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# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### Mayors of Hiroshima, Nagasaki invite Trump for 80th anniversary of World War II atomic bombings

**World** The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have invited US President Donald Trump to visit this year for the 80th anniversary of the World War II atomic bombings, officials said Wednesday. In a joint letter to Trump, the mayors urge him to come and "listen to the testimonies of the hibakusha (bomb survivors) in person, take to heart their fervent wish for peace, and deepen your understanding of the inhumanity of nuclear weapons." "It is our sincere hope that you will break away from the notion of nuclear reliance and take strong leadership in the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace," said the January 28 letter shared with AFP on Wednesday. The United States dropped an atomic bomb on each Japanese city on August 6 and 9, 1945 -- the only times nuclear weapons have been used in warfare. Days later Japan surrendered. Around 140,000 people died in Hiroshima and some 74,000 others in Nagasaki including many who survived the explosions but died later from radiation exposure. Washington has never apologised for the bombings. US ambassador John Roos in 2010 became the first US representative to attend the annual Hiroshima commemoration and went to the Nagasaki event two years later. Barack Obama became the first sitting US president to come to Hiroshima in 2016, followed by Joe Biden in 2023. Trump did not make the trip during his first term, despite the two mayors inviting him according to Japanese media. Last year, Nagasaki's mayor Shiro Suzuki sparked a furore by not inviting Israel's ambassador to the ceremony. Suzuki insisted the decision was "not political" but to avoid possible protests related to the Gaza conflict. The ambassadors of the US, Israel, Britain and others snubbed the ceremony in protest and attended a smaller memorial event in Tokyo instead. Last year's Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors pushing for a nuclear weapons ban.

### No food, nothing': Famine grips Sudan

**World** In the span of just two months, the Sudanese mother watched helplessly as severe malnutrition killed her 10-year-old daughter, Rania, and her eight-month-old son, Montasir, in the famine-stricken Zamzam displacement camp. "I could only hold them as they faded away," Ibrahim, 40, told AFP via video call, sitting outside her straw-and-plastic shelter near North Darfur state's besieged capital El-Fasher. Rania was the first to succumb. In El-Fasher's only functioning hospital, understaffed and unequipped, she died in November just three days after being admitted with acute diarrhoea. Her baby boy Montasir followed weeks later, his tiny body bloated from severe malnutrition. El-Fasher, under paramilitary siege since May, is only one grim battlefield in the 21-month war between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). In July, a UN-backed review declared famine in Zamzam, a decades-old displacement camp home to between 500,000 and a million people. By December, it had spread to two more camps in the area, Abu Shouk and Al-Salam, as well as parts of the Nuba Mountains in southern Sudan, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification determined. The Sudanese government, aligned with the army, has denied reports of famine, even as millions across the country suffer on the brink of starvation. Now, Ibrahim fears for her four-year-old daughter, Rashida, who battles severe anaemia with no access to medical care. "I am terrified I will lose her too," she said. "We're abandoned. There is no food, no medicine, nothing." At Salam 56, one of Zamzam's 48 overcrowded shelters, exhaustion was etched onto mothers' faces as they cradled their children, too weak to stand. Multiple families gathered around bowls with a few scraps of peanut residue traditionally used as animal feed.

### Sad to watch new govt dismantling all freedoms we've been fighting for: Madonna

**LOS ANGELES.** Pop icon Madonna has criticised the newly elected Donald Trump administration for its decision to remove protections for transgender people and end diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, urging citizens to keep fighting for their rights. It's the latest push by Trump to reverse policies set by former president Joe Biden's government to protect transgender people and their care. On Monday, Trump directed the Pentagon to conduct a review that is likely to lead to them being barred from military service. Madonna, a longtime advocate for the LGBTQ community, expressed her disappointment in an X post on Tuesday.



"It's so sad to watch our new Government slowly dismantling all the Freedoms we have been fighting for and WON over the years. Don't give up the Fight! (sic)" she wrote, adding the LGBTQ pride flag and broken red heart emojis. Earlier, singer-actor Selena Gomez, whose father is of Mexican descent, got emotional over the Trump administration's stand over the deportation of undocumented immigrants on social media in a now-deleted Instagram video.

## Study says climate change made conditions that fed California wildfires more likely, more intense

**WASHINGTON.** Human-caused climate change increased the likelihood and intensity of the hot, dry and windy conditions that fanned the flames of the recent devastating Southern California wildfires, a scientific study found.

But the myriad of causes that go into the still smoldering fires are complex, so the level of global warming's fingerprints on weeks of burning appears relatively small compared to previous studies of killer heat waves, floods and droughts by the international team at World Weather Attribution. Tuesday's report, too rapid for peer-review yet, found global warming boosted the likelihood of high fire weather conditions in this month's fires by 35% and its intensity by 6%. Once-in-a-decade super strong Santa Ana winds, a dry autumn that followed two very wet years that caused rapid growth in flammable chapparal and grass, hot weather, dry air and vulnerable houses in fire-prone areas all were factors in the fast-moving fires that destroyed thousands of homes and killed at least 29 people, study authors said. But the climate attribution team was only able to quantify

issues that dealt with the fire weather index, which are the meteorological conditions that add up to fire danger. The fire weather index — which includes measurements of past rainfall, humidity and wind speed — is where the team looked and found markers of climate change that they could quantify.

The team used observations of past weather and computer simulations that compared what happened this month to a what-if world without the 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Celsius) of human-caused climate change that Earth has had since industrial times. That allowed them to come up with a calculation for warming's contribution to the disaster. It's a method that the National Academy of Sciences says is valid. Even though these rapid studies aren't yet peer-reviewed, nearly all of them are published later in peer-reviewed journals without significant changes, said World Weather Attribution co-lead scientist Friederike Otto. "The number (35%) doesn't sound like much" because unlike dozens of its past studies, the team looked at a small area and a complex meteorological measurement in the fire weather index that



would generally mean there would be large uncertainties, said Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College London. But in this case the climate change fingerprint is big enough that it stands out, she said. Those conditions are part of what makes California attractive to 25 million residents, said study co-author John Abatzoglou, a climate and fire scientist at the University of California Merced. Southern California has "some of the best climate, best weather on the planet — except when you get a combination of

conditions that occurred here," Abatzoglou said. "You get the trifecta of dry windy and warm conditions. Those three things, in combination with dry fuels and ignitions, are the perfect recipe for fire disasters." Abatzoglou said it's like a bunch of switches — dryness, fuels, high temperatures, wind and ignition — that all need to be turned on "for conditions to really take off." Think of it as switches for a light bulb to illuminate — "and so you can think about the artificial warming due to human-caused climate change making the light brighter," added co-author Park Williams, a UCLA fire and climate scientist. The study also found California's dry season has increased by 23 days and the lack of rain in October, November and December was more than twice as likely now than in pre-industrial times, but because of limitations on the data, researchers couldn't statistically pinpoint these to both climate change and the specific fires this month, Otto said. But she said "the rains are decreasing — that is because of human-induced climate change."

### Who can share seeds As climate change and counterfeits hurt Kenyan farmers, it's a growing question

**KIKUYU.** Tucked away in a lush, forested area of central Kenya's Kikuyu town, the National Seed Bank stands as a crucial safeguard for the future of the country's agriculture. Inside two chilly rooms of a government building, more than 50,000 seed varieties are cataloged and stored. The bank was established in 1988 after the realization that some traditional varieties of seeds were being lost, an occurrence that is becoming more common with climate change. It aims to conserve seeds for research and reintroduction to farms.

"We realize that some of the traditional varieties that we had abandoned then are actually more resilient to climate change, so when you introduce them especially in marginal areas, those varieties outperform the improved varieties," said the director of the Genetic Resources Research Institute that operates the bank, Desterio Nyamongo, referring to hybrid seeds that must be bought every planting season. He said the some of bank's seeds also were found to be more resistant to diseases and pests and were high-yielding. This gives hope to a country that relies heavily on rain-fed



agriculture instead of irrigation, leaving it more vulnerable to climate shocks like drought. The sector contributes a third of Kenya's GDP.

Kenya is not alone facing food security pressures. According to a U.N Food and Agriculture and Organization report in 2023, over a billion people across the African continent are unable to afford healthy diets, and the number of hungry people is increasing. But in Kenya, another complication has emerged. Farmers in recent months suffered losses in the millions of shillings (tens of thousands of dollars) after planting counterfeit seeds bought from private sellers. Kenyan officials have acknowledged that the seed sector is critical. During the country's first international seed quality conference in

August, the agriculture ministry's permanent secretary, Paul Rono, said Africa has limited capacity to produce high-quality certified seeds that are subjected to quality standards.

The head of the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation, Stephen Muchiri, said the vigor of crops in Kenya has become low, and he believes that the main reason is a flawed seed breeding and propagation program. But some farmers say efforts to improve the seed system in Kenya have been limited by a 2012 law banning seed sharing, which is what millions of farmers did every planting season to cut their production cost. The government has said the law is meant to prevent the circulation of uncertified seeds and protects farmers, but it faces a court challenge from more than a dozen farmers across Kenya who say it's expensive having to buy new seeds every planting season. The next hearing in the case is in March.

Francis Ngiri is one of the farmers who filed the case. He runs an indigenous seed bank for the local community on his five-acre farm in the semi-arid Gilgil area located 120 kilometers (74 miles) from the capital, Nairobi.

### Discovery of brutal mass graves in Syria reveals Assad's legacy of horror

**DAMASCUS, Syria.** The charred remains of at least 26 victims of the Bashar Assad government were located Tuesday by Syrian civil defense workers in two separate basements in rural Damascus. The discovery adds to the growing tally of mass graves unearthed since the fall of the Assad government in December. The remains, which are believed to include men, women and children, showed evidence of gunshot wounds and burning.

Members of Syria's White Helmets, a volunteer civil defense group, exhumed the fragmented, weathered skeletal remains from the basement of two properties in the town of Sbeneh, southwest of the capital. Wearing hazmat suits, they carefully logged and coded each set of remains before placing them into body bags, which

were then loaded onto trucks for transport. Since Nov. 28, the White Helmets have uncovered "more than 780 bodies, most of unknown identity," Abed al-Rahman Mawwas, a member of the rescue service, told The Associated Press. He said many were found in shallow graves uncovered by locals or dug up by animals. The bodies are transferred to forensic doctors to determine their identities, time of death and cause of death, as well as to match them with possible family members.

"Of course, this takes years of work," he said. Mohammad al-Herafa, a resident of one of the buildings where remains were uncovered, said the stench of decomposing bodies was overwhelming when his family returned to Sbeneh in 2016 after fleeing because of fighting in the area during

the country's uprising-turned-civil war that began in 2011. He said they found the bodies in the basement but chose not to report it out of fear of government reprisals. "We could not tell the regime about it because we know that the regime did this." The Assad government, which ruled Syria for over two decades, employed airstrikes on civilian areas, torture, executions and mass imprisonment, to maintain control over Syria and suppress opposition groups during the country's 13-year civil war. Ammar al-Salmo, another Civil Defense member dispatched to the second basement site, said further investigation is needed to identify the victims. We need testimonies from residents and others who might know who stayed behind when the fighting intensified in 2013," he told the AP.

strengthen "the nuclear shield of the country," according to KCNA. Kim said that further boosting the country's nuclear counteraction posture is "our invariable noble task" to cope with intensifying challenges posed by "hostile forces," an apparent reference to the US and South Korea. The start of Trump's second term raises prospects for the resumption of diplomacy between the United States and North Korea, as Trump met Kim three times during his first term. The Trump-Kim diplomacy in 2018-19 fell apart due to wrangling over US-led economic sanctions on North Korea, and Kim has since significantly dialed up weapons testing activities. During a Fox News interview broadcast Thursday, Trump called Kim "a smart guy" and "not a religious zealot." Asked whether he will reach out to Kim again, Trump replied, "I will, yeah." North Korea hasn't yet directly responded to Trump's overture as it continues its belligerent rhetoric against the US along with weapons testing activities.



### White House opens doors to 'new media', allocates seats in press briefing room

**WASHINGTON.** The Trump Administration has announced that it will allocate seats in the White House press briefing room to representatives from "new media" outlets, including podcasters, social media influencers, and content creators.

This move, spearheaded by Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, aims to provide representation to groups that have not previously had a presence in the briefing room. "Millions of Americans, particularly young people, have shifted away from traditional television and newspapers to consume news through podcasts, blogs, social media, and other independent platforms," Leavitt said on Tuesday during her first daily press briefing. "It is crucial for our team to share President Trump's message widely and adapt the White House to the evolving media landscape of 2025," Leavitt said. At just 27 years old, Leavitt is the youngest White House press secretary in history. She invited independent journalists, podcasters, social media influencers, and content creators to apply for White House press credentials through the newly launched website,

whitehouse.gov/newmedia. She also revealed that a front-row seat in the briefing room, traditionally reserved for the press secretary's staff, will now be designated the "New Media Seat." Applications will be reviewed by Leavitt's team, and credentials will be granted to those who meet the criteria and pass the US Secret Service's security requirements. During her first briefing, Leavitt fielded questions from new media representatives, including outlets that rank among the most-viewed news websites in the country but have never had a seat in the briefing room. When asked about the initiative, Leavitt reiterated the administration's commitment to upholding the First Amendment. "It's a fact that Americans, especially young people, are consuming news from a variety of platforms. As the youngest press secretary in history, thanks to President Trump, I take



great pride in opening this room to new media voices to ensure the president's message reaches as many Americans as possible," she said.

She added, "We will ensure that respected outlets like Axios and Breitbart have a permanent seat in this room every day.

We also encourage anyone in the country whether you're a TikTok creator, blogger,

under the previous administration.

"This White House strongly believes in the First Amendment, which is why we are working diligently to restore press passes to journalists who were wrongly denied access. Additionally, we are opening this briefing room to new media voices that produce news-related content but currently lack representation here," she explained.

