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researchers.asia@gmail.com



# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### Freed Israeli hostage who kissed Hamas men was 'told to do so by terrorists'

World Hamas released six Israeli hostages on Saturday as part of the deal. One of the hostages, Omer Shem Tov, surprised everyone when he kissed two of his captors on stage and blew kisses to the crowd before being released after more than 500 days. Omer Shem Tov, after coming back home, has now claimed that he kissed his captors under pressure and he was "told to do so". Daily Express reported. Shem Tov's father said that his captors "compelled him to wave and to kiss [on the top of the head] that [masked] guard who was standing next to him". "He said they told him what to do. You can see in the footage that someone came up to him and told him what to do," he told Kan TV, as per The Times of Israel. Shem's release came well over a year after coordinated Hamas-led terrorist attacks on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, in which some 1,200 people were killed and around 250 were abducted and held in Gaza. Shem, along with two other men, were all taken hostage at the Nova music festival, in Israel's Negev Desert.

### Drone captures collapsed roof of Peru shopping mall; 6 killed, 78 injured



World Lima, Peru. The collapse of a food court roof at a shopping mall in northwestern Peru killed six people and left at least 78 others injured, the defence minister said Saturday.

The heavy iron roof at the Real Plaza Trujillo shopping mall, a city in the La Libertad region, fell on Friday night on dozens of people who were at the site. Defence Minister Walter Astudillo said at a news conference that according to the information provided by local firefighters in La Libertad, five people died on site and a sixth at a hospital after the collapse. Astudillo also said that 30 injured people have already been discharged and 48 remain hospitalised. Three remained in critical condition. The minister expressed his condolences to the victims' families. Luis Roncal, head of the local fire department, confirmed that they "did not find any signs of life" as they monitored with rescue dogs, but that the search for survivors would continue.

Meanwhile, the mayor of Trujillo, Mario Reyna, announced the closure of the shopping center "due to imminent risk" and said his government wanted to inspect other centres.

### Thousands attend Hezbollah leader Nasrallah's funeral five months after his death

World BEIRUT. Tens of thousands of people gathered in Beirut early Sunday to attend the funeral of Hezbollah's former leader, nearly five months after he was killed in an Israeli airstrike on a southern suburb of the Lebanese capital. Hassan Nasrallah was killed when Israel's air force dropped more than 80 bombs on the militant group's main operations room. His death was a major blow for the Iran-backed group that the late leader transformed into a potent force in the Middle East.

Nasrallah was the group's leader for more than 30 years and one of its founders. He enjoyed wide influence among Iran-backed groups in the region and was widely respected in the so-called Iran-led axis of resistance that included Iraqi, Yemeni and Palestinian factions. Officials from around the region including Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi were expected to attend the funeral at the Lebanese capital's main sports stadium. Lebanese officials including the parliament speaker and representatives of the president and prime minister were expected to attend the funeral believed to be Lebanon's largest in two decades. Senior Hezbollah official Ali Daamouh told reporters Saturday that about 800 personalities from 65 countries will be attending the funeral in addition to thousands of individuals and activists who came from around the world. "Come from every home, village and city so that we tell the enemy that this resistance will stay and is ready in the field," Daamouh said, referring to Israel. Nasrallah will be laid to rest later Sunday in Beirut while his cousin and successor Hashem Safieddine, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike on a Beirut suburb a few days later, will be laid to rest in his hometown in southern Lebanon. The two had temporarily been buried in secret locations. Hezbollah earlier this month announced plans for their official funerals. Hezbollah has been calling on its supporters to attend the funeral in large numbers in what appears to be a move to show that the group remains powerful after suffering major blows during a 14-month war with Israel that left many of its senior political and military officials dead. Another blow for Hezbollah was the fall in early December of the Assad family's five-decade rule in Syria that was a strong ally of the Lebanese group and a main route for the flow of weapons and money from Iran. As part of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire deal that ended the war with Israel on Nov. 27, Hezbollah is not supposed to have an armed presence along the border with Israel. Hezbollah's rivals have been calling on the group to lay down its weapons all over Lebanon and become a political faction.

