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after 9 years, falls cheaply vs J&K

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The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Yemen's Houthi rebels release crew of commercial vessel seized in Red Sea in November 2023

DUBAI. Yemen's Houthi rebels said Wednesday they released the crew of the Galaxy Leader, a vehicle carrier seized in November 2023 at the start of their attacks on shipping in the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war. The move by the Iranian-backed Houthis marks their latest effort to de-escalate their attacks following a ceasefire in Gaza. It also comes as U.S. President Donald Trump likely weighs whether to reinstate a terrorism designation he made on the group that had been revoked by President Joe Biden. The rebels said they released the sailors after mediation by Oman, a sultanate on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula that's long been an interlocutor with the Houthis. Oman did not immediately acknowledge the release, though an Omani Royal Air Force jet took a flight to Yemen earlier Wednesday and took off again about an hour after the Houthi announcement. The Houthis also said Hamas separately requested the release of the ship's crew of 25, who included mariners from the Philippines, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine and Mexico. "This step comes in support of the ceasefire agreement in Gaza," the Houthis said in a statement on rebel-controlled SABA news agency. Vessel's link to Israeli billionaire The Houthi rebels said they hijacked the Galaxy Leader over its connection to Israel. They then had a campaign targeting ships in international waters, which only stopped with the recent ceasefire in Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. A representative for the Galaxy Leader's owners had no immediate comment on Wednesday. The Bahamas-flagged vessel is affiliated with an Israeli billionaire Abraham "Rami" Ungar, who is known as one of the richest men in Israel. The Houthi attack on the Galaxy Leader saw the rebels launched a helicopter-borne raid. Propaganda footage of the raid has been played constantly by the Houthis, who even shot a music video aboard the ship at one point. On Monday, the Houthis signaled they now will limit their attacks in the Red Sea corridor to only Israeli-affiliated ships after a ceasefire began in the Gaza Strip, but warned wider assaults could resume if needed. However, it likely won't be enough to encourage global firms to reenter the route that's crucial for cargo and energy shipments moving between Asia and Europe.

Jaishankar US Visit: EAM Expresses Concern Over Attack On Indian Consulate In San Francisco, Calls It 'Very Serious Matter'

EAM Jaishankar In US. Expressing concern over the attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar dubbed it a "very serious matter". He said that India expects accountability for the incident and those responsible to be held accountable. While speaking at a press conference in Washington DC on Wednesday (local time), the EAM said, "The arson attack on our consulate in San Francisco is a very, very serious matter, and it is something for which we expect accountability. We would like to see that people who did it are held responsible". Further, Jaishankar also stated that "he had a brief discussion on Bangladesh" with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, but didn't share any further details at the presser. "We had a brief discussion on Bangladesh...I don't think it's appropriate. I get into more details," he said. Notably, the Consulate General of India in San Francisco was attacked on March 19, 2023, by a group of assailants who committed criminal trespass, damaged public property, and attacked officials of the Consulate. Before this attack, on the same day, some attackers attempted to set the Consulate building on fire by sprinkling inflammable substances early in the morning. A video surfaced on social media in which suspected pro-Khalistani protestors were seen gathering outside the Indian consulate in San Francisco, shouting slogans and heckling staff as they abandoned the diplomatic mission.

Charge South Korea's Yoon With Insurrection, Abuse Of Power: Investigators

Seoul, South Korea. South Korean investigators recommended Thursday that impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol be charged with insurrection and abuse of power, as they handed over the results of their probe into his ill-fated declaration of martial law to prosecutors. The official charges against Yoon were "leading an insurrection and abuse of power", the Corruption Investigation Office said after a 51-day probe into his December 3 attempt to suspend civilian rule. The CIO said it "decided to request the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office file charges against the sitting President, Yoon Suk Yeol, in connection with allegations including leading insurrection". Yoon had "conspired with the former Minister of National Defense and military commanders on December 3, 2024," it said. The leader, currently suspended from duties, "declared martial law with the intent to exclude state authority or disrupt the constitutional order, thereby inciting riots". Under the South Korean legal system, the case file of the suspect -- identified as "Yoon Suk Yeol: president" -- will now be handed to prosecutors, who have 11 days to decide whether to charge him, which would lead to a criminal trial. The prosecutors' office has "complied with the CIO's request for a case transfer," the investigators said. Yoon was arrested in a dawn raid last week on insurrection charges, becoming the first sitting South Korean head of state to be detained in a criminal probe.

Mexican border states prepare migrant shelters as Trump begins deportation campaign

CIUDAD JUÁREZ. Mexico raised sprawling tents on the U.S. border Wednesday as it braced for President Donald Trump to fulfill his pledge to carry out mass deportations. In an empty lot tight against the border with El Paso, Texas, cranes lifted metal frames for tent shelters in Ciudad Juárez. Enrique Serrano, an official in Chihuahua state, where Ciudad Juárez is located, said the tents erected for Mexican deportees were just the initial phase of a potentially larger operation, and something authorities would scale up if the number of migrants gathering on the border continued to mount. He suggested migrants from other countries expelled from the U.S. would be relocated to Mexico City or southern regions of Mexico as they've done previously. Workers begin the installation of a temporary shelter for possible deportees from the United States, in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, Wednesday. Nogales, Mexico — across from Nogales, Arizona — announced that it would build shelters on soccer fields and in a gymnasium. The

border cities of Matamoros and Piedras Negras have launched similar efforts. At a border crossing in Tijuana, Mexico, on Tuesday night, one man shouted to journalists that he was being deported in a group that was arrested that morning in farm fields near Denver. Another man said he was in a group that had been brought from Oregon. Everyone carried their belongings in a small orange bag. Neither man's account could be independently confirmed. The number of people deported Tuesday was lower than the daily average of about 500 last year, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum noted at her daily press briefing. And many border shelters that have long offered refuge to migrants remained comparatively empty to the soaring levels of migrants seen just a year before. Still, heads of those migrant shelters like José María García, director of the Tijuana shelter Movimiento Juventud 2000 were bracing for what could come. "Mass deportations in the United States and the arrival of thousands of migrants from the



south could overwhelm the city of Tijuana and other border cities, creating a crisis," he said. Though quickly ramping up deportations — as Trump pledges — faces logistical and financial challenges. The Mexican government is building nine shelters in border cities to receive deportees. It has said that it would also use existing facilities in Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez and Matamoros, to take in migrants whose appointments to request asylum in the U.S. were canceled on Inauguration Day. Sheinbaum has said that Mexico will

give humanitarian aid to migrants from other countries whose asylum appointments were cancelled, as well as those sent to wait in her nation under the revived policy known as Remain in Mexico. Mexico wants to eventually and voluntarily return them to their nations, she has said. Mexican Foreign Affairs Secretary Juan Ramón de la Fuente and the new U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio held their first telephone conversation in their new positions. "It was a very good conversation, very cordial, they talked about migration and security issues," Sheinbaum said. After pledging to dramatically shift border and immigration policies, on Monday Trump scrapped the program known as CBP One that allowed asylum seekers to schedule appointments on their phones before arriving at the border, providing a degree of order. On Wednesday, the Pentagon announced it was sending up to 1,500 active-duty troops to the border.

Elon Musk clashes with OpenAI CEO Sam Altman over Trump-supported Stargate AI data centre project

WASHINGTON. Elon Musk and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman are publicly clashing over the Stargate artificial intelligence infrastructure project, a venture heavily promoted by President Donald Trump. The feud, rooted in a longstanding rivalry between the two tech billionaires, is now testing Musk's influence within Trump's administration. Trump announced the Stargate initiative on Tuesday, a joint venture involving OpenAI, Oracle, and SoftBank, with plans to invest up to \$500 billion. The project aims to develop advanced AI technology through new data centers and renewable energy infrastructure, starting with an initial private investment of \$100 billion. Trump described the venture as "a resounding declaration of confidence in America's potential" under his leadership. However, Musk, a close adviser to Trump and the head of a government cost-cutting initiative, questioned the validity of the investment. "They don't actually have the money," Musk wrote on his social platform, X. "SoftBank has well under \$10 billion secured. I have that on good authority." Altman responded

Wednesday, refuting Musk's claims and inviting him to visit the first construction site in Texas. "This is great for the country. I realize what is great for the country isn't always what's optimal for your companies, but in your new role, I hope you'll mostly put (America) first," Altman wrote, using an American flag emoji. The conflict stems from a years-long dispute that began during Musk and Altman's time on OpenAI's board. Musk, an early investor in OpenAI, sued the company last year, accusing it of abandoning its nonprofit mission to prioritize profits. He has since escalated his legal claims, seeking a court order to halt OpenAI's transformation into a for-profit entity. A hearing is scheduled for February in a California federal court. Musk, who launched his own AI company, AI, last year, has accused OpenAI and its partner Microsoft of creating unfair competition. Microsoft has provided substantial computing resources for OpenAI's AI systems, including ChatGPT. AI is reportedly building its own data center in Memphis, Tennessee, to compete with OpenAI's infrastructure. Stargate has been in

development for several months. Tech news outlet The Information first reported on the project in March 2024. Crusoe Energy Systems, along with energy tech firm Lancium, announced a large AI data center in Abilene, Texas, last July, powered by renewable energy sources. The project, initially described as a multibillion-dollar investment, has now been revealed as the first phase of Stargate. Abilene Mayor Weldon Hurt said construction began about nine months ago, with the project expanding far beyond initial expectations. Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison confirmed that the Abilene facility is the first of 10 planned data centers, with the possibility of growing to 20. The region's energy resources, including solar, wind, oil, and gas, make it an ideal location for the development. Missing from Trump's announcement was Microsoft, a longtime OpenAI partner that has invested billions into its AI infrastructure. Microsoft is reportedly involved in Stargate alongside Nvidia and Arm but emphasized that its OpenAI partnership is evolving to focus on research and model training.

U.S House passes immigrant detention bill that would be Trump's first law to sign

WASHINGTON. The Republican-led House on Wednesday gave its final approval to a bill that requires the detention of unauthorised immigrants accused of theft and violent crimes, marking the first legislation that US President Donald Trump can sign as Congress, with some bipartisan support, swiftly moved in line with his plans to crackdown on illegal immigration. Passage of the Laken Riley Act, named after a Georgia nursing student who was murdered last year by a Venezuelan man, shows just how sharply the political debate over immigration has shifted to the right following Trump's election victory. Immigration policy has often been one of the most entrenched issues in Congress. Still, a crucial faction of 46 politically vulnerable Democrats joined with Republicans to lift the strict proposal to passage on a 263-156 vote tally. "For decades, it has been almost impossible for our government to agree on solutions for the problems at our border and within our country," Senator Katie Britt, an Alabama Republican, said. She called the legislation "perhaps the most significant immigration enforcement bill" to be passed by



Congress in nearly three decades. Still, the bill would require a massive ramp-up in US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's capabilities, but it does not include any new funding. Meanwhile, the new president has launched a slew of executive orders intended to seal off the border of Mexico to immigration and ultimately deport millions of immigrants without permanent legal status in the US. On Wednesday, Trump also cancelled refugee resettlement while his administration signalled intentions to prosecute local law enforcement officials who do not enforce his new immigration policies. Republican congressional leaders have made it clear they intend to follow suit, though their toughest challenge will be finding a way to approve the funding actually to implement Trump's hard-line plans. "What he's doing is kick-starting what will ultimately be our legislative agenda," said House Speaker Mike Johnson. House Republicans initially passed the legislation last year with support from 37 Democrats in a move that was intended to deliver a political rebuke to then-President Joe Biden's handling of the southern border.

Trump threatens to withhold US government aid for LA if California doesn't change water policies

WASHINGTON. US President Donald Trump on Wednesday threatened to withhold federal disaster aid for wildfire-ravaged Los Angeles unless California leaders change the state's approach on its management of water. In a Fox News interview, Trump repeated false claims that the state's fish conservation efforts in the northern part of the state are responsible for fire hydrants running dry in urban areas. He says the blame for Los Angeles' struggles to tame some of the deadly fires lies with Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, a political foe who has called for partnership and mutual respect as the state fights the blazes. "I don't think we should give California anything until they let the water run down," Trump said. The president leveled the threat as he prepares for the first presidential trip of his second term. On Friday, he will visit Southern California in addition to western North Carolina, which is recovering after Hurricane Helene pummeled the area more than

three months ago. Trump in the interview also called for reform of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, claiming it is "getting in the way of everything." "I'd rather see the states take care of their own problems," he said. He did not elaborate on his proposed reforms, only saying that the agency is "going to be a whole big discussion very shortly." In other developments for the new administration, Trump met Wednesday with a small contingent of the most politically endangered House Republicans as the party struggles to agree on a strategy for implementing the tax cuts and other priorities that it promised voters. The meeting happened as Trump tried to advance other priorities during the first week of his second term. Roughly 160 aides at the National Security Council were sent home while it is determined whether they align with Trump's agenda. The Pentagon has begun deploying 1,500 active-duty troops to support border

security efforts. "The American people have been waiting for such a time as this," said Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary. Stephen Miller, a top Trump adviser, met with Senate Republicans to update them on plans for deportations and reinstating Title 42, a policy that was put in place during the coronavirus pandemic to stop border crossings. Although Republicans control the White House and both chambers of Congress, they have only thin majorities in Capitol Hill, and there are disagreements on how to move forward with so many issues on the table. Trump's meeting unfolded amid a series of private "listening sessions" with House Speaker Mike Johnson, whose ability to unite his conference will be sorely tested in the weeks and months ahead. Trump has held his own dinners with Republican lawmakers at Mar-a-Lago, and he's preparing to address them next week at their private retreat in Doral, Florida.