**ISRO successfully launches its 100th rocket; GSLV-F15 places navigation satellite NVS-02 in orbit**



**Sriharikota:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday set a new milestone by successfully placing a second-generation navigation satellite in orbit. Isro used a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) in its 100th rocket launch from Sriharikota.

GSLV-F15 carrying NVS-02 navigation satellite lifted off from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Cen-

tre in Sriharikota at 6.23am. Around 19 minutes later, the rocket placed NVS-02 in a 322.93km geosynchronous transfer orbit.

The NVS-02 satellite is part of the second-generation Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system. NavIC is India's regional navigation satellite system designed to deliver precise Position, Velocity, and Timing (PVT) services to users within India and up to

1,500 km beyond its borders. This launch will further enhance India's navigation capabilities.

The GSLV-F15, which is equipped with an indigenous cryogenic stage, will be the eighth operational flight of the GSLV series. Tomorrow's mission also marks the 100th launch from ISRO's spaceport at Sriharikota, underscoring the country's growing presence in space technology.

**President Trump Asks Elon Musk to Rescue Stranded Astronauts from ISS**

**RNS:** In a bold move, former U.S. President Donald Trump announced via his Truth Social platform that SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has been tasked with rescuing two astronauts currently stranded aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Trump revealed that Musk, who already oversees the Department of Governmental Efficiency, would take charge of the mission to safely return NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore to Earth.

"I have just asked Elon Musk and @SpaceX to 'go get' the 2 brave astronauts who have been virtually abandoned in space by the Biden Administration. They have been waiting for many months on Space Station. Elon will soon be on his way. Hope-



fully, all will be safe. Good luck, Elon!!" Trump's post read. The message was also shared on X, the social media platform owned by Musk.

Williams and Wilmore have been aboard the ISS since June 2024, with their mission initially planned to last just 10 days. However, due to technical issues with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft—which had transported them to the station—the mission was extended indefinitely.

In August, NASA canceled the Starliner's return mission after further complications arose, opting to send the spacecraft back uncrewed in September. The astronauts are now set to return to Earth aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule, part of the Crew-9 mission launched in late September. The capsule is expected to bring them home safely in the coming days, marking the end of their extended stay on the space station.

**Coal India Secures Spot in India's Top 50 Best Workplaces**



**Ranchi:** Coal India Limited has been honored with a spot among India's top 50 best workplaces, following a comprehensive survey of 347 manufacturing organizations conducted by the renowned 'Great Place to Work' organization. This prestigious recognition highlights Coal India's commitment to fostering a culture of trust, pride, and camaraderie, while providing a supportive and empowering environment for its employees.

The award adds to Coal India's growing list of accolades, having previously been recognized for its efforts in building an inclusive and sustainable organization. The recognition reflects the company's continuous dedication to improving employee welfare and creating a positive work culture.

A Maharatna company under the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, Coal India is the world's largest coal producer, meeting over 80% of India's domestic coal demand. The company remains a key player in India's energy sector, focusing on operational excellence, employee welfare, and environmental sustainability, while contributing significantly to the country's economic development.

**Language Holds Power: Dr. G. Singh**

**Ranchi:** A lecture on the Global Aspects of the English Language was organized by the Department of Linguistics and Literature at the Government Teachers Training College Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Ranchi. The keynote speaker, Dr. G. Singh, retired Principal of D.A. Bhi Urimari, Hazaribagh, was honored with a shawl by the college family. Trainee teachers Rishabh, Ram, and Satish also presented Dr. Singh with a memento canvas painting. The event was presided over by Dr. Chandramadhav Singh, the in-charge Principal of the college, and conducted by Dr. Om Prakash. Dr. Mazharul Haq delivered the vote of thanks.

**Faculty Development Program Concludes Successfully at NUSRL Ranchi**

**Ranchi:** The Faculty Development Program (FDP) organized by the National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi, concluded successfully today. The event, held from January 24 to 29, aimed to enhance the teaching practices and knowledge of the university's faculty members.

The valedictory session was attended by Jharkhand Central University Vice Chancellor Prof. Kshiti Bhushan Das. The program featured prominent speakers including Professor Dr. N. K. Chakraborty, Vice Chancellor of NUJS Kolkata, who discussed Legal Research Design, and Dr. Satyaki Roy from IIT Kanpur, who provided insights on online course management. Dr. Anshuman Hazarika of IIM Ranchi emphasized the role of case studies in teaching, while Mrs. Rama Kondapalli shared strategies for improving NAAC rankings.

The program also marked the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NUSRL and GNLU Gandhinagar.

**IIT-ISM Hosts Lecture on Graphene Coatings for Corrosion Resistance**

**Dhanbad:** The Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad, hosted a distinguished lecture by Prof. Raman Singh from Monash University, Australia, on "Graphene Coatings: A Disruptive Approach to Corrosion Resistance." The event, part of the institute's Centenary Lecture Series, was held in the Department of Mechanical Engineering's Seminar Room.

Prof. Singh, a senior faculty member at Monash University, discussed the revolutionary applications of graphene coatings in preventing corrosion, emphasizing their effectiveness in various environments. He also explored challenges in Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) and the potential of graphene coatings as a durable solution for corrosion resistance.

The event, which attracted students, researchers, and faculty, was introduced by Prof. Somnath Chattopadhyaya, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and attended by Prof. Alok Das, Dean of Innovation, Incubation, and Entrepreneurship.

**Quimica'25 Inaugurated at BIT Sindri with Enthusiasm**

**Dhanbad:** Quimica'25, the annual Technical Colloquium of the Chemical Engineering Department at BIT Sindri, kicked off with a grand inauguration ceremony. Dr. Pankaj Rai, Director of BIT Sindri, along with esteemed faculty members, marked the event with a traditional lamp-lighting ritual.

The inauguration was attended by key figures including Dr. Amit Kumar Gupta (HoD, Chemical Engineering), Dr. Anil Kumar Rajak (HoD, Metallurgical Engineering), and Dr. C Thakur (HoD, Mathematics Department), along with other distinguished professors.

Spanning from January 29 to February 1, Quimica'25 offers a range of events, including InnoVerse for innovative ideas, SmartScape for problem-solving solutions, and webinars by industry experts.

**BIT Sindri to Host 3-Day Training Camp**

**Dhanbad:** Birsa Institute of Technology (BIT) Sindri is organizing a 3-day training camp in collaboration with Eduvitae, BIT Cultural Society, and the Career and Development Centre. The camp, running from January 29 to 31, is aimed at providing ST/SC students with essential skills for career growth. The training will cover key areas such as Python programming, data science, and web development—fields that are increasingly in demand in today's digital world.

**653 Candidates Appear for JEE Main-1 in Bokaro, 16 Absent**

**Bokaro:** A total of 653 candidates appeared for the first session of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main-1, conducted by the National Examination Agency (NTA) across two centers in Bokaro on Wednesday. Of the 669 registered candidates, 16 were absent.

Dr. A.S. Gangwar, NTA's City Coordinator and Principal of DPS Bokaro, reported that at Alpha ICT Center, 214 out of 221 candidates attended the exam in the first shift, and 217 out of 219 appeared in the second shift.

**Matripuja Ceremony Held at Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Bokaro**



**Bokaro:** A grand Matripuja (Mother Worship) ceremony was organized at Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Bokaro, on Wednesday, under the guidance of Acharya Swamini Sanyuktanand Saraswati from Chinmaya Mission. Students from classes 3 to 5 participated by washing their mothers' feet, offering flowers, and performing aarti, showcasing their devotion.

Swamini Sanyuktanand emphasized that life cannot be imagined without mothers, and Matripuja is a cherished tradition that promotes respect for parents and strengthens family values. The event began with Vedic mantras and Ganesh Vandana, followed by heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the children towards their mothers.

**Devotees Gather at Ganga Ghats for Mauni Amavasya Dip in Kanpur**

**Kanpur:** A massive crowd of devotees gathered at the Ganga Ghats in Kanpur on Wednesday to take a holy dip on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya. The administration ensured robust security measures at all 14 Ghats, including Bithoor, Atal, Paramat, and others, to maintain order and ensure a smooth experience for the devotees.

Acharya Ashwani Tiwari explained that Mauni Amavasya, the new moon day in the Magh month, holds special significance for devotees. It is believed that taking a dip in the Ganga while remaining silent brings happiness, prosperity, and the fulfillment of wishes.

**National Seminar on Cultural Materialism of Ancient Northeast India Held at Cotton University**

**Guwahati:** The two-day National Seminar on Cultural Materialism of Ancient Northeast India concluded on January 28 at Cotton University. The event, organized by the Pragjyotish Centre for Cultural Research (PCCR), Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), and the university's Department of Archaeology, brought together scholars to explore the region's rich cultural and archaeological heritage.



The seminar featured notable speakers, including Prof. Chandan Kumar Sarma of Tezpur University, who delivered the keynote address, and Prof. Vinay Kumar Rao from JNU, who discussed the interconnectedness of archaeological sources. A key moment of the event was the signing of a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Cotton University and the Directorate of Museums, Assam, aimed at enhancing research and conservation efforts.

Scholars from across the country participated in the seminar, which also featured discussions on the preservation of Northeast India's cultural identity and natural heritage. The papers presented will be published in a book, as announced by the seminar convenors.

**Rahul Earns Spot at 44th NTPC Junior National Archery Championship**

**Bokaro:** Rahul Mahato (17) from Budhibinor village has earned a spot to represent Jharkhand at the 44th NTPC Junior National Archery Championship, scheduled for 10 February in Bolpur, West Bengal.



This selection underscores the success of Vedanta ESL Archery Academy in developing young talent.

Rahul's journey from a modest background to the national level is a testament to his dedication and the world-class training provided by the academy.

A Class 11 student at SMG +2 High School Bijulia, Rahul hails from a family of four, where financial challenges have never hindered his passion for archery. Since joining the academy in June 2022, he has demonstrated exceptional skills under expert coaching.

His impressive performance at the Jharkhand Junior National Archery Team Selection Trials in Jamshedpur, where he scored 665 points among 60 top archers, secured his place as one of the state's best. His achievement has brought pride to his community and highlighted the academy's role in shaping young athletes.

As Rahul prepares for the championship, he carries the hopes of his family, academy, and community. His story serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes, demonstrating the power of sports in driving personal and societal growth.

Kunal Daripa, Head of CSR

at ESL Steel Limited, praised Rahul's dedication, saying, "We are extremely proud of his achievements and are confident that he will continue to make Jharkhand proud." He also reaffirmed the company's commitment to nurturing young talent through the Vedanta ESL Archery Academy.

The academy continues to be a center of excellence, with seven out of eight Bokaro participants in the selection trials being trained at Vedanta ESL Archery Academy, reflecting its key role in developing future champions.

**Dozens Feared Dead in Stampede at Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj**

**Prayagraj:** A devastating stampede at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj has claimed the lives of at least a dozen people, with nearly 50 others reported injured. The tragic incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday, as a massive crowd of devotees surged toward the holy bath during one of Hinduism's most significant religious events.



While state authorities and police have yet to officially confirm the death toll, multiple reports indicate that at least 10 fatalities have been recorded in what has been described as one of the worst crushes during the festival.

The chaos unfolded at the Sangam, where thousands had gathered to take the holy dip on Mauni Amavasya (new moon), a key day in the Maha Kumbh. Officials confirmed that a "stampede-like" situation erupted when a barrier broke, leading to a rush of people. "Some have been injured and hospitalized after the barrier at the Sangam broke. We are still trying to confirm the total

number of casualties," an official said.

Mauni Amavasya is traditionally the busiest day of the Maha Kumbh, drawing an estimated 100 million pilgrims to the sacred rivers. Eyewitnesses described scenes of panic as devotees, eager to perform the amrit snan (holy dip), became trapped in the surge, many falling to the ground. In the ensuing chaos, people abandoned their belongings in a desperate bid to escape the stampede.

The event, which attracts mil-

lions of attendees, including high-profile global figures and Indian leaders, quickly turned into a chaotic scene. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences via social media, confirming the deaths and offering his support to the victims. "The accident that occurred at the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh is extremely sad. My deepest condolences to the families of the victims, and I wish for the speedy recovery of all the injured," Modi wrote, adding that he had been in

continuous contact with state authorities.

The injured were initially treated at temporary medical facilities set up for the event before being transferred to local hospitals. Authorities worked quickly to assist those separated from their families in the confusion, with disturbing scenes unfolding at the missing persons booth.

A paramilitary officer at the scene, speaking to The Guardian, estimated the death toll at around 50, with at least 200

injured. "There were multiple stampedes. I saw the bodies with my own eyes" the officer said.

In response to the incident, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath assured the public that the situation had been brought under control and urged citizens to follow safety instructions. "Maha Kumbh-2025, dear devotees, please cooperate with the administration and avoid heading to the Sangam Nose," he posted on X, calling for calm and order.

The Akharas, groups of ascetic sadhus, had initially decided to forgo their scheduled holy dip on Wednesday due to safety concerns. However, after the situation stabilized, they reversed their decision and participated in the ritual.

The Kumbh Mela, held every 12 years, is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world. This year's Maha Kumbh is especially significant as it coincides with the rare 12th Kumbh Mela, an event that occurs only once every 144 years.

# EC gives Kejriwal time until 8 pm on Wednesday to provide evidence for 'poisoning' Yamuna water claim

## BJP demands action against AAP chief over "dangerous" statement ahead of Delhi polls



NEW DELHI. A heated political battle erupted Tuesday over Arvind Kejriwal's claim of the Haryana government "poisoning" the Yamuna water, with the BJP saying he cannot be forgiven for his "dangerous statement", while the AAP chief asserted he won't let the people of Delhi die due to the dirty, poisonous water. The AAP and the BJP also moved the Election Commission, with the saffron party seeking to bar Kejriwal from campaigning. The poll panel sought factual evidence from the AAP chief to substantiate his claims. Meanwhile, Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena wrote to Chief Minister Atishi, saying her party chief's remarks are highly objectionable and amount to endangering national security.

deliberately releasing alarming levels of ammonia into the Yamuna river, endangering Delhi's water supply.

