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researchers.asia@gmail.com



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

US Food Authority Chief Resigns Amid Trump's Mass Firings: Report

Washington, United States. A senior US Food and Drug Administration official who recently oversaw the agency's banning of a coloring linked to cancer has resigned to protest "indiscriminate" firings by President Donald Trump's government, reports said Tuesday. Jim Jones, who joined the FDA in 2023, wrote in a letter seen by Bloomberg News that the layoffs of 89 staffers in the food division which he heads will severely hinder efforts to implement Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr's agenda of improving Americans' diets.

"I was looking forward to working to pursue the department's agenda of improving the health of Americans by reducing diet-related chronic disease and risks from chemicals in food," he said, but the new administration's "disdain for the very people" needed to make these goals a reality meant it was "fruitless for me to continue in this role." The resignation was first reported by industry publication Food Fix.

Jones's departure comes amid widespread federal job cuts involving thousands of people, as Elon Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency spearheads an aggressive downsizing initiative, particularly targeting employees still within their probationary period, which lasts at least a year.

Last week, AFP reported that nearly half of an elite team of epidemiologists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), known as the "disease detectives," were also dismissed. Experts warn that such cuts could endanger public health, especially as concerns grow over the potential for a broader bird flu outbreak in humans.

Jones, who previously served in the Environmental Protection Agency, last month oversaw a ban on Red Dye No. 3, a coloring long known to cause cancer in animals but still widely used in thousands of US food products. Health Secretary Kennedy has positioned food industry reform as a cornerstone of his "Make America Healthy Again" initiative, advocating against harmful chemicals and non-nutritive additives while pushing for stricter labeling laws to combat the nation's obesity epidemic.

13-Year-Old Domestic Help In Pakistan Allegedly Tortured And Killed For Stealing Chocolates

World. A couple in Pakistan has been arrested for allegedly killing a 13-year-old domestic help for stealing chocolates. According to the BBC, the girl, who goes only by Iqra, succumbed to severe injuries in hospital last week. A preliminary police investigation said she had been subjected to brutal torture before death. An autopsy is being conducted to assess the full extent of her injuries. The girl's employers, Rashid Shafiq and his wife Sana, along with a Quran teacher who worked for the family have been arrested. The teacher had reportedly brought the girl to the hospital and left after telling hospital staff that her father had died and her mother was not around.

Iqra's death has triggered a wave of outrage on social media, with the hashtag #JusticeforIqra gaining tens of thousands of views. The incident has also reignited discussions on child labour and the abuse of domestic workers in the country, the BBC reported. Notably, laws pertaining to child labour vary across the country, however, in Pakistan's Punjab, children under the age of 15 cannot be employed as domestic workers. "My heart cries tears of blood. How many... are subjected to violence in their homes every day for a trivial job of a few thousand?" activist Shehr Bano wrote on X. "How long will the poor continue to lower their daughters into graves in this way?" she added.

Some users pointed out that her murder was allegedly triggered by something so minor. "She died over chocolate?" one user wrote on X. "This is not just a crime, it's a reflection of (a) system that enables (the) rich to treat (the) poor as disposable," said another. Speaking to the BBC, Iqra's father, Sana Ullah, said that his daughter began working as a maid at the age of 8. He said that he had sent her to work because he was in debt. After working for a few employees, the 13-year-old went to work for the couple two years ago, who have eight children of their own. Iqra was earning around \$28 per month.

Pope Francis Has Pneumonia In Both Lungs, His Condition Remains 'Complex'

Vatican City. Pope Francis, who was admitted to hospital last week, has developed pneumonia in both of his lungs, the Vatican said Tuesday, adding that the 88-year-old was in "good spirits". The laboratory tests, chest X-ray, and the Holy Father's clinical condition continue to present a complex picture, the Vatican said in a statement. Francis was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital last Friday for bronchitis, but the Vatican on Monday said it was changing his treatment following tests. It said Tuesday that a "polymicrobial infection" which has come on top of "bronchiectasis and asthmatic bronchitis, and which required the use of corticosteroid antibiotic therapy, makes therapeutic treatment more complex". The follow-up chest CT scan which the Holy Father underwent this afternoon... demonstrated the onset of bilateral pneumonia, which required additional drug therapy," it said. The pontiff had part of his right lung cut away when he was 21, after developing pleurisy that almost killed him. The Vatican had already cancelled a papal audience on Saturday and said he would not attend a mass on Sunday, although it has yet to announce plans for his weekly Angelus prayer, held on Sunday. Nevertheless, Pope Francis is in good spirits," it added. The pope spent his fifth day in hospital alternating rest with prayer and reading texts, the Vatican said. Francis, the head of the Catholic Church since 2013, was admitted to hospital after struggling for several days to read his texts in public.

Panama holds nearly 300 US deportees from India, other nations as officials work on their return

PANAMA CITY. Panama is detaining in a hotel nearly 300 people from various countries deported under US President Donald Trump, not allowing them to leave while waiting for international authorities to organize a return to their countries.

More than 40% of the migrants, authorities say, won't voluntarily return to their homeland. Migrants in the hotel rooms held messages to the windows reading "Help" and "We are not save (sic) in our country." The migrants hailed from 10 mostly Asian countries, including Iran, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and others. The US has difficulty deporting directly to some of those countries so Panama is being used as a stopover. Costa Rica was expected to receive a similar flight of third-country deportees on Wednesday. Panama's Security Minister Frank Abrego said Tuesday the migrants are receiving

medical attention and food as part of a migration agreement between Panama and the US. The Panamanian government has now agreed to serve as a "bridge" or transit country for deportees, while the US bears all the costs of the operation. The agreement was announced earlier this month after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit. Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino, who faces political pressure over Trump's threats of retaking control of the Panama Canal, announced the arrival of the first of the deportation flights last Thursday. The confinement and legal limbo the deportees face has raised alarm in the Central American country, especially as images spread of migrants peaking through the windows of their rooms on high floors



of the hotel and displaying the notes pleading for help. Abrego denied the foreigners are being detained even though they cannot leave the rooms of their hotel, which is being guarded by police. Abrego

said that 171 of the 299 deportees have agreed to return voluntarily to their respective countries with help from the International Organization for Migration and the UN Refugee Agency. UN agencies are talking with the other 128 migrants in an effort to find a destination for them in third countries. Abrego said that one deported Irish citizen has already returned to her country. Those who do not agree to return to their countries will be temporarily held in a facility in the remote Darien province through which hundreds of thousands of migrants have crossed on their journey north in recent years, Abrego said. The Panamanian Ombudsman's Office was scheduled to provide more details on the deportees' situation later Tuesday.

Ukraine isn't invited to its own peace talks. History is full of such examples and the results are devastating

World. Ukraine has not been invited to a key meeting between American and Russian officials in Saudi Arabia this week to decide what peace in the country might look like. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine will "never accept" any decisions in talks without its participation to end Russia's three-year war in the country. A decision to negotiate the sovereignty of Ukrainians without them -- as well as US President Donald Trump's blatantly extortionate attempt to claim half of Ukraine's rare mineral wealth as the price for ongoing US support -- reveals a lot about how Trump sees Ukraine and Europe.

But this is not the first time large powers have colluded to negotiate new borders or spheres of influence without the input of the people who live there. Such high-handed power politics rarely ends well for those affected, as these seven historical examples show.

1. The Scramble for Africa
In the winter of 1884-85, German leader Otto von Bismarck invited the powers of Europe to Berlin for a conference to



formalise the division of the entire African continent among them. Not a single African was present at the conference that would come to be known as "The Scramble for Africa." Among other things, the conference led to the creation of the Congo Free State under Belgian control, the site of colonial atrocities that killed millions. Germany also established the colony of

German South West Africa (present-day Namibia), where the first genocide of the 20th century was later perpetrated against its colonised peoples.

2. The Tripartite Convention
It wasn't just Africa that was divided up this way. In 1899, Germany and the United States held a conference and forced an agreement on the Samoans to split their islands between the two powers. This was despite the Samoans expressing a desire for either self-rule or a confederation of Pacific states with Hawai'i. As "compensation" for missing out in Samoa, Britain received uncontested primacy over Tonga.

German Samoa came under the rule of New Zealand after the first world war and remained a territory until 1962. American Samoa (in addition to several other Pacific islands) remain US territories to this day.

Elon Musk Claims Biden Left Sunita Williams In Space For "Political Reasons"

Washington DC. US President Donald Trump and his advisor Elon Musk have claimed that NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore were "abandoned" at International Space Station (ISS) for "political reasons" and that the previous Biden administration was "going to leave them in space." The remarks were made when Trump and Musk sat down for their first joint interview with Fox News's Sean Hannity. When Hannity asked the President and his advisor about the "two astronauts that I think were abandoned", Musk said, "At the President's request, we - or instruction, we are accelerating the return of the astronauts, which was postponed, kind of, to a ridiculous degree."

"They got left in space," Trump chimed in. Musk seconded the President's claim and said, "Yes, they were left up there for political reasons, which is not good." When asked about Space X's mission to bring back Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, Musk said, "Well, we don't want to be complacent, but we have brought astronauts back from the space station many times before, and

always with success." When asked about the timeline of the mission, Musk said, "I think it's about - about four weeks to bring them back." "You now have the go-ahead," Trump said. "Yes. Well, thanks to you," replied Musk. Trump then claimed that Musk's company didn't have the go-ahead with



the Biden administration. "He (Biden) was going to leave him in space. I think he was going to leave them in space," the Republican added. The Missionnuth Wilmore and Sunita Williams launched to the ISS aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft in June 2024. The flight, which was intended to last only 10 days, experienced a rocky journey. After arriving at the space

station, NASA and Boeing worked for weeks to better understand the problems in the spacecraft but it was ultimately decided that it was too risky to return the Starliner with the crew.

Following this, in August 2024, the space agency announced that it had asked SpaceX to bring Williams and Wilmore home aboard the SpaceX Crew-9 capsule. SpaceX, the private company founded by billionaire Musk, has been flying regular missions every six months to allow the rotation of ISS crews. However, on January 20 Musk said Trump had asked him to facilitate the return of the two Boeing Starliner astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who have been on the space station since June 2024, as soon as possible. The SpaceX CEO claimed that it was "terrible" that the pair were left "stranded" at the International Space Station (ISS) by former President Joe Biden's administration for so long, even though NASA had already roped in SpaceX months ago to return both astronauts as part of its Crew-9 mission.

Malaysia is betting on data centres to boost its economy. But experts warn they come at a price

JOHOR BAHRU. Winson Lau has always had contingency plans. But he wasn't prepared for data centres. Lau relies on water and electricity to operate his thriving export business in Malaysia's Johor province, where he raises a kaleidoscope of tropical fish in rows of aquariums, including albino fish with red spots that can fetch up to \$10,000 from collectors. His contingency plans in the event of an outage involve an intricate system of purifying wastewater through friendly bacteria and an alarm system to quickly switch to backup power. But these measures can't compete with the gigantic, power-guzzling and thirsty data centres being built in Johor. The province is on track to have at least 1.6 gigawatts of data centres at any given moment from nearly nothing in 2019, making it the fastest-growing data centre market in Southeast Asia, according to a report published in April.

Data centres are large, windowless buildings filled with racks of computers that need lots of electricity. To prevent overheating, they

rely on energy-intensive air conditioning systems using pumped water. Increasingly used by tech companies for running artificial intelligence systems, the power demand from future facilities in Malaysia may rise to over 5 gigawatts by 2035, according to researchers at Malaysia's Kenanga Investment Bank. This is more than half of Malaysia's entire renewable capacity in 2023.

Over 95% of the energy available to Malaysia in 2022 was from fossil fuels, according to the International Energy Agency. The country is now the fifth-largest exporter of liquefied natural gas globally. And with planned renewable projects, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said in September that the country was "confident of a surplus of energy" to fuel large projects and keep exporting. But Lau doesn't fancy the chances of his homegrown business competing against the foreign-funded behemoths for energy.

Even without data centres, Malaysia is susceptible to power interruptions because



of storms, including one that lasted 30 minutes last year and killed 300,000 fish, costing Lau over \$1 million. He worries that data centres would result in longer outages. To survive, Lau is moving to Thailand and already scouting potential locations for a new fish farm. "Big data centre is coming, and there is shortage of power," he said. "It'll be crazy."

Costs versus benefits
Malaysia is betting that potential economic growth from data centres justifies the risk. Once touted as an Asian tiger on the cusp of becoming rich, its industries shrunk in the late 1990s after the Asian financial crisis. It

has since languished in the middle-income trap. Data centres, the government hopes, will modernise its economy and indirectly create thousands of high-paying jobs.

But experts worry that Malaysia, and others like Vietnam, Indonesia and India vying for billion-dollar investments from tech giants, may be overstating data centres' transformative capabilities that also come at a price: Data centres gobble up land, water and electricity while creating far fewer jobs than they promise. Most data centres provide 30 to 50 permanent jobs, while the larger ones create 200 jobs at most, according to a report by the American nonprofit Good Jobs First.

Add to this the rapid increase in power and water use, and some experts like Sofia Scasserra, who researches digital economies at the Amsterdam-based think tank Transnational Institute, said that tech companies exploiting resources in poorer countries while extracting data from their populations to get rich is akin to "digital colonialism."



tourists up the mountain and those working on the volcano, he noted. "Blocking them has created a dangerous situation for everyone," he said. Carlo Caputo, the mayor of nearby Belpasso, warned that although Mount Etna appears visually stunning, it poses serious risks. Lava can rapidly evaporate snow, triggering violent explosions of rock and debris due to the released thermal energy. Boris Behncke, a volcanologist with the Etna Observatory who lives on the mountain's flank, told CNN on Tuesday that the lava had descended to about 1,950 meters in elevation, destroying trees near a service road. The eruption, which began on February 11, peaked on February 17. It has since reached the Galvarina area of Adrano at an altitude of 2,000 meters, impacting local infrastructure and trees near the service road. Etna can erupt multiple times in a year or even a month, spewing lava and ash high into the air. In 2021, it erupted so frequently that it grew nearly 100 feet (30 metres) in height.

