस्डी का पैसा पीएम सूर्य घर योजना में एकमुश्त देने की हिम्मत करें, तो अगले 25 सालों तक उपभोक्ता बिजली बिल के झंझट से मुक्त हो जाएंगे। राज्य सरकारों का सालाना फ्री बिजली की सन्विस्डी का आर्थिक बोझ भी खत्म होगा। केंद्रीय मंत्री प्रहलाद जोशी ने कहा कि हमें समझने की जरूरत है कि हमारे देश में ऊर्जा की मांग क्यों अधिक है? भारत विश्व की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी

अर्थव्यवस्था बनने की ओर अग्रसर है। इस वजह से ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता बढ़ रही है। भारत विश्व में सबसे बड़ा मानव संसाधन वाला देश है। यहाँ 65 प्रतिशत आबादी युवा है। यही कारण है कि हमारा और निर्माण क्षमता मजबूत हो रही है। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि हम खिलौने और स्टील के निर्यात में तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन प्रोजेक्ट के लिए जारी निविदा में 4 लाख 12 हजार लाख टन की मांग आई। इसमें 50 फीसदी हिस्सेदारी अन्य देशों की है। पूरी दुनिया भारत की ओर देख रही है। हर राज्य के पास इस मौके का फायदा उठाने का अवसर है। भारत नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा की ओर इसलिए बढ़ रहा है ताकि पृथ्वी को उसी रूप में सुरक्षित रखा जा सके, जैसा हमें

मिला है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह हमारी जिम्मेदारी है कि इसे अगली पीढ़ी के लिए तैयार रखें। अन्य निम्नोद्योगों को पूरा करने के लिए भी हमें नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा की ओर बढ़ना होगा। पहले प्रति यूनिट सौर ऊर्जा की लागत 11 रुपये थी, जो आज मध्य प्रदेश में घटकर 2.15 रुपये हो गई है। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत ऊर्जा के हर क्षेत्र में तेजी से प्रगति कर रहा है। प्रधानमंत्री सूच्यंघ योजना और पीएम कुसुम योजना के माध्यम से सौर ऊर्जा हर घर तक पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। सरकार इन योजनाओं के लिए सन्विस्डी उपलब्ध कर रही है और ऊर्जा उत्पादन के क्षेत्र में आने वाली दिक्कतों को दूर करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। उन्होंने कहा कि 2032 तक राजस्थान ऊर्जा उत्पादन में दोगुनी वृद्धि करेगा।

मिला है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह हमारी जिम्मेदारी है कि इसे अगली पीढ़ी के लिए तैयार रखें। अन्य निम्नोद्योगों को पूरा करने के लिए भी हमें नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा की ओर बढ़ना होगा। पहले प्रति यूनिट सौर ऊर्जा की लागत 11 रुपये थी, जो आज मध्य प्रदेश में घटकर 2.15 रुपये हो गई है। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत ऊर्जा के हर क्षेत्र में तेजी से प्रगति कर रहा है। प्रधानमंत्री सूच्यंघ योजना और पीएम कुसुम योजना के माध्यम से सौर ऊर्जा हर घर तक पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। सरकार इन योजनाओं के लिए सन्विस्डी उपलब्ध कर रही है और ऊर्जा उत्पादन के क्षेत्र में आने वाली दिक्कतों को दूर करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। उन्होंने कहा कि 2032 तक राजस्थान ऊर्जा उत्पादन में दोगुनी वृद्धि करेगा।

प्रायगराज महाकुंभ मेले में पहुंचे गौतम अडानी, भंडारे में श्रद्धालुओं को परोसा प्रसाद

एजेंसी प्रायगराज। प्रायगराज महाकुंभ में देश-विदेश से करोड़ों श्रद्धालु पहुंच रहे हैं। इस बीच दिग्गज उद्योगपति एवं अडानी समूह के चेयरमैन गौतम अडानी भी पहुंचे। अडानी ने महाकुंभ मेले में चल रहे भंडारे में श्रद्धालुओं को अपने हाथों से प्रसाद परोसा। अडानी इससे पहले महाकुंभ नगर के सेक्टर नंबर 18 स्थित इस्कॉन वीआईपी शिविर में अपनी पत्नी के साथ पहुंचे, जहां लोगों ने उनका स्वागत किया। उन्होंने महाकुंभ 2025 मेले का दौरा किया है। अडानी ने इस्कॉन के भंडारे में सेवा प्रदान की। अडानी समूह ने प्रायगराज में चल रहे महाकुंभ 250 मेलों में श्रद्धालुओं को निःशुल्क भोजन परोसने के लिए इंटरनेशनल सोसाइटी फॉर कृष्णा कॉन्जियसनेस (इस्कॉन)

के साथ हाथ मिलाया है। इसके तहत महाकुंभ में रोजाना एक लाख लोगों को महाप्रसाद बांटा जाएगा। यह सहयोग महाप्रसाद सेवा पहल का

सेवाभाव और संस्कृतियां यहीं मांग गंगा की गोद में आकर समाहित हो गयी है। कुंभ की भव्यता और दिव्यता सजीव बनाए रखने वाले सभी साथी,

पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतें स्थिर

नई दिल्ली। अंतराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में भारी गिरावट जारी रहने के बावजूद घरेलू स्तर पर पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम आज स्थिर रहे, जिससे दिल्ली में पेट्रोल 94.72 रुपये प्रति लीटर

हिस्सा है, जो 26 फरवरी तक चलेगा। गौतम अडानी ने एक्स पोस्ट में लिखा कि अद्भुत, अद्वितीय, एवं अलौकिक! प्रायगराज आकर ऐसा लगा मानो पूरी दुनिया की आस्था,

संत, कल्पवासी एवं श्रद्धालुओं की सेवा में तत्पर शासन-प्रशासन, सफाई कर्मियों और सुरक्षा बलों को मैं हृदय से धन्यवाद देता हूं। मांग गंगा का आशीर्वाद हम सभी पर बना रहे।