Saxena asked the Delhi chief minister to rise above "narrow interests" and refrain from making "misleading, dangerous, and baseless statements" for the sake of public welfare and peace. Later, a BJP delegation, led by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini, also approached the EC seeking its direction to bar Kejriwal from campaigning for the February 5 Delhi Assembly polls for his "dangerous statement" with implications for India's federal structure.

The delegation requested the EC to ask Kejriwal to retract his charge and apologise for creating "panic" among people.

They also demanded legal action against him. Following the meetings, the EC sought factual evidence from Kejriwal to substantiate his allegation, and reminded him of legal provisions that can lead to up to three years' imprisonment for "mischievous" statements against national integration and public harmony.

In a letter to Kejriwal, the Election Commission (EC) sought by 8 pm on Wednesday the nature and extent of the chemicals used for "poisoning" the Yamuna which could have killed people in large numbers, as claimed by the AAP chief.

The EC also asked Kejriwal to share details of his claim that engineers of Delhi Jal Board had actually detected and prevented it on time. Kejriwal alleged on Monday that the BJP-ruled Haryana is supplying "poison-mixed" water to Delhi with the intention of killing people so that it could blame the AAP during the election. Addressing a public meeting in the Kalakaji constituency on Tuesday, senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah dared Kejriwal to make public the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) report which he cited to level the charge. Noting that the AAP chief had also claimed that he saved the people of Delhi by stopping the "poisonous" Yamuna water from entering Delhi, Shah asked him to show the official order issued in this regard.

## Uniform Civil Code cannot be implemented across India: DK Shivakumar

*Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar dismissed the possibility of a Uniform Civil Code, stating that India's diversity makes it impossible. He also questioned how Haryana plans to implement UCC at the state level.*

**Tiruchirappalli.** Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has dismissed the possibility of implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) across India, stating that the country's diversity makes such a move unfeasible. Speaking to the media in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday, Shivakumar emphasised India's pluralistic nature. "Our country is a country of unity in diversity. A uniform civil code cannot be implemented," he asserted.

When questioned about the Haryana BJP government's move to implement the UCC, Shivakumar expressed scepticism over its feasibility. "Every citizen has his own personal life. If it cannot be implemented in the entire country, how can it be implemented in one state?" he said.

The remarks come amid ongoing debates over the implementation of the UCC, which aims to replace personal laws based on religion with a common set of laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, and other civil matters. Meanwhile, Uttarakhand has become the first state to implement the UCC in India, a move that poses some political debates and sheds national attention as well.



### What is the UCC?

The UCC refers to a singular legislative proposal under a common code, where all religious communities would be subject to the same laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and maintenance. Though India has a singular "criminal code" applicable to all its citizens, it does not have a singular set of civil laws. Following a lot of discussion, it was decided that tribes will not be included in the UCC provisions, and there is a total prohibition on customs such as halala, iddat, and talaq (which pertain to marriage and divorce within the Muslim Personal Law).

## Canada report accuses India of election meddling, Centre rejects 'insinuations'

NEW DELHI. India has rejected a report by the Canadian Commission accusing the government of interfering in Canada's elections and blamed Ottawa for meddling in New Delhi's internal affairs. In a strong rebuttal to the foreign interference commission report, which comes amid a strain in ties, the Ministry of External Affairs attempted to turn the tables by accusing Canada of creating an environment for "illegal migration" and "organised criminal activities". "It is in fact Canada which has been consistently interfering in India's internal affairs. This has also created an environment for illegal migration and organised criminal activities. We reject the report's insinuations on India and expect that the support system enabling illegal migration will not be further countenanced," the MEA statement said. The inquiry, led by Commissioner Marie-Josée Hogue, alleged that the government might have attempted to use "proxy agents to clandestinely provide financial support to preferred candidates during the 2021 election". It also labelled India as the second most active country engaging in electoral interference in Canada.

The report further said that India also uses disinformation as a key form of foreign interference in Canada. The report also mentions "challenges" in relations between the nations over India's perceived national security concerns about Khalistani separatism.

However, the inquiry found that there was no evidence of parliamentarians in Canada plotting with foreign governments to interfere with the country's elections.

The report has become the latest flashpoint between India and Canada since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau claimed in 2023 that Indian agents were allegedly involved in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The issue flared up dramatically last year after the Canadian government claimed that Indian diplomats were "persons of interest" in the Nijjar murder investigation. India responded by withdrawing these diplomats, and also expelled six Canadian diplomats from the country.



## Parliament panel adopts draft Waqf bill, members asked to submit dissent till 4 pm

NEW DELHI. The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) chairperson Jagdambika Pal said on Wednesday that the panel adopted Waqf (Amendment) Bill draft report and the amended version of the proposed law with a majority vote. Pal said that 16 members voted in favour, while 11 opposed it. The Parliament panel members have been given time till 4 pm today to submit their dissent.

Sawant said that all opposition members would submit dissent notes.

Jagdambika Pal is expected to submit the revised bill to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday

to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on August 8, 2024, following its introduction in the Lok Sabha by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.

The Bill aims to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, to address issues and challenges in regulating and managing Waqf properties.

The Parliament panel on Monday (January 27) adopted all amendments proposed by members of the ruling BJP-led NDA and rejected every change suggested by opposition members in a clause-by-clause discussion. One of the approved amendments is to increase the number of non-Muslim members of the panel. Now, two of the panel members can be non-Muslims. Some amendments also include allowing state government officials, along with district magistrates, to be appointed for certain roles and increasing Waqf tribunals members from two to three members.



So far, Trinamool Congress MPs Kalyan Banerjee and Nadimul Haque, along with DMK MP A Raja, AAP leader Sanjay Singh, and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant, have formally submitted their dissent. Opposition members criticised the process, alleging they were given little time to review the final report. Calling the exercise "undemocratic", Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind

(January 30). The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was referred

## "Congress Was Offered...": Mamata Banerjee In Book On Why BJP Won 2024 Polls

Kolkata. In her new book, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has squarely blamed Congress for the BJP's return to power at the Centre for the third consecutive term in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.



A total of three new books penned by the Chief Minister were released on the first day of the Kolkata International Book Fair on Tuesday afternoon and one of the three books titled 'Banglar Nirbachon o Amra (Bengal elections and us)', she has made an analysis of the results of the 2024 general elections. As per her observations in the book, despite wholehearted attempts by the Trinamool Congress, the opposition INDIA bloc was unable to gain electoral success because of the failure on the part of Congress.

insisted on a common minimum programme and common manifesto. The name of the opposition bloc too was my proposal. Congress was offered the chair of the leader of the national bloc. But despite that, there was neither a common

minimum programme nor any common manifesto. The bloc constituents contested between themselves. This helped BJP to regain power even without gaining a majority," Chief Minister wrote in her book.

She has also claimed in the book that the number of seats that Congress had won in the last Lok Sabha elections was because of the backing of the other allies in the INDIA bloc.

On the West Bengal-specific election aspect, the Chief Minister had claimed that although in the state Congress had a seat-sharing arrangement with CPI(M)-led Left Front, in reality, it was a bigger anti-Trinamool Congress arrangement with clandestine understanding with BJP.

According to her, the Trinamool Congress' electoral success in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls was because of the spontaneous public support inspired by the different developmental activities undertaken by her government.

## Amit Shah hits campaign trail, says city to be free of 'AAPda' soon

### At a rally in Govindpuri, Amit Shah dismissed Kejriwal's allegation about poisoning as a "lie".

NEW DELHI. Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah hit the campaign trail for the Delhi assembly election on Tuesday, rubbing the allegation of AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal of Haryana poisoning Yamuna waters and daring him to show proof he claimed to have. At a rally in Govindpuri, he dismissed Kejriwal's allegation about poisoning as a "lie".



He said, "On Monday, I returned after taking a holy dip at the Kumbh, and Arvind Kejriwal claimed that the Haryana government had poisoned the Yamuna. However, when we investigated, the Jal Board said nothing of that sort happened. This shows that Kejriwal has resorted to lying." The home minister dared him to come out with evidence of his claim.

"Kejriwal says he has a report. If so, make that report public, and we will address it. He alleged that Haryana poisoned the water. What is the name of that poison? Reveal its name and provide proof. He claimed to have stopped the polluted water, saving Delhi's residents. Then

show the order you issued to block that water." The home minister told the gathering that the people of Delhi get an opportunity on voting day on February 5 to free themselves from the disaster called Arvind Kejriwal.

"As soon as people vote for the lotus symbol, Delhi will be free from the 'Aap-da'," Shah declared. Shah participated in two road shows

and addressed a massive public meeting in the Kasturba Nagar, Kalkaji, and Badarpur assembly constituencies. His day began with a road show in Amar Colony of the Kasturba Nagar constituency, covering Vikram Vihar, Amar Colony and Dayanand Colony. The response of the people shows the BJP is heading for a big victory, Shah said. The

second road show in the evening passed through Meethapur and adjoining areas in the Badarpur constituency.

The home minister rounded off the campaign by addressing a rally in Govindpuri in the prestigious Kalkaji constituency where BJP candidate Ramesh Bidhuri is pitted against Chief Minister and AAP candidate Atishi.

### AAP new incarnation of Waqf Board: Yogi Adityanath

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday criticized the ruling AAP, calling it the "new incarnation" of the Waqf Board, which he claims supports the Waqf mafia.

He emphasized that the BJP had pledged to take action against the Waqf mafia. The CM stated that government land should be utilized for the housing, schools, hospitals, and welfare of the poor. He affirmed that the practice of treating Waqf property as private land would come to an end. Adityanath claimed that both the AAP and Congress are upset about the restrictions being placed on illegal land mafias.

## Universe: Making the right choice

ALL religions of the world lay stress on charity and helping the needy. Some advocate that a person should donate 1/10th of his earnings. Guru Nanak's emphasis on feeding the hungry led to the institution of langar in the Sikh tradition. Today, lakhs of people are served langar in gurdwaras. Every person, whether rich or poor, has to sit on the ground in a straight line called 'pangat' and partake of the food being served with all humility. When we talk of humility, it is applicable to the giver also. There should be no thought of ego in the attitude of the giver as well. In Jainism, the emphasis is on 'karmas' or deeds. Karmas are also called the 'karmic account' of a man during his lifetime. These include both good as well as bad deeds. The nine 'punyas' are ann (food), 'paan' (water), 'layan' (land), 'shayan' (sleep), 'vastra' (clothes), 'man' (mind), 'vachan' (speech), 'kaya' (body), and, finally, 'namaskar' (to bow with humility). The nine 'punyas' hold a significant place in Jain religion. 1. 'Ann' (food): Only a hungry man knows the importance of food. And after eating, he blesses one from the core of his heart. It is rightly said, "Bhukhe pait bhajan na hoye Gopala", which means a person cannot even take God's name if he is hungry. 2. 'Paan' (water): Water is all-important for a thirsty man. After quenching his thirst, he would remember God and thank Him. 3. 'Layan' (land): If a person donates land for building a religious place or a hospital, he becomes great in the eyes of God. 4. 'Shayan' (sleep): A tired man feels indebted to the person who provides all such things that are essential for a night's rest. These include material to sleep, like a cot, bedsheet, pillow, blanket, etc. 5. 'Vastra' (clothes): Donate clothes to a person who is trembling in the cold. After wearing the warm clothes, he will express his gratitude to the giver and offer his blessings. 6. 'Mann' (a noble-thinking mind): A man with noble thinking heightens his position in everybody's eyes. 7. 'Vachan' (speaking kind words and encouraging



someone): Kind words spoken with the right intention will boost the morale of a person who has come to the conclusion that all the ways for his well-being have been closed. 8. 'Kaya' (body): Offer to comfort someone through noble efforts. For example, help an elderly person cross a busy road by holding his or her hand. 9. 'Namaskar' (humility): Bow before everyone with humility and forgiveness. Likewise, there are seven bad deeds. These are 'jua' (gambling), which pushes one into the quagmire of economic loss; 'mansahar' or eating meat; 'sharab' or drinking wine; 'vaishagaman' or desire for a prostitute; 'shikaar' or the hunting of innocent animals; 'chori', stealing or taking away things without permission; and 'par-istrigaman', the desire for a woman other than your wife. The choice ultimately is that of an individual, but the path shown is clear. That is as true for Jainism as for any other religion.