Europe's Most Active Volcano Is Attracting Thousands Of Tourists. Know Why

World. Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, is attracting thousands of tourists eager to witness the spectacular lava flows cutting through the snow-capped mountain. The sudden influx of visitors, however, has caused trouble for rescue workers attempting to reach those in need of assistance. This, because the sightseers are blocking the streets. Salvo Cocina, the regional civil protection head for Sicily, has described the booming tourism around the volcano as "wild" and "extremely dangerous." People are climbing the Sicilian slopes to get a better view. According to Mr Cocina, eight individuals attempting to reach the peak without a guide were lost for several hours on Monday before rescuers found them. It was also reported that a 48-year-old man fractured his foot after slipping on ice.

Mr Cocina has issued a warning, saying tourists were obstructing rescue vehicles by parking in narrow streets. The continuous presence of rescue personnel, including 4x4 ambulances and other off-road vehicles, is crucial for both the authorised guides leading

1600 MW Super Critical Thermal Power Plant Soon to Come Up at Chandrapura in Jharkhand

Bokaro: The Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) is set to begin work on a new 1600 MW super critical thermal power plant in Chandrapura, Bokaro district of Jharkhand.

The plant, consisting of two 800 MW units, is expected to be a significant addition to the region's energy infrastructure.

Vijaya Nand Sharma, Senior General Manager and Head of the Project, confirmed that the central government has granted in-principle approval for the project.

He announced that DVC will be responsible for both the construction and operation of the two super critical units, with an estimated investment of Rs 16,500 crore. Sharma emphasized that the new plant will incorporate cutting-edge technology to enhance efficiency com-



pared to the existing facilities.

Additionally, the plant will meet all environmental standards, ensuring its operation is environmentally responsible.

The development is expected to generate hundreds

The 1600 MW plant, consisting of two 800 MW units

of direct and indirect job opportunities, which will positively impact local busi-

nesses. Sharma also urged the community to offer their support for the project, highlighting the importance of fostering a positive environment to ensure the plant's success and the area's continued growth.

India Launches 433 Foreign Satellites; 396 deployed in the Last 10 Years

RNS: India is no longer just a follower in the global science and technology landscape, but is now setting benchmarks and leading in multiple fields, asserted Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in a recent interview.

He highlighted India's leadership role and pioneering innovations across various sectors, with particular emphasis on the country's space sector.

Dr. Singh pointed out the significant transformation in India's space capabilities, noting the surge in ambitious missions and international collaborations. He highlighted the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) as a key milestone in India's technological progress, paving the way for future missions like Ga-

ganyaan, Chandrayaan-4, and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station.

India has also emerged as a preferred destination for satellite launches, having launched 433 foreign satellites, with 396 of them launched in the past decade alone.

The Minister noted that global space agencies, including NASA, are now eagerly awaiting India's findings from the Moon's southern pole, marking a major achievement in space research.

Dr. Singh also underscored India's pioneering role in biotechnology and bioeconomy, as well as the country's ambitious target to achieve 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy by 2047, contributing to a 50 percent reduction in carbon emissions.

BJP names first-time MLA Rekha Gupta as Delhi Chief Minister, oath today



New Delhi: Rekha Gupta has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Delhi, following a meeting of the Delhi BJP legislative party on Wednesday evening. Gupta, a first-time MLA, will be sworn in tomorrow at a grand ceremony at Ramlila Maidan, which is expected to be attended by top BJP leaders, union ministers, and dignitaries from various fields.

Later on Wednesday, Gupta met Delhi's Lieutenant Governor, VK Saxena, at Raj Niwas and staked her claim to form the new government.

Gupta, 50, becomes the fourth woman to serve as Delhi's Chief Minister and the second from the BJP after Sushma Swaraj. She won the Shalimar Bagh seat in the recent Delhi assembly elections with 68,200 votes. Gupta, who has been active in politics since her student days with ABVP at Daulat Ram College, Delhi University, served as the President of the Delhi University Students' Union in 1992. She later served as the General Secretary of BJP's Mahila Morcha in Delhi.

A lawyer by profession, Gupta has also held significant roles in local politics, including serving as the Mayor of South Delhi Municipal Corporation and as a Delhi Councillor. She is currently the General Secretary of Delhi BJP.

Expressing her gratitude for the party's trust, Gupta pledged to work for the welfare and development of all citizens of Delhi. "I will dedicate myself to serving every resident of Delhi, with honesty, integrity, and commitment," she stated. The oath-taking ceremony will take place at 12:35 PM tomorrow, where Gupta will be administered the oath of office and secrecy by the Delhi Lieutenant Governor. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Chief Ministers from around 20 states are expected to attend the event.

Delhi Police has issued a traffic advisory in anticipation of large crowds, with several diversions and restrictions in place to manage the flow of traffic during the ceremony.

ECR GM Reviews Crowd Management for Mahakumbh-2025



by Rahul Kumar

Gaya/Hazipur: East Central Railway's General Manager, Chhatrasal Singh, led a high-level meeting on Wednesday at the Railway Headquarters in Hajipur to discuss crowd management plans for the upcoming Mahakumbh 2025. The meeting, attended by Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) via video conference, focused on ensuring smooth operations for pilgrims, with a special emphasis on crowd control at stations and on trains.

Singh stressed the importance of strict crowd management and passenger safety, directing officials to collaborate with district administrations. He emphasized avoiding last-minute platform changes and ensuring continuous CCTV monitoring to manage crowds effectively. In case of overcrowding, additional special Kumbh trains will be deployed.

To support crowd management, war rooms have been set up at both the headquarters and divisional levels, with senior officers monitoring stations 24/7. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is ensuring passenger safety, while the district police, SSB, and SDRF provide support at key stations. Passenger convenience is also a priority, with designated holding areas offering water, seating, and safety measures. Additional ticket counters and ATM facilities have been set up, while RPF and Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel are deployed to prevent congestion and ensure orderly boarding, particularly in crowded general coaches.

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Over 1.08 Crore Devotees Take Holy Dip at Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, Total Reaches 56.64 Crore



Prayagraj: The ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj saw an overwhelming turnout today, with more than 1.08 crore devotees taking a holy dip in the sacred waters of the Triveni Sangam by 6 PM, bringing the total number of pilgrims to an astounding 56.64 crore so far.

Notable figures, including Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, participated in the rituals by taking the holy dip and performing sacred rites at the Sangam. Similarly, Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi also bathed at the confluence, expressing that India is a land deeply rooted in devotion and culture.

Union Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu also joined the pilgrims, while highlighting that the Prayagraj airport terminal had been expanded to meet the increasing demands of the Maha Kumbh. The airport's capacity has been doubled to better accommodate the surge in visitors, with ongoing discussions between the Union government and airlines to further enhance the airport's capability. Several other dignitaries also attended the event, including UP Congress President Ajay Rai, Shiv Sena MP Srikanth Shinde, and BJP MP Tejaswi Surya, who joined the devotees in observing this grand spiritual gathering.

MAHE Partners with The/Nudge Institute to Empower Women in Jharkhand



RNS: Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with The/Nudge Institute to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for marginalized households in Jharkhand.

The collaboration, which will begin in April 2025, aims to impact 43,500 households over the next six years, focusing on women-led households in need of dignified employment and primary healthcare.

The program targets women from vulnerable tribal groups, offering interest-free loans for asset purchases, coaching on agricultural practices, and links to government programs and market services.

Atul Satija, Founder and CEO of The/Nudge Institute, emphasized the significance of the partnership in uplifting rural women and supporting the most excluded households in the region.

Qatar Announces \$10 Billion Investment in India to Strengthen Bilateral Ties

New Delhi: Qatar has committed to investing \$10 billion in India across a wide range of sectors, as announced in a joint statement following the visit of Qatar's Amir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, to New Delhi on Tuesday.

The statement highlighted Qatar's recognition of India's efforts in fostering an environment conducive to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII). Qatar expressed keen interest in exploring investment opportunities in areas such as infrastructure, technology, manufacturing, food security, logistics, hospitality, and other sectors of mutual interest.

India, in return, praised Qatar's strides in improving its investment climate and its initiatives aimed at attracting FDI. The statement also noted that both countries are aiming to double bilateral trade by 2030, underscoring the growing economic partnership between the two nations. A significant development was the successful integration of India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) at Qatar National



Bank's Points of Sale (POS) systems. Both sides expressed optimism about expanding UPI acceptance across Qatar in the near future. Additionally, the two nations agreed to explore the possibility of conducting trade in their respective currencies, which could simplify and enhance economic exchanges between them. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Qatar's Amir in New Delhi on Tuesday, following an invitation from the Gulf leader.

Modi called the meeting "productive" and emphasized the strengthened ties between the two countries. "Had a very productive meeting with my brother, Amir of Qatar H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, earlier today. Under his leadership, Qatar has reached new heights. He is committed to a strong India-Qatar friendship. This visit is even more special as we have upgraded our relationship to a Strategic Partnership," Modi wrote on social media platform X.

The Prime Minister also noted that enhancing trade relations was a key focus of their discussions. "We aim to diversify and increase our trade links with Qatar. We can also collaborate closely in sectors such as energy, technology, healthcare, food processing, pharmaceuticals, and green hydrogen," Modi added. This high-profile visit signals a new chapter in India-Qatar relations, with both countries looking to expand cooperation in various fields.

Trump Questions \$21 Million Aid to India, Supports DOGE's Decision to Cancel Voter Turnout Fund

Washington: U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed his support for the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)'s decision to cancel a \$21 million grant aimed at improving voter turnout in India. During a media briefing, Trump questioned the justification for the financial assistance, stating, "Why are we giving \$21 million to India? They have plenty of money. They're one of the highest taxing countries for us, and we can hardly get in because of their high tariffs."

While acknowledging his respect for India and its Prime



Minister, Trump emphasized, "Giving \$21 million for voter turnout in India? What about voter turnout here?"

The financial aid, which was part of a broader \$486 million budget under the "Consortium for Elections and Political Pro-

cess Strengthening," was initially allocated by the administration of former President Joe Biden. The grant aimed to influence voter engagement in India. DOGE, led by billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, announced the termination of the \$21 million grant, citing concerns about the efficiency of U.S. taxpayer funds being used for overseas political activities. The Department also stated that an additional \$29 million originally earmarked for political initiatives in Bangladesh would also be scrapped.

In a statement, DOGE explained that these cancellations were part of broader efforts to increase government efficiency and ensure that taxpayer dollars were not being allocated to "questionable" political projects abroad.



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PM to lay foundation stone of world's 2nd highest trek in Uttarakhand

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gangotri Mukhba on February 27 to inaugurate Uttarakhand's winter yatra and lay the foundation for the Janaktal trek, the world's second-highest route, boosting winter tourism in the region.

seen as a major step in promoting winter tourism in the region. In anticipation of his arrival, preparations are underway to encourage adventure tourism in the untouched destinations of Nelong, Jadung, and Sonam Valley. Several events are planned, including a motorbike rally, an ATV-RTV rally, and two trekking expeditions, all set to be flagged off from Harsil.



administration officials have held discussions to ensure a grand welcome, making detailed arrangements for PM Modi's visit, including his planned darshan and worship at the Ganga Temple in Mukhwa. Ahead of the event,

officials conducted an inspection of the venue in Harsil to finalize logistics, including seating arrangements, traffic management, parking, electricity, and water supply.

Efforts are also being made to maintain cleanliness, including well-managed toilet facilities.

Additionally, discussions were held on the layout and arrangements for an exhibition showcasing local products and crafts from Uttarakhand, further highlighting the region's cultural and economic significance.

New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gangotri Mukhba on February 27 to inaugurate the winter yatra to Uttarakhand. As part of his visit, he will lay the foundation stone for the Janaktal trek, which will become the world's second-highest trekking route. The visit is being

The Indian Army will lead the motorbike-ATV-RTV rally from Harsil, while a motorbike rally to Jadung will be conducted under the aegis of the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB). The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) will organize a trekking expedition from Neelapani to Mulling La Base, while another trekking campaign will take place from Jadung to Janaktal.

Authorities are considering the Prime Minister's visit to Harsil-Mukhba as a historic moment to promote winter tourism in Uttarakhand. Local

► **PM Modi to visit Gangotri Mukhba on February 27**

► **Will inaugurate winter yatra, promote tourism**

► **Janaktal trek to become world's 2nd-highest route**

Will have ideological fight with Vijay in 2026 Tamil Nadu polls: BJP's Annamalai

Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu BJP state president K Annamalai said that his party will have an ideological fight with actor-politician Vijay in the 2026 state assembly elections. He agreed that Vijay was a popular actor and that he would bring certain ideals to the political fight. "For Vijay and other parties, it is going to be an ideological fight. Vijay will bring a certain ideology to the ground. We will bring a certain ideology to the ground. They might have fire power... we also have fire power," Annamalai said. Actor-politician Vijay, during his first party conference in October 2024, had declared BJP as the ideological enemy of his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, and called the DMK as its political enemy.

