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**NEWS BOX** 

#### Nancy Mace accuses exfiancé, associates of assaulting her raping others in House speech

CHAPIN. Nancy Mace of South Carolina on Monday used a nearly hour-long speech on the US House floor to accuse her ex-fiancé of physically abusing her, recording sex acts with her and others without their consent, and conspiring with business associates in acts of rape and sexual misconduct.

Mace said she was speaking out because her home state's top prosecutor didn't take action even after she alerted investigators. That same prosecutor is likely to be Mace's opponent if she runs for governor of South Carolina in 2026, which she is considering. Saying she was going scorched earth, Mace detailed how, in November 2023, she says she accidentally uncovered some of the most heinous crimes against women imaginable. We're talking about rape, non-consensual photos, non-consensual videos of women and underage girls, and the premeditated, calculated exploitation of women and girls in my district. Mace mentioned four men as being involved, including Charleston-area businessman Patrick Bryant, who was her fiancé until 2023 and went door-to-door stumping for her during her 2022 reelection campaign.

The AP wasn't able to independently verify Mace's claims. Speaking to AP, Bryant said, "I categorically deny these allegations. I take this matter seriously and will cooperate fully with any necessary legal processes to clear my name.'

Mace accused South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson of slow-walking any investigation of Bryant and the other men after she brought the photos and video to state authorities.Did South Carolina's attorney geeral have any of these predators indicted after being provided clear cut-and-dry evidence including video, photos and witnesses??Mace asked, noting that her office had stood up a tip line for anyone with information on the allegations. In a statement after Mace's speech, Wilson's office called her comments regarding the prosecutor's conduct categorically false and said the office has not received any reports or requests for assistance from any law enforcement or prosecution agencies regarding these matters.

#### Eggs Worth Rs 33,000 Stolen From US Cafe Amid Soaring Prices, Probe On

World Over 500 eggs worth Rs 33,000 have been stolen from a cafe in the US amid soaring prices. The theft occurred at Seattle's Luna Park Cafe last Wednesday and the police said the robbers stole approximately \$780 (Rs 67,749) worth of food, including blueberries, bacon, ground beef, and "liquid

David Park, the general manager of the eatery, said that they mostly serve egg-based dishes and were already struggling to source them. The theft has made things even more difficult, putting a serious strain on the business."We couldn't order any eggs, so we had to drive around to different markets to find them. But even if you go to Costco or some grocery stores, it's hard to get eggs, so it's been very difficult," Park said, as per The NY Post. He said that the thieves didn't steal alcohol, which is more expensive than eggs, but specifically stole eggs, meat, and egg-related products due to the price surge.

Park said that when he received news of the robbery, he rushed to the cafe immediately and saw the suspects taking food. When he tried to catch them, they fled the scene. The Seattle Police Department is investigating the case and has not yet identified or caught the suspects. The robbery comes at a time when the US is facing soaring egg prices. Last week, around 1 lakh eggs worth Rs 34,84,329 were stolen from an organic farm in south-central Pennsylvania's Franklin County. 'Egg prices are going up because of the avian flu, which

has killed nearly 136 million birds since 2022. The flu is driving people to buy more eggs than they usually do because they're anticipating higher prices and reduced grocery store supply," Emory University Associate Marketing Professor Saloni Vastan said.

#### Indian Nelore Breed Cow Breaks World Record, Sells For Rs 40 Crore

World An Indian-origin cow, sold for Rs 40 crore at an auction in Minas Gerais, Brazil, has set the Guinness World Record for being the most expensive cattle. Viatina-19 reportedly weighs around 1,101 kg, twice the average weight of other cows of the same Nelore breed. The 53-month-old stands out for her gorgeous white fur, loose skin, and a noticeable hump on her shoulders.In addition to setting a world record, Viatina-19 won Miss South America at the "Champion of the World" competition in Fort Worth, Texas. Ît's a Miss Universe-style cattle contest pitting bulls and cows from various nations against one another. Her exceptional muscle structure and rare genetic lineage contributed to her victory.

The Nelore breed is well known for its ability to adapt to tropical climates and disease resistance. Due to this. Viatina-19's embryos are in high demand globally for

breeding programs. Lorrany Martins, a veterinarian, said that Viatina-19 was the closest to perfection attained so far. "She's a complete cow and has all the characteristics that proprietors are looking for," Martins added. According to Oklahoma State University data, Brazil is now the world's largest breeder of Nelore cattle, and the breed has been exported to Argentina, Paraguay, Venezuela, Central America, Mexico, the United States, and numerous other nations.

At least 80 per cent of cows in Brazil are Zebu cattle, a subspecies that originated in India and is distinguished by its hump and dewlap.

## US judges challenge Trump cuts as legal battles mount

WASHINGTON. The Trump administration was on a collision course with the US courts Monday, with federal judges questioning the legality of the White House's cost-cutting onslaught of government and Vice President J D Vance warning the judiciary to back off. In his first three weeks in office, President Donald Trump has issued a flurry of executive orders aimed at slashing federal spending, appointing SpaceX and Tesla CEO Elon Musk to lead efforts that critics widely denounce as unconstitutional. Trump's sweeping plans, which have effectively shuttered some federal agencies and sent staff home, have sparked legal battles across the country. Multiple lawsuits seek to halt what opponents characterize as an illegal power grab.Musk's team has moved aggressively through federal agencies, freezing aid programs and pushing workforce reductions through controversial buyout offers and termination threats. Democrats, unions and activists. after initially struggling to respond, are now pursuing legal action and their numerous cases challenging Trump's plans have drawn sharp criticism from the White House.In a social media post Sunday,

Vance argued that judges lack authority to "control the executive's legitimate power," comparing judicial intervention to a judge dictating military strategy to a general.

Judicial tyranny is grossly improper!" Musk said, echoing the White House pushback.

Their comments followed a judge's emergency order early Saturday blocking Musk's government reform team from accessing millions of Americans' personal and financial data stored at the Treasury

Department.Democratic attorneys general from 19 states filed that case Friday against the Republican president, the Treasury Department and the man who leads it, Scott Bessent.Separately, a federal judge in Rhode Island on Monday said the Trump administration had violated a previous order lifting a sweeping federal funding freeze."The broad categorical and sweeping freeze of federal funds is, as the Court found, likely unconstitutional and has caused and continues to cause irreparable harm to a vast portion of this country," the order stated. It was the first



time since Trump took office and unfurled his "shock and awe" reform campaign that a federal judge accused his administration of defying a court order.

Unprecedented

In Boston, another federal judge ruled Monday that the government must extend the deadline for a controversial federal worker buyout offer that legal experts consider vague and potentially illegal. The plan, announced January 28 in an email to federal employees titled "Fork in the road" -- echoing Musk's 2022 message to Twitter employees when he acquired and renamed the platform X -- offered workers eight

months' pay in exchange for resigning, or risk future termination. While the US Office of Personnel Management, now run by Musk associates, extended the original Thursday deadline to Monday at 11:59 pm (Tuesday at 0459 GMT), Judge George O'Toole ordered a further delay pending his decision.Civil service unions had filed for a preliminary injunction to pause the offer until courts could resolve the matter.

This is an unprecedented action taken on an unprecedented timeline that is causing irreparable harm," attorney Elena Goldstein told the federal judge, according to WHDH-TV news.US media reported that at least 65,000 federal workers had accepted the so-called deferred resignation program as of last week."If people don't show up to work, we have a right to fire them," Trump told journalists at the White House Monday, emphasizing his belief that federal employees who were allowed to work from home after the pandemic will not heed his order to return to the office. Despite the legal challenges

## Six US Congressmen write to new Attorney General against Adani's indictment in bribery case

WASHINGTON. As many as six US Congressmen have written to the newly appointed Attorney General of the United States against "questionable" decisions made by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) such as the indictment against the Adani Group in an alleged bribery scam, which "jeopardises the relationship with close ally India."

Lance Gooden, Pat Fallon, Mike Haridopolos, Brandon Gill, William R Timmmons and Brian Babin on February 10 wrote to Pamela Bedi, Attorney General of the US drawing "attention to some questionable decisions made by the DOJ under the Bidon administration "The killionisms". Biden administration."The billionaire industrialist has been charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay over USD 250 million (about Rs 2,100 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts. This was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project, the prosecutors have alleged.

US law allows pursuing foreign

corruption allegations if they involve certain links to American investors or markets. The Adani group, however, has denied the charges."Some of these



decisions involved selectively pursuing and abandoning cases, often acting against America's interests at home and abroad, jeopardizing relationships with close allies like India," the Congressmen said in the joint letter. India, they said, has been an important ally of the United States for decades. This relationship has flourished beyond politics, trade, and economics by evolving into a continuous socio-cultural exchange between the world's two largest democracies."This historical

partnership and continuous dialogue between friends, however, was put at risk due to some unwise decisions by the Biden administration," they said.
'One such decision involves a

questionable pursuit of a case against the Adani group, an Indian company whose executives are situated in India. " This case rests on the allegation that preparations were made by members of this company in India to bribe Indian officials, also exclusively located in India," they wrote."Instead of deferring the case to the appropriate Indian authorities, the Biden DOJ decided to push forward and indict the company's executives without any real injury to US interests being present," the letter read.

The Congressmen said there was no compelling reason to pursue a case in a manner that could complicate relations with an ally like India unless some external factors were at play."This misguided crusade came at the risk of harming our relationship with a strategic geopolitical partner like India immediately preceding President Trump's return to the Oval Office.

#### Mark Zuckerberg Discusses Legal Challenges In Pakistan Over Blasphemous **Content Lawsuit**

World Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Meta, recently discussed a legal battle in Pakistan, where he was sued over content deemed blasphemous on Facebook, highlighting the challenges posed by differing legal frameworks around the world.

In an interview with Joe Rogan, Zuckerberg explained how such laws, which conflict with free expression values upheld by American tech companies, add pressure on global platforms to regulate content more strictly."There are laws in different countries that we disagree with. For example, there was a point at which someone was trying to get me sentenced to death in Pakistan because someone on Facebook had a picture where they had a drawing of Prophet Mohammed, and someone said, 'That's blasphemy in our culture.' They sued me and opened this criminal proceeding. I don't know exactly where it went because I'm just not planning to go to Pakistan, so I was not that worried about it," Zuckerberg said during an interview with



## Labour unions sue to block DOGE access to sensitive information at US agencies

unions filed a lawsuit Monday asking a federal court to stop Elon Musk's team from accessing private data at the Education Department, the Treasury Department and the Office of Personnel Management. The suit, led by the American Federation of Teachers, alleges the Trump administration violated federal privacy laws when it gave Musk's Department of Government Efficiency access to systems with personal information on tens of millions of Americans without their consent. It was filed in federal court in Maryland.It's the latest in a flurry of legal challenges to Musk's growing influence over federal agencies he has promised to slash or dismantle. A federal judge in New York blocked Musk's team from a Treasury Department system on Saturday after 19 Democratic attorneys general sued over privacy concerns. Also Monday, DOGE cut about \$900 million in Education Department contracts after concluding they were a waste of

spokesperson said. The cuts spanned 90 contracts at the Institute of Education Sciences, a research branch of the federal agency. The department did not immediately release additional details. The cuts will not affect core operations at IES, including the NAEP exam, known as the nation's report card, and the College Scorecard, which provides data about the cost and outcomes of U.S. universities, the

department said. The AFT suit warns of safety risks to personal data that has been shared with Musk's team, including an Education Department system housing information on more than 40 million Americans with federal student loans. The database includes Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, home addresses and more."The Department is effectively one of America's biggest banks — if there was a breach of this magnitude in the private sector, it would rightly be a national scandal," said Randi Weingarten,

administration of handing over sensitive data for reasons beyond its intended use, allegedly violating the Privacy Act. Instead of carrying out the functions of the federal student loan program, the lawsuit says DOGE has been accessing loan data "for purposes of destroying" the Education Department.President Donald Trump has vowed to close the Education Department and turn over its authority to states and schools. Musk on his social media site X said Friday that the department "doesn't exist," responding to Democrats in Congress who attempted to visit the agency's headquarters but were turned away by security. The suit asks a federal court to stop Musk's team from accessing that data along with Treasury systems and an OPM database with sensitive information on all 2.3 million federal employees. It also seeks the destruction of any records that were already

acclaimed podcaster Joe Rogan. He acknowledged that the situation was unsettling, particularly in terms of personal safety. "But it was a little bit disconcerting - I was like, alright, these guys are like - it's not great (if you're) flying over that region, you don't want your plane to go down above Pakistan, if that thing goes through. That one was sort of avoidable.

More broadly, Zuckerberg highlighted the increasing pressure on tech companies from governments that seek stricter content regulation. "The point is, there are places around the world that just have different values that go against our free expression values and want us to crack down and ban way more stuff than I think a lot of people would believe would be the right thing to do. To have those governments be able to exert the power of saying they're going to throw you in prison - that's a lot of force. I think this is one of the things that the US government is probably going to need to help defend the American tech companies for abroad."Earlier, on January 7, Zuckerberg announced Meta's decision to replace its fact-checking systems on Facebook and Instagram with a "community notes" model, similar to the approach taken by Elon Musk's X. He justified the change by stating that Meta's fact-checking had resulted in "too many mistakes and too much censorship" and was "too politically biased.

## Trump will host Jordan's King Abdullah II as he escalates pressure on his Gaza resettlement plan

WASHINGTON. President Donald Trump will host Jordan's King Abdullah II at the White House on Tuesday as he escalates pressure on the Arab nation to take in refugees from Gaza — perhaps permanently — as part of his audacious plan to remake the Middle East. The visit is happening at a perilous moment for the ongoing ceasefire in Gaza as Hamas, accusing Israel of violating the truce, has said it is pausing future releases of hostages and as Trump has called for Israel to resume fighting if all those remaining in captivity are not freed by this weekend. Trump has proposed the US take control of Gaza and turn it into "the Riviera of the Middle East," with Palestinians in the war-torn territory pushed into neighboring nations with no right of return.He suggested on Monday that, if necessary, he would withhold U.S. funding from Jordan and Egypt, longtime U.S. allies and among the top recipients of its foreign aid, as a means of persuading them to accept additional Palestinians from

Gaza."Yeah, maybe. Sure, why not?" Trump told reporters. "If they don't, I would conceivably withhold aid, yes."