Over 50,000 under evacuation orders or warnings as wildfire imperils homes north of Los Angeles

CASTAIC, Calif. More than 50,000 people were under evacuation orders or warnings Wednesday as a huge and fast-moving wildfire swept through rugged mountains north of Los Angeles, but fire officials said a rapid ground and air assault was giving them the upper hand. The Hughes Fire broke out in the late morning and within six hours charred about 15 square miles (39 square kilometers) of trees and brush near Lake Castaic, a popular recreation area about 40 miles (64 kilometers) from the devastating Eaton and Palisades fires that are burning for a third week. Though the region was under a red flag warning, winds were not as fast as they had been when those fires broke out, allowing for firefighting aircraft to dump tens of thousands of gallons of fire retardant. "The situation that we're in today is very different from the situation we were in 16 days ago," Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone said Wednesday evening. There were no reported homes or other structures burned. "This fire had a robust response today, and as you can see

behind us, the responders are doing great work to try to contain this fire," Joe Tyler, director of Cal Fire, said. "Certainly, we are not out of the woods yet." More than 31,000 people have been ordered to evacuate, and another 23,000 are under evacuation warnings, LA County Sheriff Robert Luna said. Parts of Interstate 5 that had been closed started to reopen Wednesday evening. A 30-mile (48-kilometer) stretch of the major north-south artery had been closed for emergency vehicles, to move equipment and to prevent accidents due to smoke billowing across the freeway. Crews on the ground and in water-dropping aircraft tried to prevent the wind-driven fire from moving across the interstate and toward Castaic. Marrone said that because winds were not as strong as they were two weeks ago, aircraft crews were able to drop fire retardant on the south side of the fire, where the flames were moving, he said. Winds in the area were gusting at 42 mph (67 kph) in the afternoon but were expected to increase to 60 mph (96 kph) by later in the evening and Thursday,



the National Weather Service said on the social platform X. Kayla Amara drove to Castaic's Stonegate neighborhood to collect items from the home of a friend who had rushed to pick up her daughter at preschool. As Amara was packing the car, she learned the fire had exploded in size and decided to hose down the property. "Other people are hosing down their houses, too. I hope there's a house here to return to," Amara said as police cars raced through the streets and flames engulfed trees on a hillside in the distance. Amara, a nurse who lives in nearby Valencia, said she's been on edge for weeks as major blazes devastated Southern

California. "It's been stressful with those other fires, but now that this one is close to home it's just super stressful," she said. To the south, Los Angeles officials began to prepare for potential rain even as some residents were allowed to return to the charred Pacific Palisades and Altadena areas. Gustly weather was expected to last through Thursday and precipitation was possible starting Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. "Rains are in the forecast and the threat of mud and debris flow in our fire-impacted communities is real," Supervisor Kathryn Barger said during a Wednesday morning news conference. Fire crews were filling sandbags for communities while county workers installed barriers and cleared drainage pipes and basins. Red flag warnings for critical fire risk were extended through 10 a.m. Friday in LA and Ventura counties. Officials remained concerned that the Palisades and Eaton fires could break their containment lines as firefighters continue watching for hot spots.

'End the War Now or Face Tariffs,' Donald Trump Warns Vladimir Putin

Washington, DC: US President Donald Trump, on Wednesday, issued a stern warning to Russian President Vladimir Putin, threatening significant tariff increases and additional sanctions if an agreement to end the war in Ukraine is not reached immediately.



In a post on Truth Social, Trump stated, "If we don't reach a deal soon, I will have no choice but to impose high tariffs, taxes, and sanctions on all Russian goods sold to the United States and other participating nations." He emphasized that he did not wish to harm Russia and mentioned his previously strong relationship with Putin. However, Trump added, "That said, I am doing Russia and President Pu-

tin a huge favor by urging them to settle this now and end this absurd war—it will only escalate further if not stopped." Trump's remarks were more forceful than his previous statements made during a press conference at the White House on Tuesday, where he had suggested it was "likely" he would implement more sanctions if Putin did not engage in peace talks. During the press briefing, Trump also refrained

from commenting on whether he would continue President Joe Biden's policy of sending military aid to Ukraine in its fight against Russia's 2022 invasion. Ahead of his inauguration, Trump had pledged to end the war in Ukraine swiftly, hinting that he might use aid as leverage to push Ukraine into making concessions to Moscow.

Indonesian Band to Join Republic Day Parade as Chief Guest This Year

New Delhi: The Indian Army is all set to showcase its might during the 76th Republic Day celebrations at Kartavya Path on January 26th, with Indonesia participating as the Chief Guest.

Brigadier Kristomei Sianturi of the Indonesian Army confirmed that 352 Indonesian soldiers will take part in the grand parade, including a contingent and an Indonesian military band.

This year's parade, themed "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas," will feature 26 vibrant tableaux from various states, union territories, and ministries, highlighting India's rich cultural diversity and inclusivity.

In a media briefing held in New Delhi today, Major General Sumit Mehta outlined the Indian Army's participation, including a Mounted Column, eight Mechanised Columns, and six Marching Contingents.

Among the major attractions will be the battlefield surveillance system and a display of the DRDO's Pralay weapon system.

The parade will also emphasize India's advanced military capabilities, with impressive displays of weaponry includ-



ing the Bhisma T90 Tank, Nag Missile System, Bajrang light specialist vehicle, Nandighosh Quick Reaction Force Vehicle, Brahmos, AgniBaan, Pinaka, and Akash systems.

Marching contingents from the armed forces, Central Armed Police Force, and National Cadet Corps (NCC) will also take part.

The Republic Day Parade, which will begin at 10:30 AM, is expected to last for 90 minutes.

Captain Ritika Khareta from the Corps of Signals, who will lead the Indian Army's marching contingent, expressed her deep appreciation for the opportunity to represent her unit in this prestigious event.

IIT-ISM Dhanbad Joins Forces with GSI for Natural Hydrogen Exploration in Andaman and Nicobar Islands



Dhanbad: The Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad (IIT-ISM) has entered into a pioneering partnership with the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to explore natural hydrogen reserves in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The collaboration was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed today at the GSI office in Kolkata.

The research initiative will be led by IIT-ISM's Subsurface Energy and Storage Systems Lab, in collaboration with the Exploration Seismic and Simulation Lab, both part of the Department of Applied Geophysics. This groundbreaking project aims to advance hydrogen exploration technology and contribute to sustainable energy solutions in India.

Natural hydrogen, a promising clean energy source, has gained recognition for its potential to enhance India's renewable energy efforts. The exploration will focus on identifying and understanding geological formations in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands that could contain natural hydrogen reservoirs.

The project will use advanced geophysical techniques and in-depth sub-surface analysis to assess the viability of harnessing this renewable energy resource. By combining IIT-ISM's academic expertise with GSI's geological knowledge, the partnership aims to innovate energy solutions and contribute to India's energy security and climate goals.

"This collaboration presents an exciting opportunity to explore new energy frontiers," said the lead researchers. "Natural hydrogen is a sustainable energy source, and this research has the potential to significantly contribute to India's renewable energy landscape."

Arpita Mahila Mandal Hosts Sports Day at CCL Headquarters, Ranchi



Ranchi: Arpita Mahila Mandal organized a vibrant and energetic Sports Day at CCL Headquarters in Ranchi, celebrating fitness and sportsmanship.

The event, held with great enthusiasm, was conducted under the leadership of Preeti Singh, President of Arpita Mahila Mandal, along with members Rita Mishra, Indu Mishra, Shashi Duhan, and Roopa Rani.

The Sports Day brought together all members for a day filled with fun and friendly competition. The event featured a variety of indoor games, including billiards, table tennis, badminton, and carrom, as well as outdoor games, allowing participants to showcase their talents and competitive spirit.

The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony where the efforts of all participants were recognized and celebrated. The day proved to be a memorable occasion, emphasizing fitness, camaraderie, and the joy of sports.

"Anuja" nominated for Best Short film category of Oscars 2025

New Delhi: Indian short film Anuja has achieved a significant milestone by securing a nomination in the Best Short Film (Live Action) category for the Oscars 2025. Anuja is directed by Adam J. Graves and Suchitra Mattai. The film is backed by two-time Academy Award winner Guneet Monga and actors Priyanka Chopra and Mindy Kaling. Anuja follows a nine-year-old girl who, alongside her sister Palak, faces a life-changing opportunity that tests their bond and mirrors the struggles of girls worldwide.

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CTPS Celebrates Subhash Chandra Bose's 128th Birth Anniversary



Chandrapura: The management of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS) marked the 128th birth anniversary of the legendary freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose today at Tejas Bhawan's conference room.

A host of senior officers and employees from DVC participated in the event, including Senior General Manager and Project Head Vijaya Nand Sharma, Senior General Manager (Human Resources) DC Pandey, Senior General Manager (Operation & Maintenance) Avijit Ghosh, Deputy General Manager Dilip Kumar, along with other key staff members including Rajiv Ranjan Ojha, Parvind Kumar, Rajkumar Chaudhary, Hari Mukund Prajapati, Vinay Krishna Das, and Mohammad Imtiaz.

The ceremony included a solemn tribute where the leaders and employees garlanded the portrait of Subhash Chandra Bose, paying their respects to his immense contributions to India's freedom struggle.

IPTA State Convention Held on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Birth Anniversary



Ranchi: The 27th State Convention of the Indian Non-Government Teachers Association (IPTA) was inaugurated on the 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at YBN Public School. The event began with tributes to Netaji, including flower offerings and lamp lighting by YBN University Chairman Dr. Ramji Yadav and other dignitaries.

Chief Guest Dr. Vasudev Prasad, retired Principal of Rajkamal Saraswati Vidya Mandir, Dhanbad, stressed the importance of collective effort for India's development. Keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Jang Bahadur Pandey, former Head of Ranchi University's Hindi Department, spoke about Netaji's legacy.

The convention also saw the release of the IPTA 2025 calendar. The event was conducted by Dr. Parmanand Modi, National President of IPTA, and concluded with the national anthem. Dr. JB Pandey, in his speech, highlighted the crucial role of teachers in shaping the nation.

DAV-6 Celebrates Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's 128th Birth Anniversary



Bokaro: DAV Public School, Sector 6, Bokaro, celebrated the 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose as 'Parakram Diwas' on January 23, 2025. The school paid tribute to the great revolutionary and patriot, whose contributions to India's freedom struggle continue to inspire generations.

In her address, Principal Anuradha Singh highlighted Netaji's courage, strategic brilliance, and his iconic slogan, "Tum mujhe khoon do main tumhe azadi dunga," which continues to ignite zeal and patriotism in the youth. She emphasized that Netaji instilled in Indians a passion for freedom and a commitment to the country. His determination and vision remain a source of inspiration, urging students to live for their nation and carry forward his legacy.

Social Science teacher Kumar Rajesh also shared insights into Netaji's life and achievements, detailing his significant role in the freedom movement.

The event was attended by all teachers and students, who paid their respects to the legendary leader's enduring influence.

Why 'IIT Baba' Expelled from Juna Akhara...?

Prayagraj: Abhay Singh, a former IIT Bombay graduate who gained widespread attention as 'IIT Baba' during the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, has been expelled from the Juna Akhara for violating its code of conduct.

Reports indicate that Singh's expulsion follows allegations of using abusive language against his spiritual leader, Mahant Someshwar Puri.

Mahant Hari Giri, the chief patron of Juna Akhara, condemned Singh's actions, stating, "Disrespecting one's guru is a grave violation of Sanatan Dharma and the core values upheld by the akhara."

He emphasized that such behavior undermines the sacred guru-shishya (master-disciple) tradition and the discipline of sanyas (renunciation).

Singh, a former aerospace engineer, rose to fame on social media, particularly through Instagram reels that captured his activities at the Kumbh Mela, drawing attention from a large online following.



Known by his spiritual name, Masani Gorakh, Singh previously earned a Masters in Design, worked in photography, and taught physics before transitioning into spirituality. In a previous interview, Singh shared his philosophical journey, stating that he turned to concepts like post-modernism, Socrates, and Plato to understand the meaning of life. He expressed his belief that spirituality offers true knowledge and plays a vital role in

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understanding the mind and mental health. While his departure from the Juna Akhara has attracted attention, Singh remains indifferent to public opinion about his unconventional career path. Meanwhile, thousands of devotees continue to bathe in the holy waters at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati during the ongoing religious gathering.

Chinmaya Vidyalaya Hosts Fancy Dress Competition for Young Students

Bokaro: A delightful fancy dress competition was held today at the Tapovan auditorium of Chinmaya Vidyalaya for the students of classes Prep and I. The event saw the participation of over 90 enthusiastic children, each showcasing their creativity and talent.

The theme for this year's competition focused on "Social Media and Our Helpers in Daily Life," with students dressing up as various everyday professionals and popular social media platforms. The young participants impersonated doctors, engineers, teachers, nurses, police officers, drivers, and shopkeepers,



among others. Several children also chose to portray social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, and email, impressing both the audience and the judges. The competition was judged by Rinki Pandey and Shreya

Tank, who lauded the children for their creative performances. The event was blessed by Secretary Mahesh Tripathi, who extended his good wishes to all the participants. Principal Suraj Sharma congratulated both the winners and all

the participants, emphasizing that such events not only boost the confidence of young learners but also provide them with valuable knowledge.

Academic Incharges Soma Jha and Rashmi Shukla, along with teachers Neha Avtaar, Madhumita, Preeti Singh, Neha Singh, Sunaina Pathak, Meenakshi, Sudipta Mandal, and others, played an instrumental role in making the event a success. The competition was a joyful and educational experience for the children, highlighting the importance of creativity and learning in a fun, engaging manner.

DPS Bokaro Hosts 3 Day Book Fair 'Blossom'

Bokaro: In a bid to foster a love for reading and enhance learning, DPS Bokaro inaugurated its three-day book fair, 'Blossom,' at the Kalidas Kala Bhawan today.

The event, which runs from January 23 to 25, is being held under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and is part of the Reading India Mission 2025, organized in collaboration with the BBC Group.

DPS Bokaro is proud to be the first school in Jharkhand to be a part of this national initiative. The fair was inaugurated by Devesh Kumar Tripathi, District & Sessions Judge-III-cum-Exclusive Special Court under the POCOSA Act, Bokaro. The event features an impressive collection of over 3,000 books catering to various age groups, with offerings spanning multiple genres. Renowned authors such as Sudha Murty, Napoleon Hill, James Clear, Robert Greene, and others are represented,



along with a wide selection of children's stories, activity guides, encyclopedias, self-help books, and more. In his inaugural address, Devesh Kumar Tripathi commended DPS Bokaro for organizing such an event and emphasized the immense value of books. He remarked that books are lifelong companions and encouraged students to cultivate the habit of reading diverse titles, which would expand their understanding of society, the nation, and the world. He also highlighted the transformative power of reading, which he believes can elevate ordi-

nary individuals to extraordinary heights. Principal Dr. A.S. Gangwar echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of developing good reading habits in the digital age. He stated, "Reading is a vital skill that stimulates the mind and fosters creativity. It not only aids in the growth of ideas, thoughts, and imagination but also enhances other crucial abilities like writing and speaking." The 'Blossom' book fair is expected to offer valuable exposure to a wide range of literature, benefiting both students and parents alike.