## Eat, drink, be body-shamed

Can we please stop being competitive all the time and accept our own body as unique

So now the Lancet guys tell us that body mass index (BMI), a standard formula for measuring obesity, is not quite right. The updated version includes analysing the body composition of a person and deciding how much of weight is good (muscle-related) and how much (fat-related) is excludable. Gauging obesity or malnourishment through calculation of the BMI should, at best, be the first step, to be followed by a deeper analysis of the proportion of muscle mass and fat within the person's body. Leafing through the newspapers, my mother once pointed out a supreme but somewhat under-reported irony. All the major dailies, she pointed out, were given to devoting a sizeable portion of their features section to wonderfully lavish cuisine and teaching how to score global foodie points by trying out all sorts of exotic food and cooking practices. But this was followed by an equally sizeable bunch of pages that warned readers sternly against gluttony, and underscored how important it is to keep an ideal weight by following veganism, intermittent fasting and/or diets like Keto, or whatever. And then punishing the body with expensive workouts. The regrettable indulgence in tasty food may result, we are warned, in diabetes, congested arteries, osteoarthritis, colon cancer and god knows what else. So, poor readers gulp their saliva back and feel miserable whenever uncontrollable desires for hearty meals cross the mind, mother said. Obviously, the media or the publishers of bestsellers on special recipes, history of royal repasts and lavish temple bhogs do not see the contradiction. A mixture of information overload, lack of time and a deep atavistic fear of losing that lovely, dimpled flesh has ensured that what older folk considered good hearty food becomes the new no-no. Books on food have continued registering a high even when sales of fiction and non-fiction are reportedly dropping. So, food is probably now like pornography for a schizophrenic society where the rich first overindulge, and then, like Roman nobility, throw up. Books on really good food are mostly savoured in privacy, but are no longer discussed in civilised company where socialites with hourglass figures body-shame their matronly counterparts routinely. And this has also turned dieticians' clinics into confessionals. "Is it not enough to have halved

my consumption of red meat, forgone desserts, walking up and down staircases and to the colony grocery?" you ask, humbly. "No, it's just scratching the surface," the stern-looking anorexic dietician with a lantern jaw will tell you. If you actually dream of having those Malaika bottoms or Shah Rukh abs, your lifestyle has to be dramatically different from what it is today. And this is non-negotiable. That will be Rs 1,500, thank you. Does a perfect health card mean an entire rebuilding of the good life or can we, who have crossed over to the other side of 60, continue in our bad ways? Must we be varying our love for comfortable couches, nice cars and fancy restaurant-hopping holidays with 40-minute punishment sessions in expensive gyms, with snooty coaches who look down their noses at all that celluloid and spare tyres? Fifty years ago, after



crossing 50, parents of grown-up kids might not have been demolished by terms like the "ravages of time" applied to somewhat flabby midriffs and sagging jaw lines. Expectations then were low, but in the age of Botox, Ozempic and liposuction, it is getting harder to accept ageing as inevitable with good grace and a resigned shrug. Too bad, for the grandchildren at least, who no longer get to nuzzle close to cheerfully plump grannies for a basic comforting human experience many of us recall with love and warmth. Can a lean, mean granny, who offers you granola bars and carrot sticks instead of

homemade pinnis or gajar ka halwa oozing butter and sugar, and cooks brown rice with poached organic veggies, denies you fruit juice from cartons for fresh home-squeezed lauki/carrot juice instead match the ones who cooked you hearty biryanis in pure desi ghee and added a dollop of home-churned butter to your paranthas? Nobody asked grannies then to cook what they did, but they soothed away all those nasty breakdowns in the making, hovering around their well-laden tables like battle axes and standing between leisurely meals and the clock summoning you for those unwelcome music lessons, homework and/or a demanding parent. True, there are social norms today that treat women who have stalled the natural ageing processes like honorary male warriors. But that is according too much honour to war. Perhaps we, the midnight's female children, will be at ease with ageing only if we stop obsessing over the near-impossible goals of what we should look like, and appreciate our non-flat stomachs with stretch marks and our dimpled thighs as byproducts of unique life-giving and nurturing experiences that we share with all women. Of course, changing media images would help. But that is not enough. What we need is more of old-style natural togetherness, especially among women who are working outside homes. We need places within workplaces where women of all ages can unwind and swap jokes and information like homemakers do in traditional watering holes of their own. Like most groups of the newly-empowered, women's faith in looking good by others' standards is yet to be shaken. And we have not quite absorbed facts such as the rising incidence of brittle bones, anorexia and heart ailments related to fad diets and increased smoking and alcohol intake among women. Then, there is the economy-size guilt trip when we feel exhausted at the end of a long working day. Perhaps, our mothers and grandmothers did not give us healthy eating habits. Look at Madonna, the magazines say. Well, good for her, but can we please stop being competitive all the time and accept our own body as unique. We'll perhaps at that point discover that there is actually much more to real fitness than measuring tapes and weighing scales. And even the Lancet magazine accepts that now.

## Loans and liabilities

SC tells banks to fix property title checks

THE Supreme Court's ruling on improper loan sanctions by banks underscores a crucial flaw in India's banking practices — the lack of robust title verification for mortgaged properties. This oversight jeopardises public funds, risks fraudulent transactions and compromises financial stability. Highlighting a specific case, the SC pointed out that loans sanctioned on properties with unresolved title disputes could have been avoided with rigorous title searches. Currently, banks rely on empanelled lawyers for these reports, but the absence of standardised guidelines has resulted in inconsistencies and errors. The judgment has rightly directed the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to collaborate with stakeholders to establish a uniform mechanism for title clearance reports.

The SC's proactive stance emphasises three significant aspects. First, it recommends criminal liability for bank officials who approve loans based on defective



title reports, ensuring accountability within the sector. Second, the RBI must standardise the fees and quality benchmarks for title reports, discouraging cost-cutting

measures that compromise accuracy. Lastly, banks are urged to prioritise diligence, preventing fraud and safeguarding public interest. The directive also acknowledges practical challenges, such as the status of older or under-construction properties that often lack certificates. These grey areas necessitate legal clarity to balance regulatory compliance with operational feasibility. As loans against property represent a significant portion of banking portfolios, especially for small and medium enterprises, the sector must act swiftly. The RBI's adherence to the SC guidance is essential not only to restore public trust but also to fortify the financial system against vulnerabilities. In implementing these reforms, India's banking sector has an opportunity to set a precedent for due diligence and accountability in property-backed lending. The message is clear: public funds cannot be collateral damage in the race for profit.

## Restoring the co-existence between bears and humans

The Asiatic black bear or reechh, or more endearingly bhaalu, is not only omnivorous but even omnipresent. They have shared the landscape and existed alongside humans, every now and then delighting themselves on apples and other fruits.

Restoring the co-existence between bears and humans The Asiatic black bear or reechh, or more endearingly bhaalu, is not only omnivorous but even omnipresent. They have shared the landscape and existed alongside humans, every now and then delighting themselves on apples and other fruits. article AuthorIt was otherwise a usual October day at work, but for the frantic plea: "Shoot it." The call was received from the Shahdhar panchayat that abuts the famous Bhimakali temple in Sarahan. The cattle attacks had reached more than a dozen and the otherwise calm folks of the temperate mountains were losing their patience. Three humans, too, had been reportedly attacked! "Ye adamkhor hai. Isse shoot kijiye." Humans and bears seemed to be vying for each other's doom. The concern, pain and fright of the caller were all too relatable, but the call of duty was different. As Wildlife Warden of the Rampur Forest Division, one's mandate was clear — to protect the species given the highest protection under the law of the land. For their own safety, the bears had to be prevented from attacking humans! One more attack and the calls for their elimination could become impossible to resist. The Asiatic black bear or reechh, or more endearingly bhaalu, is not only omnivorous but even omnipresent. They have shared the landscape and existed alongside humans, every now and then delighting themselves on apples and other fruits. The elders at Shahdhar narrated that they had known bears to exist in their proximity for as many as 40 years, but never had such a spree of attacks on cattle happened. For now, the balance of co-existence had tipped. Smart camera trap imaging by the Rapid Rescue Team of the Rampur Forest

Division threw a likely explanation. It was a mother bear nursing two sub-adults. And it was October. Put together, the answer was clear: a mother was feeding and storing fat before the family's hibernation in winter. And it had just found an easy source — the cattle tied inside cowsheds having flimsy wooden doors that could be just pushed open any night when they felt hungry. Field investigations also brought to light that the three human attacks were either a result of surprise encounters, or when petrified cattle owners had tried to drive the bear(s) away and thrown stones in their direction. But never had the bears come after humans, in the way humans seemed to be now going after them. Even while the situation in Shahdhar was being managed, calls arose from other places — from Bahali to Kamalahu of attacks on cattle by the bears. Field investigations in Kamalahu revealed that the attacks had largely happened on cattle-sheds built on the fringes of a thick Ban forest, begging the question — who had entered whose territory, after all? The story of conflict management that unfolded in Shahdhar showed the grit, skill and commitment to duty of the frontline forest field staff. These unsung heroes did their routine duties in the day and then patrolled the conflict hotspot — an area of around 10 sq km — at night. Armed with mashaals and shock sticks, they kept up the vigil to keep humans and bears safe from each other. When even after repeated guidance, some



of the increasingly government-reliant citizens of Shahdhar would forget to burn red chilli in the cow dung outside their cattle sheds (a traditional way to keep bears away and found to be successful), these sentinels of the night would themselves carry out that ritual outside their cattle sheds. Where the danger was higher, an ANIDER (Animal Intrusion Detection and Repellent System) or two was deployed — a first in Rampur. Going from door to door, and messaging daily on WhatsApp groups, they ensured everyone was informed and no one surprised the bears with chance encounters. Diwali came early and ended late for the

citizens of Shahdhar as the field staff kept bursting crackers through the night. In a first for Himachal Pradesh in recent history, the field staff, guided remotely by experts from the Wildlife Institute of India, Zoological Survey of India and Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department, made the first capture of a free roaming bear. It was one of the sub-adults. The team stayed up all night to ensure it was safe, also protecting themselves from its separated, ferocious mother — arguably one of the most dangerous animals in such a situation. And when the sub-adult would not be allowed to be released by the people back in their vicinity (and understandably so), they still ensured its best chance at survival — walking the tightrope between what is right and what is expected! A beautiful tale of self-reliance came to the fore from Kamalahu. The residents took it upon themselves to undertake night vigils, and no further incidents were reported! In Shahdhar, three bear captures (and releases) have been carried out, alleviating people's fears and bringing safety to the bears. Meanwhile, as winter set in, it was time for the bear family to finally hibernate. The time gained shall hopefully be utilised to strengthen the cattle sheds. Fullscreen Months of effort seems to have tilted the balance back in favour of co-existence. But every wildlife manager knows that the balance is extremely precarious

## बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, ब्याङ्क थके बेङ्गले यानवाहनेर प्रवेश शुरु

प्राय २४ घण्टा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबए ब्याङ्क थके बेङ्गले याओग्रा समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहनेर प्रवेश शुरु हयेछे। गत सन्ध्या ९टाँर पर बेङ्गल सरकारेर आदेशे ब्याङ्क थके-बेङ्गल मथन सीमाञ्च पण्यवाही यानवाहनेर प्रवेश निषिद्ध करल हयेछिल।

एर फले रात थके दूपुर पर्यन्त प्राय २० किमि दीर्घ यानजट्ट सृष्टि हय। चालकदेर समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेङ्गल सरकारके चाप देय ब्याङ्क थके सीमाञ्च थके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करल समस्त यानवाहन बन्द करार जन्य। एर फले, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे बाध्य हय एबए अवशेषे भारी यानवाहनेर प्रवेश आवार स्वाभाविक हय।

बेङ्गल सरकारेर एहि अनुमतिर पर, ट्राक चालकरा शक्तिर निशुशास फेलेन। प्राञ्चन निरसा विधायक अरूप च्याटार्जि ब्याङ्क थके मुख्यामञ्ची हेमन्त सारेनेर एहि उद्योगेर प्रशंसा करेन। तिन बलेन, मुख्यामञ्ची हेमन्त सारेनेर एहि विषये क्रमागत शुरुत्तु दिखेछेन। बेङ्गल सरकारेर साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर बेङ्गल सरकार निषेधाञ्चा तुले नेय। एर पर, सारिनेर धाँडिये थाका समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन बीरे धीरे बेङ्गले प्रवेश करते शुरु करेछे। NH-ए दीर्घ यानजट्ट एखन सीमित हछे एबए यानजट्टो भाङ्गते शुरु करेछे।

## भोजपुरी कृषि लोक गीत

(कहरवा धुन)

गेहूँआ के दिनावा

—श्याम कुंवर भारती (राजभर)

धनवा कटाइल सर्दियां गेहूँआ के दिनावा।  
हाली घरे अईहा सर्दियां दवाई कइसे धनवा।

सास ससुर केवने जोरओ ना लागता।  
लहुरा देवरवा हमरो बतियां ना मानता।  
पडल पडल सड़ता धान खरीहनावा।  
हाली घरे अईहा सर्दियां.....।

नवहर बदन हमरो कइसे खेतवा जोताई।  
जाड़ा के महीनवा हमसे गेहूँ ना बोआई।  
खेतिया ना होई पिया का खाइब अनवा।  
हाली घरे अईहा सर्दियां.....।

किसान के बेटा पिया आके करा तू किसानी।  
करबा जे किसानी पिया देषवा मिली अन्न पानी।  
अन्न धन भरल रही हमरे हिंदुस्तनवा।  
हाली घरे अईहा सर्दियां.....।

सासु जी के स्वेटर ससुर जी के लालेअईहा।  
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## एआई का इस्तेमाल करो पर गुलाम मत बनो : मुकेश अंबानी

एजेंसी

**अहमदाबाद ।** पेट्रोलिएम समेत विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में कारोबार करने वाली कंपनी रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड (आरआईएल) के अध्यक्ष मुकेश अंबानी ने छात्रों को नसीहत देते हुए कहा कि आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई) का इस्तेमाल करो लेकिन उसके गुलाम मत बनो। श्री अंबानी ने यह पंडित दीन दयाल एनर्जी यूनिवर्सिटी (पीडीईयू) के दीक्षांत समारोह में छात्रों को संबोधित करते हुए कहा, 'चैट जीपीटी का जरूर इस्तेमाल करो लेकिन याद रखो कि आर्टिफिशियल बुद्धि से नहीं खुद की बुद्धि से हम आगे बढ़ेंगे और

आप आगे बढ़ सकते हैं। आरआईएल के अध्यक्ष ने छात्रों से



बातचीत के दौरान उन्हें सलाह देते हुए कहा, एआई का एक उपकरण

के रूप में इस्तेमाल करने में माहिर होना चाहिए लेकिन अपनी बुद्धि का इस्तेमाल करना न छोड़ें। इस विश्वविद्यालय के बाहर निकलते ही आपको इससे भी बड़ी 'यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ लाइफ' में एडमिशन लेना पड़ेगा। जहां न केवल होगा न क्लासरूम और न ही पढ़ाने वाले टीचर्स। आप अपने दम पर ही जीवन में आगे बढ़ सकेंगे। श्री अंबानी ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की प्रशंसा करते हुए कहा कि पंडित दीनदयाल ऊर्जा विश्वविद्यालय का जन्म प्रधानमंत्री की ही असाधारण दूरदर्शिता का परिणाम है। बीस साल पूर्व उन्होंने मुझसे कहा था कि