Jordan is home to more than 2 million Palestinians and, along with other Arab states, has flatly rejected Trump's plan to relocate civilians from Gaza.

Jordan's foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, said last week that his country's opposition to Trump's idea was "firm and unwavering."In addition to concerns about jeopardizing the long-held goals of a twostate solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, Egypt and Jordan have privately raised security concerns about welcoming large numbers of additional refugees into their countries even temporarily.

When asked how he'd persuade Abdullah to take in Palestinians, Trump told reporters, "I do think he'll take, and I think other countries will take also. They have good hearts."The king is also meeting with top Trump administration officials during his visit, including Secretary of State Marco



Rubio, national security adviser Mike Waltz, Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff But asked in an interview with Fox News and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. He is the third foreign leader to hold an in-person meeting with Tump since his Jan. 20 inauguration.Trump announced his ideas

and taking ownership of the territory for the U.S. during a press conference last week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.Trump initially didn't rule out deploying U.S. troops to help secure Gaza but at the same time insisted no U.S. funds would go to pay for the reconstruction of the territory, raising fundamental questions about the nature of his plan. After Trump's initial comments. Rubio and White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt insisted that Trump only wanted Palestinians relocated from Gaza "temporarily" and sought an "interim" period to allow for debris removal, the disposal of unexploded ordnance and reconstruction.

Bret Baier that aired Monday if Palestinians in Gaza would have a right to return to the territory under his plan, he replied, "No, they wouldn't."

## **UK Government Unleashes Trump-Style Crackdown on Illegal Migrants, Targets Indian Restaurants**

RNS: The UK government has initiated a major enforcement operation aimed at cracking down on businesses employing illegal migrants, including Indian restaurants, nail bars, convenience stores, and car washes. The move comes just days after the US government, led by former President Donald Trump, launched a similar crackdown on illegal immigration.

A video released by the UK Home Department showed illegal immigrants being escorted off a bus and onto a plane, ready for deportation. The department shared the footage along with a statement on social media, highlighting the success of its "Plan for Change," which has resulted in the removal of nearly 19,000 people from the UK since July 2024. The removals include failed asylum seekers, foreign criminals, and other immigration offenders.

The Home Office emphasized the importance of restoring



public confidence in the UK's immigration system. In the statement, the department revealed that between July 5, 2024, and January 31, 2025, immigration enforcement actions saw a significant increase: a 24% rise in forced returns, a 21% increase in the removal of foreign national offenders, and a 38% surge in illegal working raids compared to the same period in the previous year.

These figures mark the highest return rate seen in the UK since 2018, with the govern-

ment carrying out its four largest deportation flights in history, collectively transporting more than 850 individuals. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper

commented on the operation, stating, "To rebuild public confidence in the immigration system, we need to show that the rules are respected and enforced. That's why we've significantly increased resources for immigration enforcement and returns, ensuring those who have no right to be in the UK are swiftly removed, espe-

cially those who have commit-

ted crimes."

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, the US government has also ramped up its efforts to tackle illegal immigration. Last week, a US military plane carrying 104 illegal Indian immigrants was flown from San Antonio, Texas to Amritsar, India. This deportation was part of the Trump administration's extensive crackdown on illegal immigration, which began shortly after his inauguration on January 20, 2025.

"No Children, Single-Entry Visa for Pilgrims" Saudi Arabia Introduces New Hajj Rules



RNS: Saudi Arabia has introduced significant changes for this year's Hajj pilgrimage, including a ban on children accompanying pilgrims. The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah stated that the large crowds during Hajj pose risks to children's safety, leading to the decision. Additionally, priority will be given to first-time Hajj travelers.

Hajj registration has officially opened for Saudi citizens through the Nusuk app and the online portal. Pilgrims will need to verify their details and apply for exemptions. The app also offers various Hajj packages, with payment options available via e-wallets.

For local residents, a new

payment plan has been introduced, allowing Hajj package payments in three installments. The first installment, 20% of the total amount, must be paid within 72 hours of booking, with the remaining 40% due in two subsequent installments. Booking will only be confirmed after full payment.

In addition to these measures, Saudi Arabia has altered visa rules for pilgrims. Travelers from 14 countries, including India, will now receive a single-entry visa to prevent unauthorized Hajj travel. This new rule aims to control overcrowding and ensure better management of the pilgrimage.

#### IIT-ISM Alumnus Ajit Bardhan Appointed WB Vigilance Commissioner



**Dhanbad:** IIT-ISM is proud to announce that its esteemed alumnus, Ajit Ranjan Bardhan, has been appointed as the new Vigilance Commissioner of West Bengal. A graduate in Applied Geology (1986) and M.Tech in Mineral Exploration (1987), Bardhan is a distinguished 1989 batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

His appointment comes through a recent notification by the West Bengal Personnel & Administrative Reforms (P&AR) Department, and his tenure will last five years.

Bardhan's illustrious career spans several key positions, including District Magistrate of Malda and Principal Secretary for various departments, such as Public Health Engineering, Tourism, and Rural Development.

He retired as Additional Chief Secretary in May 2023, after a distinguished career in governance and administration.

A native of Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, Bardhan is also an avid sportsman, excelling in tennis and golf. IIT (ISM) congratulates Bardhan on his new role and wishes him continued success in his endeavors as the West Bengal State Vigilance Commissioner.

## DPS Bokaro Achieves Outstanding Results in JEE (Main) Exam - Session 1



**Bokaro:** DPS Bokaro has recorded remarkable success in the JEE (Main) 2025 January session, with over 50 students qualifying for the prestigious exam. Aarush Banerjee led the pack with an impressive 99.76 percentile. Other top achievers include Prince Kumar Pandey (99.65), Ujjwal Singh (99.20), and Apoorv Jha (98.99), along with several others securing high percentiles.

Dr. A.S. Gangwar, Principal of DPS Bokaro and City Coordinator for the National Testing Agency (NTA), expressed pride in the students' achievements and wished them continued success in the upcoming April session.

#### Chinmaya Vidyalaya Shines in JEE Mains 2024-25 Phase 1 Result



**Bokaro:** Chinmaya Vidyalaya students have achieved remarkable success in the first phase of JEE Mains 2024-25. Atin Gaurav topped the school with an impressive 99.35 percentile, followed by Ashwin (99.33) and Rajneesh (98.99) in second and third place, respectively. Over 42 students have secured more than 90 percentile, with more

Principal Suraj Sharma congratulated the students, crediting their success to the guidance of senior teachers and the students' hard work. He expressed hope for even better results in the second phase and IIT Advanced. The school's leadership, including Param Pujya Swamini Sanyuktananda Saraswati and Vice-Principal Narmendra Kumar, also extended their congratulations to the students and teachers, wishing them a bright future ahead.

#### Mithila Academy Student Piyush Jha Scores 99.77 Percentile in JEE Main

**Bokaro:** Piyush Jha, a student of Mithila Academy Public School, has achieved an impressive 99.77 percentile in the JEE Main exam, bringing pride to his family and school. His parents, Bina and Sanjeev Jha, credited the success to the school's management and teachers.

Two other students, Sujal Raj (99.38 percentile) and Harshit Verma (98.53 percentile), also excelled in the exam. School Chairman Hari Mohan Jha congratulated the students for their hard work, while Secretary Pramod Kumar Jha thanked the parents and teachers for their support. Principal Ashok Kumar Pathak celebrated the success, noting the entire school community was filled with joy.

#### IIT-ISM Dhanbad Marks Safer Internet Day 2025 with Cybersecurity Awareness Workshop



**Dhanbad:** IIT-ISM Dhanbad observed Safer Internet Day 2025 with a focused initiative to raise awareness about cybersecurity practices. Celebrated globally on the second Tuesday of February, the day encourages safe and responsible internet use, particularly among children, women, and youth. This year's theme was "Together for a Better Internet."

The Computer Science & Engineering Department, in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Patna, organized a two-hour workshop titled "Essential Cybersecurity Practices: Safe Cyber Hygiene and Incident Reporting." The workshop aimed at educating students, educators, and citizens on cybersecurity best practices and the importance of reporting cyber incidents.

The event also featured an expert online talk by Dr. Venkata Sai Charan Putrevu, a Postdoctoral Scholar at New York University. Dr. Putrevu, an expert in cybersecurity and malware analysis, shared insights into contemporary challenges in the field. He is known for his work on Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs) and crypto ransomware detection.

This initiative was part of a nationwide awareness campaign under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's (MeitY) Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project. IIT-ISM Dhanbad's successful event underscores its commitment to promoting cybersecurity education and creating a safer digital environment.

## Don't delete data: SC tells EC on EVM petition

RNS: The Supreme Court Tuesday directed the Election Commission not to delete data from Electronic Voting Machines in response to a petition that sought data to be retained in the machines even after the counting of votes is over.

A bench led by Chief Justice Sanjeev Khanna told the Election Commission to not delete any data from EVM nor reload any data for now.

The Election Commission has been asked to provide information to the court about the process of burning EVM memory and microcontroller after the elections.

"This is not adversarial," said the Chief Justice. "If the losing candidate wants clarification, the engineer can give clarification that there has been no tampering," he added.

The top court was told that engineers of BEL (Bharat Elec-

tronics Limited) had loaded dummy symbols and data in the EVMs and the data of the original machine was cleared.

## TMC enough to defeat BJP; No tie-up with Congress in Bengal

\*Mamata Asserts TMC Will Go Solo in 2026 Bengal Elections\*

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has confirmed that the Trinamool Congress (TMC) will contest the 2026 assembly elections independently, ruling out any alliance with the Congress party, despite being part of the opposition INDIA bloc. The TMC leader made this statement on Monday during a meeting with her party MLAs ahead of the state's budget session.

Mamata, who has served as the Chief Minister for three terms, emphasized that while the opposition must unite at the national level to counter the BJP, her party will not form any ties with Congress in Bengal. She pointed out that the Congress lacks a significant presence in the state and expressed confidence that TMC is strong enough to win on its own.

She further criticized the Congress for its role in the electoral losses of opposition parties in Haryana and Delhi, stating, "The Congress did not help the AAP in Delhi. In Haryana, the



So, the BJP won in both states. Everyone should be together. But the Congress has nothing in Bengal. I will fight alone. We alone are enough."

This declaration comes after the

This declaration comes after the BJP's victory in Delhi, where it unseated the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the February 5 elections. With its sights now set on West Bengal, the BJP, which has never won in the

state, aims to replicate its success in the 2026 elections after suffering a significant defeat to TMC in 2021.

However, Mamata's confidence was met with skepticism by the opposition. BJP Leader of Opposition, Suvendu Adhikari, a former close aide of Mamata Banerjee, dismissed her claims, saying, "Her dreams don't always come true... We all have seen what happened to AAP in Delhi and Naveen Patnaik in Odisha. We will defeat TMC too in 2026."

The BJP had previously made significant inroads in West Bengal in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections but was halted in the 2021 assembly elections and the 2024 parliamentary polls. Despite the BJP's aggressive campaigning in 2024, it managed only 12 seats in Bengal, far short of its ambitions to win over 200 seats in the state.

#### CM Nitish Kumar Launches Development Projects Worth Rs 211.96 Cr. in Gaya

#### by Rahul Kumar

Gaya: Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated and laid the foundation for 202 development schemes worth Rs 211.96 crore in Gaya on Monday, as part of the Pragati Yatra initiative. The schemes include 142 projects valued at Rs 138.06 crore and the foundation stone for 60 schemes worth Rs 73.89 crore. During his visit, CM Kumar inspected key projects in Nawada district,

including the proposed



high-level RCC bridge on the Sakri River and a new degree college site in Karigaon. He also visited departmental stalls and interacted with officials from various sectors, including Industries, Health, Rural Develop-

ment, and Agriculture.
The Chief Minister distributed benefits to several beneficiaries, including symbolic cheques for Rs 2.56 crore to 128 beneficiaries under the Chief Minister Udyami Yojana and Rs 170

crore to 13,112 self-help groups. He also presented symbolic cheques for Rs 18.75 lakh to those under the protected agriculture scheme.

Kumar took the opportunity to highlight the success of self-help groups like Jeevika, noting how women's economic conditions and confidence have improved through participation. He launched the Nutan Nawada model, designed to bring various institutions together in one location.





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## RANCHI I 12 February 2025

# Count yours in Delhi: Bhagwant Mann jabs Congress on 'Punjab MLAs exodus' claim

Bhagwant Mann's remarks came after attending a meeting called by Arvind Kejriwal just days after his Aam Aadmi Party faced a crushing defeat in the Delhi Assembly elections, with the BJP securing a thumping victory by winning 48 seats.

New Delhi.Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday took a jab at the Congress and dismissed party leader Partap Singh Bajwa's claim that some 30 Aam Aadmi Party

leaders in the state were in contact with him, hinting at a possible exodus."Bajwa has been making the same claim for the past three years, and he can keep claiming it. He keeps saying that 30-40 MLAs were switching to Congress... I would ask Pratap Singh Bajwa to count how many MLAs they have in Delhi," he quipped.