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Iron Age began in Tamil Nadu, says Chief Minister MK Stalin

The Tamil Nadu government announced groundbreaking archaeological research that revealed iron production origins in the state. According to Chief Minister MK Stalin, the latest research challenged existing historical understanding of the Indian subcontinent.

**►MK Stalin says Iron Age began in the region earlier than current belief
►New research challenges existing archaeological historical timelines
►Book on beginning of iron in region explains latest discovery, research**

centers in Pune, Ahmedabad, and a renowned international research facility in Florida." "Melting iron was introduced in Tamil Nadu 5300 years ago... These research findings



Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, on Thursday, revealed that the Iron Age began in the region, much earlier than previously believed. The Chief Minister made the announcement in Chennai at the launch of 'Irumbin Thonmai' (meaning Antiquity of Iron), a book on the beginning of Iron Age in Tamil Nadu.

"I'm making an important announcement," he said during the event. "Based on research, the introduction of iron has been pushed back to 4000 BC, with specimens sent to prominent research

were sent to scholars who are also present here and they have appreciated Tamil Nadu government's efforts," he said. Precise dating indicates iron was first introduced in the region in 3345 BC. Stalin emphasised this finding to be pivotal to understanding the historical timeline of the Indian subcontinent. "I'm constantly saying that the history of India will

be written from Tamil Nadu," Stalin stated, highlighting the research's potential to reshape historical narratives. The Chief Minister urged Minister Thangam Thennarasu and relevant officials to continue this groundbreaking research, which he believed provided new enthusiasm to scholars studying ancient technological developments.

He also made the same announcement on X: "Based on results from world-renowned institutions, the use of iron in Tamil Nadu dates back to the beginning of 4th millennium B.C.E., establishing that iron usage was prominent in South India over 5,300 years ago," he wrote in a post on the social media platform.

Stalin, on Wednesday, had created suspense about a "significant archaeological discovery" through a post on social media platform X.

"An important announcement will be made tomorrow (Thursday)," he wrote in the post, adding.

"Those who can, please attend. Others, watch it live online." The Chief Minister was reposting a message by the Finance and Archaeology Minister Thangam Thennarasu.

Revanth Reddy aims to secure projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore at Davos summit

New Delhi. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy addressed the state's progress in securing investments since his last visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos, where he signed proposals worth Rs 40,000 crore. In an interview with India Today TV, Reddy also took a swipe at BRS working president KT Rama Rao by calling him an IT employee with a "worker mindset".



Speaking to India Today News Director Rahul Kanwal, Reddy said, "Fourteen companies have signed MoUs with the Telangana government for 18 projects. Of these, 17 are in the pipeline, while one, the Adani pump storage project, is pending. After securing Rs 40,000 crore in investments last time, we have returned to Davos with an aim to secure projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore."

Asked about Chandrababu Naidu's presence in Davos, Reddy dismissed any notion of rivalry. "Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar are legends, but the time has come for Virat Kohli now. Times have changed, and so has the leadership," he said. "I do not compete with Andhra Pradesh,

Maharashtra, or Karnataka. My competition is with global cities like New York, Tokyo, Dubai, and Singapore." Highlighting Telangana's appeal to global investors, Reddy pointed to Hyderabad's ecosystem. "Any investor seeks protection for their investment and profits. Hyderabad offers a

proven environment for business. It is centrally located, providing connectivity, and excels in IT, pharma, and AI sectors. Our policies and ecosystem are designed to foster business growth," he said. On what sets Telangana apart, Reddy mentioned amendments to investment policies and focusses on areas like green energy, defence, AI, and quantum computing. "For example, three COVID-19 vaccines were developed in India, and one was produced in Telangana. Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, who initiated liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation, was from Telangana," he said.

When asked about political opposition, Reddy downplayed challenges from the BRS and BJP. "Elections are four years away. For now, my focus is solely on development," he said.

On this year's achievements at the World Economic Forum, Reddy said the focus was on data centres, green energy, and AI. "Davos is not just a place for securing investments but also for learning," he said.

Tributes on Bal Thackeray's birth anniversary, and a battle for his legacy

Mumbai. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and his son Aaditya Thackeray led a tribute ceremony on Thursday in honour of Bal Thackeray, the late founder of the undivided Shiv Sena, on his birth anniversary. The event, held at the statue of Bal Thackeray in Fort, Mumbai, saw a massive turnout of party workers and supporters who offered floral tributes. The Thackeray father-son duo garlanded the statue and paid respect to Bal Thackeray, who earned the epithet 'Hindu Hriday Samrat' for his staunch advocacy of Hindutva and Marathi pride. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah also joined the tributes. In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "I pay homage to Balasaheb Thackeray Ji on his birth anniversary. He is widely respected and remembered for his commitment to public welfare and towards Maharashtra's development. He was uncompromising when it came to his core beliefs and always contributed towards enhancing the pride of Indian culture."



Amit Shah echoed the sentiment, tweeting in Hindi, "Devoted throughout his life to Sanatan culture and nationalism, respected Balasaheb Thackeray ji always gave priority to patriotism in his work. The ideological firmness of Balasaheb, who never gave up on his principles even in adverse circumstances, will always inspire." Bal Thackeray's birth anniversary also took on political overtones, with the two Shiv Sena factions—one led by Uddhav Thackeray and the

other by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde—set to organise separate rallies. Both groups are looking to assert their claim over the Shiv Sena supremo's legacy ahead of the upcoming civic elections in the state, including for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which the party controlled for nearly three decades.

Born on January 23, 1926, Bal Thackeray was a cartoonist turned firebrand leader who founded the Shiv Sena in 1966 to champion the rights of Marathi-speaking people and advocate Hindutva. Under his leadership, Shiv Sena grew into a dominant political force in Maharashtra. Balasaheb's larger-than-life persona, uncompromising stance on issues, and fiery oratory earned him devoted followers and the title of "Hindu Hriday Samrat." His political career was marked by controversies and staunch ideological stands, but his influence remains indelible in Maharashtra's political landscape.

Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena Party officially a 'recognised regional party'

Pawan Kalyan: The Election Commission of India included the Jana Sena Party in the list of recognised parties in Andhra Pradesh. The party has been allotted "glass tumbler" as its permanent election symbol.

New Delhi. The Election Commission of India (ECI) officially granted the status of 'recognised political party' to Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's Jana Sena party. The party made this announcement on social media platform X on Wednesday (January 22). The party now has "glass tumbler" as the permanent official election symbol of the party, as reserved by the ECI. The communication about the recognition was done via a letter on



Tuesday, the Jana Sena party revealed. "Jana Sena emerged as a recognised regional political party. The Election Commission has issued orders recognizing the glass symbol as a permanent symbol of Jana Sena Party, which created

history with the historic victory achieved in the last elections. The struggle (of) Pawan Kalyan for over a decade culminated in the Jana Sena Party being acknowledged as a recognized political party," it said in a statement posted on X.

This is a first for the Jana Sena Party. So far, it was only registered as a political party in Andhra Pradesh. Now 10 years after its inception in March 2014, it has the recognition as a state political party. Jana Sena achieved this recognition by securing 100 per cent success in the recent elections: both Lok Sabha as well as the Assembly polls. It won all 21 state constituencies and the two Lok Sabha constituencies it contested.

S Jaishankar's one-liner on front row seat at Trump's swearing-in

New Delhi. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was at his quippy best when asked about his prime front-row seat at Donald Trump's inauguration as the 47th President of the United States on January 20. "Special Envoy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is naturally treated very well," Jaishankar said with a smile during a press conference in Washington DC on Thursday. The 70-year-old diplomat represented India at the swearing-in ceremony at the invitation of the US government and carried a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Trump. He described the gesture as a reflection of the Trump administration's eagerness to bolster India-US ties.



"I would say, one, it was very clear that the Trump administration was keen to have India present at the inaugural itself, and they're clearly prioritising the bilateral relationship," Jaishankar said.

During his three-day visit to Washington, Jaishankar engaged in high-level meetings, including bilateral talks with Secretary of

State Marco Rubio and National Security Advisor Mike Waltz. He also participated in the first Quad ministerial meeting of the new Trump administration alongside counterparts from Australia, Japan, and the United States. "Clearly there is an interest in taking the relationship forward," Jaishankar said.

"The Prime Minister had a very early phone call with President Trump, and I had come last month and made the initial contact with the NSA. So, it should give you a direction in which the relationship is going."

Jaishankar said it was evident that the White House under Trump was willing to build on the foundation established during his first term, and that at present, there is a "very strong degree of trust" and "high level of convergence of interests" between India and the United States. "Between us and the Trump administration, we approach the world both with a clear sense of our national interest belief," he noted.

Jalgaon train tragedy eyewitness recounts how tea seller spread fire rumour

►Dozens jumped off the Pushpak Express after a tea seller spread a rumour that the train had caught fire, an eyewitness recalled.

New Delhi. In a tragic incident in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district, 13 people were crushed to death after several passengers of the Pushpak Express jumped off their coach due to a suspected fire and were struck by another train. An eyewitness claimed that the panic was sparked by a tea seller who falsely claimed there was a fire and pulled the train's emergency chain, prompting passengers to jump off the train in fear. The accident occurred when passengers aboard the 12533 Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express, fearing a fire, jumped off their coaches and were run over by the Karnataka Express, which was passing on an adjacent track.

An eyewitness, Babadeep Shobharam Paswan, recounted the chaos, saying, "A tea seller started the rumour by claiming the train had caught fire. He himself pulled the emergency chain, and as the train slowed down, passengers began jumping out in a desperate attempt to save their lives." He further said, "Some people jumped directly onto the track where the Bangalore Express

was passing, and tragically lost their lives as they were crushed." However, the situation could have been even worse, as the eyewitness noted that dozens of other passengers who jumped in the opposite direction were saved because there was no track there. "If they had jumped on the track side, the death toll would have been even higher," he added.

DETAILS OF THE ACCIDENT

The accident occurred between Maheji and Pardhade stations near Pachora town in North Maharashtra around 4:45 pm on Tuesday, when the Pushpak Express came to a halt after someone pulled the emergency chain. Central Railway officials confirmed the details of the incident.

Dilip Kumar, Executive Director of Information and Publicity at the Railway Board, denied that any spark or fire inside the coach prompted the passengers to pull the alarm. "Based on the information we have received, no fire or spark was observed inside the coach," Kumar stated in New Delhi.



13 KILLED, AID ANNOUNCED

The death toll rose to 13 on Wednesday, as several of the injured passengers succumbed to their injuries. Special Inspector General of Police Dattatraya Karale confirmed that eight of the 13 victims had been identified, including two through their Aadhaar cards.

The Commissioner of Railway Safety for the Central Circle will conduct an investigation into the circumstances that led to the deaths.

"Of the 13, we have identified eight bodies so far, including two from their Aadhaar cards," Special Inspector General of Police Dattatraya

Karale told media. The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle, will probe the circumstances leading to the mowing down of the 13 passengers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered his condolences over the tragic train accident in Jalgaon. "Anguished by the tragic accident on the railway tracks in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of all the injured. Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected," the Prime Minister's Office stated in a post on X. The Railway Ministry announced ex gratia of Rs 1.5 lakh each for the kins of the deceased in the Jalgaon train accident.

"Ex gratia of Rs 1.5 lakh each has been announced for the kins of the deceased in the Jalgaon train accident, Rs 50,000 to the people who are seriously injured and Rs 5,000 to the people who have sustained minor injuries," as per an official statement from Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw's office.

An India-Indonesia convergence

It is both timely and appropriate that the newly elected leader of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto, has been invited as the chief guest to India's Republic Day celebrations. Seventy-five years ago, at the country's first Republic Day on January 26, 1950, Indonesia's first President Sukarno was the chief guest. This was not only a reflection of the close bonds the people of the two countries had forged during their respective struggles against colonial rule, but also their shared belief in the resurgence of Asia as a major force for peace and development in an already deeply divided post-World War II international order.

It is this political convergence which led to the convening of the Afro-Asian Bandung Conference in 1955, with India and Indonesia as its chief architects. Today, the world is again in the grip of a dangerous polarisation; this time Asia, not Europe, is the likely crucible of confrontation and even conflict. On the other hand, one cannot preclude the possibility of tactical collusion between the two contending centres of power, the US and China — a so-called G2 — which limits the room for manoeuvring for countries like India and Indonesia. The promise of a multipolar Asia, in which the hegemonic impulses of the two most powerful countries can be constrained, depends for its realisation on countries like India and Indonesia leading the way. Asia is already home to a cluster of established regional powers such as Japan, South Korea and Australia. If one adds emerging powers like India and Indonesia to a loose countervailing coalition, Asia may finally enjoy the agency in Asian and global affairs that it has always aspired for. Countervailing is different from containment. It demands engagement with and resistance to, in almost equal measure, to threats as well as blandishments of the most powerful centres of power. It recognises that neither confrontation nor collusion between the two leading powers are in the interest of creating and sustaining a multipolar Asia. I believe that India and Indonesia have powerful strategic convergence in this respect, which can drive their relations to a new level altogether.

Indonesia's criticality to constructing a multipolar Asia is obvious. It is an archipelagic state of over 17,000 islands stretching over the waters joining the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Its Exclusive Economic Zone is over 6 million sq km. India to its west and Australia to its east are like two book-ends framing the country. It is with good reason that former President Widodo described his country as a "maritime fulcrum". It is in India's interest to declare its support for this initiative. But to serve as a fulcrum, Indonesia must have the capacity to police and administer this vast space. The scale of resources required for this is simply not available at the country's current level of economic and military capabilities.

This is where India has the opportunity to forge a strong and cooperative maritime partnership with Indonesia, going beyond the current joint naval patrols of their adjacent waters. India has greatly expanded its maritime domain awareness capabilities, thanks to its own satellite and long-range airborne surveillance capabilities and technological collaboration with the US. This can support Indonesia's own growing capacities. There is a trilateral consultative forum involving India, Indonesia and Australia. This can enable India and Australia to collaboratively enhance Indonesia's maritime capabilities. This will enable a strong crescent of surveillance, information-sharing and constraint to be put in place in the Indo-Pacific. Indonesia is the largest as well as economically and militarily the most powerful member of the 10-nation Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). But it is sometimes a reluctant leader in the ASEAN. It has all along been conflicted in pursuing a leading ASEAN role and in aspiring to a larger international role consistent with its size, population and growing GDP. It has a 290-million population, the fourth largest after India, China and the US. Its GDP of \$1.3 trillion has registered a steady 5 per cent annual growth over the past decade and more. Projections are that it may well emerge as the world's fourth largest economy after the US, China and India by 2050.