## Elon Musk jabs Parag Agrawal amid 'report or resign' order: Did nothing, got fired

World Tech billionaire Elon Musk was prompt to take note of and reply to an X user's post about the sacking of Parag Agrawal, the former CEO of the platform (when it was called Twitter), amid the Tesla chief's diktat to federal employees asking them to furnish details of the work done by them in the past week or get fired. "Parag got nothing done. Parag was fired," the billionaire head of the Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), wrote in reply to a post shared by an X user on Sunday, which shared a screenshot of an old conversation between Parag Agrawal and Tesla chief Musk about the work environment at Twitter, before the latter acquired the social media platform in 2022. As per the excerpt of the conversation shared in the post, Parag Agrawal said, "You are free to tweet- is Twitter dying? or anything else about Twitter- but it's my responsibility to tell you that it's not helping me make Twitter better in the current context. Next time we speak, I'd

like to provide you with perspective on the level of internal distraction and how it is hurting our ability to do work. I hope the AMA will help people get to know you, to understand why you believe in Twitter, and to trust you- and I'd like the company to get to a place where we are more resilient and don't get distracted, but we aren't there right now." "What did you get done this week?" was Musk's reply in the form of a pertinent question posed to the former Twitter CEO that has returned as a threat to scores of US federal workers three years later. The X user's post was captioned, "DOGE: Almost three years ago Elon Musk asked Parag Agrawal what he got done last week. Now he's asking every federal worker the same question". The X user also shared a grab of Musk's order issued in line with US President Donald Trump's Truth Social post, in which he said that DOGE should be more aggressive in its attempts to downsize and reshape the federal workforce. "All federal employees will shortly receive an email requesting to understand what they



got done last week," Musk posted on X. "Failure to respond will be taken as a

resignation," he added. As of Saturday evening, emails were sent to employees at federal agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others with the subject line, "What did you do last week?"

### ELON MUSK VS PARAG AGRAWAL

In 2022, Elon Musk took control of Twitter and rechristened it as X. Among his initial actions as the new owner was the termination of then-CEO Parag Agrawal. Musk also dismissed several other high-ranking executives, leading to a substantial workforce reduction with thousands losing their jobs. It was reported that Agrawal was fired because he refused to block an account on Twitter that Musk wanted.

## Trump ramps up attack over USAID handouts to India: Taking advantage of us

World US President Donald Trump ramped up his attack on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funds to India, claiming that it gave "18 million dollars" to India to assist with its election. Trump said that providing money to India for elections was unnecessary since the country didn't need financial aid. He claimed that India "takes advantage" of the US and imposes some of the highest tariffs globally. "Giving money to India for elections. Well, they don't need money. They take advantage of us. They are one of the highest tariff nations in the world. They have a 200 per cent tariff, and then we give them a lot of money for elections," Trump said. The US President has been raking up the issue time and again after the Elon Musk-led DOGE cancelled the \$21 million payout to India and similar grants to

other nations earlier this month. This is the fourth time in five days that the US President reiterated his claim about USAID funding efforts to promote voter turnout in India. Trump had earlier hinted that the funds might have been used to interfere in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections without giving any evidence. On Saturday, he took Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name for the first time while reiterating his charge of granting \$21 million to India for "voter turnout" amid a raging political slugfest over the issue back home. "\$21 million going to my friend Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India for voter turnout. We are giving \$21 million for voter turnout in India. What about us? I want voter turnout too," Trump said in cryptic remarks.

### WHAT TRUMP SAID ON INDIA FUNDING

On February 19, Trump questioned the

purpose of providing \$21 million to India, saying the US "can hardly get in there" because of high tariffs. The next day, Trump stirred a hornet's nest after he questioned the previous Joe Biden administration's move to give the grant to India and indicated that it might have been used to meddle in elections. "USD 21 million for voter turnout in India. Why do we need to spend USD 21 million for voter turnout in India? I guess they (the Biden administration) were trying to get somebody else elected. We have got to tell the Indian government... This is a total breakthrough," he said. On Friday, he repeated the charge again at a Republican governors' conference, this time calling the funding a "kickback scheme". "\$21 million for voter turnout in India. Why are we caring about India turnout? We got enough problems... it's a kickback scheme, you know."