The Chief Minister's remarks

came after a meeting with AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal today, which took place just days after AAP's crushing defeat in the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections. The meeting at the Kapurthala House was attended by

all the 91 Punjab AAP MLAs, as well as top party leaders, including Manish Sisodia, the former Delhi Minister, who lost his Jangpura Assembly seat to the BJP's Tarvinder



Singh Marwah. After the meeting, Mann told reporters that Kejriwal and Sisodia extended their gratitude and thanked the Punjab's AAP unit for its contributions towards the Delhi elections."The AAP government in Punjab is working

towards building infrastructure, and reducing the burden of tolls in the state. We have to fasten our work. The work undertaken by AAP in Delhi was never done in the past 75

years. Victory and defeat are part of the game," he said."We will use Delhi's experience in Punjab. We will work together. Our party is known for its work. During the meeting today, it was decided that in the coming two years, we will make Punjab a model that the whole nation will look up to. Punjab has always been forefront in all the fights," he

Just a day before the Delhi election results were declared on February 9, Bajwa had also claimed that the Punjab Chief Minister could switch to the BJP as he was in contact with the Union Home Ministry." Whenever this Maharashtra plane lands in Chandigarh, the first passenger who will become Eknath Shinde would be Bhagwant Mann," the Congress leader said in an exclusive interview with India Today News Director Rahul Kanwal, while also suggesting that there was a possibility of Kejriwal contesting from Ludhiana, which is currently vacant, and joining the Punjab government. After the meeting, Punjab Minister Harpal Singh Cheema confirmed that there was "no question of a leadership change" in the wake of AAP's crushing defeat in the Delhi elections."The party is united. This is only a ploy by the Opposition camp to instil panic. The next Punjab Cabinet meeting is on Thursday," he added.Also speaking to reporters about today's meeting, AAP MP Malvinder Kang told reporters that "meetings are very normal for the functioning of a party".

## BJP using riots, religion to mask defeat: Tamil Nadu's **Deputy Chief Minister**

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin accused the BJP of using religion and riots to distract from political losses. He criticised its influence on higher education, warning of ideological control over universities through central appointments.

Chennai. Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of using religion, language, and riots to divert attention from its political losses."They are using riots, religion and language to hide their defeat," Stalin said at a public event. He criticised the BJP's alleged efforts to influence education policies in Tamil Nadu, claiming that the party is trying to reshape the state's higher education system to serve its political agenda.

Sanghis are wishing to use religious pride for political gain in Tamil Nadu," he said. "The fascist BJP is scheming to destroy Tamil Nadu's higher education," he added.

Stalin pointed to proposed changes in the University Grants Commission's regulations, suggesting they are designed to limit the state's control over its universities. He argued that the state government, which funds universities, pays staff salaries, and



develops infrastructure, should have the authority to govern them. "To retrieve our education rights, it needs to be brought under the State List. It is the state government which creates universities, pays salaries to the staff, and constructs infrastructure, but the Union government will appoint the vice-chancellors," he said.

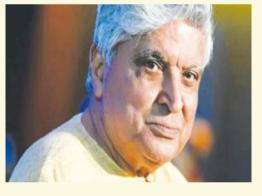
He warned that if the BJP gains control over university leadership, it could impose ideological conditions on students. "If that happens, our children will have to study syllabus given by the Union government," he said. "If Sanghis become vice-chancellors, they might lay conditions that our children should come to class only after drinking

### Amid Ranveer Allahbadia Row, Javed Akhtar On 'Slang In Comedy'

During an interaction, comic Biswa Kalyan Rath asked Javed Akhtar about his views on stand-up comedians using slang.

New Delhi. Amid the backlash over podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia's crass remarks at a roast show, a video of poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar sharing his perspective on whether slang is acceptable in comedy has gone viral. Mr Akhtar, known as much for his wit as for his poetry, sat down for a chat with comics Sapan Verma, Biswa Kalyan Rath and Shreeja Charturvedi last year in an episode of Chill Sesh.During the interaction, Mr Rath asked him about his views on stand-up comedians using slang. "When we do comedy, we use slang and people laugh. Gradually, it becomes a habit. We don't feel bad about it even though others may. So what is your perspective? Is slang acceptable in the

context of comedy?" Mr Rath asked.In response, Mr Akhtar started with his signature storytelling. "I will tell you something. Odisha, Bihar and M e x i c o anywhere in the world where there is poverty, people eat lots of chilli



because the food is bland. So just to get some taste, they eat chilli. Gaali is the chilli of language. If you can speak good language and if you are witty enough, you don't need this chilli. If the conversation is bland,

you will put some gaalis in it," he said, drawing a round of applause. Comic Sapan Verma said Mr Akhtar had poetically insulted stand-up comedians. "We are feeling bad, but also feeling good."Ms Chaturvedi asked if he felt the same about songs with double-meaning lyrics. "Is it not a release for some people to talk about these things or is it just bad?"

Mr Akhtar replied, "What kind of people they must be? they need a psychiatrist, not a song. Who gets relief if they listen to a vulgar song? The idea is frightening."Allahbadia, also known as the BeerBiceps Guy, recently appeared in an episode of India's Got Latent hosted by Raina. A short clip from the show, which is now viral, shows Allahbadia asking a contestant, "Would you rather watch your parents have sex every day for the rest of your life or join in once and stop it forever?"

## Kerala Cabinet approves draft bill for establishment of private varsities

Thiruvananthapuram. The Kerala cabinet-led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has approved a draft bill to regulate private universities in the state. The government will introduce the bill in the ongoing Assembly session. The bill outlines eligibility criteria for sponsoring agencies, requiring them to have a credible track record in the education sector. Applicants must meet minimum land requirements set by regulatory authorities and deposit a Rs 25 crore corpus fund in the state treasury. Multi-campus universities must establish their headquarters on at least 10 acres of land.

Appointments to key administrative positions, RESERVATION AND SCHOLARSHIPS comply with guidelines set by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the State



government, according to the draft bill.

including the Vice-Chancellor and faculty, must Each course must reserve 40 per cent of seats for students who are permanent residents of Kerala. The existing reservation system will apply across

institutions, according to the bill. Fee concessions and scholarships for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students will be maintained.

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply, an institution must submit a detailed project report with information on land and financial resources, the bill stated. An expert committee will review the application. The committee will include a governmentnominated academician as chairperson, a vice chancellor, the higher education secretary, a nominee from the Kerala State Education

Council, a nominee from the Planning Board, and the district collector. The committee will submit its decision within two months, and the government will inform the applicant of its

## India Aims To Add 500 GW Of Renewable **Energy Capacity By 2030: PM Modi**

Indian Railways will be net zero by 2030 and we aim to achieve 5 MT green hydrogen, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged investors to invest in India's energy sector, saying the country offers many possibilities in view of its renewable energy goals in the next five years. Referring to the target of having 500 GW of renewable energy, 5 million green hydrogen output by 2030 as well as the launch of fresh bidding rounds for oil and gas assets, the prime minister said "there are possibilities of new investments and I hope that you explore all possibilities in India". "There are many possibilities of investment in these sector," PM Modi said addressing the India Energy Week 2025 (IEW'25) virtually."You are not just a part of India energy week, you are an important part

of India's energy ambitions," PM Modi told investors. He further said, "All experts are saying that 21st century is India's century. Bharat is not only driving it's own growth but driving global growth." India's energy ambitions, he said, are



based on five pillars."We have resources which we are harnessing. We are encouraging our brilliant minds to innovate. Thirdly, we have economic strength and politically stability," he said. Also, he said, India has strategic geography which make energy trade easier and more attractive. Besides,

India is committed for global sustainability and this is aiding new possibilities in India's energy sector, the prime minister added. For Viksit Bharat, the next two decades are very crucial he said, adding that in the next five years we will cross many milestones."Our energy goals are aligned with the deadline of 2030," he said. By 2030, we want to add 500 GW of RE capacity, Indian Railways will be net zero by 2030 and we aim to achieve 5 MT green hydrogen, he said. Whatever India has achieved in last ten years shows that these targets will be achieved, he stressed. In last 10 years, India

has become 5th largest economy from 10th largest. In last 10 years, solar generation capacity increased 32 times, he noted. Today India is the third largest solar power generating nation and non-fossil fuel capacity increased three times, he

## Shinde Sena fumes at Chief Minister's Office delaying staff appointments: Source

The delay has been attributed to the new appointment process implemented by the CMO, which involves thorough background checks of officers before assigning them to ministers.



Mumbai. The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena is fuming with discontent as recommendations, including appointments of personal assistants (PAs) and Officers on Special Duty (OSDs), remain stuck in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). This delay has hindered the ministers' ability to perform their administrative duties

efficiently, a source told .Top Shinde Sena ministers, including Uday Samant, Shambhuraj Desai, Sanjay Rathod and Gulabrao Patil, are among those affected, with their proposed PAs and OSDs awaiting approval. Some of these officials have been working in various departments since 2014, but

their appointments are being held up by the CMO. The CMO has entrusted the task of screening candidates, who have applied for appointment in the minister's offices, to IAS Shrikar Pardeshi and Chandrashekhar Vaze, OSD to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Pardeshi, a 2001-batch IAS officer from the Maharashtra cadre, has held various key positions from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to the Maharashtra government. He is currently serving as Secretary to the CMO.

Vaze has worked as an RSS functionary and a BJP office bearer. The delay is attributed to the new appointment process implemented by the CMO, which involves thorough background checks of officers before assigning them to ministers. While expressing dissatisfaction with the development, Uday Samant has alleged that important policy decisions are being made without consulting ministers

He wrote a letter to the Principal Secretary of his own Industry department to keep ministers informed about policy decisions and important work, emphasising that independent decisionmaking by officials is inappropriate. The Shinde Sena ministers plan to raise this issue in the upcoming cabinet meeting.

-Shinde Sena ministers face delays in personal assistant, Officers on **Special Duty appointments** 

Top ministers affected include Uday Samant and Gulabrao Patil

-Chief Minister's Office new process involves thorough background checks

## 025

#### RANCHI I 12 February 2025

## Indignation & integration

One of the loveliest journeys in the world is the flight from New Delhi to Guwahati and, if you are heading to the tea gardens or the Arunachal hills, the flights to Dibrugarh or Itanagar are equally awe-inspiring. For, you fly west to east along the Himalayan ranges, past Mount Everest and the snows of Kanchenjunga. Along either side of the Himalayas, mountains that tectonic plates continue to raise heaven-wards, are two ancient civilisations. The Indian peninsula, which continental drift has embedded in the Asian plate, and the Middle Kingdom of China. Recent tensions across the border echo similar situations in the past. We had been friends. Pandit Nehru had backed mainland China's claim for a seat in the UN Security Council. Then came the flight of the Dalai Lama, in 1959, to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. He was followed by thousands of Tibetans. A government-in-exile was set up.

Perhaps it was this sanctuary, generously given by India, after an uprising in Tibet that riled China. The origins of the conflict that erupted between the neighbours in 1962, in the wake of these events, have long been disputed. Firstly, who ruptured the happy 'Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai' discourse? Secondly, why did India not use its Air Force, which was perhaps much superior to the Chinese air force in those days? Thirdly, when war did begin, why did our Prime Minister allow the evacuation of the Indian Army from the Northeast?It is time to remember another Prime Minister, who in the course of the Second World War, had vowed, "We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the fields, and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills." After the evacuation at Dunkirk in the summer of 1940, Churchill admitted in the British Parliament that "wars are not won by evacuations". In the course of having served in India's far-flung forgotten frontiers in the Northeast, for a period of three-and-a-half decades, I have heard numerous people, among them politicians, officers, students and common citizens, say that the great cause of the sense of alienation of the people of North-east India was Pandit Nehru's statement at the time, after the withdrawal of the Army from the North-east, that "my heart goes out to the people of Assam and the entire region". The people of Assam and the Northeast felt abandoned and at the mercy of the Chinese. The banks were making a bonfire of the paper currency in their vaults. Coins were being dumped into rivers, lakes and water bodies. The business community was decamping. There was a sense of panic and defeat. The Red Army was making its way down the mountain passes through Arunachal. The Chinese army, worried and mindful about ambushes in a territory about which they had little geographical idea, did not come down in trucks, tanks or armoured carriers. They were moving on foot, each company holding aloft at the head of every marching column the pictures of two widely different leaders. One was of Chinese premier Zhou Enlai and the other of

As they came down the defiles of the Arunachal Himalayas into the verdant valley of the Brahmaputra, they kept on asking people, whom they came across, whether they resembled or looked like Nehru or Zhou Enlai. This was psychological warfare. The common people were being told that they resembled Zhou Enlai and the marching soldiers, and were therefore their people. In those days, what was insensitively called a lunatic asylum was located on the outskirts of Tezpur district. The doctors and the paramedics had fled. The inmates came out in a state of bewilderment onto the roadside and saw columns of the Chinese Red Army moving past. In utter confusion, some of them started clapping, believing that they owed their freedom and rescue from the facility to these men walking by

The first administrative casualty of the advent of the Chinese was the District Magistrate of Tezpur, who had made the blunder of flying off to Kolkata to drop his wife and children. At the time of the gravest peril for the nation and the district, the officer was missing and became the first IAS officer to be dismissed in Independent India.