तथा डीजल 87.62 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर पड़े रहे। तेल विपणन करने वाली प्रमुख कंपनी हिन्दुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉर्पोरेशन की वेबसाइट पर जारी दरों के अनुसार, देश में आज पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों में कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ है। दिल्ली में इनकी कीमतों के यथावत रहने के साथ ही मुंबई में पेट्रोल 104.21 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर और डीजल 92.15 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर रहा। वैश्विक स्तर पर सप्ताहांत पर अमेरिकी क्रूड 1.80 प्रतिशत लुढ़ककर 76.48 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर आ गया। इसी तरह लंदन ब्रेट क्रूड भी 0.86 प्रतिशत गिरकर 79.46 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर रहा।

सुकन्या समृद्धि योजना के 10 साल, जीवन बदलने वाला एक दशक : वित्त मंत्रालय

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। सुकन्या समृद्धि योजना (एसएसवाई) देशभर में लाखों युवा लड़कियों के लिए आशा और सशक्तिकरण की किरण के रूप में खड़ी है, जो उनके सपनों और आकांक्षाओं को पोषित करने के लिए सरकार की अटूट प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाती है। बेटी बचाओ-बेटी पढ़ाओ अभियान के रूप में 22 जनवरी, 2015 को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने इसकी शुरुआत की थी, यह दूरदर्शी योजना वित्तीय सुरक्षा और समाजिक

सशक्तिकरण के धर्मों को बुनती है। वित्त मंत्रालय ने जारी बयान में बताया कि इस वर्ष 22 जनवरी, 2025 को सुकन्या समृद्धि योजना के मुताबिक इस योजना से परिवारों को 10 वर्ष पूरे हो रहे हैं, जो परिवारों को अपनी बेटियों के उज्वल भविष्य में निवेश करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती है, यह समावेश और प्रगति की संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देती है। इस योजना के तहत नवंबर 2024 तक 4.1 करोड़ से अधिक सुकन्या समृद्धि खाते खोले जा चुके हैं, जो न केवल एक संख्या का प्रतीक है, बल्कि भारत में प्रत्येक

बालिका के लिए एक समान और आशाजनक काल के निर्माण की दिशा में एक आंदोलन है। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक इस योजना से परिवारों को अपनी बेटियों के उज्वल भविष्य में निवेश करने के लिए प्रोत्साहन मिलने के साथ-साथ समावेशिता और प्रगति की संस्कृति को भी बढ़ावा मिल रहा है। इस पहल के माध्यम से राष्ट्र अपनी बेटियों की अपार क्षमता का जपन मनाता है, इस विश्वास की पुष्टि करता है कि एक लड़की को सशक्त बनाने से समाज की नींव मजबूत होती है।

आइए जानते हैं कि सुकन्या समृद्धि योजना कैसे काम करती है:-

- बैंक में खाता खोलना
- अभिभावक बालिका के जन्म के तुरंत बाद से लेकर उसके 10 वर्ष की आयु होने तक खाता खोल सकते हैं। कोई भी बालिका को खाता खोलने के समय से लेकर परिपक्वता/बंद होने तक भारत की निवासी है, वह इस योजना के लिए पात्र है। प्रत्येक बच्चे के लिए केवल एक खाता खोलने की अनुमति है। माता-पिता अपने प्रत्येक बच्चे के

लिए अधिकतम दो खाते खोल सकते हैं। हालांकि, जुड़वां या तीन बच्चे होने की स्थिति में अधिक खाते खोलने की हूट है। खाते को भारत में कहीं भी स्थानांतरित किया जा सकता है। खाता खोलने के लिए निम्नलिखित दस्तावेजों की आवश्यकता होती है:-

- सुकन्या समृद्धि खाता खोलने का फॉर्म
- बालिका का जन्म प्रमाणपत्र -पहचान प्रमाण (आरबीआई केवाईसी दिशानिर्देशों के अनुसार)
- निवास प्रमाण (आरबीआई

केवाईसी दिशानिर्देशों के अनुसार)

यह योजना माता-पिता को किसी भी डकघर या नामित वाणिज्यिक बैंक शाखा में लड़कियों के लिए सुकन्या समृद्धि खाता खोलने की अनुमति देती है। इसकी शुरुआत न्यूनतम 250 रुपये की प्राथमिक जमा राशि से होती है और बाद में जमा राशि 50 रुपये के गुणकों में की जा सकती है, बशर्ते कि एक वित्तीय वर्ष में कम से कम 250 रुपये जमा किए जाएं। कुल वार्षिक जमा सीमा 1,50,000 रुपये तक सीमित है; किसी भी अतिरिक्त राशि पर ब्याज नहीं

मिलेगा और उसे वापस कर दिया जाएगा। खाता खोलने की तारीख से पंद्रह साल तक की अवधि के लिए धनराशि जमा की जा सकती है। अभिभावक द्वारा खाते का तब तक प्रबंधन किया जाता है, जब तक कि बालिका 18 वर्ष की आयु तक नहीं पहुंच जाती। इसके माध्यम से अभिभावक बचत की निगरानी कर सकते हैं और यह सुनिश्चित कर सकते हैं कि धनराशि का उपयोग बालिका की शिक्षा और भविष्य की आवश्यकताओं के लिए प्रभावी ढंग से किया जाए।