वे चाहते हैं कि गुजरात ऊर्जा और ऊर्जा उत्पादों के मामले में देश का नेतृत्व करे। साथ ही विश्वस्तरीय मानव संसाधनों को विकसित करने में भी गुजरात को अग्रणी भूमिका निभानी चाहिए और इस तरह इस एडमिशन लेना पड़ेगा। आरआईएल के अध्यक्ष ने दावा किया, 'स्पष्ट रूप से देख सकता हूँ कि इस सदी के अंत से पहले भारत दुनिया का सबसे समृद्ध राष्ट्र बन जाएगा। दुनिया की कोई भी ताकत भारत की विकास यात्रा को रोक नहीं सकती। उल्लेखनीय है कि श्री मुकेश अंबानी पीडीईयू के फाउंडर प्रिंसिपल और अध्यक्ष हैं।

## बजट में एआई प्रशिक्षण में निवेश आकर्षक कर प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए:वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर्स एसोसिएशन

एजेंसी

**नई दिल्ली।** वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर्स (डब्ल्यूटीसी) बिजनेस एंड इंडस्ट्री एसोसिएशन ने वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण को केंद्रीय बजट 2025 में शिक्षा क्षेत्र में सुधार के लिए सुझावों की एक व्यापक सूची प्रस्तुत की है जिसमें शिक्षा में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (एआई) के प्रशिक्षण में निवेश करने वाली कंपनियों के लिए आकर्षक कर प्रोत्साहन प्रदान करने और युवाओं को उद्योग-प्रासंगिक अनुभव प्रदान करने के लिए कार्य से जुड़े शिक्षण कार्यक्रमों का विस्तार करने की सिफारिश भी है। एसोसिएशन ने प्रौद्योगिकी को समर्थन देने तथा उद्योग एवं अकादमिक संस्थानों की भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करने जैसे कई सुझाव दिए हैं। डब्ल्यूटीसी एसोसिएशन की

जारी एक विज्ञापन में अनुसार ये सिफारिशें शिक्षा क्षेत्र के प्रमुख हितधारकों के साथ एक व्यापक विचार-विमर्श सत्र में सामने आयी हैं। इन सिफारिशों का उद्देश्य भारतीय शिक्षा प्रणाली को आधुनिक बनाना है। बयान में कहा गया है कि एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष प्रदीप अग्रवाल की अध्यक्षता में हुए विचार-विमर्श सत्र में डॉ. अमित सर्वसेना, श्रीमती स्तुति कक्कड़ (सेवानिवृत्त आईएएस), डॉ. ओलेक्सैंडर (भारत में यूक्रेन के राजदूत), संजीव आहुजा (उद्यमी) और दीपक द्विवेदी (पत्रकार) और एसोसिएशन के महानिदेशक डॉ. योगेश श्रीवास्तव तथा कई अन्य विशेषज्ञ शामिल थे। शिक्षा में प्रौद्योगिकी का एकीकरण के बारे में एसोसिएशन का कहना है।

## सर्पाबा बाजार में गिरावट, सोना और चांदी की कम हुई चमक

एजेंसी

**नई दिल्ली।** घरेलू सर्पाबा बाजार लगातार गिरावट का रुख बना हुआ है। सोने के भाव में आज 300 रुपये से लेकर 320 प्रति 10 ग्राम तक की कमजोरी दर्ज की गई। कीमत में गिरावट आने के कारण देश के ज्यादातर सर्पाबा बाजारों में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 81,920 रुपये से लेकर 82,070 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के दायरे में कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह 22 कैरेट सोना भी आज 75,090 रुपये से लेकर 75,240 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के बीच बिक रहा है। चांदी की कीमत में भी आज मामूली कमजोरी आई है, जिसके कारण दिल्ली

ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 75,090 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह 24 कैरेट सोना आज 82,070 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 75,140 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह कोलकाता में भी 24 कैरेट सोना 81,920 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 75,090 रुपये प्रति



रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 75,140 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख शहरों के अलावा चेन्नई में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 81,920 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 75,090 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह कोलकाता में भी 24 कैरेट सोना 81,920 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 75,090 रुपये प्रति

10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। लखनऊ के सर्पाबा बाजार में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 82,070 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर और 22 कैरेट

सोना 75,240 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। वहीं पटना में 24 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 81,970 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोना 75,140 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह जयपुर में 24 कैरेट सोना 82,070 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 75,240 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है।

## एनएमडीसी का 2030 तक 10 करोड़ टन उत्पादन का लक्ष्य

एजेंसी

**हैदराबाद।** देश की प्रमुख लौह अयस्क खनन कंपनी एनएमडीसी ने वर्ष 2030 तक प्रत्येक वर्ष दस करोड़ टन उत्पादन का लक्ष्य रखा है। इसके लिए कंपनी ने यहां एक विक्रेता सम्मेलन आयोजित किया, जिसमें उसने अपने 10 करोड़ टन प्रति वर्ष की कार्ययोजना को साझा किया। इस सम्मेलन में देशभर के संवेदकों, सलाहकारों और विक्रेताओं के साथ 70,000 करोड़ रुपये की पूंजीगत व्यय योजना की जानकारी दी गई। कंपनी का लक्ष्य अगले पांच वर्षों में उत्पादन क्षमता को बढ़ाना, बुनियादी ढांचे का निर्माण करना और डिजिटल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को सशक्त बनाना है। एनएमडीसी ने अपनी व्यावसायिक प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाने और अपने साझेदारों से उच्चतम गुणवत्ता और समयबद्धता की मांग करते हुए व्यापार करने में आसानी का आश्वासन दिया।

एनएमडीसी के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक अमितभा मुखर्जी ने कहा, 'यह केवल व्यवसाय नहीं बल्कि 2030 तक 10 करोड़ टन का लक्ष्य प्राप्त करना एनएमडीसी के लिए एक प्राथमिकता है।

यह अवसर हमें वैश्विक खनन पावरहाउस बनने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ने का मौका देता है।' उन्होंने विक्रेताओं से आग्रह किया कि वे इस लक्ष्य को समय पर और सर्वोत्तम गुणवत्ता के साथ पूरा करने के लिए अपने संसाधनों और वित्तीय योजनाओं को मजबूत करें। एनएमडीसी की यह योजना भारतीय खनन और इस्पात उद्योग में नए मानक स्थापित करने की दिशा में एक निर्णायक कदम है। इस महत्वकांक्षी लक्ष्य को हासिल करने के लिए कंपनी विक्रेताओं के साथ साझेदारी को मजबूत करते हुए राष्ट्र के आर्थिक विकास में योगदान देने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

## इंडेक्स शेयरों में हुई खरीदारी से मजबूती के साथ बंद हुआ घरेलू बाजार

एजेंसी

**नयी दिल्ली।** बड़ी गिरावट का सामना करने के बाद घरेलू शेयर बाजार ने आज जोरदार वापसी की। आज के कारोबार में बैंकिंग और फाइनेंशियल सेक्टर के शेयरों में जमकर खरीदारी होती रही, जिसके कारण दिन के कारोबार में संसेक्स 1,100 अंक से अधिक और निफ्टी 300 अंक से अधिक उछलने में सफल रहे। हालांकि, आखिरी 1 घंटे के कारोबार में दिन के ऊपरी स्तर पर हुई मुनाफा बसुली के कारण दोनों सूचकांक सर्वोच्च स्तर से नीचे गिर कर बंद हुए। पूरे के कारोबार के बाद संसेक्स 0.71 प्रतिशत और निफ्टी 0.56 प्रतिशत की मजबूती के साथ बंद हुए। आज दिन भर के कारोबार के दौरान बैंकिंग और फाइनेंशियल सेक्टर के अलावा रियल्टी और

ऑटोमोबाइल सेक्टर के शेयरों में भी लगातार खरीदारी होती रही। दूसरी ओर फार्मास्यूटिकल, कैपिटल गुड्स, पावर, यूटिलिटी, इंडस्ट्रियल, पब्लिक सेक्टर एंटरप्राइज, टेक, ऑथल एंड गैस, मेटल, एफएमसीजी, आईटी और कंप्यूटर ड्यूरेबल सेक्टर में बिकवाली का दबाव बना रहा। ब्रॉड मार्केट में भी आज लगातार बिकवाली का दबाव बना रहा, जिसके कारण बीएसई का मिडकैप इंडेक्स 0.61 प्रतिशत की गिरावट के साथ बंद हुआ। इसी तरह स्मॉलकैप इंडेक्स ने 1.77 प्रतिशत की कमजोरी के साथ आज के कारोबार का अंत किया। आज शेयर बाजार में आई मजबूती के बावजूद ब्रॉड मार्केट में हुई बिकवाली के कारण स्टॉक मार्केट के निवेशकों की संपत्ति में 1 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की

कमी हो गई। बीएसई में लिस्टेड कंपनियों का मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन आज के कारोबार के बाद घट कर 409.15 लाख करोड़ रुपये (अस्थायी) हो गया। पिछले कारोबारी दिन यानी सोमवार को इनका मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन 410.31 लाख करोड़ रुपये था। इस तरह निवेशकों को आज के कारोबार से करीब 1.16 लाख करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हो गया। आज दिन भर के कारोबार में बीएसई में 4,084 शेयरों में एक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें 1,311 शेयर बढ़त के साथ बंद हुए, जबकि 2,663 शेयरों में गिरावट का रुख रहा, वहीं 110 शेयर बिना किसी उतार चढ़ाव के बंद हुए। एनएसई में आज 2,579 शेयरों में एक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें से 767 शेयर मुनाफा कमा कर शे निशान में और 1,812 शेयर नुकसान उठा कर लाल

## विदेशी निवेशकों की जनवरी में सबसे अधिक बिकवाली, 3 सप्ताह में बेचे 67 हजार करोड़ के शेयर

एजेंसी

**नयी दिल्ली।** घरेलू शेयर बाजार से विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों (एफआईआई) ने जनवरी माह में सबसे अधिक बिकवाली की है। यानी इसके पहले किसी भी साल जनवरी के महीने में विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों ने इतने बड़े पैमाने पर बिकवाली नहीं की है। पिछले सप्ताह के आखिरी कारोबारी दिन यानी 24 जनवरी तक विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशक 7.8 बिलियन डॉलर यानी करीब 67 हजार करोड़ रुपये की बिकवाली कर चुके थे। मौजूदा सप्ताह का कारोबारी आंकड़ा आना अभी बाकी है। ऐसे में अगर विदेशी निवेशकों की बिकवाली इस सप्ताह भी लगातार जारी रही, तो एफआईआई का महीने भर में की गई



कुल बिकवाली का आंकड़ा और अधिक होने पर घरेलू शेयर बाजार के इतिहास में सबसे खराब महीने के रूप में अपना नाम दर्ज करा सकता है। घरेलू शेयर बाजार के इतिहास अभी तक इसके पहले सिर्फ दो मौके पर ही इससे अधिक बिकवाली हुई है। सबसे अधिक बिकवाली मार्च,

2020 में 8.4 बिलियन डॉलर की हुई थी, जबकि अक्टूबर 2024 में विदेशी निवेशकों ने 11.2 बिलियन डॉलर की बिकवाली की थी। इस महीने पहले 3 सप्ताह में ही विदेशी निवेशक 7.8 बिलियन डॉलर की बिकवाली कर चुके हैं। जनवरी के महीने में विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों ने सबसे अधिक बिकवाली फाइनेंशियल सेक्टर के शेयरों में की है। इस सेक्टर में विदेशी निवेशकों ने 1.41 बिलियन डॉलर के शेयर बेचे हैं। इसी तरह कंप्यूटर सर्विस सेक्टर में 40.53 करोड़ डॉलर, पावर सेक्टर में 36 करोड़ डॉलर और कैपिटल गुड्स सेक्टर में 30.31 करोड़ डॉलर की बिकवाली विदेशी निवेशकों द्वारा की गई है। इन चुनिंदा सेक्टरों के अलावा ऑटोमोबाइल,

कंस्ट्रक्शन, मेटल और आईटी सेक्टर में भी विदेशी निवेशक खुलकर बिकवाली की है। डिपॉजिटरी के मुताबिक मेटल, आईटी, ऑटोमोबाइल और कंस्ट्रक्शन सेक्टर के करीब 20 करोड़ डॉलर के शेयर अभी तक विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों द्वारा बेचे जा चुके हैं। मार्केट एक्सपर्ट्स का कहना है कि घरेलू शेयर बाजार फिलहाल जियो-पॉलिटिकल टेंशन, वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था की सुस्ती, घरेलू मोचे पर कंपनियों के कमजोर तिमाही नतीजे और ऊंची व्याज दरों की वजह से कड़ी चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहा है। धामी सिन्कोरिटीज के वाइस प्रिंसिपल प्रशांत धामी का कहना है कि शेयर बाजार को अमेरिका की ओर से टैरिफ वॉर शुरू किए जाने की भी आशंका है।