## The sky's forgotten sweepers, invisible cleaners

Vulture conservation efforts lend hope of restoring the balance in nature's intricate web

We ruled the skies once as silent sentinels, gliding effortlessly over forests, hills and human settlements. We, the vultures, were nature's custodians of balance, the earth's invisible cleaners, ensuring that death didn't breed disease. Our wings carried the weight of civilisations' secrets, and our keen eyes bore witness to empires rising and falling. But, by the late 1980s, a shadow fell upon us — a silent, insidious plague that dimmed the skies of our tropical paradise. One by one, we succumbed, not to age or predators, but to an invisible toxin embedded in the flesh we devoured. Humans called it Diclofenac, a painkiller for their beasts of burden, but for us, it was poison. For over a decade, humans remained oblivious to the massacre. By the time the scientists discovered the truth, our numbers had plummeted into oblivion. The populations of three resident Gyps vultures — Whiterumped, Long-billed, and Slender-billed — had declined significantly by 2004, pushing them to the brink of extinction. Amidst the despair came hope, from unlikely allies. The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) emerged as our champions. BNHS, in collaboration with the Forest Department of Haryana, established the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre in Pinjore, while WII took a lead role in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh, and beyond. At Pinjore, nestled near the verdant slopes of the Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary, scientists toiled to bring us back from the brink. Aviaries, incubators and surgical rooms became our lifeline. By February 2023, this haven housed 399 vultures, including 138 Whiterumped vultures, 209 Long-billed vultures, and 52 Slender-billed vultures. Meanwhile, in Kangra, the Himachal Forest Department initiated its own efforts in 2004, protecting nesting and roosting sites in Parol, Salol, Chadevh, Daulatpur and Mastgarh. Their dedication bore fruit. Recent surveys revealed 506 new nests, sheltering some 2,500 eggs. In Kangra's Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, a sanctuary within a sanctuary emerged — a 'vulture restaurant'. Here, de-skinned carcasses were laid out, free from toxins, inviting us to

These became oases of life amid the poisoned lands, symbols of hope not just for us but for humanity's ability to learn and adapt. The WII's research was instrumental in identifying Diclofenac as the primary cause of our mortality. Their advocacy led to a nationwide ban on its veterinary use in 2007-2008. This was a watershed moment, a turning point in the war against extinction. Yet, the skies were far from safe. Vulture-toxic drugs, including the banned Diclofenac, still

Mujib's Dhanmondi residence, chief adviser

Muhammad Yunus' press office termed it a response to

Hasina's 'violent behaviour'. The new rulers seem to

dine safely.



circulated in black markets. Other harmful drugs, like Aceclofenac and Nimesulide, loomed as silent threats. To counter these dangers, humans created 'vulture safe zones' in regions like Majuli Island in Assam, the Terai in Uttar Pradesh, and Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh.Back in Pinjore, hope took flight. In 2023, eight White-rumped vultures — six captive-bred and two wild-caught — were released into the skies. Five survived the cautious reintroduction, and one, in a poetic twist of fate, paired with a wild bird. They nested, and when their fledgling takes wing, it will be born of the wild — a bridge between captivity and freedom.

In August 2024, 10 Long-billed vultures from Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra were released, each equipped with GPS tags. As they chart their paths across the skies, they carry with them humanity's tentative steps toward redemption. For us, the skies remain a gamble, each carcass a potential threat, each flight a testament to survival against odds. Yet we endure — a fragile thread in nature's intricate web, a reminder of the balance that sustains all life. The humans have learned that without us, death lingers and disease festers. Their efforts at Pinjore, Kangra and beyond reflect not just science but a profound humility — a recognition of their role in our near-demise and their duty in our recovery.

At the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre and the vulture sanctuaries of Kangra, humans nurture life from fragile shells and protect roosts in ancient trees. They perfect the art of resurrection. The released birds are not merely vultures — they are symbols of coexistence, reminders that humanity holds the power to undo its

#### Lawless in Dhaka

Bangladesh treading a perilous path



believe that they can create Naya Bangladesh on the bedrock of hatred and vengeance. This disturbing mindset will only push the vulnerable nation deeper into chaos and instability. The government as well as protesters are obviously frustrated that Hasina continues to make her presence felt six months after she fled and took refuge in India. And New Delhi has stood its ground so far, giving the Yunus dispensation no assurance on the demand for her extradition. The fresh spate of violence makes it evident that Hasina will not get a fair trial if at all she is sent back to Bangladesh. Moreover, Dhaka is making things worse for itself by antagonising New Delhi, which has been its all-weather friend right from the days of the 1971 war of liberation. Hasina's long tenure was no doubt marked by autocratic excesses, but that is not reason enough to destroy the nation's heritage. Bangladesh must rein in hate-mongers and law-breakers for its own good; otherwise, the

onerous task of restoring democracy will become an ever-elusive pipe dream.

## Loving the country, from a distance

I am yet to meet someone who was successful overseas, has returned to the homeland and is happy about it

One of the somewhat unusual aspects of my work is that there are periods of intense activity that are followed by a complete lull. In the first, there isn't a moment to scratch one's head and in the second, there is time enough to count the follicles off one's pate. Similarly, there are short bursts of considerable interaction with an individual or a team, and then, more often than not, our paths never cross again. Some of these moments come with television productions, and others are with travellers from various parts of the world. One such was with the British comedian and TV presenter Sanjeev Bhaskar, when he was working on the series, 'India with Sanjeev Bhaskar', that aired in 2007 to mark the 60th anniversary of the Independence of India and Pakistan, and of Partition.

Bhaskar, who was appointed as the Chancellor of the University of Sussex in 2009, is better known for his comedy series, 'The Kumars at No. 42' and 'Goodness Gracious Me'. The latter was considered a gamechanger with its satire and fine parody. Everything good was Indian. All famous people, real or fictitious, were Indian — Superman, Santa Claus, Sherlock Holmes, and even Leonardo da Vinci and the Queen. Seen from Western suburbia, the best place in the world was India.

It is from a distance that we Indians seem to love our country more. Often enough, satire and parody, like Sanjeev Bhaskar's, give us insights and fling truth at our faces. Beyond a couple of people who have done so for reasons that are patriotic, I am yet to meet someone who was successful overseas, has returned to the homeland and is happy about it. Most of the returnees have come for personal reasons. Yes, there are a few that I know of who have tried, but somewhere along the line, have given up and gone back to wherever they came from.

From the United Kingdom, let us shift to the other place of preferred migration for Indians, the United States. At an



estimated 7,25,000, they constitute the second largest group of illegal migrants in that country, and with the new administration, as they are caught, face deportation. On the other hand, legal migrant Indians in the US are thriving. Unlike those that moved to Britain who were often blue-collar workers, the migrants to USA were highly qualified and skilled personnel. In 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act of the US abolished national origin quotas; this had been in place since the 1920s. Now, the doors opened to Indian professionals. They moved in droves and today, with other Asians,

constitute the wealthiest ethnic group in that country. Within my own family, I have more relatives in the US than in India. This, I do not say with pride, but with a measure of regret. They have left, stayed and thrived as legal citizens of another nation, simply because their homeland did not provide the opportunities that became available to them elsewhere. This has been the great dichotomy between what we are educated for, what we are capable of, and where we actually spend our lives. Merit and capability take a backseat, and other factors determine success or failure. Placing a warning sign

saying 'kismet' over the chasm that divides the two, is not good enough. Almost three decades back, my fairly aged parents were going for the first time to spend time with my sister in New York. Applying for visas was not the online process that one has now. On the night before their interview, on a lane behind the US embassy in New Delhi, one witnessed a story of hope, of desire, of trepidation unfold. To secure their place on the morning roll call of interviewees, I was despatched around midnight to stand in line on their behalf. That was a night of great insights. 'Jugaad' had taken over that back lane. I learnt that I could pay someone to 'stand in line' on my behalf. There was a chai-wala moving with his stove and attached kettle. Beyond parody, beyond farce, there was someone with a Polaroid camera taking photographs for those who had not brought them to submit with their applications. As the night shifted towards dawn, the place became packed. Not all who were there were proxies like me, nor were they all there for a visa. Entire families had come along. It was a night that gave me material for a short story in one of my

In the morning, my parents arrived and I sat down in the taxi they had hired, to wait for them. The driver must have been about my age and was from a village near Amritsar. He told me that he wanted to go abroad. He had been rejected for both USA and the UK, and was now prepared to go anywhere. "Anywhere?" "Yes, as long as it was foreign." His qualifications: he had passed the 10th and could drive. "Main pind vich nahin rehna" (I don't want to stay in the village), he said.

When my parents returned, the driver asked my parents if their passports had been visa-stamped.

their passports had beer Yes," replied my father.

"Yes," replied my father.
"What did they ask you?" the boy asked in Punjabi.

"Nothing," was the reply. "The passports were taken by an official and returned with the stamp."

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#### বেঙ্গল সরকার পিছু হটেছে, ঝাড়খগু যানবাহনের প্রবেশ

প্রায় ২৪ ঘন্টা পর, বেঙ্গল সরকার পিছু হটেছে এবং ঝাড়খণ্ড থেকে বেঙ্গলে যাওয়া সমস্ত পণ্যবাহী যানবাহনের প্রবেশ শুরু হয়েছে। গত সন্ধ্যা ৭টার পর বেঙ্গল সরকারের আদেশে ঝাড়খণ্ড–বেঙ্গল মথন সীমান্তে পণ্যবাহী যানবাহনের প্রবেশ নিষিদ্ধ করা হয়েছিল।

এর ফলে রাত থেকে দুপুর পর্যন্ত প্রায় ২০ কিমি দীর্ঘ যানজট সৃষ্টি হয়। চালকদের সমস্যার কথা বিবেচনা করে. MASS বেঙ্গল সরকারকে চাপ দেয় ঝাড়খণ্ড সীমান্ত থেকে বেঙ্গলে প্রবেশ করা সমস্ত যানবাহন বন্ধ করার জন্য। এর ফলে, বেঙ্গল সরকার পিছু হটতে বাধ্য হয় এবং অবশেষে ভারী যানবাহনের প্রবেশ

বেঙ্গল সরকারের এই অনুমতির পর, ট্রাক চালকরা স্বস্তির নিঃশ্বাস ফেলেন। প্রাক্তন নিরসা বিধায়ক অরূপ চ্যাটার্জি ঝাড়খণ্ডের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী হেমন্ত সোরেনের এই উদ্যোগের প্রশংসা করেন। তিনি বলেন, মুখ্যমন্ত্রী হেমন্ত সোরেন এই বিষয়ে ক্রমাগত গুরুত্ব দিয়েছেন। বেঙ্গল সরকারের সাথে ইতিবাচক আলোচনা করার পর বেঙ্গল সরকার নিষেধাজ্ঞা তুলে নেয়। এর পর, সারিতে দাঁড়িয়ে থাকা সমস্ত পণ্যবাহী যানবাহন ধীরে ধীরে বেঙ্গলে প্রবেশ করতে শুরু করেছে। NH-এ দীর্ঘ যানজট এখন সীমিত হচ্ছে এবং যানজটও ভাঙতে শুরু করেছে।

## भोजपुरी कृषि लोक गीत

(कहरवा धुन)

गेहुं आ के दिनवा

- श्याम कुंवर भारती (राजभर)

धनवा कटाइल सईयां गेहुआ के दिनवा। हाली घरे अईहा सईयां दवाई कइसे धनवा।

सास ससुर केवनो जोरओ ना लागता। लहुरा देवरवा हमरो बतियों ना मानता। पडल पडल सडता धान खरीहनवा। हाली घरे अईहा सईयां.....।

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

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

सासु जी के स्वेटर ससुर जी के साल लेअईहा। लइकन के टोपी हमके ले अईहा रजइया तरसे तोहरे खातिर नैना मोर बांका सजनवा। हाली घरे अईहा सईयां दवाई कइसे धनवा।

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## अप्रैल-दिसंबर २०२४ के दौरान १.८८ लाख करोड़ रुपये की जीएसटी चोरी पकड़ी गई

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय जीएसटी अधिकारियों ने अप्रैल-दिसंबर 2024 के दौरान 1.88 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (जीएसटी) चोरी का पता लगाया है। लोकसभा में यह जानकारी दी गई। केंद्रीय वित्त राज्य मंत्री पंकज चौधरी ने बताया कि अप्रैल से दिसंबर 2024 के बीच आईटीसी धोखाधड़ी के 72,393 मामलों सहित केंद्रीय जीएसटी अधिकारियों ने 1.88 लाख करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा की जीएसटी चोरी पकड़ी, जिसमें 132 गिरफ्तारियां हुईं और 20,128 करोड रुपये की वसुली की गई। उन्होंने सदन को बताया कि वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 में सीजीएसटी



जीएसटी चोरी पकड़ी। इस दौरान 31,758 करोड़ रुपये की वसुली की गई और 223 लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया। इसी तरह वित्त वर्ष

अधिकारियों ने 20,582 मामलों में 2022-23 और वित्त वर्ष 2021-22 में सीजीएसटी अधिकारियों ने ऋमश- 1.32 लाख करोड़ रुपये और 73,238 करोड़ रुपये की जीएसटी चोरी पकड़ी। वित्त राज्य मंत्री ने बताया कि फर्जी पंजीकरण का पता लगाने के लिए, केंद्रीय और राज्य जीएसटी अधिकारियों ने 2023 में मई से अगस्त और 2024 में अगस्त से अक्टूबर के दौरान दो विशेष अभियान चलाया। फर्जी पंजीकरण के खिलाफ पहले अभियान में 21,808 गैर-मौज़द जीएसटीआईएन पाए गए और 24,357 करोड़ रुपये की कर चोरी का पता चला, जबकि इस संबंध में आठ लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया। उन्होंने कहा कि दूसरे अभियान में

जीएसटीआईएन पाए गए और 25,346 करोड़ रुपये की कर चोरी का पता चला, जबकि 19 लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया। उल्लेखनीय है कि जीएसटी के तहत मुख्य रूप से चार स्लैब लागू हैं, जो ऋमशः 5 फीसदी, 12 फीसदी, 18 फीसदी और 28 फीसदी है। साथ ही सोने. चांदी, हीरे और आभूषणों पर ऋमशन 3 फीसदी, 1.5 फीसदी और 0.25 फीसदी की तीन विशेष दरें लागू हैं, जो कटे और पॉलिश हीरे और कच्चे हीरे पर लगाया जाता है। इसके अलावा जीएसटी क्षतिपूर्ति उपकर केवल तंबाकू और तंबाकू उत्पादों, पेय और वाहनों आदि पर अलग-अलग लाग है।