The BJP leader said that every election is different as the field was changing rapidly with social media, youth voters, aspirational politics



and so-called freebies playing a determining factor. But he was confident of BJP's success. He said the 2026 Tamil Nadu elections will see a multi-party contest, and that his party will not oppose any party for the sake of opposing.

"Our cadres are developed now. We are very confident that it will be a combination of two sides fighting on ideology, while ruling and Opposition will fight over anti-incumbency. It is going to be a unique field in Tamil Nadu," Annamalai stated.

Agreeing that Vijay's popularity is massive, he also pointed out that the ruling DMK were formidable as well, and that regional parties have a strong base in the state. "He already has a far reach and parties like DMK are formidable. It is one of the oldest parties in the country, existing from 1949. The AIADMK is formidable; it was in power several times. We understood what the challenges are but we have built ourselves over the last several years," Annamalai asserted.

Gyanesh Kumar takes charge as new poll body chief, replaces Rajiv Kumar

New Delhi. Former bureaucrat Gyanesh Kumar on Wednesday took charge as India's 26th Chief Election Commissioner, succeeding Rajiv Kumar who held the post for over two years. In his first remarks after assuming charge, 61-year-old Gyanesh Kumar said the first step towards nation building is voting. He also encouraged every citizen of India who has completed 18 years of age should become a voter.

"The first step towards nation building is voting. Therefore, every citizen of India who has completed 18 years of age should become an elector and should always vote. In accordance with the Constitution of India, electoral laws, rules and instructions issued therein, the Election Commission was, is and will always be with the voters," he said.

Gyanesh Kumar taking charge came as the Supreme Court will hear petitions today challenging the appointment process of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023.



The Act removed the Chief Justice of India from the selection panel appointing the Election Commissioners. Parliament passed the

Act in December 2023 following a Supreme Court ruling that Election Commissioners should be appointed by a panel comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India until a law is enacted.

Gyanesh Kumar is the first Chief Election Commissioner to be appointed under a new law on the appointment of the members of the Election Commission. His tenure will run until January 26, 2029, days before the Election Commission is expected to announce the Lok Sabha polls.

Besides Gyanesh Kumar's appointment, Vivek Joshi, a 1989-batch Haryana-cadre IAS officer, was appointed as an Election Commissioner. His tenure will run till 2031.

According to the law, a Chief Election Commissioner or an Election Commissioner retires at 65 or can have tenure on the poll panel for six years. In March last year, Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Sandhu were recommended to be appointed as Election Commissioners by a selection panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the new law.

S Jaishankar to attend Foreign Ministers' Meet in South Africa: What's on agenda?

New Delhi. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will be on a visit to Johannesburg, South Africa on February 20-21, to take part in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM). The visit comes at the invitation of Ronald Lamola, South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation.

The meeting aims to bolster India's diplomatic engagement with G20 nations and the Global South.

Amidst the ongoing Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine War, the G20 FMM 2025 will address pressing global challenges such as economic recovery, geopolitical tensions, climate action, and sustainable development.

India has been the leading voice of the



Global South and will continue to play that role by emphasising the interests and issues of developing nations and pushing for a more inclusive global order.

During the summit, S Jaishankar is also expected to hold bilateral talks with key global leaders, further solidifying India's international relations. This visit underscores

India's strategic efforts to engage with G20 nations and foster meaningful dialogue.

South Africa, hosting the G20 FMM 2025, is poised to drive discussions on multilateral reforms, fair trade practices, and addressing economic disparities. In light of current global uncertainties, G20 FMM 2025 will be a crucial platform for diplomatic dialogue and strategic collaboration amongst the world's largest economies.

S Jaishankar's participation in the G20 FMM is anticipated to bolster India's role on the international stage and strengthen its diplomatic ties with both G20 nations and the Global South.

Congress faces internal turmoil after BJP's sweep in Chhattisgarh urban polls

As the BJP celebrated its sweeping victory in the Chhattisgarh urban body polls, winning all 10 mayoral seats, the Congress found itself in turmoil, with leaders publicly voicing frustration and blame.

New Delhi. Amid the celebrations of the Bharatiya Janata Party's resounding victory in the Chhattisgarh urban body elections, the Congress has been thrown into introspection and internal discord.

The BJP secured all 10 mayoral seats, widening its lead over Congress and triggering a wave of blame within the party. What began as a post-election analysis quickly turned into a public display of frustration, with leaders and workers taking to social media to voice their discontent.

Former Raipur MLA Kuldeep Juneja did not hold back his disappointment, stating, "If the leadership of the state unit remains the same, I will stop going to the party headquarters. The AICC should make the necessary changes, and I will personally take this issue to Delhi." His remarks did not go unnoticed, as the state unit promptly issued him a notice for dissent. The anger among



party workers has only intensified, with many questioning the leadership's decisions, particularly regarding ticket distribution. Calls for change at the top have been loud, with some Congress members even praising the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for its organisational strength, attributing BJP's continued success to its groundwork.

A party worker, Rahul Kar, openly acknowledged this on social media, writing, "The RSS is the biggest strength of BJP. You can criticise it, but

you must also have the courage to admit that it is the biggest reason for BJP's victories across the country."

Another Congress activist, Kalpana Sagar, pointed to internal favouritism, writing in consecutive posts, "Mayor leader's wife, ward leader's wife-the Raipur body elections were fought with the ambition to secure positions for themselves, and the result is in front of everyone."

She further added, "A party that does not empower its women workers will not take long to fade away. Who will take responsibility for Congress's historic defeat in the Raipur Municipal Corporation?" Congress activist Amitabh Raja Ghosh went a step further, demanding the resignation of the Raipur city president. "Taking responsibility for this defeat as a matter of morality, the city president should resign with immediate effect," he posted.

After bail, Rahul Gandhi exempted from court presence in Savarkar defamation case

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi was permanently exempted from appearing in a Pune court in a defamation case against him over his alleged remarks on Hindutva ideologue Veer Savarkar. He got bail last month.

Pune. A Pune court on Tuesday granted permanent exemption from appearance to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case filed over his alleged objectionable remarks on Hindutva ideologue Veer Savarkar, citing his top-level security and the Leader of Opposition status.

An application seeking permanent exemption from appearing before the special court for MP/MLA was moved by Advocate Milind Pawar, who is representing Rahul Gandhi (54) in the defamation case, last month.

Pawar said on Tuesday they moved another application to convert the present "summary trial" into "summons trial" so that historical references and evidence can be discussed in the court.

"Summons trial" which entails detailed cross-examination, is a lengthy legal proceeding as compared to "summary trial".

The case, in which the Congress leader obtained bail last month, was filed by a relative of Savarkar. Amol Shinde, Judicial Magistrate



(First Class) presiding over the special court for MP/MLA, in his order, said that the accused is the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and has to attend several meetings.

Considering that he is a 'Z-plus' protectee and taking into account expenses incurred on his security arrangements (during Pune visit) and also law and order issue if he attends the hearing, the court grants permanent exemption to Rahul Gandhi from appearing in the case, said the order. Last month, the court granted bail to Rahul Gandhi after he virtually appeared before it in the case filed on a

complaint by a grandnephew of Savarkar.

The complaint stemmed from a speech the Congress leader gave in London in March 2023, where he made certain remarks on the freedom fighter, citing a book written by him. Satyaki Savarkar, grandnephew of the Hindutva ideologue, had filed a complaint in a Pune court against the Congress MP. In the complaint, he had claimed that Rahul Gandhi, in his speech in London, stated that he and five to six of his friends once beat up a Muslim man and he (Savarkar) felt happy.

As per the complaint, Veer Savarkar has not written this anywhere in the book and Rahul Gandhi's remarks were defamatory.

"Considering the facts (cited by Rahul Gandhi's lawyer) this court finds that the accused is the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. He has to attend many programmes. He is protected by Z+ security. The expenses of security are considerable. Due to law and order issue, this court finds that the accused should be granted permanent exemption from appearing in this case," the judge said.

► **Rahul Gandhi gets court presence exemption due to his Leader of Opposition status**
 ► **Defence seeks to convert trial to 'summons trial' for detailed examination**
 ► **Case filed against Rahul Gandhi over remarks on Veer Savarkar in London**

Manipur's troubles deeper than political fixes

Finally, the BJP and, through it, the Government of India have taken some decisive steps towards sorting out the mess in Manipur in the recent past. The government first posted a seasoned bureaucrat as the Governor of the state, then it asked Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur, where the BJP was ruling, to step down and four days later, on February 13, it imposed President's rule in the state. All these steps were taken quickly, in conjunction. But they had been long overdue. The BJP and, hence, the BJP government in the state had been hoping against hope that the matters would get sorted by the feeble steps that the government had taken since the start of the violence in the state on May 3, 2023. The long strife continued almost unabated, with a few short periods of lull in between. It has led to very strained relations between the Meiteis and the Kukis. The problem got aggravated due to many other factors, too, which had serious implications from various corners.

Two factors were holding the BJP back from taking firm action: the fact that we are a democracy; and that the ruling party at the Centre was the same as that in the state. Putting such a state under President's rule would be an embarrassment for the party as it would mean a censure of its own functioning. Additionally, the party could not find a successor CM who was acceptable to all.

However, the ruling party has now bit the bullet. It is better late than never. Looking ahead, a lot of work is needed to be done. First, let us look at the genesis of the problem to help tackle it.

The military junta in Myanmar does not have full control over the entire territory of its country, especially in the areas bordering Manipur. Many groups in these areas are fighting their government and even have control over some parts. Also, due to the violence, the international drug trade from the infamous Golden Triangle, primarily through Moreh town and the area of Manipur, was suffering as the areas under opium cultivation there had reduced or were not increasing. Many Kuki and related tribes had started crossing over to Manipur, mainly in the Churachandpur area, which is dominated by the Kukis, with the help of their local kith and kin. They started growing opium in Manipur. Locals also joined them in this lucrative cultivation. When this came to the notice of the state government, action was taken to identify the illegal immigration. Locals, supported by powerful international drug lords loaded with tons of money, resisted this action. They wanted to put the government on the back foot. To their good luck — and bad luck for the state — an order by the Manipur High Court on the request of Meiteis to be given the Scheduled Tribe status gave them a reason to create trouble by misinterpreting that order.

The order, dated March 27, 2023, stated that "the state shall consider the case of the petitioners for inclusion of the Meitei/Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe list, expeditiously..." It was only an order for consideration of the plea and not for giving the ST status to the Meiteis. But the Kukis deliberately misrepresented it, saying that the Meiteis had been given the ST status.

Though this paragraph was later deleted by the high court, the damage had been done. Both sides started taking out rallies, some violence also erupted and blockades and counter-blockades by the two communities came up. The Meiteis are from the valley side and the Kukis and other related tribes from the hills. The situation worsened. It turned so bad that people from the valley could not go to Churachandpur and vice versa. The Kukis demanded a separate administration. They did not want the Meiteis to have the ST status as they felt it would affect their job quota and also enable the Meiteis to legitimately buy land in the hills. So, a kind of full-scale civil war between the two communities erupted, with violence leading to loss of lives and displacement of people from both sides.

It is alleged that drug lords, with their deep pockets, have played an important role in fuelling this situation. Soon, the government and its machinery were overwhelmed by the violence.

Role of universities crucial in creating inclusive AI systems

Guru Nanak's philosophy of 'Sarbat da bhala' provides a guiding principle for the kind of AI we should aim to develop.

The recent Paris AI Action Summit has highlighted a stark divide among nations regarding the future of artificial intelligence (AI). While countries like France, India and China advocate a balanced approach that combines accessibility with ethical regulation, others such as the US and the UK remain wary of imposing controls, arguing that over-regulation could hinder innovation. This disagreement points to a larger question: how can AI be developed in a way that it serves humanity while minimising risks? AI has the potential to revolutionise industries and economies, contributing an estimated \$13 trillion to the global GDP by 2030. However, its risks are equally significant. Research indicates that 78 per cent of the AI systems studied exhibit biases while deepfakes and misinformation are proliferating at an alarming rate. On the employment front, as many as 375 million workers worldwide may need to switch occupational categories due to AI-driven automation. These statistics underscore the urgent need to embed ethics, inclusivity and cultural values into AI development. Beyond economic and technological considerations, we must ask ourselves: what is the use of AI if it contributes to the breakdown of families, loss of peace and the erosion of our value systems? Where is the inclusivity, the vision of Sarbat da bhala (welfare for all), espoused by Guru Nanak Dev? How can we reconcile AI's advancements with the ethos of the Bharatiya gyan parampara (Indian knowledge tradition)? These pressing questions demand immediate attention.

Educational institutions hold a pivotal responsibility in addressing these concerns and shaping an ethical AI ecosystem. Universities and colleges, as centres of knowledge and innovation, must take proactive steps to integrate ethical considerations into AI development. AI education cannot remain limited to technical knowledge. Institutions must embed moral, philosophical and cultural dimensions into their curricula to prepare students to think critically about the societal impact of AI. For instance, Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) is working on introducing courses that merge AI with philosophy, sociology and the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev.

This ensures that students understand the importance of inclusivity and ethical frameworks. Universities must also prioritise research on mitigating AI biases, enhancing transparency and preventing misuse. Collaborative, interdisciplinary research can bridge the gap between technology and ethics, addressing diverse cultural and social contexts. Further, educational institutions should demystify AI for the public, explaining its benefits, risks and ethical implications. By engaging with policymakers, industries and communities, universities can play a critical role in fostering trust in AI systems.

While AI has global implications, its solutions must cater to local needs. For example, GNDU's initiative

the same time, excessive regulation could stifle innovation, as feared by many industry leaders. Striking the right balance requires careful policymaking and international collaboration.