Budget shouldn't disappoint as economy is on an even keel

The govt still has to keep financing capital investment and infrastructure. It should give up the thought that it can step back so that the private sector can take over.

THE Union Budget looks ahead for several key pointers: signals for key sectors of industry and agriculture; public investment in foremost infrastructure sectors like electricity, roads and railways; how the fiscal scene (the government's own finances) is likely to fare during the year; and, of course, the average citizen's keenness to find out if the income tax burden will go up or down.

With inflation under control and growth going steady at 6 per cent plus, there is no serious concern over the economy and the tax collection. There are, however, some imponderables. Will we be able to keep buying Russian oil at a decent price with US sanctions being tightened?

But the overarching concern and the greatest imponderable is the way in which the country and the world will cope as the planet gets hotter and extreme climate events like drought and floods keep coming. And what it will do to agriculture, from which many poor people eke out an existence. The expectation is that the fiscal deficit in the coming financial year will be pitched lower at 4.5 per cent from the likely deficit in the current fiscal of 4.8 per cent. This will bring the number in line with the medium-term fiscal goal. From this, it is clear that we are looking at a small realignment and not a serious overhaul.

As against this, a sharper change will be sought and expected in capital expenditure, seeking to take it up by 12-13 per cent to Rs 11 lakh crore. This is because where the capital spending goes matters a lot to roads, highways and railways. Plus, there is an expectation that interest-free loans for capital expenditure will continue to be passed onto the states so as to raise regional infrastructure growth. Capital expenditure will be delivered because the revenue part will be expected to coast along evenly. This will be enabled by indirect taxes growing at 8.8 per cent, with the GST (goods and services tax) expected to grow by 10.5 per cent, reflecting a resilient domestic consumption. Direct tax revenue, in good part from taxes paid by companies out of their profits, will grow healthily at 11.8 per cent as the base of companies will grow, with the economy growing healthily and corporate profitability remaining stable. With the economy expected to remain on an even keel, let us examine what individual industries have mentioned in their wish lists as they have met government representatives so as to build a castle firmly anchored in the ground and not in the air. Technology moves forward with funding and incentives for research and development (R&D). The tech sector, which is rolling in money, still seeks government support as hugely important new sectors are emerging, like artificial intelligence, block chain and quantum computing. These can transform daily life as well as businesses and enable future growth. Right behind is the healthcare sector, without whose robustness the people will not be healthy or



be able to provide the skills that will be the sinews of technology. And the way to begin is at the bottom, with rural healthcare facilities. These will have to be revolutionised by telemedicine, which will deliver better care at controlled costs. If we jump to the top of the sector, the aspects we see before us are pharmaceuticals and medical equipment. India is already the global leader in affordable medicines, which have to go up the ladder as new chemicals or molecules are invented all over the world. These must be made in India and these will have to be offered at the village level itself, through prescriptions generated by telemedicine. And there will have to be cameras and scanners to capture the images which will have to be generated. This will need the government to help out. To transform countryside education, it must go hand in hand with healthcare. Students of high schools and colleges should be able to access the digital knowledge world and download e-books so that the age of the photocopier is left far behind. The government must develop the IT backbone and take it to villages so that youngsters can use their smartphones, which will have to work as mini libraries. And, of course, the smartphones will perform with signals from towers or satellites.

The need for power and signals for smartphones brings us back to infrastructure. Along with power, the villages will need roads, which must lead to highways and railway lines so that youngsters can easily go to coaching schools to prepare for competitive examinations and those who do

well can go and live in towns where better jobs are offered. In sum, the government still has to keep financing capital investment and infrastructure. It should give up the thought that it can step back so that the private sector can take over. Here, the Budget will have a critical role to play. In the old days, the Budget presentation, through which the country came to know about it, was overblown. The country stopped to pause to hear or see the Finance Minister through radio or TV and the media spent endless hours trying to highlight a few aspects of the Budget. This gave the minister a chance to do a good bit of grandstanding. Today, the Budget papers are released online, allowing the media, analysts and corporates to pore over the numbers quickly to come to their conclusions. But some of the mystique still remains, particularly for the layman, who wants to know whether he will have to pay more or fewer taxes and turns to the tax accountant to find out if his tax bill will go up or not. The layman forgets that since the time when Manmohan Singh, as Finance Minister, transformed the economy, incomes tax rates for individuals have gone down. But the layman does not notice it as he sees his tax bill going up and forgets that his income has gone up much more.

What he also does not notice is that the present dispensation has introduced the revolutionary GST regime, which has lowered taxes that consumers have to pay through sales tax and excise duty; he thinks he is paying a lot more as GST, when, in fact, he is consuming a lot more.

Middlemen & bribes

Haryana's corrupt patwaris under scrutiny



Neeraj Dutta vs State (NCT of Delhi) offers a glimmer of hope. By lowering the bar for evidence in corruption cases, it empowers agencies to secure convictions even when witnesses turn hostile. This landmark ruling should embolden the Haryana authorities to take decisive action against those

The exposure of corruption in Haryana's Revenue Department has laid bare a systemic rot. A government report implicates 370 patwaris and 170 middlemen in widespread bribery, with demands ranging from Rs 200 to Rs 10,000 for essential services like land partition and property mutation. Kaithal, Sonapat and Mahendragarh districts lead in the number of corrupt officials, while Gurugram is home to the highest number of unauthorised middlemen who exploit citizens for profit. The September 2022 findings in Panipat exemplify the extent of the problem. Over 1,500 applications were found pending during a surprise inspection, unauthorised individuals were managing official work and infrastructure deficiencies were glaring. Similarly, a patwari in Kurukshetra was discovered with disproportionate assets, a reflection of unchecked graft in the system.

The Supreme Court's December 2022 judgment in

involved in the revenue scandal. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's reiteration of a zero-tolerance policy must be matched by concrete action. Reforms like digitising land records, introducing biometric attendance systems, installing CCTV cameras in offices and conducting regular audits are critical. Moreover, swift punitive measures, coupled with citizen awareness campaigns and effective grievance redress systems, are essential to curb exploitation and build accountability. India's 93rd rank in the 2023 Global Corruption Index underscores the urgency for reforms. Corruption in public offices erodes trust and tarnishes governance. Haryana must seize this opportunity to revamp its revenue administration, inspired by the Supreme Court's robust stance. Restoring public trust is not just a goal but a necessity for ensuring a fair and transparent system.

Challenges galore for Trump

Retaining global edge in science and technology his main concern, not immigration

As he takes the presidential oath today, for the second time, Donald Trump has the potential to become one of the most influential holders of the world's most powerful political office in recent history. He not only won the electoral college but also a majority of the votes cast nationwide in the election. His Republican Party controls the Senate and the House of Representatives, though only with a thin margin. The conservative majority in the Supreme Court, in an important decision on presidential immunity, has made the office stronger. Trump's conviction on felony charges has done no political damage to him, either domestically or abroad. In the light of these factors and his unorthodox ways, the world waits with anticipation and apprehension, some fuelled by his comments since his victory in November, on how he will use his authority to address domestic and US foreign and security policy issues as well as the existential crises faced by humankind. Trump made illegal immigration one of the leading issues of his campaign. Hence, it will be essential for his credibility to send some illegal immigrants out of the US to their home countries at the earliest. He will also increase his rhetoric against illegal immigration. But the fact is that despite Trump's electoral posturing and the rhetoric which may come henceforth, the US economy needs both low-level workers and high-end technical professionals. It will, therefore, be compelled to eventually become pragmatic, but not before Trump causes turbulence domestically and externally on this issue.

In the long term, though, it is not immigration that is the major internal issue for the US but manufacturing and retaining a decisive global edge in the frontier areas of science and high technology. There is consensus in the US on remaining the leading country in science and digital technology innovation. That led the Biden

administration, in its dying days, to announce "controls on advanced computing chips and certain closed artificial intelligence (AI) model weights, alongside new licence exceptions and updates to Data Centre Validated End User authorisation".

The obvious intention is to deny China capacities in advanced AI innovation, though its capabilities in sophisticated tooling cannot be effectively curtailed. How will Trump handle this important aspect of US efforts to retain its primacy in science and technology, with China having become a 'scientific power' with growing technological competence? This will be Trump's challenge for his entire term because of the great speed in the development of digital technology.

Trump's announcement of wishing to acquire Greenland bears the mark of the first-term Trump making outrageous remarks, unconcerned with the canons of conventional diplomacy. His approach to the Ukraine war will attract great media attention worldwide.

However, the real geopolitical challenge before Trump lies in managing the continuing rise of China. That has been the main foreign and security policy issue for all US presidents since the closing years of the first decade of this century. By then, it had become clear that China's rise had been far deeper and wider and rapid than US calculations. With Xi Jinping becoming China's undisputed leader and showing a firm determination to take on the US, Obama, Trump 1.0 and Biden have had to handle his ambitions. He is relentlessly pushing forward. It is not clear if Trump will seek to bluntly thwart Xi's ambitions or try to reach an accommodation with him. Trump's choice of Cabinet colleagues who have a headline approach on China gives one indication, but his inviting Xi to his inauguration marks a softer touch. Naturally, the chance that Xi would have personally accepted the invitation

instead of sending a representative was never there. Indeed, the basic dynamics of the US-China Great Game will inevitably lead to even greater competition. It will need great statesmanship in both countries to ensure that this does not lead to conflict. Trump wanted the Gaza war to end and issued dire threats to Hamas and, no doubt, behind-the-scene pressures on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israel-Hamas ceasefire will lead Trump to claim how effective he will



be on all issues. It is too early to predict how the ceasefire will pan out. Hamas has not been finished. Outgoing Secretary of State Anthony Blinken has noted: "Indeed, we assess that Hamas has recruited almost as many new militants as it has lost." What can be assessed, though, in the context of the larger West Asia is that Trump's implacable opposition to Iran will continue. What is not clear is how much of an

investment he will make in addressing the basic Arab-Palestinian issue. The chances are that it will have a low priority for him. Trump will continue with the Indo-Pacific approaches developed during his first term and taken further by Biden. He will seek to strengthen Quad. India is an essential component of the grouping. But that will not diminish the pressures he will put on India, especially on trade issues. But he will avoid raising human rights concerns with India. On the India-Pakistan front, he will remain indifferent, unless there are chances of a major conflict. Where Trump will show little or no interest is in addressing the existential issue of our times: climate change. He is a climate sceptic who took the US out of the Paris pact. Extreme weather events, too, have not changed his outlook. This is particularly a major negative for the global fight against climate change at a time when world temperatures are breaking the 1.5°C threshold. Trump is unlikely to back off from his decision to allow drilling for hydrocarbons or seek to reduce its proportion in the energy mix.

However, whatever an incoming US President may consider to be his agenda, it has often been seen that he has had to amend it to address unforeseen challenges. George W Bush had to confront the tragedy of 9/11; he responded with a global war on terror. Barack Obama had to face the consequences of the global economic crisis of 2008, which began with the collapse of the Wall Street. Trump 1.0 faced the Covid pandemic and did poorly, while Biden had to face the Ukraine and Gaza wars. What unforeseen development(s) will Trump 2.0 have to deal with?

वेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाड़खणु থেকে বেঙ্গলে যানবাহনের প্রবেশ শুরু

प्राय २४ घंटा पर, वेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाड़खणु থেকে वेङ्गले याओया समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहनर प्रवेश शुरू हय्छे। गत सन्का १८टां पर वेङ्गल सरकारर आदेशे बाड़खणु-वेङ्गल मधन सीमाञ्छे पण्यवाही यानवाहनर प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा हय्छिल। एर फले रात थेके दुपूर पर्यन्त प्राय २० किमि दीर्घ यानजट्ट सृष्टि हय। चालकदेर समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS वेङ्गल सरकारके चाप देय बाड़खणु सीमाञ्छे थेके वेङ्गले प्रवेश करा समस्त यानवाहन बन्द करार जन्म। एर फले, वेङ्गल सरकारर पिछू हटेते बाध्य हय एबं अबणेशे भारी यानवाहनर प्रवेश आवार बांठाबिक हय। वेङ्गल सरकारर एह अनुमतिर पर, ट्राक चालकरा शक्तिर निश्चास फेलेन। प्राञ्चन निरसा विधायक अरूप च्याटार्जि बाड़खणु मुख्यामन्त्री हेमन्त सोरेनेर एह उद्योगे प्रशंसा करेन। तिन बलेन, मुख्यामन्त्री हेमन्त सोरेनेर एह विषये क्रमागत गुरुत्त्व दिग्नेछेन। वेङ्गल सरकारर साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर वेङ्गल सरकार निवेधाञ्छा तुले नेय। एर पर, सारिठे माँडिये थाका समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन धीरे धीरे वेङ्गले प्रवेश करते शुरू करेछे। NH-६ दीर्घ यानजट्ट एखन सीमित ह्छे एबं यानजट्टो डाङ्गते शुरू करेछे।

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रेड मॉल मामले में जीडीए को मिला दो सौ सत्रह करोड़ अट्टारह लाख वसूलने के अधिकार

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। नेशनल कमर्सी लॉ ट्रिब्यूनल ने रेड मॉल मामले में ऐतिहासिक फैसला सुनाया है। एनसीएलटी ने रेड मॉल के वित्तीय विवाद को सुलझाते हुए प्राधिकरण को वित्तीय ऋणदाता के रूप में मान्यता दी है। इस जीत के साथ ही प्राधिकरण को दो सौ सत्रह करोड़ अट्टारह लाख रुपये की धनराशि की वसूली का अधिकार मिल गया है। यह धनराशि 28 फरवरी 2022 तक बकाया थी। जीडीए ने इस धनराशि को एनसीएलटी में क्लेम किया था। माना जा रहा है कि जीडीए द्वारा मजबूत पक्ष रखने के कारण यह ऐतिहासिक जीत मिली है। जीडीए उपाध्यक्ष अतुल वत्स को इस