## गिरावट के साथ बंद हुआ शेयर बाजार, सेंसेक्स 548 अंक लुढ़का

नई दिल्ली। शेयर बाजार हफ्ते के पहले कारोबारी दिन गिरावट के साथ बंद हुआ। वैश्विक व्यापार को लेकर चिंताओं ने निवेशकों की धारणा को प्रभावित किया, जिसके कारण लगातार शेयर बाजार में गिरावट का सिलसिला जारी रहा। इस तरह सेंसेक्स 5 फरवरी से 1,272 अंक और निफ्टी 357 अंक तक लुढ़क चुका है बॉम्बे स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (बीएसई) का सेंसेक्स 548.39 यानी 0.70 फीसदी की गिरावट के साथ 77,311.80 पर बंद हुआ है। वहीं, नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (एनएसई) का निफ्टी भी 178.35 अंक यानी 0.76 की गिरावट के साथ 23,381.60 पर बंद हुआ। सेंसेक्स के 30 शेयरों में से 24 शेयरों में गिरावट और 6 शेयरों में तेजी रही है, जबकि निफ्टी के 50 में से 40 शेयरों में गिरावट रही। वहीं, बैंक निफ्टी के 12 में से 11 शेयरों में गिरावट रही। कारोबार के अंत में एनर्जी, आईटी और मेटल के शेयरों में ज्यादा गिरावट देखने को मिली है। इसके अलावा टाटा स्टील और पावरग्रिड के शेयर में 3 फीसदी से ज्यादा की गिरावट रही। सेंसेक्स के शेयरों में जोमैटो. टाइटन, बजाज फाइनेंस, महिंद्रा एंड महिंद्रा, एनटीपीसी और टाटा मोटर्स मुख्?य रूप से नुकसान में रहे, जबिक लाभ में रहने वाले शेयरों में कोटक महिंद्रा बैंक, भारती एयरटेल, एचसीएल टेक, टेक महिंद्रा, आईसीआईसीआई बैंक और टाटा कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज शामिल हैं। उल्लेखनीय है कि पिछले हफ्ते आखिरी कारोबारी दिन रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (आरबीआई) के रेपो रेट में 0.25 फीसदी की कटौती के बावजूद शेयर बाजार लाल निशान पर बंद हुआ।

## रिकॉर्ड हाई पर पहुंचा सोना, चांदी ईडी ने स्टील कंपनी मालिक संजय सुरेका में मामूली कमजोरी

नई दिल्ली। घरेलू सर्राफा बाजार में सोना आज रिकॉर्ड हाई पर पहुंच गया है। इस तेजी के कारण 24 कैरेट सोना आज 87 हजार रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर के ऊपर पहुंच गया है, वहीं 22 कैरेट सोना भी 80 हजार रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर के काफी करीब पहुंचा हुआ है। आज की तेजी के कारण देश के ज्यादातर सर्राफा बाजारों में 24 कैरेट सोना 87,070 रुपये से लेकर 87,220 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के दायरे में कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह 22 कैरेट सोना भी 79.810 रुपये से लेकर 79,960 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के बीच बना हुआ है। सोना के विपरीत चांदी के भाव में आज मामूली गिरावट आई है, जिसके कारण दिल्ली सर्राफा बाजार में इसकी कीमत आज 99,400 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के स्तर पर पहुंच गई है। देश की राजधानी दिल्ली में 24

कैरेट सोना आज 87,220 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 79,960 रुपये प्रति 10

ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। वहीं, देश की आर्थिक राजधानी मुंबई में 24 कैरेट सोना 87.070 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 79,810 रुपये पति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा



है। इसी तरह अहमदाबाद में 24 कैरेट सोने की रिटेल कीमत 87,120 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 79,860 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख शहरों के अलावा चेन्नई में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 87,070 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 79,810 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह कोलकाता में भी 24 कैरेट सोना 87,070 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम

और 22 कैरेट सोना 79,810 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। लखनऊ के सर्राफा बाजार में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 87,220 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 79,960 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। वहीं, पटना में 24 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 87,120 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम हो गई है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोना 79,860 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह जयपुर में 24 कैरेट सोना 87,220 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 79,960 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम

देश के अन्य राज्यों की तरह कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना और ओडिशा के सर्राफा बाजार में भी आज सोना महंगा हुआ है। इन तीनों राज्यों की राजधानियों बेंगलुरु, हैदराबाद और भुवनेश्वर में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 87,070 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह इन तीनों शहरों के सर्राफा बाजारों में 22 कैरेट सोना भी 79,810 रुपये प्रति

के स्तर पर बिक रहा है।

# की २१० करोड़ की संपत्ति जब्त की

कोलकाता। बैंक धोखाधड़ी मामले में प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ईडी) ने स्टील कंपनी कॉनकास्ट स्टील एंड पावर लिमिटेड के मालिक संजय सरेका की 210 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की संपत्ति जब्त कर ली है। उन पर छह हजार करोड़ रुपये से अधिक के बैंक घोटाले का आरोप है। ईडी ने उनकी संपत्तियों के अलावा विदेशी कारें और करीब 4.5 करोड़ रुपये के सोने-चांदी के आभूषण भी जब्त किए हैं।

ईडी की जांच में सामने आया कि संजय सुरेका ने 11 सरकारी बैंकों और पांच वित्तीय संस्थानों से हजारों करोड़ रुपये का कर्ज लिया और उसे चुकता नहीं किया। इस मामले में सीबीआई ने पहले ही उनके खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज की थी. जिसके आधार पर ईंडी ने मनी लॉन्डिंग की जांच शुरू की।

सोमवार देर रात जारी बयान में ईडी का कहना है कि संजय सुरेका ने अपने कर्मचारियों और परिचितों के नाम पर कई फर्जी कंपनियां बनाई

को इधर-उधर करने में किया गया। इतना ही नहीं, उनकी कंपनी ने शेयर बाजार में अपनी कीमत को कृत्रिम रूप से बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर पेश किया था।

दौरान उनके घर से दो करोड़ रुपये नकद और 4.5 करोड़ रुपये के आभूषण बरामद किए गए थे। साथ



स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया ने 2022 में पहली बार उनके खिलाफ 3,280 करोड़ रुपये की धोखाधड़ी का मामला दर्ज कराया था, जो बाद में बढ़कर करीब छह हजार करोड़ रुपये तक पहंच गया।

दिसंबर 2024 में ईडी ने सुरेका के दक्षिण कोलकाता स्थित बालीगंज वाले घर पर छापा मारा था। उस की गई थीं। छापेमारी के बाद ईडी ने उन्हें गिरफ्तार कर लिया था।

ईडी ने अब मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग रोकथाम अधिनियम (पीएमएलए) के तहत उनकी संपत्तियां जब्त कर ली हैं। जांच एजेंसी आगे भी इस मामले में संबंधित कंपनियों और व्यक्तियों पर कार्रवाई जारी रख

## भारत 40 देशों से कच्चा तेल आयात कर रहा है, अर्जेटीना नया आपूर्तिकर्ता : हरदीप पुरी

नर्ड दिल्ली।केंद्रीय पेटोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री हरदीप पुरी ने कहा कि भारत अपनी मांग को पूरा करने के लिए सभी संभावित स्रोतों से कच्चे तेल का आयात करने के लिए तैयार है। उन?होंने कहा कि भारत ने अपने कच्चे तेल के आयात को 27 से बढ़ाकर 40 देशों में कर

केंद्रीय मंत्री पेट्रोलियम मंत्री ने 🛐 ऊजा सप्ताह (आईईडब्ल्यू'25) से एक दिन पहले यहां मीडिया को संबोधित करते हुए यह जानकारी दी। उन्होंने बताया कि भारत ने अपने कच्चे तेल का आयात 27 से बढाकर 40 देशों में कर दिया है। उन्होंने कहा, 27 आपूर्तिकर्ताओं में से हमारे पास अब 40 आपूर्तिकर्ता हैं। हमने एक और

उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिका, रूस,

स्रोतों से आयात के लिए तैयार हैं। पेटोलियम मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत अपनी कच्चे तेल की 80 फीसदी से सऊदी अरब, यूएई और इराक भारत



को कच्चे तेल के बड़े आपूर्तिकर्ता हैं। उन्होंने कहा, यह बहुत ही गतिशील स्थिति है, लेकिन हम सभी उत्पादन बढाने और आयात को कम

अधिक आवश्यकता के लिए आयात पर निर्भर है। घरेलू कच्चे तेल का

करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा कई कदम उठाए गए हैं। परी ने 11 से 14 फरवरी, 2025 तक नई दिल?ली द्वारका के यशोभूमि में आयोजित होने वाले भारत ऊर्जा सप्ताह 2025 (आईईडब्ल्यू'25) से पहले वैश्विक ऊर्जा परिदृश्य में भारत के बढ़ते कद

उन्होंने बताया कि ऊर्जा कैलेंडर पर पहला प्रमुख वैश्विक आयोजन और वर्ष का सबसे व्यापक एवं समावशा ऊजा समागम हागा। पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय ने जारी एक बयान में कहा कि 1 लाख वर्ग मीटर से अधिक क्षेत्र में फैला आईईडब्ल्य'25 मंत्रिस्तरीय और सीईओ की भागीदारी, प्रदर्शनी स्थल और सत्रों की संख्या के मामले में दिनया का दूसरा सबसे बडा ऊर्जा कार्यक्रम होगा।

#### वित्त मंत्री ने स्विटजरलैंड की आर्थिक मामलों की सचिव के साथ की बातचीत

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने नई दिल्ली में

मामलों की सचिव हेलेन बडलिगर आर्टिडा से मुलाकात की। इस दौरान सीतारमण और आर्टिडा ने दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग को प्रगाढ़ बनाने के तरीकों पर बातचीत की। वित्त मंत्रालय ने 'एक्स' पोस्ट

पर जारी एक बयान में केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री ने स्विट्जरलैंड की के बीच अवसरों को साझा करना है। आर्थिक मामलों की विदेश मंत्री हेलेन बुडलिगर आर्टिडा के साथ भारत और स्विट्जरलैंड के बीच सहयोग को गहरा करने के तरीकों पर चर्चा की। इसके अलावा उन्होंने आर्थिक सहयोग और आपसी लाभ की संभावनाओं को तलाशने के लिए लिकटेंस्टीन के डोमिनिक हस्लर से

भी मुलाकात की। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इन दोनों बैठकों का उद्देश्य विकास को बढावा देना और इन देशों

स्विट्जरलैंड की आर्थिक

मंत्रालय के मृताबिक इन मुलाकात के दौरान 'उन्होंने निवेश, नवोन्मेष और आर्थिक वृद्धि में रिश्तों को प्रगाढ़ बनाने के अवसर तलाशे। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि उन्होंने आर्थिक सहयोग, निवेश और दोनों देशों के लिए साझा लाभ प्राप्त करने के उपायों पर चर्चा की।

## ईएफटीए से १०० अरब डॉलर से ५०० अरब डॉलर तक निवेश लाने में मदद मिलेगी: गोयल

नर्ड दिल्ली। केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं

उद्योग मंत्री पीयुष गोयल ने कहा कि मुक्त व्यापार समझौते के तहत यरोपीय मुक्त व्यापार संघ (ईएफटीए) की तरफ से 100 अरब डॉलर की एफडीआई प्रतिबद्धता से भारतीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में 400-500 अरब डॉलर के निवेश प्रस्तावों को बढावा देने में मदद मिल सकती है। उन्होंने कहा कि आधिकारिक तौर पर व्यापार और आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौता (टीईपीए) इस साल के अंत तक लागू किया जाएगा।

गोयल ने ईएफटीए के लिए समर्पित डेस्क के उद्घाटन के बाद अपने संबोधन में यह बात कही। इस अवसर पर स्विट्जरलैंड की आर्थिक सचिव हेलेन बुडलिगर आर्टिडा, नॉर्वे नॉर्वल, आइसलैंड के स्थायी सचिव मार्टिन इजॉफसन और लीश्टेंटाइन के



विदेश मंत्री डोमिनिक हस्लर भी मौजूद थे। उन्होंने कहा कि समूह के चारों सदस्य देशों में इस समझौते की

ने एक बयान में कहा कि केंद्रीय श्रम

पृष्टि के लिए महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए गए हैं, हमें उम्मीद है कि इस साल के उत्तरार्ध में टीईपीए लागू हो जाएगा।

गोयल ने कहा कि ईएफटीए डेस्क भारत में कारोबार बढ़ाने की इच्छ्क ईएफटीए कंपनियों के लिए एक केंद्रीकृत समर्थन तंत्र के रूप में कार्य करेगा। यह डेस्क बाजार की अंतर्दृष्टि एवं नियामकीय मार्गदर्शन, कारोबार मिलान और भारत की नीति एवं निवेश परिदृश्य को समझने में मदद करेगा। समझौते के अनुरूप 10 लाख प्रत्यक्ष रोजगार पैदा होने पर प्रत्यक्ष और परोक्ष रूप से 50-60 लाख रोजगार अवसरों का सजन हो सकता है। वाणिज्य मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत ने ईएफटीए देशों को राष्ट्रीय औद्योगिक गलियारा विकास निगम लिमिटेड (एनआईसीडीसी) द्वारा विकसित किए जा रहे 20 औद्योगिक स्मार्ट शहरों या बजट में घोषित 100 औद्योगिक हब एवं स्पोक मॉडल क्षेत्रों में समर्पित एन्क्लेव बनाने का अवसर दिया है। इस संभावना पर भी गौर किया जा रहा है कि क्या कोई औद्योगिक पार्क उनके संबंधित देशों की कंपनियों को समर्पित किया जा

उल्लेखनीय है कि ईएफटीए समझौते के तहत भारत को समृह से 15 वर्षों में 100 अरब डॉलर की निवेश प्रतिबद्धता मिली है। इसमें स्विस घड़ियों, चॉकलेट और कटे एवं पॉलिश किए गए हीरे पर कम या शून्य शुल्क लगाने का भी प्रावधान हैं। इस भारी निवेश से भारत में करीब 10 लाख रोजगार पैदा होने का

## हेक्सावेयर टेक्नोलॉजीज का आईपीओ 12 फरवरी से, मूल्य बैंड 674 से 708 रुपये

जयपुर। हेक्सावेयर टेक्नोलॉजॉज लिमिटेड अपनी इक्विटी शेयरों की आरंभिक सार्वजनिक पेशकश बुधवार, 12 फरवरी को शुरू करेगी। 1 रुपये अंकित मूल्य वाले इन शेयरों का मूल्य बैंड 674 रुपये से 708 रुपये प्रति शेयर तय किया गया है। निवेशक न्यूनतम 21 शेयरों और उसके बाद 21 के गुणकों में बोली लगा सकते हैं।