## Israel delays release of 620 Palestinians over 'humiliating' hostage handover

World Jerusalem. Israel said on Sunday it was delaying the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners it had planned to free the day before until militant group Hamas met its conditions, underscoring the fragility of the Gaza ceasefire accord.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office released a statement in the early hours of Sunday saying that Israel was waiting to deliver the 620 Palestinian prisoners and detainees "until the release of the next hostages has been assured, and without the humiliating ceremonies." "That was a reference to recent handovers by Hamas that UN officials have said went against international law because they were not respectful. Hamas has made hostages appear on stage in front of crowds and sometimes speak before they were handed over. Coffins with hostage remains have also been carried through crowds. Israel's announcement, which also accused Hamas of repeatedly violating the month-old ceasefire, came after the Palestinian militant group on Saturday handed over six hostages from Gaza as part of an exchange arranged under the truce. The six hostages freed on Saturday were the last living Israeli captives due to be

handed over during the first phase of the ceasefire. The bodies of four dead Israeli hostages were to be released next week. It was not clear if Israel wanted assurances on that release or other hostage releases. After the six hostages arrived back in Israel, Hamas released a video in which two other hostages, Eviatar David and Guy



Gilboa-Dalal, were seen watching one of the handovers earlier on Saturday. Hamas spokesperson Abdul Latif Al-Qanouh earlier accused Israel of violating the ceasefire as Saturday elapsed without the release of Palestinians as planned. Israel and Hamas have frequently accused each other of violations since the ceasefire started on January 19 but it has so far

continued to hold. Hamas at one stage said it would stop handing over hostages because of alleged Israeli breaches. Israeli Elyiya Cohen, 27, Omer Shem Tov, 22, and Omer Wenkert, 23, all seized in Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, were handed over on Saturday in central Gaza to the Red Cross. Dozens of militants stood guard in a crowd that had gathered to watch the handover, as masked Hamas men armed with automatic rifles stood on each side of the three men, who appeared thin and pale, as they were made to wave from the stage. Tal Shoham, 40, and Avera Mengistu, 39, were earlier released in southern Gaza. Hamas rejected criticism of the handover events on Saturday, describing them as a solemn show of Palestinian unity. It handed over a sixth hostage, Hisham Al-Sayed, a 36-year-old Arab citizen of Israel, to the Red Cross in Gaza City without a public ceremony. Al-Sayed and Mengistu had been held by Hamas since they entered Gaza of their own accord around a decade ago. Shoham was abducted from Kibbutz Be'eri along with his wife and two children, who were freed in a brief truce in November 2023.

## With no passengers and no planes, Pakistan's newest airport is a bit of a mystery

World GWADAR. Pakistan's newest and most expensive airport is a bit of a mystery with no passengers and no planes. Entirely financed by China to the tune of \$240 million, it's anyone's guess when New Gwadar International Airport will open for business.

Located in the coastal city of Gwadar and completed in October 2024, the airport is a stark contrast to the impoverished, restive southwestern Balochistan province around it. For the past decade, China has poured money into Balochistan and Gwadar as part of a multibillion dollar project that connects its western Xinjiang province with the Arabian Sea, called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor or CPEC.