Governments must work towards global and national AI governance frameworks that prioritise transparency, safety and inclusivity. These frameworks should include mechanisms to detect and mitigate biases, ensure data privacy and hold developers accountable for misuse. Policies must also reflect the cultural ethos and value systems of the nations implementing them. India, for instance, can draw from its rich heritage of Bharatiya gyan parampara, emphasising wisdom, inclusivity and harmony. AI development must be aligned with the vision of creating a compassionate and just society for future generations. Governments should allocate funds to universities and research institutions for interdisciplinary studies on ethical AI. Partnerships between academia, industry and the government can accelerate innovation while ensuring ethical compliance.

In addition, governments must invest in large-scale awareness campaigns to educate citizens about AI's benefits and risks. Public participation can strengthen trust in AI systems and empower individuals to make informed decisions about their use. As AI disrupts labour markets, governments should also prioritise skilling and re-skilling initiatives to prepare workers for the emerging job roles. Special attention must be given to rural and economically disadvantaged communities to bridge the digital divide. Ultimately, the vision for AI must align with the society we want to create. An unregulated AI rush, driven solely by profit motives, risks eroding the very values that define humanity. As Guru Nanak Dev's teachings remind us, the ultimate aim must be the welfare of all. We must strive to create AI systems that are inclusive, compassionate and equitable, ensuring they contribute to peace and harmony rather than division and chaos.

As we tread this delicate path, the collaboration between governments, educational institutions and civil society will be critical. Together, we can harness the immense potential of AI while safeguarding our values, ensuring it becomes a tool for global good rather than a force of disruption.



to reserve 5 per cent seats for students from rural and border areas is a step towards inclusivity in technology education. Such initiatives ensure that the marginalised communities are not left behind in the AI revolution. Guru Nanak's philosophy of 'Sarbat da bhala' provides a guiding principle for the kind of AI we should aim to develop — one that uplifts humanity, bridges divide and fosters harmony. As stewards of our cultural heritage, universities must champion these ideals to create a technology-driven yet ethically grounded society.

To ensure that AI serves humanity rather than harms it, governments too have a critical role to play. The current laissez-faire approach adopted by countries like the US, driven by an impulse to dominate the AI race, is unsustainable and potentially dangerous. At

Income Tax Bill

A reform with room for improvement

The Income Tax Bill 2025, tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament, marks a significant attempt at overhauling India's six-decade-old tax law. It aims to simplify tax compliance, reduce litigation and make tax laws more accessible. However, while the Bill makes notable improvements, it also raises concerns that require careful scrutiny. One of the Bill's key positives is the simplification of tax terminology. The introduction of the "tax year" to replace the confusing "assessment year" and "previous year" is a welcome change. The restructuring of provisions into clear tables and the elimination of redundant sections will also make tax laws easier to navigate. Moreover, the reduction in word count and consolidation of scattered clauses provide greater clarity, addressing long-standing taxpayer grievances over complex and convoluted legal language.

Despite these positive steps, the Bill stops short of fundamental tax reform. Many of the structural inefficiencies of the old law remain intact, merely



repackaged in a more readable format. Provisions related to deductions, exemptions and penalties continue to be complex. Also, multiple cross-references to the 1961 Act still exist, which may cause confusion rather than simplify compliance. Another contentious issue is the expansion of tax authorities' powers. The Bill allows officials to access electronic records, including emails and social media accounts, during investigations. While this is aimed at tackling tax evasion in the digital age, it raises concerns about privacy and potential misuse, necessitating strong safeguards.

The formation of a 31-member select committee to review the Bill is a prudent step, ensuring that all concerns are addressed before it becomes law. While the Income Tax Bill represents a move in the right direction, meaningful tax reform must go beyond simplification — it should focus on reducing compliance burdens, ensuring fairness and protecting taxpayer rights.

India must adjust to a whole new world

The CAPFs must have their own integral cadres, like the Coast Guard. The army, too, should yield control of the Assam Rifles.

In the chemistry of diplomacy, the camaraderie between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump provides a constructive environment for relations between India and the US. Such rapport eases tensions and builds trust, although diplomacy cannot depend entirely on leadership-level chemistry. Relations between India and the US, fortuitously, are built also on several years of evolution in multiple areas of mutual benefit, strategic convergence and a solid framework of public support as well as national interest. But the world we live in is a fragmenting world, and complacency is outmoded. The realities we confront today are very different from those during Trump's first presidency. The dynamics of global diplomacy have changed. War and conflict, predatory competition, trade tensions and the waning attractions of globalisation define geopolitics. Trump has come to power on his 'America First' agenda, he is playing to his MAGA (Make America Great Again) base and riding a tidal wave of populism and nativism in the American body politic.

The outcomes of the Modi visit have been analysed across the media, and it is time for us to dwell on the impact of a Trumpian world on India. It is not that President Trump does not value the strategic partnership with India. During PM Modi's visit, it was clear that both sides are keen on elevating military cooperation to embrace various domains, including air, land, sea, space and cyberspace. There are plans to expand defence sales and co-production with the potential inclusion of advanced aviation systems like the F-35 jets. There is also the shared strategic vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific. Trade and immigration offer more complex challenges. President Trump's 'reciprocal' tariffs will fundamentally disrupt norms of international trade;

there will be increased business uncertainties and a deepening of geopolitical divides. Nations will have to reassess their trading relations with the US. Established supply chains may be affected, as also global economic stability. The imposition of US tariffs will impact production costs that will affect consumers and contribute to higher inflation. Of course, as the US diversifies its supply chains away from China, there are opportunities for our textiles, electronics and engineering goods sectors. However, Trump's protectionist approach to economic ties with the world poses challenges for India, and we should not downplay them.

There is a need for careful negotiation to balance our economic interests while maintaining and strengthening our strategic partnership with the US. The new reciprocal tariff policy should serve as a catalyst for India to rationalise its own tariffs, and for trade negotiations leading to a bilateral trade agreement that both countries want to conclude before the end of this year. Reaching such an agreement will be a true test of our negotiating skills. In the face of coercive American moves, our challenge will be to maximise the zone of potential agreement, as it is called in the science of negotiation.

On immigration, the summary manner in which America is expelling illegal Indian immigrants, bound in shackles, has not gone down well. The deportation procedures followed have sparked significant controversy. There is a feeling that our nationals have been inhumanly treated. There is a risk that this could be interpreted as a failure to protect our citizens abroad. The ability of a nation to safeguard its citizens internationally is a component of smart power. Legal immigration and H-1B visa issues can no doubt be managed well by the two countries. Our

problem is how the human trafficking industry can be cracked down upon effectively by our agencies.

Another issue of concern is Trump's warning to the BRICS nations. He is playing the global hegemon on the power of the US dollar and threatening to serve a death warrant on BRICS if its members pursue alternative financial systems that deter the dollar's dominance. South Africa, a BRICS member, has come under a cloud because of land policies that allegedly affect the white Afrikaner minority,



something that Elon Musk highlights as "racist ownership laws" (Musk has also faced challenges for his Starlink project in South Africa). This has led to a halting of all US financial aid to South Africa and Trump's decision not to attend the forthcoming G20 Summit in Johannesburg. What this demonstrates is that Trump is ready to sacrifice diplomatic relations if policy 'principles' are seen as threatened. There is much talk of a multipolar world today. In an interview, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio

acknowledged this when he said, "It's not normal for the world to have a unipolar power. That was an anomaly. It was a product of the end of the Cold War, but eventually you were going to reach back to a point where you had a multipolar world, multi-great powers in different parts of the planet." This may sound soothing, but an 'America First' world view has inbuilt presumptions about American primacy. And the warning to BRICS is a wake-up call for plurilateral groupings, too. Exist if you must, but play according to American rules. In the post-World War II world, America was what some call a 'benign hegemon'. Judging by statements from President Trump and Vice-President Vance, it is recasting its image as a hegemon that sets new rules for the rest of the world, where American slash-and-burn self-interest and interpretations of morality set global parameters, that America will not be "ripped off" by allies and adversaries alike. This is why some term the new Trump presidency as 'imperial'.

The 'stark strategic realities' that US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth spoke of recently suggest that America will withdraw from the defence of Europe, leaving this responsibility to the Europeans themselves, that peace in the Russia-Ukraine conflict means that Russia is the stronger side and that Ukraine cannot be a part of NATO or seek a return of territory taken by Russia, that Palestine and Palestinians are a lost cause since Israel is the champion in a winner-take-all world. As far as China is concerned, even as trade competition will be fierce, Trump seems ready to extend the olive branch to President Xi Jinping on other fronts, or at least, engage with him in a sustained manner. There are no friends and enemies in this scenario, only transactions to be made and deals to be secured. India must set its diplomatic compass accordingly.

बेज्ल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाड़खथु थेके बेज्ले यानवाहनेर प्रवेश शुरु

प्राय २८ घंटा पर, बेज्ल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाड़खथु थेके बेज्ले याग्या समस्त पणवाही यानवाहनेर प्रवेश शुरु हय्छे। गत सन्धा १८टाँर पण बेज्ल सरकारे आदेशे बाड़खथु-बेज्ल मथन सीमाछे पणवाही यानवाहनेर प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा हय्छे। एर फले रात थेके दूपुर पर्यन्त प्राय २० किमी दीर्घ यानजट सृष्टि हय। चालकदेर समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेज्ल सरकारके चाप देय बाड़खथु सीमाछे थेके बेज्ले प्रवेश करा समस्त यानवाहन बन्द करार जन्य। एर फले, बेज्ल सरकार पिछू हटेछे बाधा हय एबं अवशेषे भारी यानवाहनेर प्रवेश आवार स्वाभाविक हय। बेज्ल सरकारे एहि अनुमतिर पर, ट्राक चालकरा शक्तिर निश्चय फेलेन। प्राखन निरसा विभायक अरूप चाटार्जि बाड़खथुेर मुखामञ्जी हेमन्त सोरेनेर एहि उद्देश्ये प्रशंसा करेन। तिन बलेन, मुखामञ्जी हेमन्त सोरेन एहि बिषये क्रमागत शुरु दिग्दर्शन। बेज्ल सरकारे साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर बेज्ल सरकार निषेधाञ्जा तुले नय। एर पर, सारिजे दाड़िये धाका समस्त पणवाही यानवाहन बीरे बीरे बेज्ले प्रवेश करेते शुरु करेछे। NH-९ दीर्घ यानजट एखन सीमित ह्ये एबं यानजटो भाङ्गेते शुरु करेछे।

भोजपुरी कृषि लोक गीत (कहरवा धुन)

गेहूँआ के दिगवा
- श्याम कुंवर भारती (राजभर)

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

सास ससुर केवो जोरओ ना लागता।
लहुरा देवरवा हमरो बतियां ना मानता।

पडल पडल सड़ता धान खरीहनवा।
हाली घरे अईहा सईयां.....।

नवहर बदन हमरो कइसे खेतवा जोताई।
जाड़ा के महीनवा हमसे गेहूँ ना बोआई।

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करवा जे किसानी पिया देशवा मिली अन्न पानी।

अन्न धन भरल रही हमरे हिंदुस्तनवा।
हाली घरे अईहा सईयां.....।

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लइकन के टोपी हमके ले अईहा रजइया।

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mail4daily@gmail.com

भारत निर्यातकों के हितों की रक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए रणनीति बना रहा है : जितिन प्रसाद

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग राज्य मंत्री जितिन प्रसाद ने आज यहां कहा कि भारत सरकार भविष्य में आने वाली बाधाओं और चुनौतियों पर विचार कर रही है और उसके अनुरूप रणनीति तैयार कर रही है, ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि हमारे निर्यातकों और विशेषकर भारतीय निर्यातकों के हितों की रक्षा हो सके। उन्होंने देशों की संरक्षणवादी व्यापार नीति से उत्पन्न संभावित चुनौतियों का भी उल्लेख किया। ईपीसी इंडिया के 54वें राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार और चौथे गुणवत्ता पुरस्कार समारोह में अपने संबोधन में मंत्री ने कहा, भारत आगे बढ़ रहा है। हमारे पास 1.4 बिलियन का बाजार है। हम एफटीओ को समान स्तर पर आगे बढ़ा रहे हैं। हमारे पास न केवल वे संख्याएं हैं, जिनके बारे में लोग बात करते थे बल्कि हमारे पास एक महत्वाकांक्षी खर्च करने वाली आबादी है। हम भारत के हित में और हमारे निर्यातकों के हित में सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्राप्त करेंगे। हम अब किसी भी दबाव में नहीं झुकेंगे। हम इससे कम पर समझौता नहीं करेंगे। समारोह में आज 33 उत्पाद समूहों के 106 राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार विजेता और 4 श्रेणियों में 14 गुणवत्ता पुरस्कार विजेता शामिल हुए। इनमें महारत्न-बीएचईएल, आसलर मित्तल निर्माण स्टील, जेएसडब्ल्यू, पोस्को महाराष्ट्र जैसी इस्पात दिग्गज कंपनियां, ईपीसी परियोजना प्रमुख- लांसन एंड टूबो, प्रसिद्ध रक्षा उपकरण निर्माता-बीईएमएल, ऑटोमोबाइल उद्योग के