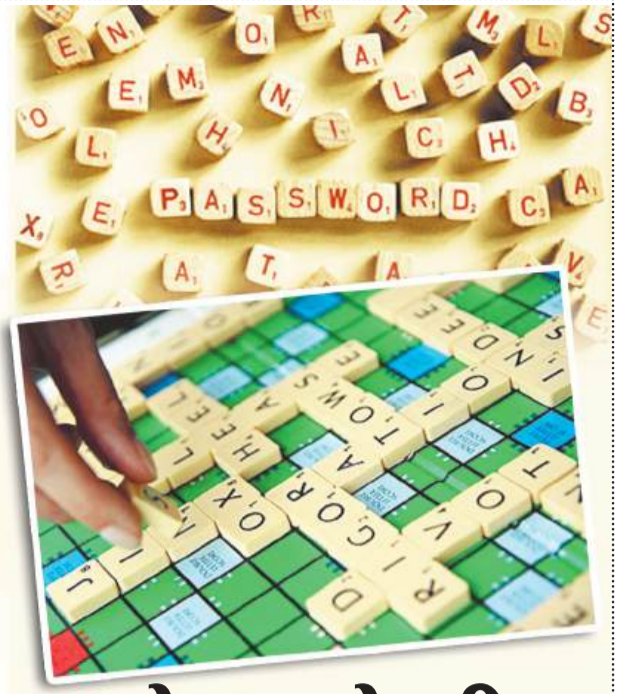
नया साल नए अजूबे

दुनिया का पहला निराला घर

आज तक तुमने कई तरह के डिजाइन वाले घर देखे होंगे। कई ऐसे घर होंगे, जो कि सी अनाखे आकार में तुम्हें आकर्षित भी करते होंगे। अलग-अलग तरह के डिजाइन करने वाले वास्तुकार भी हर सुख-सुविधा का घर बनाते हैं। पर अगर हम तुमसे ये पूछें कि क्या तुमने कभी उल्टा घर भी देखा है, जिसका बेस उसकी छत की तरह हो और छत जमीन से सटी हो। हां, एक ऐसा घर बन कर तैयार है, जिसे देखकर ऐसा लगेगा, मानो कुछ देर पहले कोई जबरदस्त भूकंप ने इस घर को एकदम उलट दिया हो। जब तुम इसे देखोगे तो अपनी बाईं या दाईं तरफ घुमाकर उसे सीधा देखने की कोशिश करोगे।

इस घर के किचन से लेकर बाथरूम और हर एक कमरा अपने सिर के बल उल्टा लटका हुआ लगता है। 23 फीट ऊंचे इस घर में रहने के लिए वह हर स्थान है, जो एक परिवार के लिए जरूरी होता है। मगर यह घर रहने के लिए नहीं बनाया गया है। इस घर का निर्माण जर्मनी स्थित एक चिड़ियाघर के लिए किया गया है। यहां के स्थानीय कारपेंटर गैरहार्ड ने इस बारे में सोचा। फिर उसने अपने अन्य साथियों को इस बारे में बताया। गैरहार्ड की बात सुनकर सबसे उन्हें प्रोत्साहित किया और इस काम में मदद करने का आश्वासन दिया। इसके बाद ही गैरहार्ड ने इसका निर्माण कार्य आरंभ किया। करीब 50 अलग-अलग टुकड़ों की मदद से इस घर की छत को बनाया गया है। हर चीज को सही तरीके से करने में निर्माताओं को महीनों तक मेहनत करनी पड़ी। कारीगरों के मुताबिक आज उन्हें यह सुखद एहसास होता है कि उन्होंने दुनिया का एक निराला घर तैयार किया है। इस घर के बनने के बाद से यहां दूर-दूर से लोग इसे देखने के लिए प्रतिदिन आते हैं। इस चिड़ियाघर में लोगों की आवाजाही बढ़ गई है।

तुम दुनिया के नए-पुराने सभी अजूबों के बारे में जानते होगे। ये अजूबे वर्षों पहले बने थे, मगर आज भी ऐसे कई काम हो रहे हैं, जो तुम्हारे लिए किसी अजूबे से कम नहीं हैं।



गोम्स से भी कुछ सीखो

गोम्स, गोम्स, गोम्स। दिन में गोम्स, रात में गोम्स, छुट्टी में दिन भर गोम्स, घर में दोस्त आ जाए तो गोम्स और कोई घर में न हो तो गोम्स। एक बार तुम्हें मौका मिला नहीं कि गोम्स खेलना शुरू कर देते हो और हाई स्कोर तक पहुंच कर ही मानते हो, फिर चाहे मम्मी खाने के लिए डटती रहे, तुम्हें कंप्यूटर की सीट से कोई हिला नहीं पाता। गोम्स की दुनिया तुम्हें इतनी पसंद है कि परीक्षा के दिनों में सबसे छिपकर तुम गोम्स खेलने का टाइम निकाल ही लेते हो। वह अलग बात है कि अगले दिन परीक्षा में सवाल हल करते हुए भी तुम्हें अपने पसंदीदा गोम्स की थोड़ी-बहुत याद आ ही जाती है। लेकिन यह बात भी सही है कि गोम्स खेलने के अलावा तुम्हें नई मजेदार चीजें भी सीखना पसंद है। तो चलो आज तुम्हें ऐसी ही एक मजेदार साइट के बारे में बताते हैं, जहां तुम गोम्स खेलते-खेलते कई मजेदार चीजें भी सीखोगे।

डब्ल्यूडब्ल्यूडब्ल्यू डॉट लर्निंग गोम्स फॉर किड्स डॉट कॉम

इस साइट पर जाते ही तुम्हें दाएं साइड में गोम्स की कई कैटेगरी दिखेंगी। इसमें से जो भी कैटेगरी के गोम्स खेलना चाहो, उस पर क्लिक करने पर कई गोम्स की लिस्ट नजर आएगी, जिसमें से तुम कोई गोम्स चुन सकते हो। इससे एक तो तुम्हें मजा बहुत आएगा, साथ ही तुम्हारी नॉलेंज इतनी बढ़ जाएगी कि तुम्हारे स्कूल में सब चौक जाएंगे।

टाइपिंग स्पीड बढ़ाओ

जब भी तुम दीदी को कंप्यूटर पर जल्दी-जल्दी टाइप करते देखते हो तो तुम्हारा भी मन करता है कि काश, तुम भी इतनी ही जल्दी टाइप कर पाते। यहां बड़े आराम से तुम टाइपिंग करना सीख जाओगे। बस कीबोर्ड गोम्स वाले ऑनशन पर क्लिक करो और टाइपिंग प्रैक्टिस शुरू कर दो। एक बार सीखने के बाद तुम यहां अपना टाइपिंग स्पीड टेस्ट लेकर देख सकते हो कि तुम्हें प्रैक्टिस की और जरूरत है या नहीं।

तुम्हारे विषय से जुड़े गोम्स भी हैं

यहां तुम सभी विषयों के गोम्स खेल सकते हो। अगर तुम्हें इंग्लिश पसंद है, तो तुम वोकेबुलरी गोम्स, स्पेलिंग गोम्स, अल्फाबेट गोम्स खेल कर जान सकते हो कि तुम्हारी इंग्लिश कैसी है। साइंस गोम्स खेलना चाहते हो तो तुम्हारे लिए साइंस के टॉपिक्स के गोम्स भी हैं। इसके अलावा मैथ्स, सोशल साइंस, ज्योग्राफी के गोम्स भी हैं।