यह ऑफर सीए मैग्नम होल्डिंग्स द्वारा 87 हजार 500 मिलियन रुपये तक के इक्विटी शेयरों की बिऋी पर आधारित है। इसमें से 50 फीसदी हिस्सा योग्य संस्थागत खरीदारों (क्युआईबी) के लिए आरक्षित रहेगा। यूआईबी श्रेणी के 60 प्रतिशत तक हिस्से को एंकर निवेशकों को आवंटित किया जा सकता है। गैर-

संस्थागत निवेशकों (एनआईआई) कंपनी के इक्विटी शेयर बीएसई और के लिए 15 फीसदी और खुदरा एनएसई पर सूचीबद्ध किए जाएंगे।



व्यक्तिगत निवेशकों (आरआईआई) के लिए 35 प्रतिशत से अधिक हिस्सा आरक्षित है। यह पेशकश बुक बिल्डिंग प्रिक्रिया के माध्यम से होगी, और सभी बोलीदाताओं को एएसबीए प्रक्रिया के तहत आवेदन करना होगा।

कोटक महिंद्रा कैपिटल, सिटीग्रुप, जे.पी. मॉर्गन, एचएसबीसी और आईआईएफएल कैपिटल इस ऑफर के बुक रनिंग लीड मैनेजर्स हैं। बोली लगाने की अंतिम तिथि 14 फरवरी

संकेत है। आईटी सेक्टर की भर्ती कुल

## श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय ने एनसीएस पोर्टल पर सालाना १० लाख नौकरियों के लिए फाउंडइट के साथ एमओयू पर किए हस्ताक्षर

पंजीकृत 500 से अधिक सिऋय

नई दिल्ली। श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय ने युवा नौकरी चाहने वालों के लिए रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ाने को लेकर एक प्रमुख नौकरी पोर्टल फाउंडइट (पूर्व में मॉन्स्टर) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। इस समझौते से प्रति वर्ष राष्ट्रीय करियर सेवा (एनसीएस) पोर्टल पर 10 लाख से ज्यादा घरेलू रिक्तियां उत्पन्न होने की उम्मीद है। श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय

एवं रोजगार मंत्री डॉ. मनसुख मांडविया की उपस्थिति में नई दिल्ली में पोर्टल फाउंडइट के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं। इस समझौते का उद्देश्य एनसीएस पोर्टल पर पंजीकृत नौकरी चाहने वाले लोगों के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय एवं घरेल रोजगार के अवसरों को बढावा देना है। डॉ. मांडविया ने कहा कि एनसीएस पोर्टल की भूमिका को एक मजबूत रोजगार सृजन मंच के रूप में उद्धत किया, जो विभिन्न उद्योगों में

नौकरी चाहने वालों को जोड़ता है। 40 लाख से अधिक नियोक्ताओं के पंजीकरण के साथ, पोर्टल ने अपनी स्थापना के बाद से 4.40 करोड़ से अधिक रिक्तियों के संचालन में मदद की है। किसी भी समय लगभग 10 लाख नौकरी की रिक्तियां उपलब्ध हैं, जो युवाओं के लिए अवसरों की एक स्थिर प्रवाह सुनिश्चित करती है। डॉ. मांडविया ने एनसीएस पोर्टल के ई-माइग्रेट प्लेटफॉर्म के साथ समझौते पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि इसके विदेश मंत्रालय के साथ

भर्ती एजेंसियों को शामिल किया गया है। यह पहल भारतीय पेशेवरों के विश्वसनीय, सत्यापित नियोक्ताओं के साथ विदेश में नौकरियां सुरक्षित करने के लिए दरवाजे खोल रही है। उन्होंने उल्लेख किया कि एनसीएस पोर्टल माय भारत. एसआईडीएट पोर्टल के साथ एकीकृत है जो युवाओं के बीच कौशल अंतर को पाटने में मदद करता है जिससे वे ज्यादा रोजगार प्राप्त करने के योग्य बन सकें।

राष्ट्रीय करियर (एनसीएस) पोर्टल पर पंजीकृत नौकरी खोजने वालों को न केवल भारत में बल्कि दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया और मध्य पूर्व में भी रिक्तियों तक पहुंच प्राप्त होगी, जिससे उनके रोजगार के अवसरों में महत्वपर्ण वृद्धि होगी। एनसीएस के पोर्टल पर फाउंडइट नौकरी के अवसरों को पोस्ट करेगा, जिससे नौकरी चाहने वाले लोगों के लिए रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ेंगे। यह भारत, मध्य पूर्व

नौकरी के विस्तारित अवसरः और दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया में औपचारिक और अनौपचारिक क्षेत्रों सेवा में भर्ती करने के लिए नियोक्ताओं से नौकरी की मांग एकत्रित करेगा। प्रासंगिक नौकरी की सूचियां एनसीएस पोर्टल में एपीआई के माध्यम से निर्बाध पहुंच के लिए एकीकृत की जाएगी। नसीएस पोर्टल महिलाओं और विकलांग व्यक्तियों के लिए रोजगार के अवसर प्रदान करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। फाउंडइट के साथ यह साझेदारी एक निष्पक्ष और समावेशी भर्ती प्रक्रिया को बढ़ावा

देगी, जो कम प्रतिनिधित्व वाले समहों के लिए समान नौकरी का अवसर सुनिश्चित करेगी।इस समझौते के माध्यम से फाउंडइट को एनसीएस पोर्टल के माध्यम से महिलाओं एवं दिव्यांगजनों सहित एक बड़े और विविध उम्मीदवारों के पुल तक पहुंच प्राप्त होगी। श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय डेटाबेस एकीकरण की सुविधा प्रदान करेगा, जिससे फाउंडइट एक सहज तकनीकी इंटरफेस के माध्यम से एक व्यापक प्रतिभा आधार से जुड़ेगा।

## कॉलर जॉब बाजार में आयी तेजी

नयी दिल्ली। भारत के व्हाइट-कॉलर जॉब मार्केट ने 2025 की शुरुआत परंपरागत सेक्टरों के दम पर चार प्रतिशत की वृद्धि के साथ हुयी है। नौकरी जॉबस्पीक इंडेक्स द्वारा जारी आंकडों के अनुसार जनवरी 2025 में यह इंडेक्स 2,550 अंक पर रहा जो एफएमसीजी (16 प्रतिशत), बीमा (15 प्रतिशत) और फार्मा (11 प्रतिशत) जैसे प्रमुख सेक्टरों के मजबूत प्रदर्शन के साथ अच्छे भर्ती वातावरण का

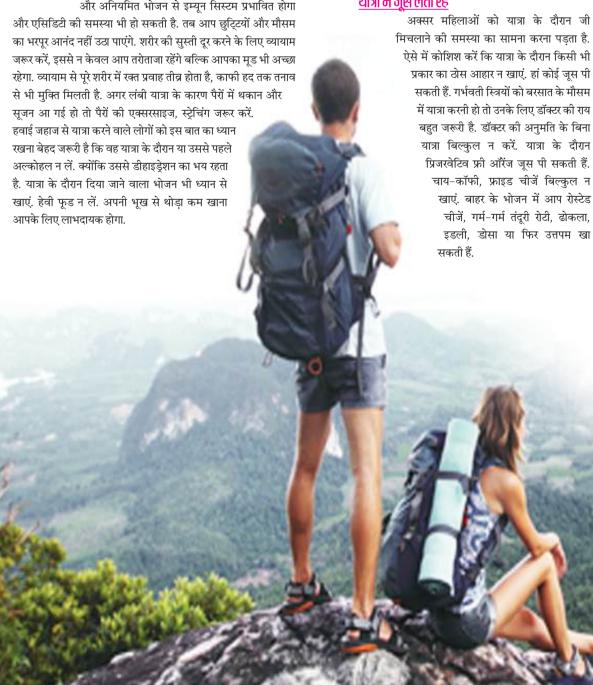
मिलाकर लगभग स्थित रही है। जयपुर जैसे उभरते टेक्नोलॉजी सेंटरों ने टेक्नोलॉजी सेक्टर की भर्ती में 38 फीसदी की बढोतरी के साथ उल्लेखनीय मजबूती दर्ज की है। फ्रेशर्स की हायरिंग में 3 फीसदी की वृद्धि बनी रही। इसमें गैर-आईटी सेक्टरों का अहम योगदान रहा। ब्युटी और वेलनेस सेक्टर में फ्रेशर्स की हायरिंग में 21 फीसदी का उछाल देखने को मिला। जबकि केपीओ/रिसर्च/एनालिटिक्स और हॉस्पिटैलिटी सेक्टर में एंट्री लेवल के पदों पर ऋमशः 26 प्रतिशत और 18 प्रतिशत की बढ़त देखने को मिली। ये युवा प्रतिभाओं के लिए विविधतापूर्ण जॉब मार्केट का संकेत है। रिटेल सेक्टर आखिरकार लंबे समय से चले आ रहे नकारात्मक ट्रेंड से बाहर आता दिखा है। इस सेक्टर की हायरिंग में जनवरी 2025 में एक फीसदी की वृद्धि हुयी है।

# स्वाक्षिक की नगरी



# से जुड़ी हुई कुछ महत्वपूर्ण बातें

आप बाहर किसी होटल में ठहरते हैं तो यह ध्यान रखें कि ज्यादा देर से डिनर न लें और रात के भोजन के बाद थोड़ी देर जरूर टहलें. ऐसा नहीं करेंगे तो यात्रा की थकान और अनियमित भोजन से इम्यून सिस्टम प्रभावित होगा



कोशिश करें कि हर बार बाहर भोजन न करें. अगर ब्रेकफास्ट और लंच होटल के बाहर करें तो डिनर जहां ठहरे हैं वहीं करें या फिर न ही बने दूसरे स्वर्ग की सैर करा रहा हूं। सोच क्या आपको लगता है कि एसिडिटी की समस्या हो गई है तो ऐसे में अच्छी । रहे हैं ! हो जाइए तैयार परीलोक या स्वप्न तरह पके केले और नारियल पानी का प्रयोग करें. थोड़ी सी सावधानी बरत 🖁 कर और उस सुहाने मौसम का दुगना मजा ले सकते हैं और अपनी यात्रा को मददगार बना सकते हैं.

#### यात्रा में खान-पान

घूमने-फिरने के शौकीन लोगों को सफर के दौरान स्वास्थ्य संबंधी किसी भी प्रकार की परेशानी होना उनकी सारी मस्ती चौपट कर देता है. खाने की कुछ खास बातों पर यदि ध्यान दें तो बहुत सी पेरशानीयों से आप

- ●-सफर के दौरान बासी खाना खाने से बचें.
- –कच्ची सिब्जियां व फल देखकर खाएं.
- ●-रास्ते में ज्यादा भोजन करने से बचें.
- ●-सुरक्षित व स्वास्थ्यवर्धक खाना ही खाएं.
- ●-जहां भीड़ हो वहां से खाना लें क्योंकि वहीं ताजा भोजन मिलेगा.
- ●-खाने के साथ-साथ साफ पानी का प्रयोग करें.
- ●-गर्म खाने को तवज्जो दें.

मिचलाने की समस्या का सामना करना पड़ता है. ऐसे में कोशिश करें कि यात्रा के दौरान किसी भी प्रकार का ठोस आहार न खाएं. हां कोई जूस पी सकती हैं. गर्भवती स्त्रियों को बरसात के मौसम में यात्रा करनी हो तो उनके लिए डॉक्टर की राय बहुत जरूरी है. डॉक्टर की अनुमति के बिना यात्रा बिल्कुल न करें. यात्रा के दौरान प्रिजरवेटिव फ्री ऑरेंज जूस पी सकती हैं. चाय-कॉफी, फ्राइड चीजें बिल्कुल न खाएं. बाहर के भोजन में आप रोस्टेड चीजें, गर्म-गर्म तंदूरी रोटी, ढोकला, इडली, डोसा या फिर उत्तपम खा

क्या आपने कभी स्वर्ग की सैर की है ? आप लोग सोच रहे होंगे कि मैं कश्मीर की बात कर रहा हूं, मगर इस बार मैं आपको धरती पर लोक की सैर करने को।

किन्नौर की किन्नरी महिलाएं अपनी मधुर आवाज में लोकगीत गुनगुनाती हुई किन्नौर की घाटी में आने वाले पर्यटकों का मन मोह लेती हैं और उनको सुकून महसूस कराती हैं। किन्नौर जाने वाले पर्यटक चाहे वो जवान हों या बुज़ुर्ग वे शांत पहाड़ों के बीच हरियाली देखकर आंतरिक और बाह्य दोनों रूप से शांत व प्रसन्नचित्त होते हैं।

#### किन्नौर का इतिहास

का हिस्सा था। स्वतंत्रता के बाद किन्नौर महसाऊ जिले के चीनी तहसील का हिस्सा बन गया। बॉर्डर क्षेत्र का हिस्सा होने के

पर्यटकों के लिए दर्शनीय स्थल बसा रिकांग पिओ जिला मुख्यालय है। यहां से किन्नर कैलाश के बहुत ही भव्य दृश्य लिए बहुत से होटल व गेस्ट हाउस हैं।

> कालपाः पोवारी से 14 किमी की दूरी पर कालपा जिला स्थित है। नदी के पार किन्नर कैलाश की पर्वतमाला है। यहां पर लोग सूर्योदय देखने के लिए उमड़ते हैं। जब सूर्य की पहली किरण पर्वत श्रृंखलाओं पर पड़ती है तो बर्फ से ढकी चोटियां सुनहरी रोशनी से चमक उठती है।

सांगला घाटीः सांगला घाटी बासपा नदी के दांए तट पर बसी है। करचम से 17 किमी की दूरी पर बसे सांगला घाटी तक की यात्रा बड़ी ही मनोरंजक व रोमांचक होती है। चारों तरफ बर्फ ही बर्फ और प्राकृतिक दृश्य बहुत स्वतंत्रता से पूर्व किन्नौर भूषण राज्य ही मनोरम दृश्य उकेरते हैं।