सितारे- इसुजु मोटर्स, टोयोटा किलोस्कर, एकीकृत ऊर्जा समाधान प्रदाता- तोशिवा ट्रांसमिशन शामिल हैं। ईपीसी इंडिया के अध्यक्ष पंकज चड्ढा ने कहा, इस वर्ष हम वित्तीय वर्ष 2021-2022 के लिए इंजीनियरिंग निर्यात में उनके उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन के लिए 106 विजेताओं को एक टी टीम की 106 पुरस्कारों से पुरस्कृत कर रहे हैं। वित्तीय वर्ष 2021-22 भारत के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर रहा, जिसमें इंजीनियरिंग निर्यात पहली बार 100 बिलियन अमरीकी डॉलर को पार कर गया, जो प्रभावशाली 112 बिलियन अमरीकी डॉलर तक पहुंच गया। यह उपलब्धि निर्यातक समुदाय के लचीलेपन, अनुकूलनशीलता और नवाचार को दर्शाती है। भविष्य के महानजर सकार

भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय ने रिलायंस न्यू एनर्जी बैटरी लिमिटेड के साथ समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय ने देश के उन्नत बैटरी विनिर्माण क्षेत्र के लिए एक बड़े कदम के रूप में उन्नत रसायन सेल (एसीसी) को लेकर उदात्त लिंकड प्रोत्साहन (पीएलआई) योजना के तहत रिलायंस न्यू एनर्जी बैटरी लिमिटेड (रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड की एक सहायक कंपनी) के साथ एक कार्यक्रम समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए। सोमवार को हुआ यह समझौता एक प्रतिस्पर्धी वैश्विक निविदा प्रक्रिया के बाद रिलायंस न्यू एनर्जी बैटरी लिमिटेड को 10 गीगावाट घंटा एसीसी क्षमता प्रदान करता है और इसे भारत की 18,100 करोड़ रुपये की पीएलआई एसीसी योजना के तहत प्रोत्साहन प्राप्त करने योग्य बनाता है। यह समझौता मई 2021 में मॉनिटरिंग द्वारा स्वीकृत

एक्शन में सेबी, 19 एफवीसीआई का रजिस्ट्रेशन रद्द

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। मार्केट कंट्रोलर सिन्धोरिजिज एंड एक्सचेंज बोर्ड ऑफ इंडिया (सेबी) ने नियमों का उल्लंघन करने के आरोप में 19 फॉरेन वेंचर कैपिटल इन्वेस्टर्स (एफवीसीआई) के खिलाफ कड़ा कदम उठाते हुए उनका रजिस्ट्रेशन रद्द कर दिया है। आरोप है कि ये फॉरेन वेंचर कैपिटल इन्वेस्टर्स अपने रजिस्टर्ड एड्रेस से कारोबार नहीं कर रहे थे। इसके साथ ही इन पर नियमित तौर पर तिमाही रिपोर्ट फाइल नहीं करने का भी आरोप है। इस संबंध में मिली जानकारी के अनुसार, सेबी की जांच में इस बात का पता चला कि सभी 19 आरोपी फॉरेन वेंचर कैपिटल इन्वेस्टर्स ने 2013 से लेकर 2023 के बीच अपने रजिस्टर्ड एड्रेस से काम करना बंद कर दिया था। इन कंपनियों का रजिस्टर्ड एड्रेस सिंगापुर, मॉरीशस और साइप्रस में है। आरोप है कि इन 19 एफवीसीआई में से 6 ने कभी भी अपनी तिमाही रिपोर्ट दायित्व नहीं की है। इसी तरह चार ने 2012-13 के बाद से कभी भी अपनी तिमाही रिपोर्ट दायित्व नहीं की है। सेबी ने जिन एफवीसीआई पर कार्रवाई की

रजिस्टर्ड फॉरेन वेंचर कैपिटल इन्वेस्टर्स के तौर पर आगे काम करने में इनकी दिलचस्पी नहीं बची है। सबसे बड़ी बात तो ये है कि जब इन एफवीसीआई ने रजिस्टर्ड एड्रेस पर काम बंद किया तो उन्होंने इसकी जानकारी सिन्धोरिजिज एंड एक्सचेंज बोर्ड ऑफ इंडिया को भी नहीं दी, जबकि नियमानुसार ऐसा करना आवश्यक था।



पीएस राज स्टील्स की शेयर बाजार में मजबूत शुरुआत, मुनाफे में आईपीओ निवेशक

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। स्टेनलेस स्टील पाइप और ट्यूब बनाने वाली कंपनी पीएस राज स्टील्स ने बुधवार को 3.5 प्रतिशत प्रीमियम के साथ स्टॉक मार्केट में एंटी की। आईपीओ के तहत कंपनी के शेयर 140 रुपये के भाव पर जारी किए गए थे। आज नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज के एसएसई प्लेटफॉर्म पर उनकी एंटी 145 रुपये के भाव पर हुई। लिस्टिंग के बाद खरीदारी के सपोर्ट से इस शेयर में तेजी आ गई। दोपहर 1 बजे तक का कारोबार होने के बाद कंपनी के शेयर 151 रुपये के भाव पर कारोबार कर रहे थे। इस तरह कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशकों को अभी तक 7.86 प्रतिशत का फायदा हो चुका है। पीएस राज स्टील्स का 28.28

करोड़ रुपये का आईपीओ 12 से 14 फरवरी के बीच सब्सक्रिप्शन के लिए खुला था। इस आईपीओ को ओवरऑल 9.82 गुना सब्सक्राइब हो गया था। इनमें कालिफाइड इंस्टीट्यूशनल बायर्स (क्यूआईबी) इन्वेस्टर्स के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन में 21 गुना सब्सक्रिप्शन आया था। इसके अलावा रिटेल इन्वेस्टर्स के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन 10 गुना सब्सक्राइब हुआ था। आईपीओ के जरिए जुटाए गए पैसे का इस्तेमाल कंपनी अपनी वॉकिंग कैपिटल को बढ़ाने को पूरा करने और आम कॉर्पोरेट उद्देश्यों में करेगी। कंपनी की वित्तीय स्थिति की बात करें तो प्रॉस्पेक्टस में किए गए दावे के मुताबिक मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष की पहली छमाही यानी अप्रैल से सितंबर 2024 के बीच कंपनी को 3.86 करोड़ रुपये का शुद्ध लाभ हो चुका है। इसी तरह इस अवधि में कंपनी 139.11 करोड़ रुपये का रेवेन्यू हासिल कर चुकी है।



द्विपक्षीय आर्थिक संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत-कतर संयुक्त व्यापार मंच का आयोजन

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। कतर के अमीर शेख तमीम बिन हमद अल थानी की दो दिवसीय भारत यात्रा के दौरान भारतीय उद्योग परिषद ने उद्योग और आंतरिक व्यापार संवर्धन विभाग (डीपीआईआईटी) के साथ साझेदारी में आज यहां भारत-कतर संयुक्त व्यापार मंच का आयोजन किया। संयुक्त व्यापार मंच में केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल और कतर के वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री शेख फैसल बिन थानी बिन फैसल अल थानी ने मुख्य भाषण किया। संयुक्त बिजनेस फोरम के उद्घाटन सत्र को सम्बोधित करते हुए केंद्रीय मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने विकसित भारत बिजनेस के अनुरूप 2047 तक 30-35 ट्रिलियन डॉलर की अर्थव्यवस्था बनने की भारत की महत्वाकांक्षा की पुष्टि की। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि भारत और कतर सफल ऊर्जा व्यापार का एक लंबा इतिहास साझा करते हैं लेकिन इस साझेदारी का भविष्य हलडोकारबन से आगे बढ़कर एआई, क्राइम क्रायंटिंग, आईओटी और सेमीकंडक्टर जैसे

मैक्सवोल्ट एनर्जी की स्टॉक मार्केट में प्लेटू एंटी, लिस्टिंग के बाद शेयरों में गिरावट

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। लिथियम आयन बैटरी बनाने वाली कंपनी मैक्सवोल्ट एनर्जी ने आज स्टॉक मार्केट में फ्रीकी एंटी करके अपने आईपीओ निवेशकों को निराश कर दिया। आईपीओ के तहत कंपनी के शेयर 180 रुपये के भाव पर जारी किए गए थे। आज नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज के एसएसई प्लेटफॉर्म पर इसकी लिस्टिंग बिना उतार-चढ़ाव के 180 रुपये के स्तर पर ही हुई। लिस्टिंग के तहत बिकवाली का दबाव बनने के कारण इस शेयर में गिरावट आ गई। दोपहर 12 बजे तक के कारोबार के बाद कंपनी के शेयर 178 रुपये के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहे थे। इस तरह कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशकों को पहले दिन ही नुकसान होता हुआ नजर आ रहा है। मैक्सवोल्ट एनर्जी का आईपीओ 12 से 14 फरवरी के बीच सब्सक्रिप्शन के लिए खुला था। इस आईपीओ को निवेशकों की ओर से

ट्राइफेड और टी ट्रक ने जनजातीय अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर किए

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। आदिवासी उत्पादों की बाजार पहुंच का विस्तार करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाते हुए जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्रालय के तहत भारतीय जनजातीय सहकारी विपणन विकास संघ लिमिटेड (ट्राइफेड) ने बेहतरीन भारतीय चाय की कोशिश की, जिसकी वजह से घर टी ट्रक के साथ एक रणनीतिक साझेदारी की है। इस बारे में सोमवार को यहां एक समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए, जो मुख्यधारा के खुदरा बाजार में आदिवासी उत्पादों की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है, जो बहुत बड़े ग्राहक आधार को पूरा करता है। एक सरकारी प्रवक्ता ने आज यहां बताया कि राष्ट्रीय

राजधानी के मेजर ध्यानचंद नेशनल स्टेडियम में 16 से 24 फरवरी हस्ताक्षर किए गए। समझौता ज्ञापन का आदान-प्रदान ट्राइफेड के 17 February 2025



आधार को उत्पादों की व्यापक पसंद प्रदान करके आदिवासी अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा देना है। यह सहयोग आदिवासी उत्पादकों के लिए सतत आर्थिक विकास सुनिश्चित करेगा और उन्हें कौशल विकास और क्षमता निर्माण के अवसर प्रदान करेगा। ट्राइफेड बड़े महानगरों और राज्य की राजधानियों में आदिवासी मास्टर-शिल्पकारों और महिलाओं को सीधे बाजार तक पहुंच प्रदान करने के लिए -आदि महोत्सव डू राष्ट्रीय जनजातीय महोत्सव- का आयोजन कर रहा है। इस महोत्सव का विषय है उद्यमिता, आदिवासी शिल्प, संस्कृति, भोजन और वाणिज्य की भावना का उत्सव, जो आदिवासी जीवन के मूल लोकाचार का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।

एपीडा ने बायोफैच 2025 में भारत की जैविक विरासत को किया प्रदर्शित

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण (एपीडा) ने जर्मनी के नूर्नबर्ग में मेसजेंट्रम में 11 से 14 फरवरी, 2025 तक आयोजित बायोफैच 2025 में एक आशय पत्र (एनओआई) पर हस्ताक्षर हुए थे। इसका उद्देश्य भारत को बायोफैच 2026 में वर्ष का भागीदार देश बनाना का है। केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय के एक प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि भारत की समृद्ध कृषि विरासत और टिकाऊ खेती की बढ़ती मांग के उपलक्ष्य में कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण (एपीडा) ने जर्मनी के नूर्नबर्ग में मेसजेंट्रम में 11 से 14 फरवरी, 2025 तक आयोजित बायोफैच 2025 में भारत मंडप के तहत भारतीय निर्यातकों की भागीदारी का आयोजन

सबसे मूल्यवान कंपनियों की सूची में रिलायंस की बादशाहत बरकरार

नई दिल्ली। उद्योगपति मुकेश अंबानी की पेट्रोलिएम समेत विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में कारोबार करने वाली डिग्मज कंपनी रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड (आरआईएल) ने 12 प्रतिशत की बढ़ोतरी लेकर 17.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये के मूल्य के साथ देश की सबसे मूल्यवान कंपनियों की सूची में लगातार चौथे वर्ष बादशाहत बरकरार रखी है। एक्सिस बैंक के प्राइवेट बैंकिंग बिजनेस वरगंडी प्राइवेट और हूएन इंडिया की जारी भारत की 500 सबसे मूल्यवान कंपनियों की सूची के चौथे संस्करण '2024 वरगंडी प्राइवेट हूएन इंडिया 500' रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि टॉप तीन सबसे मूल्यवान कंपनियों में 12 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि से 17.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये के मूल्य के साथ रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज भारत की सबसे मूल्यवान कंपनी है। इसके बाद 30 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि से 16.1 लाख करोड़ रुपए के मूल्य के साथ टाटा कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज (टीसीएस) और 26 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि से 14.2 लाख करोड़ रुपए के मूल्य के साथ एचडीएफसी बैंक है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लगातार चौथे साल वरगंडी प्राइवेट हूएन इंडिया 500 में शीर्ष स्थान पर अपनी बादशाहत जारी रखे हुए है। 17.5 लाख करोड़ रुपए के मूल्य के साथ, रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज का मूल्य टीसीएस से कम से कम 1.9 लाख करोड़ रुपए अधिक है।

बड़ी गिरावट के बाद शेयर बाजार ने निचले स्तर से की रिकवरी

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। घरेलू शेयर बाजार आज उतार चढ़ाव का सामना करने के बाद लाल निशान में बंद हुआ। हालांकि आज के कारोबार के दौरान एक बार फिर घरेलू संस्थागत निवेशकों ने लिवाली का जोर बनाने की कोशिश की, जिसकी वजह से संसेक्स और निफ्टी बड़ी गिरावट के बावजूद निचले स्तर से काफी हद तक रिकवरी करने में सफल रहे। पूरे दिन के कारोबार के बाद संसेक्स