आर्ट और म्यूजिक के गोम्स

तुम आरकेस्ट्रा, जैज, ओपेरा, ब्ल्यूग्रास जैसी म्यूजिक को सुन सकते हो और इसके गोम्स खेलते हुए उनके बारे में जान भी सकते हो। इसके अलावा यहां पेंटिंग भी कर सकते हो। इस साइट पर राइम्स सुन सकते हो और वीडियो के जरिये मछलियों, पक्षियों और समुद्र आदि के संसार में झांक सकते हो।



समुद्री जीवों को खतरा

दुनिया के समुद्र में जिस तरह से एसिड का स्तर बढ़ रहा है, उससे समुद्री जीवों के अस्तित्व पर खतरा मंडराने लगा है। वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि यही हाल रहा तो 2100 तक कई सारे समुद्री जीव समाप्त हो जाएंगे। इसे चिंता को लेकर दुनिया के 500 से ज्यादा जाने-माने विशेषज्ञ साल 2012 में कैलिफोर्निया में जुटे थे। शोधकर्ता इस नतीजे पर पहुंचे हैं कि वर्ष 2100 तक एसिड का स्तर 170 फीसदी तक बढ़ सकता है। मुख्य रूप से कार्बन डाइ-ऑक्साइड के उत्सर्जन को जिम्मेवार ठहराया जा रहा है। वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा प्रस्तुत एक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि एसिड का स्तर बढ़ाने में इनसानि गतिविधियों का हाथ है, जो हर दिन दो करोड़ 40 लाख टन कार्बन डाइ-ऑक्साइड समुद्र में घोल रहे हैं। समुद्र की गहराई में किए अध्ययन से पता चलता है कि जहां पानी में एसिड का स्तर कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड की वजह से ज्यादा है, वहीं बढ़ता एसिड उन समुद्री जीवों के लिए खतरा है जिनका कवच कैल्शियम कार्बोनेट से बनता है। एसिड का सबसे ज्यादा असर आर्कटिक और अंटार्कटिक में देखा जा रहा है।



लैड से बच्चों को बचाने की पहल



पर्यावरण को दूषित होने से बचाने के लिए विश्व में अलग-अलग स्तर पर काम किया जा रहा है। हर संभव कोशिश की जा रही है कि जहरीले पदार्थों से इस धरती को कैसे बचाया जाए। बच्चों को बड़ों से अधिक संवेदनशील माना जाता है। इसीलिए उन पर दूषित होते पर्यावरण का असर अधिक होता है। खेल-खेल में उनके स्वास्थ्य को खतरा न हो, इसकी पहल हो चुकी है। बेंगलुरु में बच्चों के खेलने का एक ऐसा पार्क तैयार है, जो खतरनाक शीशा यानी लैड से मुक्त है। इसके पीछे बेंगलुरु के बायोकेमिस्ट्री के रिटायर्ड प्रोफेसर शुपली वेंकटेश की मेहनत है। डॉक्टर वेंकटेश ने यहां देश का पहला ऐसा सेंटर तैयार कराया, जो लैड के जहरीले कणों से लड़ने के विकल्प को ढूंढ़ रहा है। उन्होंने अपनी रिसर्च में पाया कि लैड मनुष्य को बहुत नुकसान पहुंचा सकता है। खासकर बच्चों का स्वास्थ्य। लैड से बच्चों का आई क्यू भी कम हो जाता है। अब उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि आखिर बच्चों तक लैड पहुंचता कैसे है। उनके मुताबिक बच्चों को लैड के दुष्प्रभाव हर वक्त अपनी चपेट में लेने के लिए तैयार रहते हैं। घर, स्कूल व पार्क में इस्तेमाल किया जाने वाला पेंट ही बच्चों का सबसे बड़ा दुश्मन है। आमतौर पर प्रदूषण की परिभाषा गाड़ियों व फैक्ट्रियों के धुएँ को ही दी जाती है। स्कूल बसों का पीला रंग और खेल के मैदान में इस्तेमाल किये जाने वाले अलग-अलग पेंट में भी लैड पाया जाता है। डॉ. वेंकटेश ने बच्चों के जीवन से लैड को दूर करने की शुरुआत बेंगलुरु के पार्क से करनी चाही, क्योंकि पार्क बच्चों की मस्ती की मनपसंद जगह है। जब पार्क तैयार किया जाना था तो सबसे बड़ी मुश्किल यही थी कि आखिर लैड फ्री पेंट कहां से लाया जाए। हैरानी तब हुई जब किसी भी भारतीय पेंट निर्माता के पास लैड फ्री पेंट नहीं पाया गया।

कुछ विज्ञापन उत्पादों में जरूर लैड फ्री का दावा किया जाता है, मगर उनकी संख्या न के बराबर है। इस समस्या से निपटने के लिए उन्होंने सबसे पहले मैसूर पेंट्स एंड लैक कंपनी को मनाया कि उनके लिए लैड फ्री पेंट तैयार करे। दूसरे चरण में बेंगलुरु की जवाहर बाल भारतीय संस्था से बात की गई। यह एक ऐसा पार्क है, जहां हर रोज करीब 3 हजार बच्चों आते हैं। बस इसी पार्क को लैड फ्री बनाए जाने की योजना बनाई गई। योजना सफल हुई और पिछले दिनों सभी बच्चों के लिए इसे खोल दिया गया। डॉ. वेंकटेश चाहते हैं कि राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम के तहत देश के हर स्कूल व पार्क को लैड फ्री बनाया जाए। एर्नाकुलम के सरकारी अस्पताल पहल करते हुए पैडियाट्रिक डिपार्टमेंट को लैड फ्री बना रहे हैं। एक बार लोगों में जागरूकता आएगी और पेंट्स कंपनी साथ देंगी तो वे दिन दूर नहीं कि घर व बाहर हर जगह लैड फ्री पेंट का इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा। मजेदार बात यह है कि लैड फ्री पेंट दूसरे पेंट के मुकाबले सस्ता भी है। मैसूर पेंट्स के मुताबिक जहां लैड फ्री पेंट 180 रुपए प्रति लीटर बिकेगा, वहीं दूसरे पेंट्स 250 रुपए प्रति लीटर से अधिक कीमत में बिक रहे हैं।



नमक की ईंटों पर खड़ा है ये होटल...