था। आपको बता दें कि विवादित संपत्ति (खसरा संख्या 352, 353, 354, 355, 358, 371, 372) के स्वामित्व, भुगतान और परियोजना निर्माण से जुड़े मुद्दों को लेकर रेड मॉल ग्रुप के साथ विवाद एनसीएलटी में लंबित था। जिस पर जीडीए ने मजबूती से अपना पक्ष रखा। जिसमें प्रत्येक सुनवाई पर प्राधिकरण से उपाध्यक्ष के निर्देशन में अधिकारियों द्वारा प्रतिभाग किया गया और बारीकी से केस की प्रगति पर निगरानी रखी गयी और उस पर उपाध्यक्ष से चर्चा कर आगे की रणनीति तय की गयी। इस निर्णय के बाद जीडीए उपाध्यक्ष अतुल वत्स ने कहा है कि प्राधिकरण ने यह साबित किया है कि वह क्षेत्र के विकास के साथ-साथ विवादित मामलों को निष्पक्षता और प्रभावशील तरीके से सुलझाने में भी सक्षम है। यह सफलता प्राधिकरण की प्रतिबद्धता और कुशलता का प्रमाण है।



एचडीएफसी बैंक को तीसरी तिमाही में 16,736 करोड़ रुपये का मुनाफा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। निजी क्षेत्र के सबसे बड़े बैंक एचडीएफसी ने चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 की तीसरी तिमाही के नतीजे का ऐलान कर दिया है। 31 दिसंबर, 2024 को समाप्त (अक्टूबर-दिसंबर) तिमाही में बैंक का मुनाफा सालाना आधार पर 2.2 फीसदी बढ़कर 16,736 करोड़ रुपये रहा है। पिछले वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 की समान तिमाही में बैंक को 16,373 करोड़ रुपये का शुद्ध लाभ हुआ था। एचडीएफसी बैंक ने शेयर बाजार को दी सूचना में कहा कि चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 की तीसरी तिमाही में एकल आधार पर शुद्ध लाभ दो फीसदी बढ़कर 16,736 करोड़ रुपये रहा है। पिछले वित्त वर्ष 2023-25 की समान अवधि में बैंक को 16,373 करोड़ रुपये का शुद्ध लाभ हुआ था। बैंक ने बताया कि तीसरी तिमाही में एकल आधार पर उसकी कुल आय बढ़कर 87,460 करोड़ रुपये हो गई, जो पिछले वित्त वर्ष की इसी तिमाही में 81,720 करोड़ रुपये थी। बैंक के मुताबिक तीसरी तिमाही में एकीकृत आधार पर उसका लाभ मामूली सुधार के साथ 17,258 करोड़ रुपये से बढ़कर 17,657 करोड़ रुपये हो गया। हालांकि, एकीकृत कुल आय घटकर 1,12,194 करोड़ रुपये रह गई है, जो पिछले वित्त वर्ष की अक्टूबर-नवंबर तिमाही में 1,15,016 करोड़ रुपये रही थी।

परिसंपत्ति की गुणवत्ता के मामले में बैंक की सकल गैर-निष्पादित परिसंपत्ति (एनपीए) दिसंबर, 2024 के अंत तक कुल कर्ज का 1.42 फीसदी रह गई, जो पिछले वित्त वर्ष की समान तिमाही में 1.26 फीसदी थी। इसके अलावा शुद्ध एनपीए यानी फंसा कर्ज बढ़कर 0.46 फीसदी रहा है, जो पिछले वित्त वर्ष की इसी तिमाही में 0.31 फीसदी था।



एनएसई ने 5 माह में एक करोड़ निवेशक जोड़े, आंकड़ा 11 करोड़ के पार

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। शेयर बाजार के प्रमुख सूचकांक नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (एनएसई) पर पंजीकृत निवेशकों की संख्या 11 करोड़ पार हो गई है। इसमें एक करोड़ पंजीकरण सिर्फ पांच महीनों में हुए हैं। एक्सचेंज के मुख्य व्यवसाय विकास अधिकारी श्रीराम कृष्णन ने कहा, एनएसई में पंजीकृत निवेशकों की संख्या 11 करोड़ के आंकड़े को पार कर गई है। उन्होंने कहा कि इसके साथ ही एक्सचेंज में पंजीकृत क्लाइंट कोड (खातों) की कुल संख्या 21 करोड़ हो गई है, जिसमें आज तक किए गए सभी पंजीकरण शामिल हैं। साल 1994 में एनएसई के परिचालन की शुरुआत के बाद से 1 करोड़ निवेशकों तक पहुंचने में इसको 14 साल लग गए। इसके बाद यह गति तेज हुई। वहीं, अगले एक करोड़ पंजीकरण में करीब सात साल लगे, उसके बाद अगले एक करोड़ के लिए 3.5 साल और चौथे करोड़ को जोड़ने में एक साल से थोड़ा ज्यादा वकत लगा। पिछले साल मानक सूचकांक निफ्टी 50 ने 8.8 फीसदी का रिटर्न दिया जबकि निफ्टी 500 सूचकांक में 15.2 फीसदी की शानदार बढ़त देखने को मिली। उल्लेखनीय है कि पिछले नौ साल से भारतीय बाजारों में सकारात्मक रिटर्न देखने को मिल रहा है। विशेष बात यह है कि कोई ग्राहक एक से अधिक ट्रेडिंग सदस्यों के साथ पंजीकरण करा सकते हैं।



भारत की अक्षय ऊर्जा क्रांति: 2024 की उपलब्धियां और 2025 का लक्ष्य

तक 500 गीगावाट गैर-जीवाश्म ईंधन आधारित ऊर्जा क्षमता हासिल करने की प्रतिबद्धता के साथ भारत स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में ग्लोबल लीडर के रूप में उभर रहा है। वर्ष 2024 में रिकॉर्ड तोड़ 24.5 गीगावाट सौर ऊर्जा क्षमता और 3.4 गीगावाट पवन ऊर्जा क्षमता जोड़ी गई, जो 2023 की तुलना में सौर प्रतिष्ठानों में दोगुने से ज़्यादा और पवन ऊर्जा प्रतिष्ठानों में 21 फीसदी की वृद्धि को दर्शाता है। नवीन एवं नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय ने जारी एक बयान में बताया कि भारत जैसे-जैसे एक स्थायी भविष्य की ओर अपने को बढ़ा रहा है, इसके नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा (आरई) क्षेत्र में अभूतपूर्व वृद्धि देखी जा रही है। वर्ष 2024 में देश ने सौर और पवन ऊर्जा प्रतिष्ठानों, नीतिगत प्रगति तथा बुनियादी ढांचे में सुधार के लिए महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति की है, जिससे वर्ष 2025 में महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्यों के लिए मंच तैयार हो गया है। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक वर्ष 2030



2024 में रिकॉर्ड तोड़ 24.5 गीगावाट सौर क्षमता और 3.4 गीगावाट पवन क्षमता जोड़ी गई, जो 2023 की तुलना में करीब 2.8 गुना अधिक है। राजस्थान, गुजरात और तमिलनाडु शीर्ष प्रदर्शन करने वाले राज्यों के रूप में उभरे, जिनका भारत के कुल सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन में 71 फीसदी का योगदान रहा।

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

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण (ट्राई) के अध्यक्ष अनिल कुमार लाहोटी ने कहा कि दूरसंचार क्षेत्र में नवाचार, सार्वभौमिक कनेक्टिविटी और आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रभावी स्पेक्ट्रम प्रबंधन रणनीति महत्वपूर्ण है। संचार एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय ने जारी बयान में बताया कि ट्राई के अध्यक्ष अनिल कुमार लाहोटी ने एशिया प्रशांत दूरसंचार समुदाय (एपीटी) के महासचिव मसनोरी कंडो 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 हेडल डबल ट्री ब्या हिल्टन में बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रभावी स्पेक्ट्रम प्रबंधन रणनीति महत्वपूर्ण है। संचार एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय ने जारी बयान में बताया कि ट्राई के अध्यक्ष अनिल कुमार लाहोटी ने एशिया प्रशांत दूरसंचार समुदाय (एपीटी) के महासचिव मसनोरी कंडो 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

डीपीआईआईटी ने जॉब्स पैदा करने और प्रतिभा को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 'अपना' के साथ साझेदारी की

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। उद्योग एवं आंतरिक व्यापार संवर्धन विभाग (डीपीआईआईटी) और रोजगार एवं पेशेवर नेटवर्किंग प्लेटफॉर्म 'अपना' ने प्रतिभा खोज के लिए हाथ मिलाया है, ताकि डीपीआईआईटी-पंजीकृत स्टार्टअप को उच्च कुशल जनशक्ति से लैस किया जा सके और इस प्रकार बेरोजगार युवाओं के लिए रोजगार के नए अवसर पैदा किए जा सकें। वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय ने जारी एक बयान में बताया कि ये समझौता ज्ञान (एमओयू) के जरिए औपचारिक रूप से की गई है। इस साझेदारी से भारत स्टार्टअप रजिस्ट्री (भास्कर) प्लेटफॉर्म पर पंजीकृत 7 लाख संस्थाओं में से प्रत्येक के लिए अपना के प्लेटफॉर्म पर हायरिंग क्रेडिट में 2000 रुपये प्रति इकाई का मौद्रिक

मूल्य मिलेगा। वर्तमान में इसका मूल्य 140 करोड़ रुपये होगा। जैसे-जैसे स्टार्टअप इकोसिस्टम धीरे-धीरे

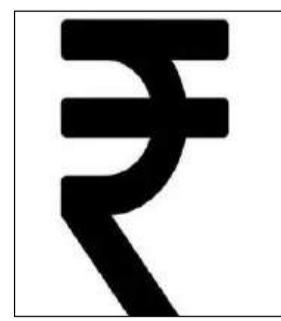


विकसित होगा, इस पहल का मूल्य बढ़कर अनुमानित 300 करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंच जाएगा। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक यह आपसी सहयोग डीपीआईआईटी पंजीकृत स्टार्टअप को अपना के प्लेटफॉर्म पर 2000 रुपये के क्रेडिट प्रदान करने का प्रयास करता

है। यह क्रेडिट जॉब पोस्टिंग को सक्षम करके और अनुरूप प्रतिभा पूल तक पहुंच को अनलॉक करके बेहतर भर्ती

रुपया 26 पैसे मजबूत

मुंबई। अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की टैरिफ योजनाओं पर स्पष्टता की कमी के कारण वित्तीय बाजारों में अनिश्चितता से दुनिया की प्रमुख मुद्राओं के मुकाबले डॉलर के दो सप्ताह के निचले स्तर तक लुढ़कने की



बदौलत आज अंतरबैंकिंग मुद्रा बाजार में रुपया 26 पैसे मजबूत होकर 86.33 रुपये प्रति डॉलर पर पहुंच गया। वहीं, इसके पिछले कारोबारी दिवस रुपया 86.59 रुपये प्रति डॉलर पर रहा था। शुरूआती कारोबार में रुपया साठ पैसे की बढ़त लेकर 86.52 रुपये प्रति डॉलर पर खुला और उस के दौरान आयातकों एवं बैंकों की डॉलर बिकवाली होने से 86.30 रुपये प्रति डॉलर के उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुंच गया। वहीं, लिवाली के दबाव में यह 86.60 रुपये प्रति डॉलर के निचले स्तर पर भी रहा। अंत में पिछले दिवस के 86.59 रुपये प्रति डॉलर की तुलना में 26 पैसे चढ़कर 86.33 रुपये प्रति डॉलर पर पहुंच गया।

गैर निवासी क्रूज शिप संचालकों के लिए आयकर अधिनियम में संशोधन अधिसूचित

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय प्रत्यक्ष कर बोर्ड (सीबीडीटी) ने गैर-निवासी क्रूज शिप ऑपरेटर्स के लिए अनुमानित कराधान व्यवस्था की प्रयोज्यता के लिए शर्तें निर्धारित करने हेतु आयकर नियमों में संशोधन को अधिसूचित किया है। आयकर विभाग ने जारी एक बयान में कहा कि निवेश और रोजगार को बढ़ावा देने के उपाय के रूप में वित्त अधिनियम, 2024 ने गैर-निवासी शिपों के संचालन के व्यवसाय में लगे गैर-निवासीयों के लिए एक अनुमानित कराधान व्यवस्था शुरू की गई है। इसके अलावा किसी विदेशी कंपनी को भारत में ऐसे जहाजों का संचालन करने वाली संबंधित कंपनी से प्राप्त क्रूज जहाजों के पट्टा किराये से होने वाले इनकम के लिए भी छूट प्रदान की गई है। सीबीडीटी की ओर से जारी अधिसूचना के मुताबिक इस और केबिन की सुविधा होनी चाहिए। अधिसूचना के मुताबिक संचालित किए जाने वाले अनुसार संचालित किया जाना होगा। इन संशोधनों का प्रस्ताव केंद्रीय बजट में क्रूज-शिपिंग उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किया गया था, जिसका उद्देश्य भारत को एक आकर्षक क्रूज पर्यटन स्थल बनाना, देश में क्रूज शिपिंग के लिए वैश्विक पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करना और घरेलू पर्यटकों के बीच क्रूज शिपिंग को लोकप्रिय बनाना था। उल्लेखनीय है कि केंद्र सरकार ने पांच वर्षीय क्रूज भारत मिशन भी शुरू किया है, जिसका लक्ष्य 2029 तक 10 लाख यात्रियों तक पहुंच कर तथा 4,00,000 नौकरियां सृजित करके भारत में क्रूज पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देना है। इस मिशन में एक समर्पित कोष की स्थापना, कैबोटेंज विनियमों को आसान बनाना और वित्तीय प्रोत्साहन शामिल हैं।



जहाज को भारत के कम से कम दो समुद्री बंदरगाहों या भारत के एक ही समुद्री बंदरगाहों को दो बार छूते हुए निर्धारित यात्रा या तटीय भ्रमण पर होना चाहिए। यह भी अनिवार्य है कि संचालित किया जाने वाला जहाज मुख्य रूप से यात्रियों को ले जाने के लिए हो, न कि माल ढोने के लिए। इसके अलावा जहाज को पर्यटन मंत्रालय या शिपिंग मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी प्रक्रिया और दिशानिर्देशों के

हो गईं। बीएसई में लिस्टेड कंपनियों का मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन आज के कारोबार के बाद फर 421.96 लाख करोड़ रुपये (अस्थायी) हो गया। पिछले कारोबारी दिन यानी मंगलवार को इनका मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन 424.07 लाख करोड़ रुपये था। इस तरह निवेशकों को आज के कारोबार से करीब 2.11 लाख करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हो गया। आज दिन भर के कारोबार में बीएसई में 4,059 शेयरों में एक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें 1,147 शेयर बढ़ने के साथ बंद हुए, जबकि