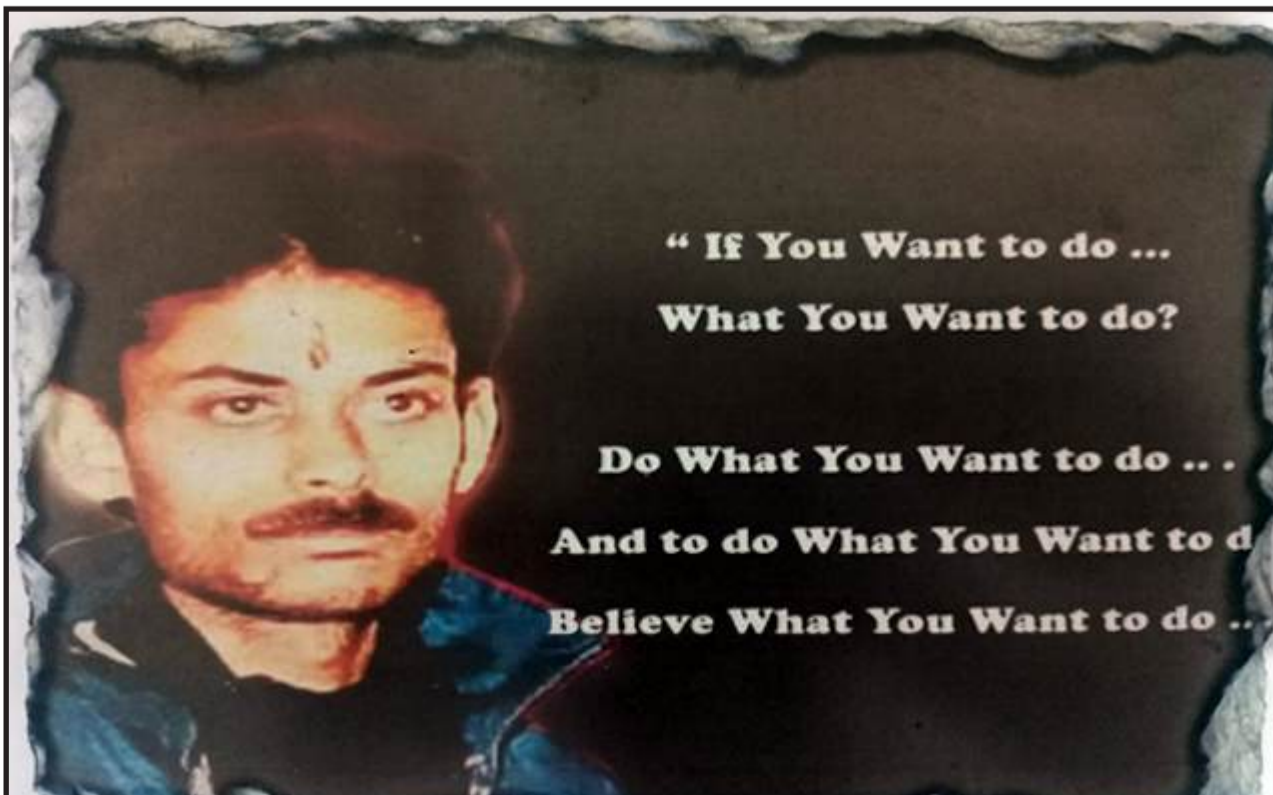
Authorities have hailed it as transformational but there's scant evidence of change in Gwadar. The city isn't connected to the national grid — electricity comes from neighboring Iran or solar panels — and there isn't enough clean water. An airport with a 400,000 passenger capacity isn't a priority for the city's 90,000 people. "This airport is not for Pakistan or Gwadar," said Azeem Khalid, an international relations expert who specializes in Pakistan-China ties. "It is for China, so they can have secure access for their citizens to Gwadar and Balochistan."

Caught between militants and the military CPEC has catalyzed a decadeslong insurgency in resource-rich and strategically located Balochistan. Separatists, aggrieved by what they say is state exploitation at the expense of locals, are fighting for independence — targeting both Pakistani troops and Chinese workers in the province and elsewhere.

Members of Pakistan's ethnic Baloch minority say they face discrimination by the government and are denied opportunities available elsewhere in the country, charges the government denies. Pakistan, keen to protect China's investments, has stepped up its military footprint in Gwadar to combat dissent. The city is a jumble of checkpoints, barbed wire, troops, barricades, and watchtowers. Roads close at any given time, several days a week, to permit the safe passage of Chinese workers and Pakistani VIPs.

Intelligence officers monitor journalists visiting Gwadar. The city's fish market is deemed too sensitive for coverage.

Many local residents are frazzled. "Nobody used to ask where we are going, what we are doing, and what is your name," said 76-year-old Gwadar native Khuda Baksh Hashim. "We used to enjoy all-night picnics in the mountains or rural areas." "We are asked to prove our identity, who we are, where we have come from," he added. "We are residents. Those who ask should identify themselves as to who they are." Hashim recalled memories, warm like the winter sunshine, of when Gwadar was part of Oman, not Pakistan, and was a stop for passenger ships heading to Mumbai. People didn't go to bed hungry and men found work easily, he said. There was always something to eat and no shortage of drinking water. But Gwadar's water has dried up because of drought and unchecked exploitation. So has the work.



We miss you so much. Your presence is deeply missed, and our hearts ache without you.

"If You Want to do ...  
What You Want to do?  
Do What You Want to do ...  
And to do What You Want to do ...  
Believe What You Want to do ...



# India Clinches Six-Wicket Win Over Pakistan in ICC Champions Trophy, Kohli Shines with Century

**Dubai:** India secured yet another dominant victory over Pakistan in an ICC event, defeating their arch-rivals by six wickets in a Group A clash at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.

The match, which was expected to be a closely contested rivalry, saw India cruise to victory with 45 balls to spare, thanks to standout performances from Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, and Kuldeep Yadav.