फाइव स्टार से फाइव स्टार डीलक्स होटल तक हर बड़े शहरों में देखे जाते हैं। उनकी दीवारों और छतों को बनाने में आमतौर पर सीमेंट, लोहा, ईंट, डस्ट आदि का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। लेकिन सोचो कि अगर किसी होटल में दाखिल होते ही नोटिस बोर्ड पर होटल की दीवारों से छेड़छाड़ न करने की चेतावनी लिखी हो तो कितनी हैरानी होगी तुम्हें। जी हां, कुछ ऐसे शब्दों को बोलविया के एक होटल में लिखा देखा जा सकता है। यह होटल पूरी तरह से नमक का बना हुआ है। समुद्रतल से 12,500 फीट की ऊंचाई पर स्थित इस होटल को करीब से देखने व ठहरने के लिए हजारों पर्यटक हर साल पहुंच रहे हैं। यहां वे सभी सुविधाएं हैं, जो एक स्तरिय होटल से उम्मीद की जाती हैं। होटल को बनाने के लिए नमक की ईंटों का इस्तेमाल किया गया है। नमक की दीवारें यहां के तापमान को भी नियंत्रित करती हैं। यहां रात में तापमान -9 और 5 डिग्री सेल्सियस के बीच रहता है। यहां तकरीबन 60 हजार यात्री हर साल आते हैं। यह होटल टूरिस्ट डेस्टिनेशन के रूप में पूरी दुनिया में मशहूर हो चुका है। लोग दूर-दूर से यहां रहने आते हैं और अलग अनुभव पाते हैं।

सीड वॉल्ट एक बीज बैंक है। इसे बनाने में नॉर्वे और इंग्लैंड जैसे देशों का योगदान खासा अहम रहा है। दुनिया के कई देशों में ऐसे बीज बैंक हैं, जो फसलों, फूलों और दूसरी चीजों के बीजों को संजोकर रखते हैं। ऐसा इसलिए होता है कि कभी भी विपदा के समय वह काम आ सकें। मगर अब इससे भी एक कदम आगे की बात वैज्ञानिकों ने की है। उन्होंने नॉर्थ पोल, जो दुनिया का बेहद ठंडा

इलाका है, वहां पर एक बीज बैंक बनाया है। यह बीज बैंक दूसरे बैंकों जैसा ही है। मगर इतना विशाल है कि तुम शायद सोच भी नहीं सकते हो। यह ऐसी जगह है, जहां पर इस तरह की विपदा आसानी से नहीं आएगी। इसके अलावा वैज्ञानिकों ने इस जगह को इसलिए भी चुना, क्योंकि यहां के बर्फीले मौसम में बीज को लम्बे समय तक के लिये बचा कर रखा जा सकता है। इसको बनाते समय



अब बीज बच जाएंगे...

कई देशों ने आपसी समझौते के तहत इस जगह को नो वार जोन में बदल दिया। यानी किसी भी सूरत में यहां युद्ध नहीं होगा। यह सीड वॉल्ट बर्फ की चट्टानों को काटकर बहुत गहराई में अंदर तक बनाया गया है। इसमें किसी भी किस्म के लाखों की संख्या में बीज रखे हैं। दुनिया का कोई पेड़-पौधा ऐसा नहीं बचा है, जिसका बीज यहां पर मौजूद न हो। मजे की बात है कि यह बैंक किसी तरह की विपदा आने पर उस देश को बीज देने में किसी तरह की वसूली नहीं करता है। यह इस पृथ्वी पर जीवन को बनाए रखने के लिये ही किया जा रहा है। आज हम कह सकते हैं कि भले ही पृथ्वी पर से डायनासोर जैसे जीव लुप्त हो गए हों, मगर आज पृथ्वी पर जीवन बचाने की यह कोशिश देखकर लगता है कि शायद इस हरी-भरी पृथ्वी पर इसकी हरियाली हमेशा कायम रहेगी।

NEWS BOX

Alex Hartley reveals getting 'cold shoulder' from England team after fitness comment

New Delhi. Former England spinner Alex Hartley has opened up about feeling ostracized by England players during the Women's Ashes. The World Cup-winning cricketer-turned-pundit shared her disappointment at being "given the cold shoulder" by some of her former teammates, including Sophie Ecclestone, who reportedly declined an interview request. Hartley believes the backlash stems from remarks she made about the team's fitness following their premature exit from the T20 World Cup. After England's unexpected loss to the West Indies last October, Hartley publicly criticized certain players for their physical conditioning, suggesting that it had negatively impacted the team's performance. Her comments, which called for greater accountability, seem to have struck a nerve within the squad.

Speaking about the issue on BBC's TMS



podcast, Hartley clarified that her criticism wasn't meant to alienate anyone but to spark improvement. As a commentator for the BBC and other broadcasters in Australia, she emphasised that her goal was to see the team raise its standards and succeed in major tournaments. Sophie Ecclestone refused to do a TV interview with me today... "I've been hung out to dry by the England team: none of them will talk to me on the boundary edge," Hartley said. "The reason I said that they were not as fit as Australia is because I want them to compete with Australia, I want them to be better than Australia, and I want them to win Ashes and World Cups. I'm giving my opinion, and I've been given the cold shoulder from the England team ever since," she added. England's performance in the ongoing Women's Ashes has only added fuel to the conversation. A string of four consecutive defeats has seen them lose the Ashes with games still to play. The team's struggles have included dropped catches and missed opportunities, echoing the shortcomings from their T20 World Cup campaign. "Not all of them have given me the cold shoulder. I don't want to say that they've all been the same, because they haven't. Some of the players have been absolutely outstanding: I've spoken to them in the street, at the ground, wherever. But a few individuals - coaches, players - they literally haven't looked at me," she added.

India coach Gautam Gambhir visits Kalighat temple ahead of first T20I vs England

Kolkata. India head coach Gautam Gambhir paid a visit to the renowned Kalighat Kali Temple in Kolkata ahead of the team's opening T20I clash against England on January 22 at Eden Gardens. This spiritual gesture by Gambhir comes as India embarks on a critical five-match series, which will play a key role in their preparations for the upcoming Champions Trophy. Gambhir's ties to Kolkata run deep. During his playing career, he captained the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) from 2011 to 2017, leading the franchise to two memorable titles. In 2024, he returned to guide KKR to their third championship as a coach. His connection with the city extends beyond cricket, as he often takes moments like this to immerse himself in its cultural and spiritual heritage, particularly before crucial tours. The T20I series against England carries immense



significance, especially after India's disheartening 1-3 loss to Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. This series serves as an opportunity to reset and regain form ahead of the all-important Champions Trophy. India's hopes will be buoyed by the return of seasoned pacer Mohammed Shami, who was last seen in action during the ODI World Cup final against Australia in November 2023, underwent surgery for a heel injury that sidelined him for months. He made his competitive return during the Ranji Trophy for Bengal late last year, showing promising signs of recovery. His presence in the squad brings much-needed experience and reliability to India's bowling unit.