चितकुलः बासपा घाटी में यह सबसे ऊंचा व आखिरी गांव है। यह बासपा नदी के दाईं ओर ही स्थित है। यहां स्थानीय देवता

हैं तो आप किन्नौर की घाटी की सैर करें।

परीकथाओं और

<u>स्वप्नलोक की धरती हरी-</u>

<u>भरी घाटियों, फलों के</u>

बाग, अंगूर के बाग, बर्फ

<u>घिरी है। अगर इस धरती</u>

को देखने की इच्छा रखते

से ढकी चोटियों व पहाड़ों से

कारण किन्नौर 1 मई 1960 में जिला बन गया माथी के तीन मंदिर भी हैं जो 500 साल पूर्व बने थे।

निछारः यह गांव तरांडा और वांगद के मध्य सतलज नदी के बाएं तट पर बसा है। यहां के दृश्य आपको वशीभृत भी कर सकते हैं। कभी-कभी ऊंची पर्वत श्रृंखलाओं में भगवान के दूत रहते थे, जिन्हें किन्नर कहा घोरल, काला, लाल भालू व हिरण भी नजर

कोठी: कोठी को कोष्ठांपी भी कहते हैं। रिकांग पिओ: शिमला से 231 किमी दूर यह कालपा से थोड़ा नीचे बसा है और किन्नर कैलाश श्रृंखला से ढका भी है। इस गांव में आकर्षक मंदिर, हरे भरे खेत, फलों देखने को मिलते हैं रिकांग पिओ में ठहरने के के बाग बहुत ही सुंदर प्रतीत होते हैं। इस गांव में शुवांग चंडिका देवी का मंदिर भी है।

> पुहः स्थानीय भाषा में इस जगह को स्पुवा बोलते हैं। यह नेशनल हाइवे 22 से - ऊपर बसा है। यहां आधुनिक सुख–सुविधा के साथ–साथ हरे मैदान, अखरोट, बादाम और अंगूर के बगीचे वहां की खूबसूरती को और बढ़ाते हैं। यहां के स्थानीय देवता को डाबला कहते हैं।

नाकोः दगरांग घाटी से 2 किमी दूरी पर स्थित है। इस गांव में बर्फ के टुकड़ों से जमी झील है और उसके ऊपर पड़ी बर्फबारी गांव की खूबसूरती और बढ़ा देती है।

किन्नर कैलाश सर्किटः किन्नर कैलाश सर्किट की पर्यटक परिक्रमा करते हैं। यह पवित्र परिक्रमा मोरांग से शुरू होकर कालपा/रक्छम में जाकर सात से आठ दिन में समाप्त होती है।

# सपनों की नगरी

# त्रिक्रक

परंपरा और उनका इतिहास जानने की इच्छा है तो यहाँ स्थित संग्रहालय में कदम रख सकते

महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ क्षेत्र के अमरावती जिले में एक खबसरत पहाडी क्षेत्र है चिकलधारा। चिकलधारा जाकर अनेक पर्यटक वहाँ की खूबसूरती को देखकर मंत्रमुग्ध हो जाते हैं। हरियाली से ओत-प्रोत इस घाटी में विभिन्न प्रकार के खूबसूरत पेड़-पौधे स्थित हैं। इन पहाडों पर विशेषकर काफी के बगीचे बहुतायत में हैं।

यहाँ से उत्पादित काफी का निर्यात विदेशों में किया जाता है। चिकलधारा काफी के बगीचों की वजह से भी बहुत

खूबसूरत लगता है। पर्यटकों के रहने के लिए प्रसिद्ध सोल रिसोर्ट स्थित हैं। इस स्थान से चिकलधारा की प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य का आनंद लिया जा सकता है। कहते हैं कि चित्रकार की चित्रकला

अधूरी रह जाती है यदि उसने नदियों का चित्रण नहीं किया तो। उसी प्रकार यदि पर्यटक प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य से युक्त झीलों और जलाशयों को नहीं देखें तो उनकी यात्रा अधूरी ही मानी जाएगी।

चिकलधारा में दाहना कोलकाज



नेशनल अभयारण्य पर्यटकों के मध्य बहुत ही प्रसिद्ध है। मेलघाट टाइगर

परियोजना भी बेहद लोकप्रिय स्थल है। प्राचीनता एवं संस्कृति को दर्शाते हुए गवैलगढ़ का किला पर्यटकों को अपनी ओर आकर्षित करता है। इसकी जीवंत कलाकृतियों को देखकर पर्यटक दंग रह जाते जाने के लिए बस सेवाएँ उपलब्ध हैं। हैं। पं. नेहरू बॉटनिकल बगीचा भी बहुत प्रसिद्ध है। यदि आदिवासी संस्कृति एवं

प्रतिदर्श प्रदर्शित किए गए हैं। मेलघाट अभयारण्य में विभिन्न प्रकार के वन्यजीव पाए जाते हैं। यह स्थल प्राकृतिक सुंदरता से ओत-प्रोत है। यहाँ के प्रसिद्ध महादेव मंदिर में भगवान शिव की पूजा-अर्चना करने हजारों श्रद्धालु आते हैं।

कैसे पहुँचें राजमार्ग - अमरावती चिकलधारा

हवाई अड्डा - अकोला हवाई अड्डा सबसे नजदीक है।

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**NEWS BOX** 

## TNTA has high hopes for tennis in the city

There is something about the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament. Even though it is a Challenger 100 competition, there is a certain degree of competition and there is some romance around the one of most loved sports in the city. Right from the Krishnans (senior and junior), the Amritraj brothers, Leander Paes, Somdev Devvarman, the city has a different kind of aura when it comes to the sport. Like always, tennis brings joy. It is a platform to launch one's career as well. This year is special, too. The Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) is celebrating its centenary year.In the last ATP Challenger here, Sumit Nagal, India's top player, won the event and went on to crack into the top hundred in world ranking, eventually reaching a career-high ranking of 68 later in the year.TNTA, once again, hosted the Chennai Open with the professionalism they are known for. But they are yearning for bigger events as well. A top TNTA official said its chief Vijay Amritraj is working with the Tamil Nadu government to bring the ATP 250 event back to the city.

One of the positives this season was the run of Indian duo Ramkumar Ramanathan and



Saketh Myneni. They finished runners-up in the doubles after losing to Japan's Shintaro Mochizuki and Kaito Uesugi. Players from 14 countries participated. With a sprinkling of young talent, the draw was pretty tough. The top seed was Billy Harris of Great Britain, who ranked 127 in the world and is now among the top 8 in Great Britain. He was followed at No 2 by Lloyd Harris of the Republic of South Africa ranked 135. The others were Duje Ajdukovic (CRO-138), Shintaro Mochizuki (JPN-169), Sho Shimabukuvic (JPN-191), Timofey Skatov (KAZ-194), Alexis Galarneau (CAN-198), Khumoyun Sultanov (UZB - 216), and Aslan Karatsev (222). Frenchman Kyrian Jacquet put his experience to good use — to beat Sweden's Elias Ymer and bag the singles title."The tournament went about smoothly manner and all the players from the world were happy. Since the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association has been organising the Davis Cup and the ATP events for several decades now, we have the experience to conduct professionally," said Hiten Joshi, CEO of TNTA.So this year, too, tennis aficionados were expecting an Indian would win the singles event. "We would have been happy had an Indian won.

#### Constant spotlight on Virat Kohli is quite unnecessary: Arjuna Ranatunga

**New Delhi.** Former Sri Lanka captain and World Cup winner Arjuna Ranatunga feels that the spotlight constantly being on Virat Kohli is quite unnecessary and the star batter should be given the freedom to make a decision about his future. Kohli hasn't had the best of times with the bat in the past few months as the failure in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy put his position in the team under scrutiny. Kohli made a return to the domestic circuit with Delhi in the Ranji Trophy, but he only scored 6 runs in his comeback. The poor run of form continued in the ODI series



against England as the star batter was dismissed for just 5 runs in the Cuttack ODI after missing the match in Nagpur due to an injury. Speaking to the Telegraph, Ranatunga said that the call on Kohli's future should be left in the hands of the player and the star batter should make his own path.

"For a player like Kohli who has scored so much of runs, I feel it's best if that's left to him. It's a call that Kohli needs to take, so let him take it. Why always have the spotlight on him? It's quite unnecessary I feel. It's his decision, so let him take that," said

'Kohli needs to speak to legends'

Ranatunga also advised Kohli to talk to legends like Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar or Rahul Dravid to help him arrest his poor run of form. The former Sri Lankan skipper feels that the legends can help the star batter in his bid to get back to form."I think what Kohli needs to do is speak to people like Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar or a Rahul Dravid. That's what he can do. They can certainly help him out,' said Ranatunga. Speaking about Kohli and Rohit Sharma regaining their form, Ranatunga felt it was just a matter of one good innings.

# Varun in, Bumrah out Will India make changes in final Champions Trophy squad

The deadline day for finalising squad for the Champions Trophy is here. With the ICC set to lock-in squads on February 11, Tuesday, will India make changes to its preliminary side

New Delhi. I The deadline to finalise the Champions Trophy squad has arrived. The 8 teams selected for the tournament must hand in their final 15-member squad for the ICC tournament set to begin on 19 February. The Indian team, one of the favourites to lift the trophy, is currently in a fix, given the condition of their premier fast bowler, Jasprit Bumrah. The Indian speedster has not played a single match since pulling out midway through the final Test match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in January. Bumrah, out of action due to a back injury, was expected to make his return in the ODI series vs. England, but no one, not even the members of the Indian team, has been able to provide any update regarding

Tuesday, 11 February, and in case the pacer is not able to make it to the tournament, a couple of changes will be on the cards.

India's Preliminary Squad for Champions Trophy 2025Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wicketkeeper), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja.

#### India's Latest Debutants

Knowing well that Bumrah might be touch and go for the Champions Trophy, India handed debuts to two full-time bowlers in their ongoing ODI series against England. Harshit Rana, potentially a direct replacement for Jasprit Bumrah, has played both matches so far and has impressed in the middle overs. The other debut has come in the form of Varun Chakravarthy, the mystery spinner, who absolutely ran through England in the T20I series ahead of the ODI leg of the tour. Rana can turn out to be a decent replacement for Bumrah. The Delhi speedster has shown that he has that fast bowler's aggression in him, which could

him. According to reports, the Indian team is turn out to be quite handy for India. expected to take a call on Bumrah on India already has Mohammad Shami and



Arshdeep Singh in the squad – two of India's most astute new-ball bowlers. The side also has Hardik Pandya for support, who has bowled with the new ball in the recently concluded T20I series.

#### Toss-up Between Washi & Kuldeep?

Selected for the ODI series vs. England and the Champions Trophy, Washington Sundar did not play the first two matches of the series. Sundar, who had cemented his place in the T20I side under Gambhir, remained on the bench as Axar Patel was favoured over the Tamil Nadu player.

On the other hand, there was less trust shown

the stage on fire in the 1st ODI vs. England.

Kuldeep was dropped for the next game, and Varun Chakravarthy was handed a debut.

If India are to include Varun as the X-Factor, they will have to let go of either Kuldeep or Sundar from the side. Given that India has the assurance of Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja in the spin-bowling allrounders' role, it is unlikely that Sundar will get the final nod for the Champions Trophy. Kuldeep, on the other hand, is likely to find a place in the final 15, given he is the only (orthodox) wrist spinner in the side. It

needs to be mentioned that there are provisions to make changes after 11 February as well, but for that, teams have to get the permission of the International Cricket Council (ICC). India is expected to take travelling reserves with them and might carry the likes of Bumrah and Washington in that extended squad.

National selector Ajit Agarkar had mentioned in January that Bumrah might be fit to play ODIs after the first couple of matches in the Champions Trophy. If India carries Bumrah in the extended squad, the team has the

#### Vidarbha in driver's seat against Tamil Nadu

CHENNAI: Riding on Aditya Thakare's penetrative bowling (5/34), Vidarbha bagged a handsome first innings lead of 128 runs over Tamil Nadu on the third day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinals being played at Nagpur on Monday. Apart from Thakare, Yash Thakur and Nachiket Bhute bowled lively spells in turns to trouble the Tamil Nadu batters. They bowled in the right areas and extracted good bounce to induce the Tamil Nadu batters to commit mistakes.

Later, an unbeaten 55 by Yash Rathod came in handy for the hosts as they were able to recover from a top order collapse to post 169 for 5 in 69 overs in their second essay. Harsh Dubey lent solid support to Rathod and was batting on 29, when bails were drawn. Their effort has put Vidarbha in a commanding position with an overall lead of 297 runs.

Earlier in the morning, Tamil Nadu's hopes relied on the last recognised pair of Pradosh Ranjan Paul and Sai Kishore to stitch a partnership and reduce the deficit. But Sai Kishore fell to Thakur and soon M Mohammed also departed. Pradosh then managed to hang around with Sonu Yadav



run mark."It was a brilliant display by our attack. They were spot on and knew what lengths to bowl. Aditya used the surface to his advantage. He bowled in the right areas and could get good movement," Dubey told this daily after the day's play.

We knew that Pradosh was the last batter for

## Ranji Trophy quarters: Ajinkya Rahane hits hundred to celebrate special 200 in style

Ranji Trophy 2024-25: Ajinkya Rahane celebrated his 200th firstclass appearance by hitting a match-defining hundred against Haryana in the quarter-final at Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

New Delhi. Ajinkya Rahane led Mumbai from the front with the bat in their Ranji Trophy quarter-final against Haryana in Kolkata, scoring a second-innings century on Tuesday, February 11. Rahane, who was unbeaten on 88 overnight, reached his 29th first-class century during the morning session.

It was Rahane's 200th first-class match, and the seasoned batter marked the milestone in style, all but guaranteeing Mumbai's progress to the semi-final. The defending champions extended their lead beyond 300 runs before Rahane was dismissed for 108 by Anuj Thakarai.