Ahead of the match, former Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh had downplayed the hype surrounding the India-Pakistan rivalry, pointing out the disparity in the quality of both teams. His assessment proved accurate, as Rohit Sharma's side delivered a clinical performance, leaving Pakistan struggling to advance to the knockout stages of the Champions Trophy and relying on other results to secure a spot in the semifinals.

This loss nearly seals Pakistan's



exit from the tournament, with the defending champions all but eliminated. If Bangladesh loses to New Zealand on Monday, Pakistan will be officially out of the Champions Trophy.

Chasing a target of 242, Virat Kohli started with a match-winning knock, scoring his 51st ODI century and 82nd international ton to guide India to a comfortable victory. Kohli was well-supported by Shreyas



Iyer, who contributed 56 runs. The duo put on a solid 114-run partnership for the third wicket, and Pakistan bowlers had no answer to their patient yet aggressive approach. India's chase got off to a strong

start with Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill. However, a brilliant inswinging yorker from Shaheen Shah Afridi dismissed Sharma for 20. Gill, showing his class, played some beautiful straight drives but

was dismissed for 46 by Abrar Ahmed's well-executed leg-spinner. Kohli and Iyer then took control, with Iyer falling just 28 runs shy of the target while attempting an inside-out shot,

**Kohli surpassed 14,000 runs, becoming the third batter after Sachin Tendulkar and Kumar Sangakkara to achieve this feat.**

departing for 56. Kohli, however, remained unbeaten on 100, ensuring India's smooth progress to victory, with Axar Patel accompanying him at the crease on 3.

This victory adds to India's impressive record against Pakistan in ICC events, continuing their dominance in high-stakes encounters.

## Washington Post refutes Trump's \$21 Million India Voter Turnout Claim



**New Delhi:** The Washington Post has dismissed former U.S. President Donald Trump's assertion that \$21 million was allocated to India to enhance voter turnout, labeling the claim as false. An investigation by the newspaper revealed that no such program exists in India, contradicting Trump's allegations, according to India Today.

This revelation has given the Indian National Congress (INC) fresh political leverage in its ongoing dispute with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

In a report titled How a False DOGE Claim Ignited a Political Firestorm in India, The Washington Post clarified that the \$21 million grant was, in fact, awarded to Bangladesh, not India, by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The report, which referenced U.S. officials, corroborated an earlier story from The Indian Express, which noted that India has not received USAID funding for election-related activities since 2008.

The controversy began when Elon Musk's DOGE platform falsely claimed that it had canceled a \$21 million grant intended to boost voter turnout in India. DOGE linked the grant to a larger \$486 million disbursement to the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS), a coalition of non-profits backed by USAID. However, The Washington Post, citing multiple U.S. sources familiar with foreign aid programs, confirmed no such initiative was in place for India.

A U.S. official told The Washington Post, "We were all shocked to see that claim from DOGE. We don't know anything about elections in India because we've never been involved." Another official suggested that Musk's team may have confused figures from different programs.

The findings have further inflamed the political battle between Congress and the BJP. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera seized upon the report, accusing the BJP and its supporters of spreading false information. "In this latest expose on the so-called US funding to increase voter turnout in India, The Washington Post discovers that no such program existed and no such funding came in. For the BJP and its blind supporters, crow is part of their daily diet plan. Who else will eat crow following this comedy of errors?" Khera tweeted.

Meanwhile, Trump has continued to suggest that the Biden administration may be interfering in India's upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "Why do we need to spend \$21 million for voter turnout in India? I guess they were trying to get somebody else elected. We have got to tell the Indian government," Trump said earlier this week.

Despite his persistent claims, Trump has not provided any concrete evidence to back his allegations.

## Narayanpur Farmers Gain Insights on Soil Health & Plant Disease Management



**Ddhanbad:** Around 135 farmers in Narayanpur block, Jamtara district, gained valuable knowledge on soil health and plant disease management during a one-day workshop organized by IIT (ISM) Dhanbad. Held at the Narayanpur block office, the workshop aimed to equip local farmers with scientific strategies to address agricultural challenges.

The event featured presentations by Dr. Arvind Kumar, a soil expert from Birsa Agriculture University, and Dr. M.K. Burmwal, a plant pathology expert, who shared effective techniques for improving soil fertility and managing plant diseases. The workshop, part of the project "Improving the Economic Well-Being of Scheduled Tribe Communities," provided practical advice on soil management, fertilizer use, seed quality, and optimized cropping systems.