ईपीएफओ ने नवंबर महीने के दौरान शुद्ध 14.63 लाख सदस्य जोड़े

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। रोजगार के मोर्चे पर अच्छी खबर है। कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन (ईपीएफओ) ने नवंबर महीने में शुद्ध रूप से (नेट) 14.63 लाख सदस्य जोड़े हैं। पिछले महीने अक्टूबर, 2024 के दौरान ईपीएफओ ने 13.41 लाख सदस्यों को जोड़ा था। श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय ने बताया कि ईपीएफओ ने नवंबर, 2024 में 14.63 लाख नेट सदस्यों को जोड़ा है, जबकि अक्टूबर, 2024 के दौरान ईपीएफओ ने 13.41 लाख सदस्यों को जोड़ा था। इस तरह ईपीएफओ से जुड़ने वाले सदस्यों की संख्या में 18.80 फीसदी की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है। वहीं, सालाना आधार पर नवंबर 2023 की तुलना में शुद्ध सदस्यों की संख्या में 4.88 फीसदी की वृद्धि है। अर्न्तम पेरोल डेटा के मुताबिक ईपीएफओ ने नवंबर,



नए सदस्यों के सालाना आधार पर विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि नवंबर 2023 में पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में नए सदस्यों की संख्या में 18.80 फीसदी की वृद्धि दर्ज हुई है। आंकड़ों के मुताबिक इस दौरान ईपीएफओ से जुड़ने वालों में 18-25 आयु वर्ग के सदस्यों का दबदबा रहा है। नवंबर, 2024 के दौरान 18-25 आयु वर्ग में

4.81 लाख नए सदस्य जुड़े हैं, जो इस दौरान जोड़े गए कुल नए सदस्यों का 54.97 फीसदी है। वहीं, 18-25 आयु वर्ग के नए सदस्यों की संख्या

इंडेक्स शेयरों में हुई खरीदारी से शेयर बाजार में तेजी, बढ़त के साथ बंद हुए सेंसेक्स और निफ्टी

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। बड़ी गिरावट के बाद आज घरेलू शेयर बाजार इंडेक्स शेयरों में हुई खरीदारी के कारण मजबूती के साथ बंद होने में सफल रहा। आज के कारोबार की शुरुआत भी तेजी के साथ हुई थी। हालांकि दिन के कारोबार में सेंसेक्स और निफ्टी दोनों सूचकांक कुछ देर के लिए लुढ़क कर लाल निशान में भी पहुंचे लेकिन इसके बाद खरीदारी का सपोर्ट मिल जाने के कारण दोनों सूचकांकों में तेजी आ गई। पूरे दिन

2,797 शेयरों में गिरावट का रुख रहा, वहीं 115 शेयर बिना किसी उतार चढ़ाव के बंद हुए। एनएसई में आज 2,559 शेयरों में एक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें से 635 शेयर मुनाफा कमा कर हरे निशान में और 1,914 शेयर नुकसान उठा कर लाल निशान में बंद हुए। इसी तरह सेंसेक्स में शामिल 30 शेयरों में से 21 शेयर बढ़त के साथ और 9 शेयर गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए। निफ्टी में शामिल 50 शेयरों में से 27 शेयर हरे निशान में और 23 शेयर लाल निशान में बंद हुए। बीएसई का सेंसेक्स

फिर जोर लगाया, जिसकी वजह से सेंसेक्स 566.63 अंक की मजबूती के साथ 76,404.99 अंक के स्तर पर बंद होने में सफल रहा। सेंसेक्स की तरह ही एनएसई के निफ्टी ने आज 74.50 अंक की मजबूती के साथ 23,099.15 अंक के स्तर से कारोबार की शुरुआत की। बाजार खुलने के बाद लिवाली और बिकवालों के बीच एक दूसरे पर हवावी होने की कोशिश शुरू हो गई, जिसकी वजह से इस सूचकांक की चाल में भी उतार-चढ़ाव होने लगा।

इन दिनों जाड़ा चरम अवस्था पर है और बच्चे अपने रोग-प्रतिरोधक तंत्र के कमजोर होने के कारण इस मौसम में तकलीफें कुछ ज्यादा पाते हैं। नवजात शिशु से लेकर 8 से 10 साल की उम्र तक के बच्चे जाड़े में अधिक प्रभावित होते हैं।

नवजात शिशु और सजगता

सर्दियों के मौसम में शिशु का जन्म एक गर्म स्थान पर होना चाहिए। घर हो या अस्पताल जन्म के पहले ही नवजात के लिए एक गर्म स्थान की व्यवस्था कर लेनी चाहिए। जाड़े के मौसम में अगर बच्चे को गर्म स्थान न मिले, तो उसे सांस लेने तक में समस्या आ सकती है। नवजात को गर्मी देने के लिए रेडिएंट हीटर (तार वाला हीटर) या 200 वाट के दो बल्ब प्रयोग में लाये जा सकते हैं। प्रसव के स्थान पर धुएंदार अंगीठी या कंडे का प्रयोग न करें। इससे कार्बन मोनोऑक्साइड पैदा होती है, जो सांस के जरिये फेफड़े के लिए अति हानिकारक है।

जन्मोपरांत बच्चे को गर्मी देने के लिए इसी प्रकार हीटर या 200 वाट के बल्ब का प्रयोग करें। परन्तु उत्तर प्रदेश में बिजली की आपूर्ति एक समस्या है। ऐसे में बच्चे को गर्मी देने के लिए उसके बिस्तर में, परन्तु उसके शरीर से कुछ दूर, गुनगुने पानी की बोतलें रखी जा सकती हैं। कमरे व बोतलों की गर्मी उचित तापमान में रहनी चाहिए। अगर कमरा 28 डिग्री सेंटीग्रेड पर गर्म है और बच्चे के शरीर का तापमान 98 से 99 डिग्री के बीच है, तो यह उचित होगा।

अन्य रोगों का अंदेश

जाड़े के मौसम में बच्चों को सर्दी, खांसी और यहां तक कि निमोनिया (न्यूमोनिया) होने का खतरा बढ़ जाता है। निमोनिया का कारण वायरस और बैक्टीरिया का इन्फेक्शन दोनों ही हो सकते हैं। बच्चों को अधिक समय तक बन्द, गर्म और ऐसे कमरों (जिसमें अत्यधिक लोग आते-जाते हैं) में रखने से वाइरस और बैक्टीरिया के संक्रमण की आशंका बढ़ जाती है। इसके बचाव के लिए दिन के समय घरों के दरवाजे खुले रखे जा सकते हैं ताकि ताजी हवा घर के अन्दर आ सके। खुली हवा और धूप दोनों ही घर के अन्दर के संक्रमण को खत्म करने में

कैसे बचाएं बच्चों को ठंड से



सहायक होते हैं। थोड़ी-बहुत सर्दी, जुकाम के लिये दवाएं सहायक नहीं होतीं बल्कि ऐसे में बिजली की केतली की सहायता से दिन में तीन चार बार बच्चे को भाप देना उचित होगा। भाप सादे पानी की ही दें। उसमें कोई दवा न डालें। दवाओं से एलर्जी बढ़ने का खतरा होता है।

वाइरल डायरिया
जाड़ों में अक्सर बच्चे वाइरल डायरिया से भी ग्रस्त हो सकते हैं। इस रोग का अन्य कारणों के साथ एक कारण जाड़े में हाथों या बर्तनों का ठीक से न धोना भी हो सकता है। बच्चों के हाथ साबुन से धुलवाएं। इस काम में आलस्य न करें या फिर हैंड सेनीटाइजर का प्रयोग करें। हैंड सेनीटाइजर सूखे हाथों पर ही लगाएं और लगाने के बाद ठीक प्रकार से दोनों हाथों को आपस में रगड़ लें। हैंड सेनीटाइजर का प्रयोग जीवाणुओं की

रोकथाम का एक प्रभावी उपाय है।

तेल व ग्रीम का प्रयोग

जैसे तिल, सरसों या नारियल का या फिर वैसलीन या क्रीम अवश्य लगाएं। शरीर पर तैलीय पदार्थ लगाने से त्वचा भी सुरक्षित रहती है। इस मौसम में कपड़ों का चयन भी सावधानी से करें। बाजार में बहुत ही आकर्षक और गर्म दिखने वाले कपड़े दिखायी पड़ते हैं, परन्तु वे उतने गर्म नहीं होते। जाड़े से बचाव के लिए कपड़े प्योर ऊल के ही लें। बच्चों के सिर का साइज उनके शरीर के अनुपात में बड़ा होता है। इसे ढक कर रखने से भी जाड़े से काफी बचत होती है।

बच्चों को गर्म रखने के लिए कुछ अधिक ऊर्जा की भी आवश्यकता होती है। मेवा से स्वास्थ्यकर फूड कैलोरी मिलती है। बड़े बच्चों को मेवा देना बेहतर होगा।

रखें ध्यान, ठंड से न पड़ जाएं बीमार

ठंड का कहर न केवल बुजुर्गों बल्कि युवाओं पर भी पड़ सकता है। ऐसे में यह आवश्यक है कि लोग अपनी सुरक्षा खुद करें और बचाव की राह पर चलें। सभी को शरीर को पूरी तरह ढक कर रखना चाहिए। बुजुर्ग व बच्चे सुबह व शाम के समय घर से बाहर निकलने से बचें और बीमार लोग सुबह के समय रक्तचाप की जांच जरूर कराएं, डॉक्टर के संपर्क में रहें तथा रक्तचाप नियंत्रित करने के लिए दवाएं लेते रहें।

इन बातों का भी रखें ध्यान

- स्क्वटर व मोटरसाइकिल से चलने वाले लोग इस बात का ध्यान रखें कि हवा सीधे छाती पर न लगे।
- सूर्योदय के बाद ही सुबह टहलने के लिए निकलें, सुबह की सैर पर जाने से पहले गरम पदार्थ न लें।
- सुबह की सैर हवा के रुक के साथ करें।
- ध्यान रखें कि बच्चों के कपड़े गीले तो नहीं हैं।
- बच्चों के हाथ-पैर आदि धोने के लिए गर्म पानी का प्रयोग करें।
- आइस क्रीम, शीतल पेय व शरबत जैसी ठंडी चीजों का सेवन न करें।
- त्वचा को सफाई के लिए साबुन व शैंपू की जगह बेसन व दही का प्रयोग करें।
- नहाने अथवा हाथ-मुंह धोने के लिए गुनगुने पानी का प्रयोग करें।



सर्दी में लोग चटपटा खाना ज्यादा पसंद करते हैं। लेकिन, कहीं ऐसा न हो कि वसा युक्त अधिक खाना सेहत के लिए भारी पड़ जाए। विशेषकर गठिया के मरीजों के लिए ऐसा भोजन बहुत नुकसानदेह साबित हो सकता है। इससे पहले कि चलना फिरना भी मुश्किल हो जाए, सचेत हो जाएं। क्योंकि सर्दियों में गठिया की परेशानी बढ़ जाती है। एम्स के रुमेटोलॉजी विभाग की प्रमुख प्रो. उमा कुमार ने

कहीं सर्दी में अकड़ न जाए

घुटना

बताया कि ठंड के मौसम में ऑस्टियो अर्थराइटिस की परेशानी ज्यादा होती है। इसका कारण यह है कि इस मौसम में पेटेदार सब्जियाँ जैसे पालक व सिट्रस फलों में यह अणुएँ मात्रा में पाया जाता है।

व्यायाम नहीं करते। अधिक खाने व व्यायाम नहीं करने से शरीर का वजन बढ़ जाता है। इस कारण गठिया के मरीजों का शरीर अकड़ने लगता है। इसके अलावा इस बीमारी का कारण विटामिन डी की कमी है। सर्दी में धूप कम निकलने से शरीर को पर्याप्त विटामिन डी नहीं मिल पाता। इस वजह से गठिया की परेशानी बढ़ जाती है। उन्होंने बताया कि जिन लोगों में विटामिन डी की कमी हो वे विटामिन डी की दवा ले सकते हैं। डॉ. उमा ने बताया कि यह बीमारी घुटने में होती है। इसके कारण घुटना में सूजन व तेज दर्द होता है। गठिया देश में एक सामान्य बीमारी है। देश की करीब 20 फीसद जनसंख्या इस बीमारी से ग्रसित है। करीब 4.60 करोड़ लोगों को घुटने की गठिया है।

जानिए कैसे बनाए मातृत्व का अहसास खूबसूरत



खूबसूरत अहसास है मातृत्व। जैसे ही आपको पता चलता है कि आप मां बनने वाली हैं, उसी समय से गर्भस्थ शिशु के साथ एक रिश्ता बन जाता है। उसका विकास सही ढंग से हो, इसके लिए आप हर एहतियात बरतने की कोशिश करती हैं। इस लिहाज से खानपान पर ध्यान देना सबसे जरूरी है, क्योंकि आपके जरिए ही पोषण गर्भस्थ शिशु तक पहुंचता है। अगर आपका खानपान ठीक नहीं है तो यह और भी जरूरी हो जाता है कि आप संतुलित आहार के सेवन की आदत डालें। गर्भावस्था के दौरान आपका शरीर भोजन के जरिए प्राप्त होने वाली ऊर्जा का बेहतर इस्तेमाल सुनिश्चित करता है। इस दौरान आपको अपना खानपान ऐसा रखना चाहिए कि शरीर को कुछ विशेष विटामिन्स और मिनरल्स जैसे फोलिक एसिड और आयरन इत्यादि और कुछ अधिक कैलोरी प्राप्त हो सके। इसके साथ ही कोशिश करनी चाहिए कि जंक फूड से दूर रहें। यदि किसी महिला का खानपान पहले से ही

संतुलित पोषण वाला रहा है तो उसके शरीर में इन तत्वों का कुछ भंडार रहता है, जिससे गर्भस्थ शिशु की जरूरत पूरी हो सके। ऐसे में मां की सेहत को भी कोई नुकसान नहीं पहुंचता।

भोजन की मात्रा :

अक्सर लोग सलाह देते हैं कि गर्भावस्था के दौरान मां को दो लोगों की जरूरत के अनुसार भोजन ग्रहण करना चाहिए, जबकि हकीकत में एक सामान्य महिला को गर्भावस्था के पहले छह माह तक अतिरिक्त कैलोरी की आवश्यकता नहीं होती। इस दौरान भूख के अनुसार भोजन करना ही काफी रहता है।