Under the leadership of Suryakumar Yadav, India will aim to rediscover their winning ways in this series. The five matches against England provide an ideal platform for fine-tuning strategies and building confidence ahead of the Champions Trophy.

Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma's form important for India to win in Dubai: Mohammad Kaif

← **Mohammad Kaif believes Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's experience and batting prowess will be crucial for India's success in the Champions Trophy, urging fans to trust their ability to bounce back from recent struggles and deliver on the big stage.**

New Delhi. Former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif has expressed strong belief in Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's ability to lead India to victory in the upcoming Champions Trophy in Dubai. Addressing concerns about their recent dip in form, Kaif urged fans not to discount the duo's potential to deliver under pressure, emphasising their track record of rising to

the occasion in critical moments. In his recent YouTube video, Kaif highlighted the crucial role both players have played in India's ODI success, pointing to their performances in the 2023 ODI World Cup as evidence of their ability to thrive on the big stage. Despite Rohit and Kohli experiencing rough patches, Kaif remains confident that their experience and skill will be pivotal in India's Champions Trophy campaign.

"You need Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for the Champions Trophy. One is 37 years old, another is 36 years old. They are not going to play longer. Whatever they play, give them your blessings because they are great players of white-ball cricket who won't play too long," Kaif said. "They will contribute. If they play well, then only you'll be able to win matches in Dubai. Rohit provides the start by batting faster in the beginning and Virat Kohli uses that start to bat till the end and scores there. Give them your love," he added.

**Kohli's Inconsistent Form and Resilience**

Kohli's recent performances have been underwhelming, particularly during India's 1-3 series loss to Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Although he started the series with a century in Perth, his form tapered off, managing just 95 runs in the subsequent matches. Kohli's susceptibility to deliveries in the off-stump corridor became a recurring issue, with eight of his 10 dismissals coming from edges to the slips or wicketkeeper.

However, Kaif pointed out that Kohli's 2023 ODI World Cup performance speaks volumes about his ability to bounce back. The star batter amassed a tournament-high 765 runs in 11 matches at a staggering average of 95.62, proving he can still deliver when it matters most.

Rohit Sharma's Consistency in ODIs

While Rohit has also faced criticism for his recent performances, his ODI stats offer a different narrative. In 2023, he accumulated 1,255 runs in 27 matches, showcasing his ability to anchor innings and provide explosive starts. His contributions were instrumental during the 2023 World Cup, where he finished as the second-highest run-scorer with 597 runs at an average of 54.27, including one century and three fifties. Kaif stressed that both players have the experience and skill to handle the pressures of international tournaments. With the Champions Trophy looming, India will rely on the proven match-winning capabilities of Rohit and Kohli to spearhead their batting efforts.

Australian Open: Swiatek sets up semi-final vs Keys after crushing Navarro

New Delhi. Polish tennis star and World No. 2 Iga Swiatek showcased her dominance at the Rod Laver Arena on January 22, comfortably defeating American Emma Navarro 6-1, 6-2 in a one-sided quarter-final clash. With this victory, Swiatek has set up an exciting semi-final against another American, Madison Keys. Swiatek's precision and power were on full display as Navarro struggled to counter the Polish star's relentless returns. From the very start, Swiatek asserted control, leaving Navarro scrambling to respond effectively. The first set was a testament to Swiatek's form, with the World No. 2 exploiting every opportunity to secure points. Navarro had minimal chances to mount any resistance, as Swiatek broke her serve five times out of nine break points. The set concluded swiftly, 6-1 in Swiatek's favour. Although the second set saw a slightly more competitive



Navarro, she couldn't capitalise on her brief moments of advantage. Swiatek quickly regained her rhythm, nullifying any hopes of a comeback for the American. The set ended 6-2, sealing Swiatek's place in the semi-

finals and reaffirming her reputation as a title favourite. Keys vs Svitolina: A Thrilling Comeback In the earlier quarter-final on the same court, Madison Keys battled past Elina Svitolina in an intense three-setter. Keys overturned an initial deficit to win 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, securing her place in the semi-final. Svitolina started strongly, leveraging her precision and power to dominate the opening set. However, Keys adapted brilliantly, shifting the momentum in her favour. By increasing the pace and targeting Svitolina's weaknesses, Keys turned the tide. Her resilience and tactical adjustments earned her a hard-fought victory. With both players in impressive form, the women's singles semi-final promises to be a thrilling encounter. Swiatek's consistency and power will meet Keys' adaptability and determination in what is set to be one of the highlights of the tournament.

Mohammed Shami recalls injury ordeal: There was a sense of fear even while running

New Delhi. Indian speedster Mohammed Shami recalled the tough times he went through while being out of competitive cricket for nearly a year due to injury concerns. After the ODI World Cup against India back in November 2023, the pacer will don the national jersey for the first time in the upcoming T20I series against England, starting January 22 at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata. During this while, Shami missed plenty of bilateral series and couldn't play in the Men's T20 World Cup 2024 and the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. On Wednesday, the BCCI uploaded a video where Shami can be seen flying a kite and talking about how he managed to recover from his injury. "Doesn't matter if it is flying a kite, bowling or driving a car, if you are strong and believe in yourself, then, I don't think you will find any difference. Look even after 15 years, I am able to fly this kite. Hence, confidence is very important for any task," Shami said.

'If you work hard, you will get the result'

Shami has also been picked to play the Champions Trophy to be held in Pakistan and



India vs England, 1st T20I, Predicted XI: Will dew affect team combination in Kolkata

Kolkata. After a long season of Test tours, both home and away, the focus once again shifts to white-ball cricket as India starts their T20I series against England on Wednesday. After disastrous losses to both New Zealand and Australia, head coach Gautam Gambhir will hope for some redemption against his old teammate from Kolkata Knight Riders, Brendon McCullum.