## पेटीएम पेमेंट्स के सीईओ नकुल जैन ने इस्तीफा दिया

एजेंसी

**नई दिल्ली।** पेटीएम पेमेंट सर्विसेज लिमिटेड (पीपीएसएल) के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) नकुल जैन ने इस्तीफा दे दिया है। नकुल जैन ने अपने खुद के कारोबारी सफर की शुरुआत करने के लिए अपना पद छोड़ा है। पेटीएम ने अपनी रेगुलेटरी फाइलिंग में कहा कि पीपीएसएल के प्रबंध निदेशक और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी नकुल जैन ने 31 मार्च, 2025 को कारोबारी समय समाप्त होने या आपसी सहमति से पहले की तारीख से अपने पद से इस्तीफा दिया है। जैन ने एक उद्यमी यात्रा को आगे बढ़ाने का फैसला किया है, जिसके कारण उन्होंने यह निर्णय लिया है। बयान में यह भी कहा गया है कि हम उनके योग्य विकल्प को तलाश कर रहे



हैं। पेटीएम ने कहा कि कंपनी नए नाम की घोषणा जल्द ही करेगी। पेटीएम को अगस्त, 2024 में बैंक के समक्ष आवेदन किया है। नोएडा मुख्यालय स्थित पेटीएम पेमेंट्स सर्विसेज लिमिटेड

(पीपीएसएल) एक प्रौद्योगिकी कंपनी है, जो पूर्ण-स्टैक भुगतान और वित्तीय समाधान प्रदान करती है।

## पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतें स्थिर

**नयी दिल्ली।** अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में तेजी लौटने के बावजूद घरेलू स्तर पर पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम आज स्थिर रहे, जिससे दिल्ली में पेट्रोल 94.72 रुपये प्रति लीटर तथा डीजल 87.62 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर पड़े रहे।



## भारत और ओमान दोहरा कराधान बचाव संधि में संशोधन के लिए सहमत

एजेंसी

**नई दिल्ली।** भारत और ओमान ने सीमापार कराधान के अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों के साथ तात्कालिक बिलाने, प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाने और कर मामलों में ज्यादा सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए दोहरा कराधान बचाव संधि (डीटीए) में संशोधन करने पर अपनी सहमति व्यक्त की है। वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय ने जारी एक बयान में बताया कि

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल की मस्कट यात्रा के दौरान भारत-ओमान दोहरा कराधान बचाव संधि (डीटीए) में संशोधन करने के लिए एक प्रोटोकॉल पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। साथ ही भारत और ओमान ने द्विपक्षीय व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौते (सीडीपीए) पर शीघ्र हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए वार्ता में तेजी लाने पर सहमति जताई है, जिस पर बातचीत अग्रिम चरण में

है। मंत्रालय के अनुसार, केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ओमान की दो दिवसीय यात्रा सफलतापूर्वक संपन्न हो गई। गोयल ने इस यात्रा के दौरान ओमान के वाणिज्य, उद्योग और निवेश संबंधित मंत्री महामहिम कैस बिन मोहम्मद अल युसुफ के साथ भारत-ओमान संयुक्त आयोग की बैठक (जेसीआय) के 11वें सत्र की सह-अध्यक्षता की। इस बैठक में व्यापार, निवेश, प्रौद्योगिकी,

खाद्य सुरक्षा, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और अन्य प्रमुख क्षेत्रों में द्विपक्षीय सहयोग बढ़ाने पर सकारात्मक बातचीत हुई। वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के मुताबिक पीयूष गोयल ने मंत्री कैस बिन मोहम्मद अल युसुफ के साथ एक सकारात्मक द्विपक्षीय बैठक की। इस दौरान उन्होंने भारत और ओमान के बीच द्विपक्षीय व्यापार और आर्थिक संबंधों की विस्तृत समीक्षा की। वाणिज्य मंत्री ने पारस्परिक रूप से लाभकारी

व्यापारिक संबंधों को और मजबूत करने के लिए ठोस कदमों की पहचान की। इसके अलावा दोनों मंत्रियों ने द्विपक्षीय भारत-ओमान व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौते (सीडीपीए) पर भी विचार-विमर्श किया, जिस पर बातचीत अभी अंतिम दौर में है। मंत्रालय के मुताबिक दोनों मंत्रियों ने इस समझौते पर जल्द ही हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए चर्चाओं में तेजी लाने पर सहमति जताई, जो द्विपक्षीय व्यापार संबंधों में

एक नया मील का पत्थर साबित होगा। इसमें दो-तरफा व्यापार और निवेश को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बढ़ाने की क्षमता है। इसके अलावा दोनों पक्षों ने इस दौरान भारत-ओमान दोहरा कराधान परिहार समझौते (डीटीए) में संशोधन के लिए प्रोटोकॉल पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिससे अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानकों के अनुरूप बनाया जा सके, कर प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाया जा सके और कर

मामलों में अधिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके। केंद्रीय वाणिज्य मंत्री ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंध और सहयोग मामलों के उप प्रधानमंत्री और महामहिम के विशेष प्रतिनिधि महामहिम सैय्यद इमद बिन तारिक अल सईद से मुलाकात की। महामहिम सैय्यद इमद बिन तारिक 2023 में जी-20 शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए भारत में ओमानी प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व किया था।

तेल विपणन करने वाली प्रमुख कंपनी हिन्दुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट पर जारी दरों के अनुसार, देश में आज पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों में कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ है। दिल्ली में इनकी कीमतों के यथावत रहने के साथ ही मुंबई में पेट्रोल 104.21 रुपये प्रति लीटर और डीजल 92.15 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर रहा। वैश्विक स्तर पर सप्ताहत पर अमेरिकी क्रूड 0.56 प्रतिशत पर पहुंच गया। इसी तरह लंदन ब्रेट क्रूड भी 0.61 प्रतिशत की तेजी के साथ 77.55 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर रहा।



एक ऐसा देश जहां आधुनिक यूरोपीय संस्कृति के साथ-साथ लोग अभी भी अपने पारंपरिक मूल्य और संस्कार भी सहेजे हुए हैं। बादलों में उड़कर बुल्गारिया पहुंच जाना एक सपने जैसा था। चलते हैं यहां

सपनों की उड़ान जैसी

# बुल्गारिया

की सैर, खूबसूरती ही नहीं यहां का आर्किटेक्चर भी है लाजवाब

तीन दशक पहले मुझे बचपन में बुल्गारिया जाने का मौका मिला था। एक चिल्ड्रेंस कैम्प में। उसी की याद को ताजा करने जब मैं दोबारा बुल्गारिया गई, तो महसूस हुआ कि यह स्थान आपको अपनी ओर खींचता है। मुझे अपनी बुल्गारिया यात्रा के दौरान कभी भी सैलानी जैसा एहसास नहीं हुआ, बल्कि ऐसा लगा जैसे मैं कुछ दिनों के लिए वहां बस गई थी। मुझे बुल्गारिया की राजधानी सोफिया और शहर वारना घूमने और रहने का अवसर मिला। बुल्गारिया पहुंचने के लिए हमने नई दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी इंटरनेशनल एयरपोर्ट से तुर्की में इस्तांबुल के लिए फ्लाइट पकड़ी। इस्तांबुल से हमें कनेक्टिंग फ्लाइट से बुल्गारियाई शहर वारना पहुंचना था। किन्हीं वजहों से हमारी वह फ्लाइट मिस हो गई और कुछ समय हमें इस्तांबुल एयरपोर्ट की एक लाउंज में बिताना पड़ा। देर रात हमें वारना की फ्लाइट मिली और कुछ घंटों में हम वारना शहर में थे।

**विहंगम है वारना का नजारा**  
मैदान, पहाड़, घाटी, संकरे रास्तों व नदियों का देश है बुल्गारिया। यहां की सबसे बड़ी नदी है इस्कर और सबसे बड़ी लोक बुर्गस है। आपको जानकर हैरानी भी होगी कि इस देश में करीब 540 नदियां बहती हैं। एक टेक्सी से हम वारना में होटल पैनोरमा पहुंचे। सुनने में अजीब लगता है, लेकिन सच में वहां तक की ड्राइव मन मोह लेने वाली थी। हरे-भरे खेतों, साफ-सुथरी सड़कों और सुरजमुखी के हजारों फूलों के बीच स्टोन फोरिस्ट तक जाने का रास्ता बेहद मनमोहक था। साथ ही, मन में उतावलापन था कि पत्थरों का जंगल कैसा होगा? स्टोन फोरिस्ट पहुंचकर सदियों पुराने पत्थर और प्राकृतिक जमीनी सुंदरता और कलात्मकता को देखकर हैरान थे। पेड़, मिट्टी, जंगली पौधे और पत्थरों का यह जंगल पहले एक समुद्र था। पत्थर के खंभों से पटा हुआ यह जंगल बड़े क्षेत्र में फैला हुआ है। यहां का वातावरण बहुत ही

साफ और सुंदर है। खूबसूरत फूल-पौधे चारों तरफ हरियाली बिखेरते बड़े मनोरम लगते हैं। वारना शहर में घूमते हुए हमारी नजर यहां बने घरों पर पड़ी। बहुत ही सुंदर अपार्टमेंट बने हैं। बुल्गारियाई आर्किटेक्चर बहुत सुंदर, आकर्षक और प्रभावी हैं। बातों-बातों में हम कब वारना पार्क पहुंच गए पता ही नहीं चला। इस पार्क की खासियत है कि आप गार्डन के साथ-साथ बाजार भी घूम लेते हैं। यहां रेस्टोरेंट्स में तुर्की व बुल्गारियाई व्यंजन काफी पसंद किए जाते हैं। अगली सुबह हमें बल्चिक-कलियाकारा जाना है, जो वारना के पास ही बसा एक कस्बा है। यह ब्लैक सी के पास ही स्थित है।

**कलियाकारा केप**  
कलियाकारा केप पहुंचने पर हमें यहां एक आर्कियोलॉजिकल साइट भी देखने को मिली, जो एक म्यूजियम की तरह है। यह एक तरह से यहां की

सभ्यता का प्रतीक है। इस म्यूजियम में हजारों साल पुरानी सभ्यता की निशानियां रखी हैं। इनमें बर्तन, हथियार जैसी बहुत सारी चीजें देखने को मिलती हैं। ये सामान खुदाई के दौरान मिले थे। अब इस साइट को टूरिस्ट स्पॉट के रूप में विकसित किया गया है। यहां एक लंबी वॉक के बाद महसूस होता है कि जरूर जीवन यहां कई हजार साल पहले भी रहा होगा। इस तरह के चिन्ह इस वॉक के दौरान देखने को मिलते हैं।

**बल्चिक बांटेनिकल गार्डन**  
यह एक खूबसूरत बांटेनिकल गार्डन है। इसे टूरिस्ट डेस्टिनेशन के रूप में विकसित किया गया है। फूलों से लदे पेड़ आपका स्वागत करते हैं। ढेरों फूल, पौधों, पेड़ों और जड़ी-बूटियों से हरे-भरे इस गार्डन में घूमने का एक अलग ही आनंद है। यहां बुल्गारियाई, जापानी गुलाब के साथ एक से बढ़कर एक कैक्टस भी देखने को मिलेंगे।



## देश की इन 5 खूबसूरत जगहों की दुनिया भी है दीवानी

वक्त निकाल कर जरूर जाएं घूमने

आमतौर पर भी जब खूबसूरत जगहों का जिक्र होता है तो लोग विदेश की अलग-अलग लोकेशंस को गिनाना शुरू कर देते हैं जबकि देश में भी बेहद शानदार जगहें हैं।



आमतौर पर भी जब खूबसूरत जगहों का जिक्र होता है तो लोग विदेश की अलग-अलग लोकेशंस को गिनाना शुरू कर देते हैं, जबकि देश में इतनी शानदार जगहें हैं, जिन पर किसी का भी दिल आ जाएगा। खास बात ये है कि इन जगहों की देश में ही नहीं बल्कि दुनिया के लोग भी दीवाने हैं। ऐसे में आज यानी कि नेशनल टूरिज्म डे (National Tourism Day) के मौके पर आइए जानते हैं कौन-कौन सी हैं वे जगहें...