इंडेक्स भी गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए। बॉडर मार्केट में भी बिकवाली का दबाव बना रहा, जिसके कारण बीएसई का मिडकैप इंडेक्स 0.19 प्रतिशत की कमजोरी के साथ बंद हुआ। इसी तरह स्मॉलकैप इंडेक्स ने 1.71 प्रतिशत की बड़ी गिरावट के साथ आज के कारोबार का अंत किया। आज शेयर बाजार में आई कमजोरी के कारण स्टॉक मार्केट के निवेशकों की संपत्ति में ढ़ाई लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की कमी हो गई। बीएसई में लिस्टेड कंपनियों का

मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन आज के कारोबार के बाद घट कर 397.81 लाख करोड़ रुपये (अस्थायी) हो गया। पिछले कारोबारी दिन यानी सोमवार को इनका मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन 400.32 लाख करोड़ रुपये था। इस तरह निवेशकों को आज के कारोबार से करीब 2.51 लाख करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान हो गया। आज दिन भर के कारोबार में बीएसई में 4,064 शेयरों में एक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें 1,037 शेयर बट्टे के साथ बंद हुए जबकि

आज 76.85 अंक की मजबूती के साथ 76,073.71 अंक के स्तर पर खुला। कारोबार की शुरुआत होने के कुछ देर बाद ही बिकवाली का दबाव बन गया, जिसकी वजह से ये सूचकांक ऊपरी स्तर से 560.68 अंक टूट कर 465.85 अंक की कमजोरी के साथ 75,531.01 अंक के स्तर तक गिर गया। हालांकि दोपहर 11 बजे के बाद घरेलू संस्थागत निवेशकों ने लिवाली शुरु कर दी, जिसकी वजह से इस सूचकांक की स्थिति में सुधार होने लगा। लिवाली के सपोर्ट से संसेक्स निचले



सबसे ज्यादा तनाव भारतीय महिलाओं में



महिलाएं घर से लेकर दफ्तर तक खुद को बेहद तनाव और दबाव में महसूस करती हैं। यह समस्या विकासशील देशों में ज्यादा दिख रही है। लेकिन यदि ये पूछा जाए कि दुनिया में किस देश की महिलाएं सबसे ज्यादा तनाव में रहती हैं तो शायद इसका जवाब आपको हैरानी और चिंता में डाल सकता है। जी हाँ, भारत की महिलाएं सबसे ज्यादा तनाव में रहती हैं और इसका खुलासा एक सर्वे में भी हो चुका है। इस सर्वे में 6,500 महिलाओं ने हिस्सा लिया था। ये सर्वे तुर्की, रूस, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, नाइजीरिया, चीन, थाइलैंड, भारत, मलेशिया, मेक्सिको, ब्राजील, अमेरिका, कनाडा, ब्रिटेन, इटली, फ्रांस, जर्मनी, स्पेन, स्वीडन, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और दक्षिण कोरिया में कराया गया। 21 विकसित और उभरते हुए देशों में कराए गए नीलसन सर्वे में सामने आया कि तेजी से उभरते हुए देशों में महिलाएं बेहद दबाव में हैं, लेकिन उन्हें आर्थिक स्थिरता और अपनी बेटियों के लिए शिक्षा के बेहतर अवसर मिलने की उम्मीद भी दूसरों के मुकाबले कहीं ज्यादा है। सर्वे में 87 प्रतिशत भारतीय महिलाओं ने कहा कि ज्यादातर समय वे तनाव में रहती हैं और 82 फीसदी का कहना है कि उनके पास आराम करने के लिए वक़्त नहीं होता। हालांकि तनाव में रहने के बावजूद इस बात की काफी संभावना है कि भारतीय महिलाएं आने वाले पांच साल के दौरान अपने ऊपर ज्यादा खर्च करेंगीं। 96 प्रतिशत का कहना है कि वे कपड़े खरीदेंगीं जबकि 77 फीसदी कहती है कि वे सेहत और सुंदरता से जुड़े उत्पादों पर जेब

खोली करेंगीं। वहीं 44 फीसदी महिलाएं घर में बिजली से चलने वाली चीजें लाना चाहती हैं। सर्वे के अनुसार दुनिया भर में महिलाएं उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त कर रही हैं और बड़ी संख्या में नौकरियां कर रही हैं। उनके काम करने से घर की आमदनी भी बढ़ रही है। महिलाओं ने सर्वेकर्ताओं को बताया कि जब उन्हें अपने लक्ष्य मिलते हैं तो वह खुद को सशक्त महसूस करती हैं, लेकिन इससे उनका तनाव भी बढ़ता है। तनाव और समय न होने के मामले में मेक्सिको की महिलाएं दूसरे नंबर पर हैं। वहां 74 प्रतिशत महिलाएं इस समस्या से परेशान हैं। इसके बाद रूस में 69 प्रतिशत महिलाएं तनाव झेल रही हैं। सर्वे के मुताबिक इस तनाव के लिए एक हद तक सामाजिक बदलाव भी जिम्मेदार हैं। वहीं विकसित देशों में स्पेन में सबसे ज्यादा 66 प्रतिशत महिलाएं तनाव की शिकार हैं। इसके बाद फ्रांस में 65 प्रतिशत और अमेरिका में 53 प्रतिशत महिलाएं इस समस्या सज्जुद रही हैं। सर्वे में उभरते हुए देशों मानती हैं कि बेटियां उनसे ज्यादा शिक्षा हासिल करेंगीं और आर्थिक रूप से स्वावलंबी बनेगीं। महिलाएं अब पहले की तरह अबला नहीं रहें। चाहे राजनीति का क्षेत्र हो या तकनीक या फिर सेना का, हर क्षेत्र में महिलाओं की जबरदस्त भागीदारी है। उन्हें पहले से ज्यादा अधिकार मिले हैं और आगे बढ़ने के अवसर भी। लेकिन ये भी सच है कि वे आज भी घर पर वे हिंसा का शिकार बनती हैं और दफ्तर में भी उनसे भेद भाव किया जाता है। मुमकिन है आप इस बात पर एकाएक यकीन न करें लेकिन संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एक रिपोर्ट में यह बात का खुलासा हुआ है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है ऐसी लाखों महिलाएं हैं, जो जीवन में कभी ना कभी अपने पति के हाथों हिंसा का शिकार हुई हैं। ऐसा बहुत बार देखा गया है कि महिलाओं को फेंसले लेना का हक नहीं दिया जाता, उन्हें खुद को हिंसा से बचाने की भी अनुमति नहीं होती। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि ऐसे 186 देश हैं जिन्होंने अंतरराष्ट्रीय नियमों के अनुसार देश में लिंग भेद खत्म करने की प्रतिज्ञा

ली है, लेकिन वे ऐसा करने में नाकाम रहे हैं। 127 देश तो ऐसे हैं जो बलात्कार की सजा भी नहीं दे पाते और 61 देशों में गर्भपात पर रोक है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एजेंसी यूएन वुमन ने यह रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि आज से दो शतक पहले केवल दो ही देशों में महिलाओं को मताधिकार था लेकिन अब लगभग हर देश में महिलाओं को यह अधिकार प्राप्त हो गया है। इसके बावजूद उनके उर्पीड़न और प्रताड़ित किए जाने की घटनाएं सामने आती रही हैं। महिलाओं को घर पर बुरे व्यवहार के साथ-साथ दफ्तर में भी तनाव का सामना करना पड़ता है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है दुनिया में आधी से अधिक नौकरी पेशा महिलाएं ऐसी नौकरियां कर रही हैं, जहां वे सुरक्षित महसूस नहीं करतीं। इनकी संख्या करोड़ों साठ करोड़ है और जिस तरह की नौकरियों में वे फंसी हुई हैं, वहां श्रम कानूनी के दायरे से भी बाहर है। रिपोर्ट में यह भी पाया गया है कि पुरुषों की तुलना में महिलाओं को तीस प्रतिशत कम वेतन मिलता है।

घर से दफ्तर तक भेदभाव



की 80 प्रतिशत महिलाओं को उम्मीद है कि उनकी बेटों को उनसे कहीं ज्यादा वित्तीय स्थिरता मिलेगी जबकि 83 फीसदी का कहना है कि उन्हें शिक्षा हासिल करने के ज्यादा मौके मिलेंगे। विकसित देशों में 40 प्रतिशत महिलाओं को लगता है कि उनकी बेटियों की वित्तीय स्थिति उनसे अच्छी होगी जबकि 54 प्रतिशत का अनुमान है कि उनकी बेटियां बेहतर शिक्षा पाएंगीं। यानि सर्वे से कई महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य सामने आए, जैसे महिलाएं तनाव में तो हैं लेकिन यदि उन्हें लक्ष्य दिया जाए तो वे खुद को सशक्त महसूस करती हैं, महिलाएं

2 मिनट में करें

आज की दौड़-भाग भरी इस जिंदगी में स्वयं के लिए खुद के लिए और खास तौर पर मेकअप के लिए वक़्त निकालना मुश्किल हो गया है। महिलाएं अक्सर सोचती हैं कि पहले जरूरी काम निपटा लें फिर तैयार हो जाएंगीं। काम निपटाने-निपटाने कब ऑफिस या पार्टी में जाने का वक़्त हो जाता है उन्हें पता ही नहीं चलता और वे ठीक से तैयार हुए बिना ही निकल पड़ती हैं, फिर बाद में अफसोस करती हैं। हम आपको बता रहे हैं कुछ टिप्स जिसे अपनाकर आप मिनटों में मेकअप कर सकती हैं। दो मिनट का समय निकालना कोई मुश्किल काम नहीं है। सबसे पहले चेहरे पर फाउंडेशन व आंखों पर लाइट कलर का आई शेडो लगाएं। चिकबोन पर लाइट शेडो का ब्लश आन और होठों पर लिप ग्लास लगाएं। इस तरह आप 2 मिनट में सॉफ्ट और सोफिस्टिकेटेड लुक के साथ तैयार हो सकती हैं। रोजमर्रा के लिए इतना मेकअप काफी है। स्पेशल यानी खास मौके पर जाना हो तो पहले फाउंडेशन लगाएं फिर कॉम्पैक्ट से फाइनल टच दें। इस बार आंखों पर भी थोड़ा ज्यादा मेकअप करें। पहले लाइनर फिर लाइट शेडो या दो शेड

मेकअप

को मिलाकर आई शेडो लगाएं आप चाहें तो काजल भी लगा सकती हैं। चिकबोन पर हल्के पिंक या पीच शेड का ब्लश आन लगाएं। होठों का मेकअप हल्का रखें। होठों के लिए लिप ग्लास ही काफी है। पार्टी में यदि आप कुछ अलग और खास नजर आना चाहती हैं तो मेकअप को 10 मिनट दें। सबसे पहले चेहरे के दाग-धब्बे छुपाने के लिए कंसीलर, फिर कंक फाउंडेशन, कॉम्पैक्ट या पैन कंक से बेस लगाएं। आंखों के लिए ग्रे, पर्पल जैसे शेड चुनें। साथ ही इस बार आईलाइनर, मस्कारा और काजल भी लगाएं। ब्लश आन थोड़ा डार्क रखें या शार्डनर का उपयोग करें। लिपलाइनर से आउटलाइन करके लिपिस्टिक लगाएं। अंत में लिप ग्लास से फाइनल टच दें।



शहद के गुणकारी घने लू नुस्खे

- हृदय की धमनी के लिए शहद बड़ा शक्तिवर्धक है। सोते वक़्त शहद व नींबू का रस मिलाकर एक ग्लास पानी पीने से कमजोर हृदय में शक्ति का संचार होता है।
- पेट के छोटे-मोटे घाव और शुरुआती स्थिति का अल्सर शहद को दूध या चारा के साथ लेने से ठीक हो सकता है।
- सूखी खांसी में शहद व नींबू का रस समान मात्रा में सेवन करने पर लाभ होता है।
- शहद से मांसपेशियां बलवती होती हैं।
- बड़े हुए रक्तचाप में शहद का सेवन लहसुन के साथ करना लाभप्रद होता है।
- अदक का रस और शहद समान मात्रा में लेकर चाटने से श्वास कष्ट दूर होता है और हिचकिर्राई बंद हो जाती है।
- संतरे के छिलकों का चूर्ण बनाकर दो चम्मच शहद उसमें फेंटकर उबतन तैयार कर त्वचा पर मलें। इससे त्वचा निखर जाती है और कांतिवान बनती है।
- कब्जियत में टमाटर या संतरे के रस में एक चम्मच शहद डालकर सेवन करें, लाभ होगा।

प्रेग्नेंसी में झाड़ते हैं बाल

माँ बनना किसी भी महिला का सबसे खूबनुमा पल होता है। लेकिन यह खुरी तब छू हो जाती है, जब अचानक बालों का गिरना शुरू होता है। प्रेग्नेंसी के बाद आमतौर पर महिलाओं के बाल गिरने लगते हैं। कई महिलाओं तो यह सोच-सोचकर टेंशन में आ जाती हैं कि आखिर इनका गिरना कैसे रोका जाए। चिकित्सकों के मुताबिक, प्रेग्नेंसी के दौरान हुए हार्मोनल चेंज की वजह से ऐसा होता है और जब हार्मोस नॉर्मल फेज में आने लगते हैं, तो बालों का गिरना धीरे-धीरे कम होता चला जाता है। चिकित्सकों के अनुसार यह समस्या आमतौर पर प्रेग्नेंसी के बाद या बर्थ कंट्रोल पिलस के बंद करने पर आती है। इसके अलावा, ज्यादा ब्लॉडिंग होना, स्ट्रेस और एनीमिक होना भी बालों के गिरने की एक बड़ी वजह होती है। प्रेग्नेंसी में एस्ट्रोजन हार्मोन का लेवल काफी बढ़ जाता है। यही हार्मोन बालों की ग्रोथ बढ़ाते हैं, इसलिए प्रेग्नेंसी के दौरान तो आपके बाल ना के बराबर गिरते हैं। दरअसल, हमारे 90 फीसदी बाल एक समय में बढ़ते हैं और वहीं 10 फीसदी (रेस्टिंग फेज)