McCullum, who will begin his tenure as the all-format coach of England, has already promised entertainment—akin to his Bazball approach in red-ball cricket. McCullum brings with him an energetic young side, filled with bright prospects such as Harry Brook and Jacob Bethell.

Gambhir's main challenge, however, may not be the England think tank or the squad itself. It could be the baggage he carries from the tour of Australia. Gambhir faced criticism for his team selection and approach during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, and that scrutiny will be revisited once again in the upcoming 8-match white-ball series against England. Fortunately, Gambhir finds himself on familiar turf. Few visiting players know Eden Gardens and Kolkata as well as he does. In the 2024 IPL, the season in which Gambhir took over as the mentor of the team, one of the KKR fans cried his heart out



in a meet and greet with Gambhir, begging the former skipper to remain with KKR forever.

Although that didn't happen and Gambhir joined Team India, his stint at KKR puts him in an advantageous position against an ultra-aggressive England team. India vs England: Team News

India captain Suryakumar Yadav confirmed a couple of things in the pre-match press conference. First, Suryakumar re-confirmed Sanju Samson's position in the side, stating that the wicketkeeper-batter was the preferred choice for this team in the T20I format. Suryakumar also said that his Mumbai teammate Tilak Varma was going

to come out at No. 3, ahead of him. It is an interesting choice by the Indian skipper and the team management, given Suryakumar became a world-beater batting at that position, and one wonders if this change was really necessary?

India vs England: Pitch and Weather Conditions

The Eden pitch was an absolute road to bat on in the Indian Premier League 2024 season. Last season, Punjab Kings created history by chasing down 262 runs against KKR with 8 balls remaining. In fact, Rajasthan Royals also triumphed over KKR in the same edition of the tournament, chasing down 224 runs. The pitch is expected to play the same, and things could be even more accentuated by the fall of dew in the evening. It is winter across India, and dew is expected to make life difficult for the bowlers in the second innings of the match.

India vs England: Team Combinations

With dew falling in the second innings, India might opt to pick only defensive spinners in the side. Given that Axar Patel has been promoted to vice-captaincy, he is assured of a position in the line-up. And the second person that is sure to get a nod is Varun Chakravarthy, who not only knows Eden well but was also in sensational form against South Africa in the last T20I series.

IND vs ENG, 1st T20I: Shami, Gambhir-McCullum tussle in focus in battle of powerhouses

← **England's young rising star Harry Brook has been named as vice captain of the white-ball formats ahead of the series against India.**

New Delhi. Fit-again pacer Mohammed Shami returns to the India jersey after a long injury layoff as Suryakumar Yadav's young Indian squad faces a well-matched England in a five-match T20I series. This is also India's first series after the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) had to step in with strict directives on team discipline. India have redefined their T20I approach, securing series wins over Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and South Africa under captain Suryakumar Yadav and coach Gautam Gambhir. Meanwhile, England captain Jos Buttler is

excited to work with new white-ball coach Brendon McCullum and a revamped T20I side packed with power-hitters. This series will also mark a new chapter for vice captain Axar Patel. The young all-rounder was rewarded for heroics in India's T20 World Cup-winning campaign last year. Axar came up with a superb batting cameo in the final against South Africa, scoring a crucial 47 off 31 balls and claiming nine wickets across eight matches at an impressive average of 19.22.

GAMBHIR vs MCCULLUM

It will also be a battle between the two coaches—Gautam Gambhir and Brendon McCullum at Eden Gardens, a venue both are familiar with. While Gambhir's influence and bold decisions in T20Is have yielded successful results, the Indian coach is still recovering from the Test team's disastrous tour of Australia. This makes a strong performance from the T20 side crucial for his coaching tenure. Gambhir is under immense pressure, especially following India's ODI



series loss to Sri Lanka and Test series defeats to New Zealand at home and Australia away during his tenure. On the other hand, McCullum, renowned for transforming Test cricket with his aggressive 'Bazball' strategy, now aims to bring similar success to England's limited-overs setup.

The McCullum era starts after England surrendered 50-over and T20 World Cup titles during a challenging seven-month stretch in 2023-24. England will be without key players Reece Topley, Sam Curran, and Will Jacks, but 21-year-old Jacob Bethell, who impressed in the ODI series against the West Indies last year, will be eager to make his mark. McCullum has promised to focus on entertainment on the expected lines in the India series. "I'm desperate for us to play a really watchable brand of cricket," McCullum told the reporters. "With the talent we have, there's no reason why we can't. We've got a batting line-up which is as powerful as any batting line-up in the world. We've got gun spinners, very good fielders and guys who bowl absolute rockets with the ball, so you've got options there to be able to entertain and give yourself the greatest chance of success." This eight-match white-ball contest provides an ideal platform for both coaches to experiment with team combinations ahead of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025.

Deepika Padukone

Shares Goodbye Kiss With Ranveer Singh Before Leaving Family Wedding

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh never fail to make heads turn every time they are spotted together, and last night was no different! The couple were clicked by the paparazzi as they attended Ranveer's cousin's wedding in Mumbai. They redefined royalty in elegant traditional outfits, and their pictures went viral. Now, a video that has been widely shared on the couple's fan pages shows Deepika giving her hubby a goodbye kiss before leaving. In a video that is now going viral, Ranveer Singh is seen escorting Deepika to the car, making sure she was comfortable as she sat inside the car. He carefully adjusted her dress while she settled in. Deepika is then seen plating a sweet kiss on Ranveer's cheek before leaving. The viral video has left fans swooning over the lovely couple. Check it out below!

Meanwhile, an inside picture from Ranveer's cousin's wedding has also surfaced on social media. Ranveer and Deepika are seen beaming with joy as they posed with



Anju Bhavnani as well as the bride and groom, and other relatives at the wedding. Ranveer is seen with his arm around Deepika's shoulder, while the actress was all smiles for the picture. Check it out below!

Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone, who rarely makes public appearances together since welcoming their daughter Dua, made a striking impression with their regal and coordinated traditional outfits. The 'Fighter' actress looked gorgeous in an intricately embroidered pink

anarkali suit with full-length sleeves. She accessorized her look with a pair of elegant gold jhumkis with ear chains, a choker necklace, and a heavy emerald-adorned neckpiece. Meanwhile, Ranveer Singh complemented her in an ivory embroidered sherwani.