**गुलमर्ग**  
इस लिस्ट में सबसे पहला नाम आता है कश्मीर का। कहते हैं कि कुदरत ने इस जगह को नायाब खूबसूरती से बख्शा है। यूं तो यहां का कोना-कोना बहुत सुंदर और मनमोहक है लेकिन अगर बात गुलमर्ग की करें तो ये जम्मू कश्मीर का एक खूबसूरत हिल स्टेशन है। इसकी सुंदरता के कारण इसे धरती का स्वर्ग भी कहा जाता है। यह देश के प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थलों में से एक है। फूलों के प्रदेश के नाम से मशहूर यह स्थान उत्तरी कश्मीर के बारामुला में स्थित है। एडवेंचर स्पोर्ट्स और स्कीइंग के शौकीन लोगों के लिए गुलमर्ग एक बेहद खास जगह मानी जाती है।

**गोवा:**  
गोवा तो घूमने वाले लोगों की लिस्ट में टॉप पर होता है। खासतौर पर यंगस्टर्स के लिए। युवा यहां जाना खूब पसंद करते हैं। उन्हें यहां के बीच ही नहीं बल्कि यहां की नाइट लाइफ को एंजॉय करने जाते हैं। ऐसे में अगर आप भी बीच पर सुकून के पल और फिर एक हसीन शाम गुजारना चाहते हैं तो ये जगह देखनी चाहिए।

**लेह-लद्दाख:**  
देश की और खूबसूरत जगह है लेह-लद्दाख। यहां प्राकृतिक

खूबसूरती के साथ-साथ लोग ट्रैकिंग और बाइक राइडिंग के लिए भी आते हैं। इसके अलावा हाइकिंग, क्लाइम्बिंग और कैनिंग का मजा लेने भी आते हैं। इसके अलावा यहां की जंस्कार वैली, खरुंग-ला पास, हेमिस नेशनल पार्क और स्पीतुक गोम्पा जैसी जगहें घूमना एक बेस्ट ऑप्शन होता है।

**मुंबई**  
यूं तो मुंबई को 'फिल्म नगरी' के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। इस शहर को सपनों का शहर भी कहते हैं। यहां हर रोज लाखों लोग अपनी आंखों में बेपनाह सपने लेकर आते हैं। मगर इस



शहर में भी कई टूरिस्ट प्लेस हैं, जिन्हें देखने के लिए दूर-दूर से लोग आते हैं। यहां घूमने के लिए जुहू चौपाटी, हाजी अली दरगाह, महालक्ष्मी मंदिर, गेटवे ऑफ इंडिया, मरीन ड्राइव समेत कई जगहें हैं।

**केरल:**  
देश में घूमने के लिए सबसे सुंदर केरल भी एक अच्छा ऑप्शन है। यहां मुन्नार का प्राकृतिक खूबसूरती आपको मान मोह लेगी। इसके अलावा थेककडी, कोवलम, कुमाराकोम जैसी जगहें भी घूमना एक बेहतर ऑप्शन है।

## सस्ते में लेना है घुमकड़ी का मजा, तो इन टिप्स एंड ट्रिक्स के साथ करें प्लानिंग

बहुत से लोग यह सोचकर घूमने से रह जाते हैं कि पैसे कम हैं कैसे घूमेंगे? लेकिन आपको हम बता दें कि अगर आप ढंग से प्लान बनाएं तो कम पैसे में भी आराम से घूम सकते हैं।



आजकल की भागदौड़ वाली जिंदगी में घुमकड़ी संजीवनी जैसी है, जो आपको तरोताजा कर देती है। बड़े शहरों की व्यस्त जिंदगी की जरूरत भी है ट्रेवल ताकि आप प्रदूषण और शोर-शराबे से दूर अपनों के साथ सुकून के कुछ पल बिता पाएं। सोशल मीडिया के इस दौर में घूमना एक ट्रेंड भी बनता जा रहा है। ऐसे बजट फिट ट्रेवल और भी प्रासंगिक हो जाता है।

**घुमकड़ों की तरह घूमने में है असली मजा**

यह बात तो सही है कि घूमने और नई जगहों को एक्सप्लोर करने से हम तरोताजा होते हैं। बहुत कुछ सीखते भी हैं। मगर आज की महंगाई वाले दौर में बहुत से लोगों के लिए घूमना बजट पर भारी पड़ता है। जो लोग यह सोचते हैं कि घूमना सिर्फ पैसे वालों का शौक है, तो उनको बता दें कि ऐसा है नहीं। अगर हम थोड़ी मेहनत और थोड़ा रिसर्च करें। इंटरनेट और सोशल मीडिया की मदद लें, तो घूमने का प्लान बजट में बना सकते हैं। बजट फिट ट्रेवल एक भ्रम नहीं है। घूमने का ट्रेंड, जो पहले केवल बड़ों शहरों में ही देखा जाता था, आजकल छोटे-छोटे शहरों में भी इंटरनेट और स्मार्टफोन की वजह से बढ़ रहा है। घूमने का असली आनंद तो घुमकड़ों की तरह घूमने में है न की पर्यटकों की तरह पर्यटन करने में।

**करनी होगी एडवांस प्लानिंग**

ट्रेवल प्लान करने में सबसे बड़ी चुनौती होती है डेस्टिनेशन तक कैसे जाया जाए? कहीं भी जाने से पहले उस जगह की अपने शहर से कनेक्टिविटी देखते हैं, इंटरनेट से समय और दूरी को चेक करने के बाद फिर पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट, जैसे- ट्रेन या बस की बुकिंग कराते हैं। एडवांस बुकिंग से जहां अंतिम समय की भागदौड़ से बच जाते हैं, वहीं तत्काल या अन्य चार्जेंस की भी बचत हो जाती है।

**होटल की बजाय होमस्टे बेहतर**

किसी भी यात्रा की दूसरी समस्या यह होती है कि हम रूकें कहां? जगह सुरक्षित है या नहीं? शहर या घूमने की जगह से बहुत दूर तो नहीं है? सस्ती जगह है तो अच्छी है या नहीं? आजकल ये समस्याएं भी आसानी से हल हो जाती हैं। कई बड़े स्टेशंस पर भारतीय रेलवे के गेस्ट रूम्स भी उपलब्ध होते हैं, जिनकी बुकिंग ट्रेन टिकट के साथ ही एडवांस में की जा सकती है। बहुत से लोकप्रिय ट्रेवल डेस्टिनेशंस में होमस्टे आसानी से मिल जाते हैं वह भी बजट में। यहां रहने पर स्थानीय लोगों का रहन-सहन, खान-पान और उनकी संस्कृति को नजदीक से जानने का मौका मिल जाता है। साथ ही उस जगह से जुड़ी कई ऐसी जानकारियां भी मिलती हैं जो गूगल के पास भी नहीं होंगी। वैसे, अकेले घूमने वाले लोगों के लिए जॉस्टल और होस्टल जैसे कई विकल्प मौजूद हैं, जो बहुत कम पैसे में आपको डोमिटररीज और रूम मुहैया कराते हैं। साथ ही, साथ अपने जैसे और भी लोगों से मिलने-जुलने, उनके अनुभवों को साझा करने का मौका भी मिलता है। यकीन मानिए यात्रा और यात्री दोनों ही बेहतर बन गुरु हैं।

**पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट या बाइक ले लें**

आप इंटरनेट पर थोड़ा-सा रिसर्च कर लें, तो अपने बजट में रहने की जगह खोज सकते हैं। कई वेबसाइट्स हैं, जो उनके रिस्क भी उपलब्ध कराती हैं। जरूरत है बस थोड़ा-सा समय देने की। घूमने वाली जगहों पर कई बार लोकल ट्रांसपोर्टेशन बहुत महंगे होते हैं, ऐसी स्थिति में ज्यादातर हम लोकल पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट जैसे लोकल बस, ट्रेन या शेयर ऑटो से काम चलाते हैं। युवाओं में दुपहिया वाहनों का क्रेज देखते हुए कई जगहों पर 200-500 रोज के हिसाब से बाइक या स्कूटी किराए पर आसानी से मिल जाते हैं। अगर आप बाइक लेना चाहें, तो आपको बस अपना कोई पहचान पत्र उनके पास जमा करना होता है। यह सस्ता, सुविधाजनक और ट्रेंडी रास्ता भी है।

NEWS BOX

**Alyssa Healy declares herself fit for Women's Ashes Day-Night Test: Ready to go**

**New Delhi** Skipper Alyssa Healy said that she was "good to go" for the Women's Ashes Test against Heather Knight's England at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground. The 34-year-old Healy played in the ODI leg of the Ashes, but missed the three-match T20I series due to an injury to her right foot. Healy, who has played nine Tests since her debut in 2011, declared herself fit before the game, but said that Australia haven't finalised their playing XI for the Day-Night Test. Due to a stress reaction on her foot, Healy had to wear a moon boot throughout the last week.



"I'm good to go. We'll make a final decision on what the XI looks like over the next little period ... but I feel like I'm ready to go, so we'll wait and see what happens," Healy said in the pre-match press conference. "The final XI hasn't quite been decided upon just yet, but I'm standing here in front of you without a moon boot, saying I'm ready to go," Healy said.

**'Have done everything possible'**

Healy has had her fair share of troubles with a foot injury after she missed a few games in the Women's T20 World Cup where Australia crashed out in the semi-final. She also missed the WBBL due to a left knee injury. Before the upcoming Test, Healy took laps of the ground and also participated in fielding drills. "The medical staff have been really supportive of (giving me) the opportunity to even push to play in this Test match. We've done everything we possibly can to get myself in a position to put my hand up and say, 'I'm ready to go'," Healy added.

All-rounder Ash Gardner has also been cleared to play after she did not play in the T20Is due to a calf injury. Fast bowler Megan Schutt, however, will miss out after national selector Shawn Flegler confirmed earlier that Australia would persist with the duo of Kim Garth and Darcie Brown.

**Suryakumar Yadav needs to choose when to be aggressive: Michael Vaughan**

**NEW DELHI.** Former England cricketer Michael Vaughan has advised India's T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav to adopt a more measured approach at the crease before shifting into aggressive mode. Vaughan believes Suryakumar's tendency to attack too early has backfired, contributing to his struggles in the ongoing T20I series against England, including India's 26-run defeat in the third T20I in Rajkot on January 28.

With India now leading the five-match series 2-1, concerns over Suryakumar's form have intensified. The batter has failed to make an impact so far, registering scores of 0, 12, and 14 in the first three matches. His dismissals have largely been a result of mistimed attacking strokes, either edging the ball behind or mis-hitting it into the air. Speaking to Cricbuzz, Vaughan emphasised that while India prioritises maximising their powerplay runs, Suryakumar must structure his innings better to fully contribute to the team. "It's a few times on the trot where he's been getting out to quite soft dismissals. When



you say be aggressive all the time, it's choosing the right ball to be aggressive to. Clearly you can't hit every single ball to the boundary and some of these players in this era, they've got so much skill and talent that they think they can. It's just not possible," Vaughan said. "For India to come back, and I'm sure they will, they're not going to play any worse, I can't imagine in a few days time, but it will need maybe Sky (Suryakumar Yadav) just saying, 'okay, I just need to about 15 balls to give myself in, get myself in, look at the dimensions of the ground'. He's got the game to just go and explode into the boundary hitting mode that we know that he can," he added. India's batting unit has displayed inconsistencies throughout the series, with victories largely coming through individual brilliance rather than collective performance.

**Neymar returns to Brazilian club Santos after termination of contract in Saudi Arabia**

**Neymar won six titles with his boyhood club Santos, including a Copa Libertadores trophy in 2011.**

**RIO DE JANEIRO.** Neymar has agreed to return to Santos nearly 12 years after he left the Brazilian team, club president Marcelo Teixeira said Tuesday. The Brazil striker confirmed earlier that his contract with Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal had been terminated by mutual consent. He had an injury-marred spell at Al-Hilal, where he played only seven matches and scored once. Neymar won six titles with his boyhood club Santos, including a Copa Libertadores trophy in 2011. Santos is a beachfront city outside São Paulo. "It is the time (to come back), Neymar. It is time for you to come back to your people. To our home, to the club in our

hearts," Teixeira said in his social media channels. "Welcome, our boy Ney! A boy of Vila (Belmiro, Santos' stadium). Come back to be happy again with the white and black shirt. The Santos nation awaits you with open arms." Neymar, once hailed as one of the world's best players, spent much of his time in Saudi Arabia on the sidelines due to an ACL injury he picked up playing for Brazil in October 2023. São Paulo media reported that the former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star is expected to return to Brazil this week and reintroduce himself to Santos fans within days. Neymar became the most expensive player in soccer history when he transferred from Barcelona to PSG for 222 million euros (then \$262 million) in 2017.

"(My father) must be taking bicycle kicks in heaven after finding out that our boy is coming back home," Nascimento said on Instagram. Pelé died in December 2022.

A video published by Al-Hilal on Tuesday evening shows Neymar giving a farewell speech. "Today I am very happy to be able to go, return home. To my country," Neymar told his former teammates, without mentioning Santos. "It was a pleasure for me to play for this club. It was a short time, things were not as I expected. I could not



help you on the pitch as I wanted." Santos was relegated to Brazil's second division in 2023 and was promoted again in the latest season. Neymar's most recent match was played in November. Al-Hilal coach Jorge Jesus had repeatedly cast doubts about the striker's form to play. Neymar left the Saudi Arabian league after playing just seven games in 17 months following his big-money move to the oil-rich kingdom. Al-Hilal said Monday it reached an agreement with Neymar to terminate his contract by mutual consent. Neymar's spokeswoman, Day Franco, told The Associated Press the player had no immediate comment. However, Neymar responded with

a heart gif to a post of Kely Nascimento, one of the daughters of three-time World Cup winner Pelé, celebrating his return to Santos. "I gave everything to play and I wish we enjoyed better times on the pitch together," Neymar said in a message on social media. "To Saudi, thank you for giving me and my family a new home and new experiences. I now know the real Saudi and have friends for life." Despite Neymar's injury, Al-Hilal still managed to win last season's Saudi league. The Brazilian's contract was due to expire after this year's FIFA Club World Cup, which will be played between June 15 and July 13 in the United States. The striker joined the Saudi club from PSG in August 2023 for 90 million euros (\$94 million). His salary was reportedly one of the biggest in world soccer as well. But Neymar picked up his ACL injury playing for Brazil only months after he joined Al-Hilal. Neymar returned in October but said in different interviews there were doubts over whether he would stay for the rest of the season. Santos fans have already been expecting Neymar's return. Since last week, they have posted a video of a man with the voice of legendary three-time World Cup winner Pelé.

**Ignoring pacers, under-using Sundar: Aakash Chopra questions India's selection**

**New Delhi** Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra has raised concerns over India's team selection in their ongoing T20I series against England, citing it as a key reason for their defeat in the third T20I in Rajkot. After winning the first two matches, India failed to seal the series, allowing England to pull one back with a win on January 28. Chopra believes India has not fully utilised its squad depth, which has contributed to the inconsistent team performance. While Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma guided India to victories in the first two matches with individual brilliance and Varun Chakravarthy impressed with the ball, India has lacked a well-rounded collective effort. One of Chopra's main concerns is the underutilisation of Washington Sundar, who has been in the playing XI for the last two matches but has hardly been given the ball.

**IND vs ENG, 3rd T20I: Highlights** "You are saying you want four spinners. Let me agree that you need four spinners, but are you bowling 16 overs of spin? You don't do that as well. You got Washington to bowl only one over. You cannot play someone for

one over. It is bizarre," Chopra added. Sundar was introduced into the lineup in the second T20I in Chennai, replacing Nitish Kumar Reddy, but bowled just one over for nine runs. The trend continued in Rajkot,



where he was again restricted to a solitary over, conceding 15 runs. Chopra questioned why India would pick a bowling all-rounder but not use him effectively in the

attack. Additionally, Chopra raised concerns about India's reluctance to field a proper combination of pacers despite having Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Hardik Pandya, and Harshit Rana in the squad. He suggested that India's team selection has not been balanced, leading to avoidable weaknesses.