में चले जाते हैं। प्रेग्नेंसी में रेस्टिंग फेज के बाल बढ़ते जाते हैं। जैसे ही यह लेवल बदलता है, बाल गिरना शुरू होते हैं। ऐसा पोस्ट-प्रेग्नेंसी के 3-6 महीने तक रहता है। वैसे यह भी देखने में आया है कि कुछ महिलाओं के बाल पहले जैसे घने फिर से नहीं हो पाते हैं। इनके अलावा भी बालों के गिरने की कई वजह होती हैं। जैसे किसी हार्मोनल दवा को अचानक छोड़ना, मिस कैरिज होना, एबार्शन, हार्मोनल असंतुलन आदि। इस समस्या से निपटने के लिए खूब फल आदि खाएं। इससे बालों को पूरे न्यूट्रिशन मिल पाएगा, जिससे वो कम गिरेंगे। कैल्शियम, फॉलिक एसिड, विटामिन बी, सी, ई के साथ जिंक और आयरन जरूर लें। बटर चिकन अवॉइड करें। इनके बजाय फिश, लो फेट चीज, अंडे, बादाम, बीस और दही खाएं। डेयरी प्रॉडक्ट में सोया मिल्क और टोफू शामिल करना फायदेमंद रहेगा। आयरन की क्वार्टिटी भरपूर रहने से बालों की जड़ों में ब्लड फ्लो अच्छा रहता है, जिससे उनकी ग्रोथ अच्छी रहती है। इसके लिए किशमिश या मुनक्का और चौरी जूस लेना फायदेमंद रहेगा। अंडा, खजूर, हरी सब्जियां भी आयरन के अच्छे स्रोत हैं। इसके साथ विटामिन सी के लिए ऑरेंज, स्ट्रॉबेरी आदि लेना न भूलें क्योंकि यह आयरन को पचाने में मदद करते हैं। खीरे के छिलके, लाल-हरी मिर्च और आलू में सिलिका होता है, जो कई तरह के विटामिन के पाचन को आसान कर देता है। लेकिन इनका फायदा आपको पूरी तरह तभी मिल पाएगा, जब आप इनको कच्चा खाएंगे। इस सबके अलावा खूब सागर पानी लें, ताकि आपका सिस्टम क्लीन और बाल हाईड्रेट रहें।

खानी खजाना

मटर के समोसे
सामग्री-250 ग्राम मैदा, चूटकी भर अजवायन, 2 कटोरी मटर के दाने, 2 छोटे चम्मच अमचूर व लाल मिर्च पाउडर, स्वादानुसार नमक, 1 छोटा चम्मच गरम मसाला, स्वादानुसार बारीक कटी हरी मिर्च।
विधि-मैदे में अजवायन व मोयन डालकर अच्छी तरह मिलाएं। इसमें आवश्यकतानुसार पानी डालकर आटा गूंध लें। भरावन के लिए मटर को दरदरा पीस लें। इसमें हरी मिर्च, लाल मिर्च पाउडर, नमक, अमचूर, गरम मसाला डालकर अच्छी तरह मिलाएं। एक पैन में तेल गर्म करें। इसमें तैयार भरावन डालकर पांच मिनट तक भून लें। गूंधे हुए मैदे की लोई बनाकर पतली रोटी बेल लें। रोटी के बीच से दो भाग करें। समोसे का आकार देते हुए भरावन भरें। इसी तरह सभी समोसे तैयार करें। गर्म तेल में मध्यम आंच पर सुनहरे होने तक सभी समोसे तल लें। इमली या हरी चटनी के साथ गर्मा-गर्म समोसे सर्व करें।

लजीज केसर-मटर पुलाव
सामग्री- 1 कटोरी बासमती चावल, 1 कटोरी मटर, 1 चम्मच केसर, 1/2 कप दूध, 3-4 लौंग, 1 टुकड़ा दालचीनी, 2 बड़ी इलायची, 2-3 छोटी इलायची, 3-4 तेज पत्ते, 3-4 काली मिर्च, 4-5 अखरोट की गिरियों के टुकड़े, 8-10 काजू, 10-12 बादाम, 1 बड़ा चम्मच धी, थोड़ी किशमिश, नमक स्वादानुसार।
विधि- केसर को दूध में घोल लें। चावल को पानी में भिगो दें। धी गरम करके किशमिश डालकर सूखे मेवे हल्के गुलाबी तलकर बाहर निकालें। साग खड़ा गरम मसाला गरम धी में डालें। आधा केसर दूध व चावल डालकर चलाएं। ढाई कटोरी पानी, मटर, किशमिश और नमक डालकर उबालें। तैयार हो जाने पर शेष केसर, दूध डालकर 2-3 मिनट तक ढंक दें। परोसने के समय तले सूखे मेवों से सजाएं और सदी के मौसम में गरमा-गरम केसर-मटर पुलाव का लुप्त लें।

NEWS BOX

Arshdeep Singh over Harshit Rana to replace Jasprit Bumrah: Ricky Ponting

New Delhi Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting believes that India seamer Arshdeep Singh is the best choice to replace the injured Jasprit Bumrah in the playing XI for the upcoming Champions Trophy. While India named Harshit Rana as Bumrah's replacement in the squad, Ponting feels Arshdeep is better suited to lead the attack in Bumrah's absence. Bumrah's injury left a significant gap in India's bowling unit, raising concerns about who will step up to anchor the attack in a tournament where India will be aiming to end their long wait for an ODI silverware. Despite initially being named in India's 15-man squad, Bumrah was ruled out of the tournament due to a back injury sustained during the Sydney Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. India handed Harshit Rana his ODI debut in the recent series against England, but he struggled with the new ball. Although he improved in his second spells, Ponting, speaking on The ICC Review, expressed concerns over Harshit's lack of control in the early overs and backed



Arshdeep as a better fit for the role. "I would go with the left-artermer and I'd go with Arshdeep (to replace Bumrah)...We know how good he's been in T20 cricket and if you think about the skill set, he probably provides a similar skill set to what Bumrah does with new ball and death overs and that's what India will miss," Ponting said. "That's taking nothing away from Harshit Rana because I think he has got a lot of talent and we know what he can do with the new ball, but I don't think his death skills are as good as what Arshdeep Singh's are...And just that left-arm variation, someone that can bowl left-arm with a new ball and move the new ball. We know how important they are and crucial they can be, especially in big tournaments when you've got a lot of right-handers at the top. I would personally lean that way if I was India," he added. Harshit has shown promise across all formats, becoming one of the few bowlers to claim three-wicket hauls on his Test, ODI, and T20I debuts. He picked up 3/48 on his Test debut against Australia in Perth, followed by 3/33 against England in his first T20I in Pune, and 3/53 in his maiden ODI against England in Nagpur.

Pakistani net bowler, viral after toe-crushers to Rohit Sharma, lives his dream

New Delhi. Fast bowler Awais Ahmad fulfilled his dream when he bowled to Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli during India's nets session in Dubai ahead of the Champions Trophy. Hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, Ahmad impressed both Rohit and Virat, swinging the ball both ways. A video recently went viral in which Rohit praised the pacer for his skill.

Champions Trophy Full Coverage

Rohit also mentioned that Ahmad specifically targeted his boots with yorkers. Ahmad revealed that he learned the art of bowling yorkers from Pakistani fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi, who has troubled Rohit with this delivery in high-stakes matches. Ahmad was also part of the Lahore Qalandars in the 2021



Pakistan Super League (PSL), though he didn't get the opportunity to play. When I was bowling, Virat was on strike, and later, he had a brief chat with Rohit. Rohit asked Virat which way I was swinging the ball. I heard Virat Bhai say that I was swinging the ball both ways. After that, he batted perfectly and didn't make any mistakes in his stroke play," Ahmad said in an interview with Sports Today. "After the net session, Rohit appreciated me. I tried to deceive Rohit Bhai with yorkers, similar to how Shaheen Shah Afridi bowls to him. Later, Rohit said that I aimed for his foot, and that gave me confidence." "Both happy and nervous"

On February 23, India will be up against Pakistan in the marquee clash at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Ahmed said that he was privileged to have got the chance of bowling players of the calibre of Rohit and Virat. "He was definitely practising with the thought that India would face Pakistan later. People dream of meeting Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, and I'm lucky that I got to bowl to them." "I didn't feel nervous while bowling today, but when I received the message from Mohit (Raghav) bhai yesterday that I would be bowling to the Indian team, I was both happy and nervous at the same time," Ahmed added. Mohit Raghav was the one who arranged the net bowlers.

New Zealand still has squad depth for Champions Trophy despite injuries: Shane Bond

Shane Bond backed New Zealand's depth despite injury concerns

Black Caps rely on all-rounders for balance in Champions Trophy

Confidence high after Tri-Series win against Pakistan in Karachi

New Delhi Former New Zealand cricketer Shane Bond believes that despite a series of injury setbacks, the Black Caps still possess strong squad depth heading into the Champions Trophy. Bond emphasized that the number of all-rounders in the squad provides balance and flexibility, making New Zealand a competitive force in the tournament. New Zealand has suffered multiple injury blows, including the losses of Ben Sears and experienced pacer Lockie

Ferguson, both of whom have been ruled out of the tournament. Their replacements, Jacob Duffy and Kyle Jamieson, have been drafted in to bolster the squad. However, Bond, while speaking to ESPN Cricinfo, explained that despite these disruptions, New Zealand remains a well-rounded team capable of fielding a strong playing XI. He particularly highlighted how the presence of several all-rounders enhances the squad's depth, allowing for a more balanced batting lineup. "It's transitioning, but really there's still a lot of depth and experience within that New Zealand team. If you look at who they've lost, they've lost probably (Trent) Boult and (Tim) Southee, and obviously a few others. (Lockie) Ferguson now through injury. But it's a very experienced lineup. It's a lineup that has got experience in subcontinent conditions, they've been successful over the last period of time. It's a very good one day side and New Zealand will take a lot of confidence into this tournament given the recent success in the Tri-series," Bond said.

"I think having four spin-bowling all-rounders, and three of them being genuine batsmen means Mitch Santner will come at eight. You could even potentially have a Nathan Smith at nine or a Matt henry at nine. So New Zealand's depth of batting, there's lif

and right handers throughout the order and there's power hitting. So after the wickets turn, New Zealand have got their depth with (Rachin) Ravindra, who they'll come back in a spin bowler and experience through that batting lineup. Someone like Will Young's



likely to miss out, Mark Chapman, who's been very successful in Pakistan. I think New Zealand will take a great deal of confidence in the squad that they've got and the recent Tri-Series will really help their confidence, which is sort of very different to the T20 World Cup. This time they come very well-prepared and with the confidence of some wins behind them," he added. The Black Caps are set to play the high-stakes

Champions Trophy opener against co-hosts Pakistan on February 19 in Karachi. Their recent Tri-Series victory over Pakistan at the same venue gives them a psychological edge heading into the tournament. However, concerns remain over injuries, with star all-rounder Rachin Ravindra also in doubt for the opener. Ravindra suffered a serious facial injury during the Tri-Series and is still undergoing recovery. New Zealand head coach Gary Stead recently stated that the 25-year-old is making gradual progress, but his absence would be a significant setback for the team. Despite these challenges, Bond remains optimistic about New Zealand's chances in the Champions Trophy. He believes that their recent successes, combined with the squad's versatility, will help them remain competitive. The team will also be motivated to improve their ICC tournament record, having suffered heartbreak in the 2019 ODI World Cup final and an early exit in the 2023 edition at the hands of India. With a mix of experience, confidence, and a solid core of all-rounders, New Zealand will look to overcome their injury woes and make a strong statement in the Champions Trophy.

Fully fit Novak Djokovic handed shock Qatar Open exit by Matteo Berrettini

Novak Djokovic's struggles in 2025 continued as he suffered a shocking Round of 32 defeat to Matteo Berrettini at the Qatar Open. The Italian dominated after a tiebreak first set to claim a 7-6 (4), 6-2 win.

New Delhi. Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic's struggles in 2025 continued as he suffered a shocking defeat to Matteo Berrettini in the Round of 32 at the Qatar Open on February 18. Despite a hard-fought first set that ended in a tiebreaker, Berrettini dominated the second set to secure a 7-6 (4), 6-2 victory over the World No. 7. Djokovic had been expected to make a strong comeback in Qatar after his

hamstring injury forced him to retire hurt in the Australian Open semi-final against Alexander Zverev. Given that he had never lost to Berrettini in their previous four career meetings, the Serbian was heavily



favoured to win. However, the Italian displayed an aggressive game plan, outplaying Djokovic in key moments. After the match, Djokovic admitted that he was physically fine and played without pain from his recent injury. However, he expressed disappointment in his performance, acknowledging that he had not been able to execute his game plan

effectively. "I haven't had any pain or discomfort during the match, none of that. Today, I was simply outplayed by a better player, that's all," Djokovic said. "I know I wasn't at the desired level, maybe I'm still not moving the way I want to, but what I want to make clear is that I played without any pain, so there's no excuse. Matteo was a better player than me; I think he played a masterful match, to be honest. Tactically, he was great, and he served very well throughout the match. I believe it was a well-deserved victory on his part," he added. For Berrettini, the victory was particularly sweet, as it avenged his defeat to Djokovic in the 2021 Wimbledon final. The win marked the Italian's 10th career victory against a top-10 opponent and reinforced his ability to compete at the highest level.