Prof. Rashmi Singh, Principal Investigator of the project, emphasized the importance of empowering farmers with sustainable farming practices. This initiative reflects IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's commitment to rural development and agricultural sustainability in the region.

## Over 5 Lakh TB Cases Detected in 100-Day National Campaign

**New Delhi:** In a significant milestone for India's fight against tuberculosis (TB), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has announced the detection of over five lakh TB cases during its 100-day TB elimination campaign. The campaign, which spanned 455 districts across the country, resulted in the diagnosis of more than 3.57 lakh TB patients. The Ministry also reported that as part of the intensified case detection efforts, over 10 crore vulnerable individuals were screened, reducing diagnostic delays, identifying drug-resistant cases early, and improving treatment outcomes.

As part of the initiative, 10 lakh Ni-kshay Shivirs were organized, bringing modern TB diagnostic tools closer to people's homes, especially in remote areas. To further extend the reach of TB services, 836 Ni-kshay Vahans were deployed, ensuring that even the most remote regions received coverage.

A key feature of the campaign has been the participation of community members through the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative. Over 240,000 Ni-kshay Mitras have registered through Ni-kshay Shapaths, pledging to support TB patients with essential resources, including nutritional baskets and psychosocial and vocational assistance. So far, over 230,000 food baskets have been distributed to patients.

In addition to these efforts, the campaign introduced a new strategy for the early identification of TB. As part of this initiative, chest X-rays have been used as a screening tool for individuals at higher risk of developing TB. More than 38 lakh people have been screened using chest X-rays, including many who showed no typical symptoms of the disease. These comprehensive measures reflect the government's commitment to achieving TB elimination in India and improving health outcomes for those affected by the disease.

## Kavya Gosthi Celebrates International Mother Language Day in Bokaro



**Bokaro:** A Kavya Gosthi (poetry symposium) was held on Saturday evening, jointly organized by the Khortha Sahitya Sanskriti Parishad, Bokaro, and the Janwadi Lekhak Sangh, Bokaro, to mark International Mother Language Day. The event took place at the residence of poet Pradeep Kumar Deepak in Vastu Vihar Phase 2, Chira Chas, and was chaired by poet Gopal Prasad.

The symposium focused on the significance of preserving and celebrating mother tongues. Poets from various linguistic backgrounds captivated the audience with their heartfelt poetry, reciting verses in Khortha, Hindi, Maithili, and Magahi. The event was met with widespread appreciation as the poets showcased the beauty and richness of their regional languages.

## Affordable Cancer Care and Daycare Centres in Every District by 2027: PM Modi

**Chhatarpur:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed his government's commitment to providing accessible healthcare to all citizens as a core element of the "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" mission during a visit to Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. In a significant move to support underprivileged patients, he laid the foundation stone for the Bageshwar Dham Medical and Science Research Institute, a state-of-the-art facility aimed at offering free cancer treatment.

The institute, to be built on a 10-acre plot, will initially feature a 100-bed hospital equipped with advanced medical technology and specialized medical staff. Modi emphasized that this initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to combat cancer and improve healthcare accessibility across India.

Addressing ongoing health challenges, the Prime Minister also unveiled plans included in this year's national budget to reduce the cost of cancer treatments. He announced that cancer daycare centers would be established in every



district across India within the next three years. Additionally, cancer clinics will be set up in district hospitals to further enhance cancer care across the country.

Modi urged citizens to take full advantage of government healthcare schemes, particularly the Ayushman Bharat Yojana and Jan Aushadhi Kendras, to ensure access to affordable medical care.

In related developments, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar highlighted the importance of healthcare as a fundamental right during the 12th International Health Dialogue in New Delhi. He stressed that the Global South should not be dependent on uncertain global supply chains. Dr. Jaishankar

also underscored India's role in global health security, particularly through initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, which aims to provide health insurance coverage to millions of citizens. In addition to his focus on healthcare, Prime Minister Modi addressed recent controversial comments made by political figures regarding Sanatan Dharma. He condemned remarks that undermined Hindu beliefs, culture, and religious practices, including attacks on temples. The Prime Minister criticized those who have supported these attacks, accusing them of receiving backing from foreign powers. He emphasized the significance of Indian temples not just as places of worship but also as centers of