Rahane now has a total of 41 first-class centuries, including 12 in Test cricket. The right-handed batter is also closing in on 14,000 runs in the red-ball format.Rahane struck 13 boundaries during his 180-ball 108, which was his



first century of the ongoing Ranji Trophy season. The Mumbai captain forged a 129-run partnership with India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav on Monday before the latter fell for 70.All-rounder Shivam Dube contributed 48 as Mumbai's top and middle order stepped up after a poor first innings. Rahane's 31 had been the lone bright spot in the top order as Mumbai relied on Shams Mulani

(91) and Tanush Kotian (97) to recover from 113 for 7 and post a total of 315. With the ball, Mumbai fought back strongly. Shardul Thakur picked up six wickets to trigger a Haryana collapse,

reducing them from 257 for 4 to 301 all out, conceding a crucial 14-run first-innings lead.

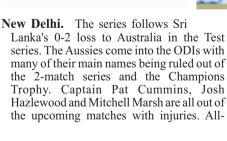
#### RAHANE IN FINE FORM

Rahane has scored 437 runs in 12 innings in the 2024-25 Ranji Trophy season, including a century and two fifties. The star batter, who has not played Test cricket for India since July 2023, has remained consistent in domestic cricket. Earlier this season, he made an impression in

the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament, amassing 469 runs in nine matches at an average of 58.62 and a strike rate of 164.56—setting the stage for the Indian Premier League 2025 season.Rahane, who represented Chennai Super Kings in the 2023 and 2024 seasons, will return to Kolkata Knight Riders for the 2025 season, which is set to commence on 21

## SL vs AUS ODIs: Vandersay in, Wickramasinghe out as Sri Lanka name strong squad

Sri Lanka have brought back Jeffrey Vandersay and decided to leave out Chamindu Wickramasinghe as they named a strong squad for the upcoming **ODI** series against Australia, starting on February 12.





rounder Marcus Stoinis also announced his retirement from the ODI format as well. Multiple additions are expected to be made to the squad. The series between Sri Lanka and Australia will be played on February 12 and 14 and the matches will take place in Colombo.Sri Lanka squad for Australia ODIs:Charith Asalanka (C), Pathum

Nissanka, Avishka Fernando, Kusal Mendis, Kamindu Mendis, Janith Liyanage, Nishan Madushka, Nuwanidu Fernando, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Jeffrey Vandersay, Asitha Fernando, Lahiru Kumara, Mohamed Shiraz, Eshan MalingaThe series follows Sri Lanka's 0-2 loss to Australia in the Test series. The Aussies come into the ODIs with many of their main names being ruled out of the 2match series and the Champions Trophy. Captain Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Marsh are all

out of the upcoming matches with injuries. All-rounder Marcus Stoinis also announced his retirement from the ODI format as well. Multiple additions are expected to be made to the squad. The series between Sri Lanka and Australia will be played on February 12 (32) and helped Tami Nadu breach the 200-

Tamil Nadu. So we were aware that the sooner we get him out bigger will be our lead. Yes, at the end of the day we have a fairly good lead," added the left-arm spinner.One expected Vidarbha to bat better in the second essay and perhaps even bat out the opposition. But that was not to be as Sai Kishore led from the front and with an aggressive approach troubled Vidarbha's top order. He was aided in the cause by Sonu Yadav and Vijay Shankar who were accurate.

# Champions Trophy: Saim Ayub-less Pakistan face stiff challenge to end barren run

Champions Trophy 2025 Preview: Pakistan have done well recently under Mohammad Rizwan's captaincy, but having not won an ICC title since 2017, they will be under pressure to put up a good show in front of their home crowd.

**New Delhi.** Pakistan will be one of the teams to watch out for when the Champions Trophy gets underway on February 19. Mohammad Rizwan has been impressive as their ODI captain after taking charge back in October 2024, but playing in the upcoming event would come with its challenges and expectations, since Pakistan are the defending champions.Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman and Faheem Ashraf are the members of the 2017 squad who will also take part in the upcoming edition. Rizwan's men will

start their campaign in the Champions Trophy against New Zealand on Wednesday, February 19 at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.But before the tournament, Pakistan have certain areas to focus on after injury concerns to two of their key players. Having not won an ICC trophy since 2017, pressure will be on the hosts to deliver.

#### Saim Ayub major missing

Saim Ayub was in the form of his life and also featured in the ICC ODI Team of the Year. Having scored multiple hundreds on the tour of South Africa, the left-handed batter looked in ominous form. But an ankle injury against the Proteas ended his dreams of representing Pakistan in the Champions Trophy. Ayub had to be taken off on a stretcher after he sustained the injury while trying to chase the ball down during the second Test.With Ayub not there, Babar Azam is most likely to open the batting alongside Fakhar Zaman, who also made his comeback recently. Pakistan also have Usman Khan and Tayyab Tahir, who have



both played as openers in the past at various levels. There is no Abdullah Shafique either after he bagged a hat-trick of ducks in the ODI series on South African soil.

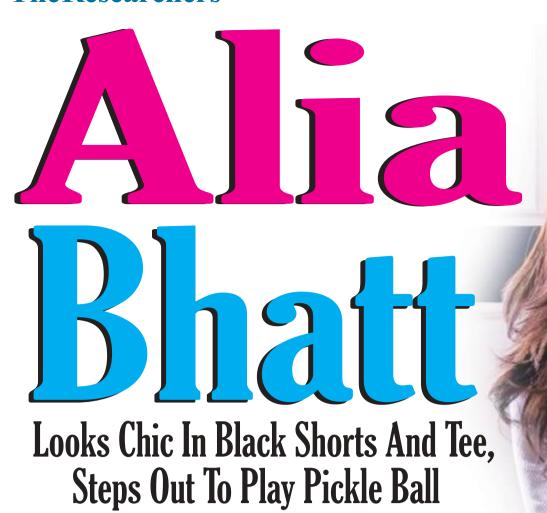
#### Haris Rauf 100 per cent?

Pakistan have a bunch of lethal pacers, including Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Hasnain. But amongst them, the 31-year-old Rauf has had issues with injuries. He played in the first match of the tri-nation series against New

Zealand, but has been ruled out of Wednesday's clash against South Africa at the National Stadium in Karachi.Rauf sustained a muscular sprain in the lower chest wall region in the match against the Black Caps. Thereafter, the PCB took a precautionary measure of leaving Rauf out for the game against the Proteas. But his injury isn't serious, and the speedster is expected to gain full fitness before the Champions Trophy.

#### Faheem, Khushdil worth selection?

Faheem Ashraf and Khushdil Shah's selection for the Champions Trophy raised eyebrows. But skipper Mohammad Rizwan recently said that Faheem and Khushdil made their comebacks purely on the basis of performance. Khushdil returned to playing for Pakistan in the tri-nation series, while Faheem hasn't donned the national colours since December 2023."If we talk about Faheem Ashraf, if you look at his performance over the last two years in List A cricket, his average is 46.



lia Bhatt was spotted in a casual yet stylish outfit. The actress stepped out to play pickleball and opted for an ensemble of black shorts paired with a casual tee. The video has gone viral and fans were seen reacting. Ranbir Kapoor is also often spotted playing pickleball in the city. In the video, shared by Viral Bhayani, we can see Alia Bhatt looks cool in a complete black outfit and was seen engaging in sports. One of the fans wrote, "She simply stunning." Another wrote, "Super baby". Many dropped heart emojis in the comment section. Alia Bhatt was last seen in Jigra.

Alia Bhatt is currently shooting for her next film Love And War with Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. Recently, in a conversation with Pinkvilla, Vicky talked about his bond with Alia and Ranbir

He was quoted saying, "I have great comfort with both of them. I'm doing my second film with Ranbir; I did Sanju with him. With Alia, I did Raazi, so both are very easy to work with—incredibly talented actors. I don't even need to say that."The film will now be out in theatres on March 20, 2026, instead of Christmas 2025. Love and War will be the first collaboration of Ranbir and Bhansali after the actor's 2007 debut Saawariya. The film was officially announced in January 2024. The original announcement on Instagram read, "We Bring You Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Epic Saga 'Love & War.' See You At The Movies Christmas 2025."

Previously in an exclusive conversation with News18 Showsha, Alia Bhatt expressed her excitement about the project. "There are so many layers to look forward to, that I don't know which one to pick. First and foremost, the pleasure and honour of working with Sanjay sir, once again, under his guidance and gaze, flourish is step number one. You can go anywhere with it because of his attention to detail and his attention to you," Alia said.



Namita Thapar

Anupam Mittal Clash Over Underwear Detergent: 'Vaginal Infections Huge'

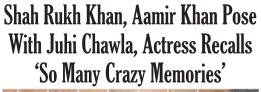
he latest episode of Shark Tank India featured a compelling pitch by married couple Samiksha and Rahul, who presented their innovative underwear detergent brand Ugees. They explained that their product caters primarily to women who prefer not to wash their undergarments alongside regular laundry, but the presentation didn't go without scrutiny. Anupam Mittal questioned the need for a dedicated underwear detergent, saying, "Have you heard of washing machines? You get all kinds of detergents as well; clean, green, everything in between. Put some disinfectant, and you're done. Why are you complicating these things?"



However, the couple clarified that their core customer base comprises women who avoid mixing undergarments with other clothes, particularly during their periods. Anupam acknowledged this crucial insight, stating they should have highlighted it during their pitch, which seemed to target male users instead. Namita Thapar voiced her support for the product, talking about the critical issue of hygiene. "Vaginal infections are extremely common in women because their undergarments aren't as clean as they need to be," she pointed out. Namita advised the

couple to leverage this perspective more strongly to convince investors. Initially positioned as a product for men, Ugees faced some confusion among the sharks. Despite this, Samiksha and Rahul spoke about the detergent's role in minimising infection risks. They sought Rs 50 lakh for 2.5% equity, valuing the company at Rs 20 crore. They projected Rs 4 crore in revenue this year, aiming to scale it to Rs 4 crore per month.

Peyush Bansal recommended partnering with lingerie brands, drawing a parallel with how shoe polish companies collaborate with shoe brands. However, he and Ritesh Agarwal opted out of the deal.Namita initially decided to back out but eventually teamed up with Aman Gupta, offering Rs 50 lakh for 6% equity. Anupam Mittal countered with Rs 50 lakh for 5% equity, later reducing it to 4% after negotiations. The couple accepted Anupam's offer, securing a favourable deal.





amir Khan's son Junaid Khan is all set to make his theatrical debut with his upcoming film 'Loveyapa'. Several Alisters including Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Juhi Chawla, and others attended the screening of the film, held in Mumbai. Now, Juhi Chawla has shared photos from the screening, during which she reunited with her two favourite co-stars Shah Rukh and Aamir. She called it a 'rare and precious moment', while recalling that they have made crazy memories on so many film sets.

Juhi Chawla took to her Instagram account to share several pictures from the screening of Loveyapa, but the highlight of the post was her photograph with her co-stars Aamir Khan and Shah Rukh Khan. The picture shows her posing between the two superstars, and the picture left fans nostalgic. In her caption, she wrote how happy she was to meet them. "SO HAPPY to meet ShahRukh and Aamir together. It is a rare and precious moment .. the two heroes whom I worked with extensively, laughed and cried with on so many sets, so many super fun films, so many crazy memories..."

Further, she praised Junaid Khan and wrote, "And then to be coming to Junaid's film screening, I had first seen him as a baby!!! How the years have flown ... He is SUCH a wonderful down -to earth boy, God Bless him Wish him Great success with Loveyappa. #loveyapa."

Needless to say, fans went gaga over Juhi's picture with SRK and Aamir. While one Instagram user wrote, "Omg!!!! My favorite duo Aamir and Juhi together" another one commented, "It's such HAPPINESS to see you with Aamir PLEASE DO NEW ROMANTIC FILM TOGETHER PLEASEEEEEE." A third comment read, "You are glowing ma'am hope to see you with SRK and Aamir Khan someday on the big screen!"

#### Priyanka Chopra Grooves To Dhan Te Nan, Nick Jonas Sings Maan Meri Jaan At Siddharth-Neelam's Sangeet



ollywood actress Priyanka Chopra and her hubby Nick Jonas are having a gala time celebrating the actress' brother Siddharth Chopra and Neelam Upadhyaya's pre-wedding festivities. Nick's parents Denise Jonas and Kevin Jonas Sr. are also present for the wedding festivities in Mumbai. Several visuals from Siddharth and Neelam's sangeet ceremony have surfaced on social media.

PeeCee left everyone mesmerized as she danced to the popular song 'Dhan Te Nan' from her 2009 film 'Kaminey'. Meanwhile, Nick Jonas sang his famous song 'Maan Meri Jaan', while the actress danced. One video that has been shared on Priyanka Chopra's fan pages shows the actress grooving to her film Kaminey's song 'Dhan Te Nan', along with others. The actress nailed the iconic hook step, leaving the audience in awe as other guests enthusiastically cheered her on.

Meanwhile, Nick Jonas stole the show with his soulful rendition of 'Maan Meri Jaan'. Priyanka and Siddharth Chopra showed off their dance moves as Nick sang, and it was clearly the highlight of the sangeet. Meanwhile, Nick Jonas was also seen crooning the Jonas Brothers' iconic song 'When You Look Me In The Eyes', along with his father Kevin Jonas Sr. Their performance left everyone captivated. Check out the videos below!

Meanwhile, other videos from the sangeet ceremony show Priyanka dancing her heart out with her soon-to-be sister-in-law Neelam Upadhyaya on the song 'Balle Balle'. The 'Citadel' actress also grooved to Darling from her film '7 Khoon Maaf'. For the sangeet ceremony, Priyanka donned a midnight blue lehenga by designer Falguni Shane Peacock. Meanwhile, Nick looked perfectly complemented her in a matching velvet bandhgala set. Earlier, Priyanka Chorpa shared a series of pictures from Siddharth Chopra and Neelam Upadhyaya's haldi and mehendi ceremonies.

Meanwhile, before landing in Mumbai for her brother's wedding festivities, Priyanka Chopra was shooting in Hyderabad for her upcoming film, SS Rajamouli's SSMB29 with Mahesh Babu. Apart from this, she will also be seen in the second season of her spy thriller series 'Citadel'.