Berrettini will now face Tallon Griekspoor in the second round as he looks to build on this momentum. Meanwhile, Djokovic's early exit raises further questions about his form and fitness as he looks to bounce back from a challenging start to the season.

Benfica hold off Monaco to reach Champions League last 16

LISBON. Benfica snatched a nailbiting 3-3 draw against Monaco on Tuesday to reach the Champions League last 16 with a 4-3 aggregate victory in the play-off round.

Monaco twice led on the night and came close to forcing extra-time but Orkun Kokcu's 84th minute equaliser helped Benfica scrape through in Lisbon, with Barcelona or Liverpool awaiting in the next round. Kerem Akturkoglu put the hosts ahead against the run of play, with Takumi Minamino levelling for Monaco after 32 minutes. Eliesse Ben Seghir fired the visitors ahead but Vangelis Pavlidis struck from the spot to keep the score tied on the night. French youngster George Lenikheneta netted in the 81st minute for Monaco but Kokcu prodded home to send Benfica through. "It was a tough night, we knew Monaco would put pressure on us from the start and we felt it, we didn't play



our best game," Kokcu told SportTV. "Still, we're happy to have progressed to the last 16, I'm happy to have contributed to the result." Monaco hammered Nantes 7-1 on Saturday in the French top flight, sharpening their pencils ahead of their crucial exam at the Estadio da Luz. Both sides were without

key players through injury and suspension, with Benfica missing Angel Di Maria among others, while Monaco started with just one recognised midfielder. Wingers Maghnes Aklouch and Ben Seghir played more centrally than usual and both shone in Lisbon, despite ending up on the losing side.

Benfica goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin made a good save to deny Monaco's Krepin Diatta early on, as the Ligue 1 side looked to get back on level terms in the tie and had the better of the first half. However it was the hosts who took the lead after superb work by Benfica striker Pavlidis. The Greek attacker, who netted a hat-trick against Barcelona in this occasion and, after darting into the area, crossed to the back post for Akturkoglu to turn home.

Champions Trophy 2025 FAQs: Your complete guide to the returning mini World Cup

Champions Trophy 2025 FAQs: In these 13 FAQs, we have covered everything you need to know about the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, from the schedule and venues to team line-ups and live streaming details. This comprehensive guide ensures you stay informed about all key aspects of the tournament.

New Delhi. The ICC Champions Trophy is making its long-awaited return to the cricket calendar after eight years. At a time when the future of one-day international (ODI) cricket appears uncertain, the marquee tournament fondly known as the mini World Cup, is back in the spotlight. Pakistan, the defending champions, will host the eight-

team competition from 19 February to 9 March, while India's matches will take place in Dubai after the former champions declined to travel across the border, citing security concerns. The ninth edition of the Champions Trophy forms part of the ICC's efforts to reinvigorate ODI cricket at a time when the format faces growing challenges from the proliferation of T20 leagues and players' increasing preference for the shorter format. A battle among the top eight teams in a tournament widely regarded as more competitive than the men's ODI World Cup could provide the much-needed boost to prove to broadcasters that fifty-over cricket remains a commercially viable and exciting spectacle. | Champions Trophy: Full Coverage | For Pakistan, the return of the Champions Trophy is a moment of immense significance in cricketing history. It marks the first time since 1996 that a major ICC event will be held in the country, as well as the first ICC tournament on Pakistani soil in



nearly a decade. For years, Pakistan was exiled from hosting top-tier international cricket following the 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan team bus. However, in recent years, the country has made great strides in assuring visiting teams of its security arrangements, successfully hosting several high-profile bilateral series. The 21-day tournament is expected to further solidify Pakistan's reputation as a safe and capable host, potentially paving the way for more major events and marquee bilateral series in the

future. From a cricketing perspective, there is no shortage of excitement. While some big names will be absent due to availability and injury concerns, the wealth of talent on display is set to make this one of the most thrilling editions of the Champions Trophy yet. Much will depend on how well teams are supported in Pakistan, which is set to host at least 10 of the 15 matches.

Here's a complete guide to Champions Trophy 2025 as we answer some of your questions about the tournament. 1. When and where is the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 taking place? The tournament is scheduled from February 19 to March 9, 2025, with matches held in Pakistan and Dubai. 2. How many editions of the ICC Champions Trophy have been played? This is the eighth edition of the tournament. It was introduced in 1998 as ICC Knockout as part of former ICC chief Jagmohan Dalmiya's efforts to bring in more money to the board coffers. Read more about the tournament's history here.



serves as a stark reminder that the format needs rescuing.

Champions Trophy 2025: Full coverage It was no surprise that former ICC chief Jagmohan Dalmiya, one of cricket's finest administrators, introduced the Champions Trophy in 1998 (then known as the ICC KnockOuts) to generate revenue for the game. The initiative proved successful—the inaugural edition earned USD 20 million, according to ESPNcricinfo. However, since the success of the first T20 World Cup, ODI cricket has taken a significant hit. Between 1990 and 2006, when ODIs were the financial backbone of the sport, a total of 1,871 ODIs were played. During the same period, only 12 T20Is took place. The landscape changed dramatically after the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, which was a massive success, particularly with India winning the title. Since then, despite an increasingly packed cricket calendar:

2,373 ODIs have been played. 3,080 T20Is have been played. Among Test-playing nations, 2,040 ODIs and 1,320 T20Is have taken place. The trend is even more striking when looking at the teams participating in the upcoming Champions Trophy: Since the end of the 2023 ODI World Cup, these eight teams have played 229 T20Is but only 101 ODIs.

Keerthy Suresh

Slays In White Gown In Dreamy Christian Wedding With Antony Thattil



Love is in the air and Keerthy Suresh is basking in all its glory! The actress had tied the knot with businessman Antony Thattil in a fairytale Christian wedding on December 12. Today, the actress took to her official Instagram account to share some unseen pictures from her Christian wedding, and the internet can't get enough of her breathtaking bridal look. Dressed in a pristine white gown, Keerthy looked every bit the glowing bride. With soft curls framing her face and a delicate veil, she was a true vision of grace and beauty. Antony, on the other hand, looked dapper as ever in his classic wedding suit. We are also swooning over the dreamy decor.

Keerthy Suresh tied the knot with her long-time boyfriend Antony Thattil in two dreamy wedding ceremonies on December 12, 2024. They first exchanged vows as per Tamil Brahmin traditions and then sealed their union with a Christian wedding. Since then, the actress has been sharing glimpses from her fun-filled wedding bashes.

Antony Thattil, a Dubai-based businessman, hails from Kochi and is known for owning a chain of luxury resorts in his hometown. He also has business ventures in Chennai, Keerthy Suresh's hometown, with a couple of companies registered there. Unlike his actress-wife, Antony prefers to stay away from the limelight and maintains a low-key presence, rarely making public appearances with Keerthy.

Keerthy Suresh and Antony Thattil's love story goes way back—15 years, to be exact! The couple first met as teenagers and have been together ever since. Their romance reportedly began around 2008-09, when Keerthy was still in school and Antony was about to start his undergraduate studies. Despite their long relationship, the duo has kept things private. Wishing the beautiful couple a lifetime of happiness and love!



Bharti Singh

Backs Samay Raina After Ranveer Allahbadia's Controversial Comment: 'Woh Show Hi Aisa Hai'

Bharti Singh has come out in support of Samay Raina amid the controversy surrounding Ranveer Allahbadia's comment on India's Got Latent. Recently, Bharti was snapped by the paparazzi in Mumbai when she shared her views on the ongoing row and stated that Samay is a good guy who is loved by many. Interestingly, Bharti also appeared on Samay's hit show previously with her husband, Haarsh Limbachiya. "Woh show hi aisa hai, but zaroori nahi ki aap show mein jaake wahi bolo jo show ki requirement hai. Aapki marzi—bolo ya na bolo. Samay thodi kehta hai, 'Arey, muh kholo, bol!' Samay bohut accha ladka hai aur talented bhi hai. Gen-Z ka pasand hai woh. Khud jaoge toh uske fan ho jaoge. Itna accha hai," Bharti said, as quoted by Indian Express.

"Agar uski language jo use karta hai woh pasand nahi hai, toh millions hai aur hum hi hai, jo Samay Raina lagate hai aur dekhte hain," the comedian added. Bharti Singh is not the first celebrity who has come out in support of Samay Raina. Previously, Poonam Pandey also asked everyone to forgive Ranveer Allahbadia. "Been reading so much about @BeerBicepsGuy..Bas Karo yaar,

Galti ho Gayi Usse...Bacche Ki Jaan Loge? Maaf kardo yaar," she wrote on her X handle. Before this, Rakhi Sawant also took to her social media handle and shared that even though Ranveer was wrong, he should be forgiven. "Forgive him yaar. It's okay happen, sometimes forgive him.

I know he did wrong, but forgive him," she wrote. For the unversed, Samay Raina and Ranveer Allahbadia have been facing immense backlash over the latter's recent comments on India's Got Latent. Allahbadia,



also known as BeerBiceps, during a recent episode of the show, allegedly asked a contestant an inappropriate question involving body parts and proposed an indecent act in exchange for Rs 2 crore. The outrage peaked when he posed a controversial question: "Would you watch your parents have sex every day for the rest of your life or join once to stop it forever?" The comment left many shocked and disappointed. In no time, the video went viral on social media with many, including politicians and film personalities, condemning Allahbadia's comment.

Raha Arrives With Dadi Neetu Kapoor For Randhir Kapoor's Birthday, Aadar Jain's Wife-To-Be Alekha Advani Joins



Randhir Kapoor is celebrating his 78th birthday today, and earlier, his daughter Kareena Kapoor Khan was seen arriving for the celebration. Apart from Bebo, her besties Malaika Arora and Amrita Arora also joined the celebrations, and were clicked by the paparazzi. While Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor haven't arrived so far, the paps spotted the couple's daughter Raha Kapoor arriving for the bash with her 'dadi' Neetu Kapoor. Videos shared by the paparazzi show Neetu Kapoor stepping out of the car, while Raha Kapoor is seen in the arms of her nanny. The little one looks too adorable in a beautiful white frock, with her hair tied back in a half ponytail. She donned tiny white sneakers, and was seen looking curiously at the paparazzi. Meanwhile, Neetu Kapoor followed behind, and looked stunning in a white tee layered with a beige blazer and denim jeans. Check out the video below! Also spotted arriving at the bash was Aadar Jain's wife-to-be Alekha Advani. She wore a white collared sleeveless top with ripped denim jeans, and was seen carrying a few gifts. Malaika donned a black blazer with fuchsia pink pants, while Karisma donned a white oversized shirt with baggy denims. Earlier today, Kareena Kapoor Khan was also clicked by the paparazzi. While she happily posed for the pictures, she warned the photographers not to click her children Taimur or Jeh's photos. She said, "Mera photos leke aap log please chale jao. Bachchon ka bola tha... (You can take my pictures and leave please. I had told you about the kids' photos...)" The paparazzi agreed, and said that they will not click the kids' photos. Post that, Kareena smiled and posed for photos. Before leaving, the actress once again reminded the photographers about protecting her kids' privacy. Hailing from the illustrious Kapoor family, Randhir Kapoor is the son of legendary actor-filmmaker Raj Kapoor, grandson of the pioneering Prithviraj Kapoor and the elder brother of the late Rishi Kapoor.

To 'Darling Princess' Samisha, A Birthday Love Note From Mom Shilpa Shetty



Shilpa Shetty and Raj Kundra welcomed their daughter Samisha in February 2020. The doting parents often share glimpses of their little one on social media and are frequently spotted with her in the city. Recently, they celebrated Samisha's birthday. To mark the occasion, Shilpa posted a touching video compilation, capturing precious moments of Samisha from her toddler years to now.

The video captures a heartwarming transition from a toddler Samisha running into her mother's arms to her now-grown-up self, cherishing moments with her family. In the caption, Shilpa expressed her love, writing, "My darling princess Samisha, you bring us so much joy! Thank you for choosing me—I feel so blessed to be your mommy in this lifetime. Happy birthday and a high five to the coolest, smartest, kindest, and funniest 5-year-old I know! Stay happy, blessed, and healthy always...Love you, my jaan!"

Shilpa Shetty shares a strong bond with her daughter, Samisha. Some time back, the actress posted a



heartwarming video of them practising yoga together. The clip begins with Shilpa balancing on one leg with folded hands, guiding her little one through the asana. Samisha effortlessly follows her mother's instructions, earning a big round of applause. The duo then moves on to performing Surya Namaskar.

On National Daughter's Day, Shilpa Shetty shared a heartfelt message for her daughter, Samisha. The actress posted a touching video of Samisha sketching, where the little one adorably wrote, "I love you, Mom." In the clip, Shilpa playfully asks, "Who is the best girl?" to which Samisha confidently gestures to herself. Alongside the video, Shilpa penned a sweet caption, "Happy Daughters Day, my baby, my darling Samisha, thank you for choosing me." Shilpa and her husband, Raj Kundra, also share a son, Viaan, who was born in 2012.

Shilpa Shetty was last seen in Rohit Shetty's action thriller series Indian Police Force, where she portrayed the role of Tara Shetty alongside Sidharth Malhotra and Vivek Oberoi. Up next, she is set to appear in the Kannada film KD - The Devil, starring Dhruva Sarja and Sanjay Dutt.