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh tied the knot in 2018. They welcomed their first child, daughter Dua Padukone Singh, on September 8, 2024. They announced the news of her arrival through a heartfelt social media post with a caption that read, "Welcome, baby girl. 8.09.2024. Deepika and Ranveer."

Kartik Aaryan

Says He Has A 'Love-Hate Relationship' With Karan Johar: 'Jab Hum Logo Ne Pehli Film...'

Kartik Aaryan recently mentioned that he has a love-hate relationship with Karan Johar, since their previous film, Dostana 2 was shelved. At a recent SCREEN event, Kartik Aaryan was asked to react to a photo of him with Karan Johar. In the image, Karan pulled Kartik's ear as the actor folded his hands in front of the director. Kartik reacted, "Ispe kya bolu? (What do I say to this)." He said, "I think yeh love and hate relationship hai... Bahut acha yeh photo represent karti hai (I think this is a

ka hai jab hum logo ne pehli film, jo humari honi thi kabhi, woh sign ki thi. Toh tab ka moment hai. I think he knew ki main... photo pehle se le li thi (This was the moment when our first film, which was going to happen, was signed. This was then. I think he knew that I... so he took the picture beforehand)," he recalled. For the unversed, Karan Johar was all set to make the sequel of Dostana with Kartik Aaryan and Janhvi Kapoor. While the original film starred Abhishek Bachchan, Priyanka Chopra and John Abraham, Dostana 2 would feature Kartik and Janhvi as siblings. However, the film was shelved, resulting in a falling out between Kartik and Karan. The matter has since been resolved as Kartik and Karan are now collaborating on Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri.

Kartik Aaryan said, "But abhi main inke sath film kar raha hu. And hum sath mein kar rahe hain yeh film and I hope yeh film toh hogi. Yeh film main puri tarah karunga and woh bhi puri tarah karenge yeh film. (Now I am doing a film with him. We are doing it together and I hope it happens. I will do this film and he will do it too)." Kartik also added, "Yeh film toh bohot special hone wali hai (This film is going to be very special)." Although the film was announced weeks ago, there is no information about who will star opposite Kartik Aaryan in the film.



love and hate relationship This photo represents that very well.)"

Kartik recalled that the photo was taken before they began filming Dostana 2. However, the actor didn't directly mention the film's name "Yeh moment tab



Mammootty And Dulquer Salmaan Attend Engagement Of Makeup Artist's Daughter



Actors Mammootty and Dulquer Salmaan are big names in the South Indian film industry. Recently, the two were spotted together at their makeup artist George Sebastian's daughter's engagement. George shared beautiful photos of Mammootty and his entire family on X. The first image showed Mammootty and his wife, Sulfiya, making a rare appearance, sitting on either side of the bride-to-be. The next frame showed Dulquer Salmaan and his wife, Amal Sufiya, posing on either side of the bride. In the pictures, Dulquer Salmaan's daughter, Maryam, drew a lot of attention with her adorable appearance. The child sat on her father's lap while they posed for photos. Along with the pictures, George wrote, "A heart full of love as we marked our daughter Cynthia's sweet offering ceremony, surrounded by love, light and blessings." While Mammootty was dressed in a floral-patterned shirt and mundu, Dulquer Salmaan wore a gorgeous full-sleeve white shirt, black pants and sunglasses.

Meanwhile, Dulquer Salmaan was last seen in Lucky Baskhar. The film, written and directed by Venky Atluri, was released in Malayalam, Hindi, Tamil and Kannada languages. Dulquer Salmaan plays a commoner who is willing to go the additional mile for his family. He plays the role of a bank cashier who becomes entangled in the web of riches and greed. The film has music by GV Prakash Kumar, editing by Navin Nooli and cinematography by Nimish Ravi. The film is produced by Naga Vamsi S and Sai Soujanya through Sithara Entertainment and Fortune Four Cinemas. The film is produced by Srikara Studios. Lucky Baskhar features Dulquer Salmaan, Meenakshi Chaudhary, Ramki, Surya Sreenivas, Sachin Khedekar and others. On the other hand, Mammootty is set to reunite with Mohanlal on the big screen after over 11 years in a much-anticipated film directed by Mahesh Narayanan.

Abhishek Bachchan Recalls Quitting College Amid Amitabh Bachchan's Bankruptcy: 'He Borrowed Money...'



Abhishek Bachchan, a seasoned entrepreneur, recently opened up about his journey in business and how it influenced his acting career. Speaking to CNBC TV18, the actor revealed there was a time when he signed films solely to fund his sporting ventures, but he has since changed that approach, prioritizing creativity over financial necessity. "I have been pitched several businesses. In the early days, when you were naive, you would get impressed by these numbers. And having run 2-3 successful sporting teams, you realise that projections are just that, they are just on paper," Abhishek explained. Reflecting on his Pro Kabaddi League team and other ventures, he admitted that his earlier strategy of financing business ventures through his acting earnings took a toll on his creative work.

"Thankfully, I have moved on from that thought process. I realised, about 2-3 years into kabaddi and football, that signing innumerable films to finance my love for sport and the business of sport was not something which I was very happy doing," he said. While this approach was financially sustainable, Abhishek found it creatively stifling.

"It is sustainable, it might not be a lot of fun. And then what happens is that you stop making creative choices, you start making financial choices. And I think in a creative field, that's harakiri," he said, adding, "I wanted my films to be a creative choice. Not because I had to fill the bank balance to support my, at that point of time, hobby." Abhishek now takes a more structured approach to his investments through his "family office." He shared, "I started up my family office, streamlined the finances, investment portfolios etc. It's taken me about seven years, but thankfully, now we have a balance sheet and allocated funds through my family office that I can run a sporting business." He further emphasized, "It is a passion for me but it is not something I am willing to lose money on and I will turn heaven and earth upside down to make sure it's profitable." Abhishek also recalled a pivotal moment from the 1990s when he quit college in Boston to support his father, Amitabh Bachchan, during a financial crisis. Speaking to Ranveer Allahabadia, he said, "He had to borrow money from his staff to put food on the table. I just felt morally obliged to be with him. I called him and I said 'You know, dad, I think I want to leave college half-way and come back and just be with you, try and help you in whatever way.'"