"I don't think we are selecting the right team. Arshdeep Singh was playing earlier and Hardik Pandya was there with him. Then Mohammed Shami played and Hardik was there with him too. It's not that this team doesn't have any other fast bowlers, but you don't want to play any fast bowler," Chopra added. Another selection decision that raised eyebrows was Dhruv Jurel's batting position. Chopra criticised the move to send the wicketkeeper-batter as low as No. 8 in the order, a concern that was also echoed by former England captain Kevin Pietersen after the Rajkot defeat. With the series now at 2-1, India must fine-tune its playing XI for the fourth T20I in Mumbai on January 31 to ensure a strong collective display rather than relying solely on individual performances.

**Varun Chakravarthy explains how Rajkot pitch helped England defend 171**

**NEW DELHI.** Varun Chakravarthy said that the lack of dew in the second innings of the Rajkot T20I helped England bowlers dominate the Indian batters. On Tuesday, January 28, Suryakumar Yadav's India lost the third T20I by 26 runs as the visitors stayed alive in the series. After being asked to bat first, England put up a healthy score of 171 for the loss of nine wickets. Chasing the challenging target, India finished at 145 for nine. Jamie Overton, Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Brydon Carse and Adil Rashid did not let the Indian batters dictate terms. Chakravarthy said that the pitch got tougher to bat during India's run-chase as it got slower. "The pitch definitely got slower in the second innings. We thought that there might be dew which might set in. But it didn't set in and that definitely played in their favour," Chakravarthy said in the post-match press conference.



Chakravarthy also heaped praise on Rashid and hailed him as a 'legend' after the English spinner finished with figures of 4-0-15-1. "Adil Rashid is a legend and knows how to bowl; he has that control

over his speed," Chakravarthy said. From the personal viewpoint, Chakravarthy had a memorable day after he became only the third Indian in Men's T20Is after Kuldeep Yadav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar to pick up multiple five-wicket hauls. Chakravarthy finished with figures of 4-0-24-5. Chakravarthy said that he would keep focussing on being consistent.

"The work doesn't stop because consistency is constant work. Even if I want to bowl a stock ball, I need to keep working on it, need to get 9 out of 10 consistency, and that work is always there. So, right now, my focus is on consistency, and line and length," Chakravarthy added.

The fourth and penultimate T20I of the series is scheduled to take place on Friday, January 31 at the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium in Pune



wicket. **AUS vs SL 1st Test Day 1** LiveHead survives as Sri Lanka opts against DRS The Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva also wasn't too keen to go for DRS and decided against it. Much to his dismay, the ball tracking showed that the ball was pitching in line and Head would've had to return to the pavilion, had they opted for a review. As a result, the southpaw continued his stay at the crease as Sri Lankan bowlers had nowhere to hide from his belligerent strokeplay. Head showed no mercy to the bowlers, hitting both spinners and seamers at all corners of the ground and brought up his half century off just 35 balls. He was dismissed shortly after completing his fifty while trying to smash Jayasuriya down the ground but could only find Dinesh Chandimal at long on.

**Mohammed Shami will regain his rhythm after a couple of more games: Ambati Rayudu**

**Former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu has backed fast bowler Mohammed Shami to find his rhythm again in a couple of matches after he looked far from his best on his comeback in the third T20I against England in Rajkot.**

**NEW DELHI.** Former India cricketer Ambati Rayudu feels Mohammed Shami will take a couple of more games to find his rhythm back. Shami made his international comeback after a long gap of 14 months in the third T20I against England at Niranjan Shah Stadium, Rajkot. The speedster last represented the country in the ODI World Cup 2023, where he finished as the highest wicket taker with 24 wickets.

However, the star fast bowler looked far from his best on his return as he was out of rhythm and remained wicket-less in his three overs,



giving away 25 runs. Analysing Shami's comeback, Rayudu said that it takes some time for a player to gain confidence about his body after returning from injury and hence Shami wasn't seen at his best.

**IND vs ENG 3rd T20I Highlights** "I think his rhythm builds when he runs well during his run-up and comes to the crease at

good speed. Today, I couldn't see that much. Having confidence about your body is extremely crucial for a player after injury. Players who've gone through injury will tell you that it takes time after returning. The body remains in good shape but the confidence in one's body to put in the extra efforts comes with time. Hence, I feel Shami

will pick up his rhythm after a couple of games," said Rayudu on Star Sports. Former India spinner Piyush Chawla agreed with Rayudu's statements and said that one is bound to have butterflies in his stomach while making a comeback after a long hiatus. "When you make a comeback to international cricket after so long, you have butterflies in your stomach. No matter, how much you've played in the past when you come back to the team after a long gap of 436 days, there were some nerves there. He didn't look in his usual rhythm, every player takes 1-2 matches. The good thing is that he played a game and bowled three overs and the way he ended his spell. I feel the more he plays, the better he will get," said Chawla. Meanwhile, India lost the third T20I by 26 runs as they failed to chase down the target of 172. The Men in Blue could only score 145/9 in 20 overs as England bowlers continued to keep a stranglehold on their batting. As a result, they emerged victorious in the game to stay alive in the five-match series which India currently leads by 2-1.

# Kriti Sanon

**Calls Chhaava Trailer 'Blockbuster', Praises Vicky Kaushal And Rashmika Mandanna's Look**

Kriti Sanon is the latest celebrity to praise Vicky Kaushal starrer Chhaava trailer. Taking to social media, Kriti shared her excitement, calling the trailer a "blockbuster" and lauding the impressive looks of the lead pair. Earlier, Arjun Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, and Alia Bhatt have also praised the trailer. The film is all set to release on February 14. Taking to her Instagram stories, Kriti shared the trailer and wrote, "MASSIVE Mega Blockbuster Loading... Goosebumps! @laxman.utekar sir!! Kya baat hai!! Killing it! #Dinoo #MaddockFilms maddockfilms, laxman.utekar, rashmika\_mandanna, vickykaushal09 and 07 sonymusicindia @vickykaushal09 looks like your best so far!!! outstanding!! @rashmika\_mandanna love the marathi avatar! Royal, elegant and absolutely stunning! Goodluck to the entire team!" Rashmika Mandanna reacted with a cute emoji.



Taking to his Instagram stories, Arjun Kapoor shared the trailer and wrote, "It promises a grand historical spectacle with powerful storytelling and breathtaking visuals... This one deserves to be experienced on the big screen! Don't miss Chhaava in cinemas on 14th February maddockfilms and arrahman @vickykaushal09 @rashmika\_mandanna #Akshaye Khanna Bashutosh ramnarayan @divyadutta25 @vineet\_ksofficial @dianapenty @santoshjuvekar12 #Dinesh Vijan @laxman.utekar." Earlier, Alia Bhatt also praised the trailer and wrote, "The trailer is absolutely breathtaking. Goosebumps all over. All the best

(red heart emoji)," while tagging Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna. Earlier, Katrina Kaif, Vicky's wife, had also praised the trailer on her social media, expressing excitement with, "Outstanding #DineshVijan. This is just (multiple fire emojis)," tagging filmmaker Laxman Utekar, Vicky, Rashmika, and Akshaye. The trailer of Chhaava sets the stage for an intense battle of wills between the Marathas and the Mughals. As the Marathas strive to establish Swaraj, a vision of freedom and safety for all, the Mughal empire stands firm, vowing to crush any rebellion against its dominance. The dialogue crackles with tension, warning of the silent but deadly hunt that awaits those who challenge the empire. Akshaye Khanna's Aurangzeb then goes on to say, "Purey khandaan ki laash par khadey hokar hum ne taaj pehna tha, use dobara usi waqt pehneinge jab uss Sambha ki cheekhein poore Hindustan mein gunjengi." (Directed by Laxman Utekar, known for his work in films like Mimi (2021) and Luka Chuppi (2019), Chhaava marks another collaboration between Utekar and Vicky Kaushal following their recent comedy-romance hit Zara Hatke Zara Bachke (2023). Chhaava is a historical drama that revolves around the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. In the film, Vicky Kaushal is set to portray the character of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the eldest son of the Maratha empire's founder. The film also stars Ashutosh Rana, and Divya Dutta in key roles.



## Kartik Aaryan Waves At Fans During Coldplay Concert In Mumbai



Kartik Aaryan was recently spotted attending Coldplay's concert in Mumbai. The videos and photos of him from the concert are going viral. Amid this, a video surfaced online in which he is seen waving at fans while he waits for the show to begin. Kartik is seen chatting with his other team members. The fan took to his Instagram handle and shared the video in which he is seen asking his other friends also to see Kartik. Suddenly the actor noticed and came forward to wave at them. They were seen screaming with excitement. Many fans dropped heart and fire emojis in the comment section. Kartik Aaryan and his sister, Dr. Kritika Tiwari, joined thousands of Coldplay fans at the band's Music of the Spheres World Tour concert in Navi Mumbai's DY Patil Stadium.

Taking to Instagram, Kartik posted a video capturing the electric atmosphere of the concert and wrote, "Sky Full Of Stars In My College Campus Pure Magic (sic)." The post resonated with his fans, who were thrilled to see the actor enjoying himself at the venue where he once pursued his studies.

Just a few days before the concert, on January 11, Kartik returned to DY Patil College for his convocation ceremony, finally receiving his engineering degree after over a decade. Reflecting on his journey, he shared, "From sitting on the backbench to standing on the stage for my convocation - what a journey it's been. DY Patil University, you gave me memories, dreams, and now, finally, my degree (only took over a decade!)." He expressed gratitude to Vijay Patil, his teachers, and students for the warm welcome he received.

On the professional front, Kartik was last seen in Bhoor Bhoorayaa 3 in November 2024. He is currently working on Anurag Basu's upcoming romantic drama alongside Triptii Dimri. Kartik is also set to star in Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri, a romantic comedy directed by Sameer Vidwans and produced by Karan Johar's Dharmaproductions and Namah Pictures, slated for release in 2026. Reports suggest that Sharvari Wagh will play the female lead. Kartik's journey from being an engineering student from Gwalior to becoming one of Bollywood's most bankable stars is inspiring. Despite having no film connections, he pursued his dream while sharing an apartment with 12 roommates in Mumbai, proving that hard work and perseverance can lead to success.

## Akshay Kumar DENIES Going To Bed While Vivek Oberoi Had Dinner At His Place: 'This Doesn't Happen'



Akshay Kumar, who is currently promoting his film Sky Force, was recently asked about his 'early to bed, early to rise' routine and how he manages to socialise. He was specifically asked about an incident where he supposedly went to bed at 9:30 pm while Vivek Oberoi and Riteish Deshmukh were still having dinner at his place. In an interview with , Akshay explained that he is a "very good host" and always sees his guests off to their cars. Refuting Vivek's claim, he said, "No, this doesn't happen. I drop people till their cars. I don't leave them by themselves." He then opened up on parties at his house and said, "I am very good host. We usually don't have parties at home but when we host a party, it's usually an early dinner. People come over, talk a bit, those who want to drink, they drink and then I see them off."

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Earlier, in an interview with the same publication, Vivek praised Akshay's discipline, calling it "commendable" as the actor sticks to his routine without fail. He recalled a dinner at Akshay's house when, at 9:30 pm, Akshay went upstairs. "Akshay is so disciplined that one evening, we were having dinner at his place, and as soon as the clock struck 9:30 pm, he went upstairs. We thought he was just going to the washroom, but he never returned. We kept waiting for him until 11 pm, only for his wife, Twinkle Khanna, to come and tell us, 'You guys should leave now. He's already gone to sleep!' That's how disciplined he is. Hats off to him," he had said.

On the film front, Vivek has three movies lined up, the first being Masti 4. In an earlier chat with Screen, Vivek had opened up on it. "I am having a lot of fun cracking up between me, Riteish, Aftaab, and Induji, Milap Zaveri is directing it," he had said.

# Priyanka Chopra

**Drops Pics From Balaji Temple Visits As She Begins Shoot For SS Rajamouli's SSMB29**



Priyanka Chopra is currently in India for the shoot of her next film with Mahesh Babu. The actress today took to her social handle and shared glimpses of a temple visit ahead of the shoot. The film SSMB29 has been grabbing headlines for a long time. Priyanka was spotted visiting the renowned Balaji temple. Taking to her Instagram stories, Priyanka shared glimpses of the visit. She has not mentioned anything in the caption. Last week also shared photos from the temple visit and wrote, "With the blessings of Shri Balaji, a new chapter begins."

May we all find peace in our hearts and prosperity and abundance all around us. God's grace is infinite." While she didn't offer details on what "new chapter" referred to, some speculated it hinted at her rumored collaboration with SS Rajamouli and Mahesh Babu. In the post, Priyanka appeared effortlessly graceful as she posed at the temple, donning a gorgeous blue suit.

Mahesh Babu and SS Rajamouli's highly anticipated film SSMB29 is officially underway. While the spotlight has been on this exciting pairing of Mahesh Babu and Priyanka Chopra, the film promises to bring together a diverse array of talented artists from around the world. However, the full list of cast and crew is yet to be revealed, leaving fans eagerly awaiting more updates.

SSMB29 is set to be produced in two parts, with the first instalment expected to release in 2027 and the second instalment by 2029.

Mahesh Babu will be playing the male lead. Malayalam actor Prithviraj Sukumaran will be playing the antagonist in the film. It is rumoured that Mahesh Babu's character would be inspired



by Lord Hanuman. This film promises to feature stunning visuals and engaging storytelling like never before. The official puja ceremony for this SSMB29 was held on January 2. The ceremony was held strictly private, and no pictures or glimpses from the same were released by the makers.