जरूरत के मुताबिक आहार :

शरीर की बढ़ी हुई जरूरतों के अनुसार आपको संतुलित भोजन करना चाहिए। संतुलित आहार वह है जिसमें विभिन्न प्रकार का पोषण प्रदान करने वाले खाद्य पदार्थ शामिल हों। उदाहरण के तौर पर ऊर्जा देने वाले पोषक तत्व (कार्बोहाइड्रेट्स), शरीर का निर्माण

करने वाले तत्व (प्रोटीन) और सुरक्षा प्रदान करने वाले तत्व (मिनरल्स-विटामिन्स) इत्यादि की उचित मात्रा वाला आहार संतुलित आहार कहलाता है। शरीर की अवस्था के अनुसार भोजन में इन पोषक तत्वों को पर्याप्त मात्रा में शामिल करना चाहिए, क्योंकि गर्भावस्था, शरीर की बनावट या शारीरिक मेहनत के अनुसार इस जरूरत का निर्धारण होता है।

ऊर्जा :

आमतौर पर गर्भावस्था के अंतिम महीनों में शरीर को कुछ अधिक मात्रा में कैलोरी की जरूरत होती है (हालांकि यह बढ़ोत्तरी 15 प्रतिशत से अधिक नहीं होनी चाहिए। आहार विशेषज्ञ भोजन में रोजाना 300 कैलोरी अधिक शामिल करने की सलाह देते हैं। इस जरूरत को आप हार्ड कैलोरी वाले खाद्य पदार्थों जैसे दूध, नट्स, सूखे मेवों, सोया उत्पादों के सेवन के जरिए पूरा कर सकती हैं।

प्रोटीन :

प्रोटीन की अतिरिक्त मात्रा गर्भस्थ शिशु के तेजी से विकास, गर्भनाल, स्तन ग्रंथियों व गर्भाशय के विस्तार, एमिनोटाक

फ्लूइड के निर्माण व भंडारण, सहज प्रसव, मां के दूध के निर्माण के लिए जरूरी है। मां के जरिए गर्भस्थ शिशु तक अमीनो एसिड पहुंचाने के लिए भी यह जरूरी है। गर्भावस्था के दौरान रोजाना आहार में 15 ग्राम प्रोटीन की अतिरिक्त मात्रा शामिल करने की सलाह दी जाती है। दूध, मांस, अंडा और चीज इत्यादि प्रोटीन के अच्छे स्रोत हैं।

आयरन :

गर्भावस्था के दौरान आहार में रोजाना आठ ग्राम आयरन की अतिरिक्त मात्रा यानी 38 ग्राम आयरन प्रतिदिन भोजन में शामिल करने की सलाह दी जाती है। आमतौर पर जन्म के समय शिशु के रक्त में हीमोग्लोबिन का स्तर 18-22 मिली/डीएल (डेसीलीटर) रहता है। गर्भस्थ शिशु और गर्भनाल के विकास के लिए आयरन बहुत जरूरी है। रक्त में हीमोग्लोबिन का स्तर बढ़ाने के लिए भी इसकी समुचित मात्रा प्राप्त होना आवश्यक है। हरी सब्जियां, अंडा, दालों और आयरन युक्त नमक इसका अच्छा स्रोत हैं।

फोलिक एसिड :

एक सामान्य महिला को रोजाना 100 मिलीग्राम फोलिक एसिड की जरूरत होती है, पर विशेषज्ञ गर्भावस्था के दौरान रोजाना 400 मिलीग्राम फोलिक एसिड प्राप्त करने की सलाह देते हैं। इसकी कमी से गर्भावस्था में मैक्रोसाइटिक एनीमिया व गर्भस्थ शिशु के मस्तिष्क व रीढ़ के विकास में दोष उत्पन्न हो सकता है। गहरे हरे रंग की पेटेदार सब्जियाँ जैसे पालक व सिट्रस फलों में यह अणुएँ मात्रा में पाया जाता है।

कैल्शियम :

गर्भस्थ शिशु की हड्डियों व दांतों के विकास के लिए कैल्शियम की आवश्यकता होती है। गर्भावस्था की अंतिम तिमाही में इसकी करीब 25-30 ग्राम मात्रा गर्भस्थ शिशु तक पहुंचती है। दूध, दही, मट्ठा इत्यादि इसके अच्छे स्रोत हैं। इनमें उच्च मात्रा में कैल्शियम के साथ ही विटामिन बी 12 भी पाया जाता है। अगर आपको दूध और उससे निर्मित उत्पादों से एलर्जी है तो इन तत्वों के सेवन के विषय में अपने चिकित्सक से परामर्श ले सकती हैं।

विटामिन ए :

आमतौर पर एक महिला को 2400 माइक्रोग्राम बी कैरोटिन की आवश्यकता होती है। गर्भावस्था के दौरान भी इसकी इतनी ही मात्रा ग्रहण करने की जरूरत होती है। अंडे की जर्दी, मक्खन, गहरे हरे और पीले रंग की सब्जियां और फल विटामिन ए के अच्छे स्रोत हैं।

विटामिन डी :

मां का शरीर कैल्शियम को भली प्रकार एब्जा र्बव कर सके, इसके लिए विटामिन डी लेना बेहद जरूरी है। सूरज की किरणों से विटामिन डी मिलता है, जिसकी मदद से शरीर दूध, दालों इत्यादि से मिलने वाले कैल्शियम को भली प्रकार ग्रहण कर पाता है।

सोडियम :

किसी प्रकार के विकारों, डिसऑर्डर और कमी से बचने के लिए एक सामान्य महिला के शरीर में सोडियम की समुचित मात्रा पहुंचनी चाहिए। आहार में इसकी कमी से हार्मोन संबंधी बदलाव उत्पन्न हो सकते हैं। गर्भावस्था के दौरान ऐसी दवाओं से बचना चाहिए, जिनसे बार-बार-बार टॉयलेट जाने की आवश्यकता महसूस हो, क्योंकि इससे शरीर से जरूरी सोडियम भी निकल जाता है। अगर हाइपरटेंशन जैसी कोई समस्या है, तब सोडियम की मात्रा सीमित करने की सलाह दी जाती है।

तरल पदार्थ :

शरीर में पानी की कमी न होने दें। भरपूर मात्रा में पानी पीने के साथ ही ताजे फलों का रस ग्रहण करें। जब भी घर से बाहर जाएं तो पीने का पानी साथ ले जाएं, क्योंकि बहुत सी बीमारियां अशुद्ध पानी के कारण होती हैं।

वसा :

इस दौरान अपने कुकिंग ऑयल व वसा पर ध्यान देना भी जरूरी है। घी, मक्खन और नारियल तेल में सैचुरेटेड फैट्स काफी ज्यादा होते हैं, इसलिए इनके सेवन से बचना चाहिए। इनके अलावा वनस्पति घी में ट्रांस फैट्स की मात्रा अधिक होती है और यह भी सैचुरेटेड फैट के जितना ही नुकसानदेह होता है।

NEWS BOX

Love new India's fearless, selfless approach in T20Is: Sanjay Manjrekar

New Delhi. Former India cricketer turned commentator Sanjay Manjrekar has praised the Indian T20I side for their fearless and selfless cricket after their dominating win over England on Wednesday, January 22. India thrashed England by seven wickets in the first T20I of the five-match series at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. The Men in Blue bundled out the visitors for 132 in 20 overs and went on to chase down the target in just 12.5 overs, putting on a belligerent display of batting. Following India's comprehensive win, Manjrekar was full of praise for the Indian side as he was left in awe of their fearless and selfless approach. "Loving this from New India! No fear cricket. No fascination for individual 50s etc. Selfless cricketer always a dangerous cricketer in T20s. #INDvENGonJioStar," wrote Manjrekar on his X account. Varun Chakravarty was adjudged Player of the Match as he spun a web around England's batting and derailed their innings in the middle overs. The wrist spinner continued his marvellous form ever since his comeback to the national side in October 2024 and got the big scalps of Jos



Buttler, Harry Brook and Liam Livingstone. Later in the chase, openers Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma got the team off to a terrific start, adding 41 runs in 4.2 overs. While Samson was dismissed for 26 (20), Abhishek went on to score 79 (34) and helped India chase down the modest target in just 12.5 overs.

India's golden run in T20Is in recent times
Meanwhile, Captain Suryakumar Yadav has continued India's fearless approach to batting started by former captain Rohit Sharma during the T20I World Cup 2024. Under his leadership, the youngsters have been given full freedom to go after the opposition right from the first ball itself. The move has worked wonders for the team as India have become the most feared side in the world since their T20 World Cup 2024 triumph. The Men in Blue have won 13 out of 16 matches so far since July 2024 and have won four series on the trot. The Suryakumar Yadav-led side will look to continue their unbeaten run in the shortest format by emerging victorious in the ongoing series as well.

SA20: Sunrisers Eastern Cape beat Pretoria Capitals for third consecutive bonus point win

NEW DELHI. Defending champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape registered a 52-run victory over the Pretoria Capitals to claim a third consecutive bonus point win on Wednesday evening. With 15 points, the Sunrisers are still in third position, and the Capitals are still in fifth place with nine points. After being reduced to 53/5 following an outstanding early burst by Capitals seamer Eathan Bosch (3/33) and new Australian signing Jason Behrendorff, the back-to-back winners had to demonstrate their character. Also See: ICC Champions Trophy 2025

With 26 wickets, Bosch has surpassed former captain Wayne Parnell as the Capitals' top wicket-taker, breaking his previous record of 24. In order to get to 149/7, the Sunrisers needed a captain's innings, and Aiden Markram delivered with a powerful 68 not out off 55 balls. Liam Dawson (25 off 11 balls) and Marco Jansen (24 off 24 balls) provided Markram with bottom order support to shift the tide in the home team's favor. With a superb new-ball spell, Jansen is quickly emerging as a leading candidate for



SA20 Season 3 Most Valuable Player (MVP).

With the help of Richard Gleeson (1/22), the lanky left-arm seamer destroyed the Capitals top order with figures of 3/7, leaving the visitors in ruins at 28/4.

Rookie Keagan Lion-Cachet, 22, showed that he has the talent and disposition to thrive at this level after the Capitals gave him his SA20 debut.

Also See: Champions Trophy Schedule 2025
Together with Marques Ackerman, the right-hander scored 28 to give the Sky Blues some hope.

ILT20: Zaman, Amir power Desert Vipers to 10-wicket victory over Sharjah Warriorz

← The Desert Vipers attained a dominant 10-wicket win over the Sharjah Warriorz in ILT20's third season, with Mohammad Amir taking four wickets and Fakhar Zaman scoring an unbeaten 71. Zaman and Alex Hales's aggressive start led the Vipers to a comfortable chase, solidifying their top position in the rankings at Dubai International Stadium.

NEW DELHI. The Desert Vipers returned to winning ways at the third season of ILT20, outperforming the Sharjah Warriorz and winning by a commanding 10-wicket margin on Wednesday at the Dubai International Stadium.

Mohammad Amir's four-wicket haul and Fakhar Zaman's undefeated 71 helped the Desert Vipers sail to a decisive victory that solidified their top spot in the



rankings. Alex Hales got the Desert Vipers off to a terrific start with a barrage of boundaries, and they wasted no time in their pursuit. Within the first two overs, the team sped to 20/0 after he hit Adam Milne for a maximum and then clobbered Tim

Southey for three fours. Also See: 2025 Champions Trophy
With some clean hitting, Zaman stepped in, taking aim at Bangladeshi pacer Junaid Siddique in his opening over. He sliced him away for a boundary after crossing the

stump, and then he hit a stunning pull shot for four more. Zaman appeared to have a straightforward goal: to prevent the bowlers from settling in. He was in his rhythm. He pursued Ashton Agar and used a huge slog sweep to strike him for a huge six. The Desert Vipers scored 47 runs after five overs when the Pakistani batsman sprinted down the track for the following delivery and smashed it clean past the pitcher. The Sharjah Warriorz were 18/4 at the same point in the first innings. As the required run rate fell below three runs per over and the Desert Vipers' batters reveled in the middle, the disparity in batting became apparent. Hales was content to take a backseat while Zaman gave it his best. Using all his strength, he muscled the ball over long on and into the stands as he targeted Siddique once again in the seventh over. Shortly after, Zaman reached his second half-century of the season in 30 balls.

The Desert Vipers would eventually hunt down the target, but Zaman sped up the process by hitting Agar for six with a brilliant slog-sweep and then finishing the match with a six over long-on.

Ranji Trophy: Rohit Sharma fails on comeback after 9 years, falls cheaply vs J&K

NEW DELHI. India captain Rohit Sharma failed on his Ranji Trophy comeback as he got dismissed cheaply against Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday, January 23. Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy BKC, Mumbai. Rohit was dismissed for 3 (19) by Umar Nazir Mir and failed to impress on his return to India's premier domestic first-class competition.

Rohit's Ranji comeback was eagerly anticipated by his fans and pundits after he confirmed his availability to play for Mumbai. However, the opening batter didn't look comfortable at all at the crease playing and missing a number of deliveries. The opening batter looked desperate to get some bat on the ball as he chased after a few wide deliveries as well. His struggling knock ended on 3 (19) as he got a leading edge while trying to pull Umar Nazir Mir and got caught inside the circle. As a result, Rohit didn't have a memorable return to Ranji



Trophy leaving Mumbai reeling after captain Ajinkya Rahane opted to bat first. Earlier, Yashasvi Jaiswal also departed cheaply, getting dismissed for 4 (8) as he got caught behind against Aaquib Nabi Dar. Both openers returned to the pavilion, leaving the defending champions on 12/2 after 5.5 overs

as Ajinkya Rahane walked in to join Hardik Tamare at the crease. Rohit's poor run in Tests in recent times Rohit made himself available for Ranji Trophy following new directives by the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) which has made it mandatory for players to participate in domestic cricket while not on national duty. The India captain has been in poor form in the longest format of late as he scored 619 runs from 14 matches (26 innings) at an average of 24.76 with two hundreds and as many fifties.

He recently scored just one half century in India's nine-match-long Test season and even dropped himself from the playing XI for the fifth Test against Australia in Sydney. Hence, Rohit will be eager to find his form back ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 set to begin from February 19.

Yuvraj Singh's Witty Applause Lights Up Abhishek Sharma's Explosive Knock Against England

NEW DELHI. The Eden Gardens in Kolkata witnessed a night of cricketing magic on January 22, as India secured a commanding seven-wicket win against England in the opening T20I of the five-match series. Amid the cheers and fireworks, the spotlight shone brightly on Abhishek Sharma, whose scintillating 79-run knock off just 34 balls etched a memorable chapter in the annals of Indian cricket. Adding a touch of humour and nostalgia to the post-match celebrations, Indian cricket legend Yuvraj Singh took to social media to praise the young opener. Yuvraj, known for mentoring Abhishek during his formative years, delivered a playful yet heartfelt compliment, saying, "Good start to the series boys! Great tone set by our bowlers and well played sir [Abhishek]! I'm impressed you hit 2 boundaries down the ground as well." The pressure was mounting on Abhishek Sharma as he stepped onto the field. With just 256 runs from 13 T20Is and inconsistent performances, critics were questioning his place in the squad. Calls for his replacement with rising stars like Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill had

grown louder. But on this crucial night, Abhishek silenced his detractors in emphatic fashion. His innings began cautiously, letting Sanju Samson set the early pace. But when Samson fell in the fifth over, Abhishek unleashed a



barrage of strokes that left the English bowlers scrambling for answers. Smashing eight sixes and five boundaries, Abhishek reached his fifty in just 20 balls, making it the second-fastest T20I half-century by an Indian against England, behind only Yuvraj Singh's iconic 12-ball fifty in 2007.

The Yuvraj-Abhishek Connection
The parallels between Abhishek's performance and Yuvraj Singh's legendary feats weren't lost on fans or the cricketing fraternity. Yuvraj's mentorship has been pivotal in shaping Abhishek's career, and the young batter's calculated aggression bore the hallmarks of his mentor's guidance.

Yuvraj's witty remark about Abhishek hitting boundaries "down the ground" instead of relying solely on aerial shots showcased the camaraderie between the two while subtly acknowledging Abhishek's technical growth as a batter. India's Chase: A Dominant Display
Chasing a modest target of 133, India faced early jitters with the dismissals of captain Suryakumar Yadav for a duck and Samson for 26. However, Abhishek's explosive knock and a crucial 84-run partnership with Tilak Varma steadied the ship. Varma played the perfect supporting role, contributing an unbeaten 24, while Abhishek's heroics ensured India wrapped up the chase in just 12.5 overs. This victory not only gave India an early lead in the series but also reinforced their batting depth, with Abhishek emerging as a potential match-winner.

Mohammed Shami is bowling like a 22-year-old: Arshdeep downplays fresh injury concerns

← India pacer Arshdeep Singh downplayed any fresh injury concerns for Mohammed Shami after the veteran bowler was not named in the playing XI for the first T20I against England in Kolkata.

NEW DELHI. Star pacer Arshdeep Singh reassured fans that there was no need to worry about Mohammed Shami's fitness after the veteran bowler was left out of India's playing XI for the first T20I against England in Kolkata. Arshdeep dismissed any fresh injury concerns surrounding Shami and instead heaped praise on the 33-year-old, likening his bowling to that of his younger self.

Meanwhile, Arshdeep starred in Shami's absence to become India's highest wicket-taker in T20Is and help the hosts outclass



England by seven wickets in the first T20I on Wednesday. "Just yesterday, I was talking about the same thing with Shami Bhai because when he was bowling, the way the ball was coming out of his hand was absolutely amazing. With every delivery, you would say, 'Wow, how can such an incredible ball come out of someone's hand

like this!' Just wait for a few more days, and you'll get to see that bowling, and you'll enjoy it a lot. The way the ball is coming out of his hand makes it look like the 22-year-old Shami Bhai is bowling again," Arshdeep Singh said in the post-match interview with JioCinema. Shami was seen bowling at the side nets, targeting the stumps ahead of the

first T20I. However, Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav confirmed that Shami's comeback would be delayed after opting to bowl at the toss. Despite heavy strapping on his left knee, Shami had bowled at full tilt during all of India's practice sessions. Fans and cricket experts then questioned Shami's fitness, saying if the swelling in his left knee after rigorous sessions continued to trouble the veteran pacer. Suryakumar had confirmed in the pre-match press conference that Shami was fit. "It's always good to have an experienced bowler in your side, and he is making a comeback after over a year. I am really excited to see him. I have witnessed his journey—what he did at the NCA, how he focused on his bowling and recovery. It's great to see him fit and back in the side," Suryakumar said on Tuesday. Shami himself said that he was eager to make India comeback. "The hunger to play for the country should never end. If you love it, you will always fight back, no matter how many injuries you face," Shami said at a Cricket Association of Bengal event.

D Gukesh dethrones Ajrun Erigaisi to become highest-ranked Indian in FIDE Rankings

NEW DELHI. World champion D Gukesh has continued his rise in chess as he went past compatriot Arjun Erigaisi to become the highest-ranked Indian in the latest FIDE Rankings on Thursday, January 23. Gukesh went past Erigaisi to take the 4th spot in the latest rankings as Erigaisi slipped to No. 5. The 18-year-old achieved the feat when he got his second win in the Tata Steel Masters in Wijk Aan Zee in the Netherlands as he beat Vincent Keymer of Germany.

Gukesh, who was conferred the Khel Ratna award recently, has amassed 2784 rating points, while Erigaisi slipped to 2779.5 rating points. Erigaisi was the highest-ranked Indian for a long time and achieved a career-best rating of 2801, making him only the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand to go past the 2800 threshold. This also made the 21-year-old the 15th highest-rated player in history.



However, Erigaisi's recent performances haven't been up to the mark. Erigaisi had gone to the World Rapid and Blitz Championship in New York, hoping to secure a Candidates berth, but had to come back home empty-handed in the end. The 21-year-old is also having a rough time in the ongoing Tata Steel Masters, having got just one point so far.

Norway's Magnus Carlsen continues to be the undisputed world No. 1 with 2832.5 points, followed by United States' Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura with 2802. Fabiano Caruana, with 2798 points, is in the third spot.

Gukesh continues to shine
Since beating Ding Liren to become the world champion, Gukesh has continued to shine. The 18-year-old had missed the World Rapid and Blitz Championship in New York as he had returned home to take part in festivities and functions after his win in Singapore against Liren. Gukesh's return to the board saw him edge past Anish Giri with a win after a rough start to proceedings. He then drew his second-round game against Slovenia's Vladimir Fedoseev. The 18-year-old was held to a draw in round 3, before bouncing back against Keymer.

Selena Gomez

Benny Blanco Gear Up For Fresh Tracks With A Kiss Of Love

Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco are keeping fans on their toes with an exciting tease about new music. On January 17, Benny Blanco dropped a mysterious yet exciting TikTok video, sparking rumours of a collaboration with none other than his fiancée, Selena Gomez. The 36-year-old producer posted the short clip in response to a fan's request for him to make "some new songs for our queen." The video, just a few seconds long, shows Blanco opening a door to find Gomez, 32, lounging on a couch with a microphone set up in front of her. "Hi," Blanco greets her and she flashes a smile at the camera, replying, "Hi" in return.

In the post's caption, he reportedly added, "Replying to Esme Hermes in case TikTok doesn't exist next week." Fans couldn't get enough, flooding the comments with excitement. One follower even called it

"the greatest gift," while another said, "If I was as happy as she is I would do anything to keep him."

Before they were officially a couple, Gomez and Blanco were already musical collaborators. Their partnership began years ago when Blanco co-produced two hits from Gomez's 2015 album *Revival*: *Kill Em with Kindness* and *Same Old Love*. The duo also teamed up on the 2019 hit *I Can't Get Enough*, a collaboration featuring Tainy and J Balvin. In the music video, the pair shared a quirky scene, with Gomez in cosy pyjamas and Blanco dressed as a giant teddy bear.

Their most recent collaboration was in August 2023 with Gomez's single, *Single Soon*. Since then, their connection has grown. In December 2023, Gomez reportedly confirmed their relationship, subtly dropping clues on social media, including a photo of herself wearing a 'B' ring on her left ring finger, hinting at their engagement. Earlier this month, the duo got engaged.



Pankaj Tripathi Bows Down To Wife Mridula With Folded Hands On 21st Anniversary



Pankaj Tripathi just gave us another reason to fall head over heels for him. Celebrating 21 glorious years of togetherness with his wife, Mridula, the Mirzapur actor proved why he's not just a fantastic actor but also the ultimate husband goals. Pankaj and his wife celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary on January 15, 2025. Today, Mridula shared a cute video from the celebration on Saturday. In the video, Pankaj is seen bowing down to Mridula with folded hands, leaving fans absolutely emotional and in awe of his simplicity. Dressed in his signature understated style, Pankaj looked as grounded as ever, while Mridula, donning a lovely traditional yellow suit, blushes at her husband's gesture. The video also shows Pankaj putting a ring on Mridula's finger. They hug and cut their anniversary cake together while the guests cheer for the two. Their daughter, Aashi Tripathi, also joined them.

Pankaj and Mridula's story is no less than a Bollywood script. The duo met when Mridula was in ninth standard and Pankaj was in 11th. Soon they developed feelings for each other. They feared their families will not accept their relationship because she came from a higher social standing.

They tied the knot on January 14, 2004, and since then, it's been a rollercoaster ride of love and dreams fulfilled together. The Mimi star often credits Mridula for being his rock and supporting him during his struggling years. Pankaj Tripathi gained prominence after featuring in Anurag Kashyap's *Gangs of Wasseypur*. He was recently seen in *Stree 2*. Here's wishing Pankaj and Mridula many more years of love, laughter, and love-filled moments.

Bigg Boss 18: Shilpa Shinde Claims Vivian Dsena Is 'Jealous' Of Karan Veer, 'Laadla Word Ne Uski Band Baja Di'



Bigg Boss 18 finale is just a day away, and fans are eagerly waiting to find out who will lift the trophy this time around. Former Bigg Boss winner Shilpa Shinde will be seen supporting Karan Veer Mehra in today's episode of the reality show. In a recent interview, Shilpa also talked about why she thinks Vivian doesn't deserve to win. She said that the makers calling him 'laadla' since the beginning of the show ended up backfiring.

In an interview with Telly Talk, Shilpa Shinde said, "Vivian mein toh Day 1 se Karan ke liye jealousy dikh rahi thi. Day 1 se. (Since Day 1, Vivian has been showing jealousy towards Karan)." She further added that it seemed like Vivian did not want Avinash Mishra and Eisha Singh near Karan Veer Mehra. "If they had gone to him, he would have been left alone, and he didn't want that," said Shilpa. She further added that Vivian doesn't deserve to win Bigg Boss 18. She said that she has no personal issues with him, but is only speaking based on the game. Meanwhile, she pointed out that the entire industry is liking Karan Veer's game.

Shilpa Shinde then said, "Makers ne usko (Vivian Dsena) laadla bolke uski band baja di. (The makers treated him like their favorite and that ended up backfiring)." She said that Vivian had an 'attitude' from the beginning that he has done shows on Colors, and that he is the favourite. "Main laadla. Us chakkar mein usne kuchh nahi kiya. Na uske paas humour tha, na uske paas baat karne ka sense hai. Na fun hai. (He didn't do anything. He didn't have any humor, no sense of talking, no fun)," she said.

She further questioned, "Morning mein bhi...kiske upar meherbaani kar rahe ho aap? Kyu? Bigg Boss mein aakar aap kiske upar meherbaani kar rahe ho? Aap show se apne aap ko bada maante ho. Itna apne kya kar liya? 1-2 shows ek hi channel ke? (Even in the morning... who are you doing a favour to? Why? You come into Bigg Boss and think you're above the show? What have you really done? 1-2 shows on the same channel?)"

She once again reiterated that being called 'laadla' by the makers ruined Vivian's game. "Bolte hai na success har koi nahi handle kar paata. Toh Vivian ka waha panga ho gaya hai. (They say success is something that not everyone can handle, and that's exactly what happened with Vivian)," she concluded. Meanwhile, a promo of the upcoming episode of Bigg Boss 18 also showed Shilpa Shinde mocking Eisha Singh. Shilpa Shinde is the winner of Bigg Boss 11, that aired from October 2017 to January 2018.

Rasha Thadani

Tamannaah Bhatia And Vijay Varma Dance To 'Uyi Amma', Fans Go Crazy Over The Trio

Raveena Tandon's daughter Rasha Thadani has officially stepped into the limelight with her debut film *Azaad*. The film, which also marks the debut of Ajay Devgn's nephew Aaman Devgan, hit theaters this week following a star-studded special screening in Mumbai. Among Rasha's many cheerleaders is actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who has been vocal about her support for the young star. Tamannaah even stole the spotlight at the *Azaad* screening when she eagerly quizzed the paparazzi about their thoughts on Rasha's song *Uyi Amma*, calling it "too good." Fans were in for a treat when Tamannaah and Rasha teamed up to groove to the upbeat *Uyi Amma*. The video, shared by Rasha on Instagram, showcases their playful chemistry and flawless expressions. While Tamannaah kept it casual in a hoodie and a no-makeup look, Rasha added a nod to her debut film by sporting a T-shirt that read "unstable girl." Their bond shone through, with Rasha humorously referring to Tamannaah as her "adopted mom" during a recent interview. She even joked that Tamannaah and her boyfriend Vijay Varma had "adopted" her—a playful comment that delighted fans.



The clip became even more entertaining with a cameo by Vijay Varma, who surprised fans by singing a line from *Uyi Amma*. The trio's infectious energy won over social media, with fans flooding the comment section with love. "Three cuties in one frame!" wrote one user, while another commented, "Two beauties and so many expressions." A fan drew parallels

between Tamannaah's hit song *Aaj Ki Raat* and *Uyi Amma*, writing, "When *Aaj Ki Raat* meets *Uyi Amma*?"

Despite the buzz around the debutants, *Azaad* has struggled at the box office. According to reports, the film managed a modest opening day collection of ₹1.5 crore, trailing behind *Emergency*, which earned ₹2.35 crore. Morning shows saw low occupancy at just 5%, though night shows improved slightly with

26% occupancy. The film's extensive promotional efforts, which saw Rasha and Aaman attending events across the country, aimed to generate excitement, but the initial response has been underwhelming. Set against the backdrop of British India, *Azaad* explores a politically charged era, featuring Ajay Devgn and Diana Penty alongside the debutants. Despite its slow start, fans of Rasha and Aaman remain hopeful for a steady rise in popularity, fueled by the duo's fresh energy and star-studded connections.