scientific knowledge and social consciousness, pointing to ancient practices like Ayurveda and yoga, which are now recognized and practiced worldwide. Later today, Prime Minister Modi will meet with BJP MPs, MLAs, and other officials in Bhopal, as part of his ongoing three-day tour through Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Assam. During his visit to Bhopal, he will also inaugurate the two-day Global Investors Summit 2025. Tomorrow, Modi will travel to Bhagalpur in Bihar, where he will release the 19th installment of the PM KISAN scheme, benefiting over 9.7 crore farmers across India with direct financial assistance totaling over ₹21,500 crore. He will also dedicate and inaugurate several development projects in Bihar. The Prime Minister's tour will conclude with a visit to Guwahati, Assam, where he will attend the Jhumoir Binandini 2025 celebration to mark 200 years of Assam's tea industry. On Tuesday, Modi will inaugurate the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit 2025 in Guwahati.

## DAV-6, Bokaro Inaugurates Legal Literacy Club; Hosts Blood Donation Camp

**Bokaro:** DAV Public School Sector 6, Bokaro, marked a special day with two significant events on the 201st birth anniversary of Swami Dayanand Saraswati. The school inaugurated its Legal Literacy Club and organized a blood donation camp, promoting social awareness and community welfare.

The Legal Literacy Club was virtually inaugurated by Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad of the Jharkhand High Court, who emphasized the importance of constitutional rights that many people are



unaware of. The event also saw the presence of Devesh Kumar Tripathi, District Additional Sessions Judge, Bokaro, and other notable

guests, along with para-legal volunteers. The club's aim is to educate students about constitutional rights and social values.

The blood donation camp, which began at 11 am, saw active participation from teachers, parents, and local residents, with a team of doctors and nurses from Sadar Hospital assisting in the effort. On the occasion, Sanskrit teacher Bal Shekhar Jha organized a Vedic Havan Yagna, while the school's music teachers presented Vedic Bhajans.

Principal Anuradha Singh highlighted the significance of raising awareness about legal rights and social responsibility among students.



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# Women achievers to take over PM Modi's social media accounts to mark Women's Day

**In his monthly Mann Ki Baat address, Modi said successful women in different fields will speak about their work and experience on his social media accounts.**



**NEW DELHI.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that he will hand over his various social media accounts to women achievers in different fields to mark the International Women's Day on March 8. In his monthly Mann Ki Baat address, he said these successful women in different fields will speak about their work and experience on his social media accounts. "Let's us celebrate and respect the indomitable spirit of

women," he said, lauding the increasing participation of women in different sectors.

Modi had handed over his social media accounts to seven leading women in different fields on March 8 in 2020 in a similar gesture.

With followers in tens of millions on X, YouTube and Instagram among

other handles, Modi is one of the most followed global leaders on social media.

The prime minister also renewed his appeal to people to take measures to deal with the growing problem of obesity, saying it is necessary for India to become a fit and healthy country. Citing research, he said one

out of eight persons are suffering from obesity, and that their numbers have doubled in the past few years. What is more worrisome is that it has grown fourfold among children, he added.

Modi asked people to cut down their oil consumption by 10 percent, and said he will request 10 persons to do so. Each of them can in turn can pose similar challenge to 10 persons, he added.

The prime minister played audio messages from some notes personalities, including Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, to impress upon people to take measures to cut down or prevent obesity.

In the radio broadcast, Modi also appealed to people to try "one day as a scientist" by visiting research laboratories or planetariums to mark the National Science Day. He asked students taking the board exams to be "happy and stress free" and added the new format of Pariksha Pe Charcha has drawn admiration from a lot of people.

## Revanth Reddy urges Backward Class leaders to promote caste survey findings

**The Telangana government has conducted a caste census. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy urged backward class leaders to campaign for its findings and called on the BJP to include caste data in the national census.**

**Hyderabad.** Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government over the caste census, accusing them of obstructing social justice efforts. He said the BJP opposed the survey, while the BRS conducted a similar survey but never disclosed its findings.

"The BJP is spreading misinformation because it is against the caste census," Reddy said addressing the representatives of several Backward Class (BC) associations on Saturday at Praja Bhavan.

According to a survey by KCR, "backward classes constituted 51 per cent of the population. Our caste census shows it is 56.33 per cent. BC leaders should take note," he said.

He also criticised the BRS for not making public the findings of its Comprehensive Family Survey. "The last government used the survey report only during elections and not for the people," he said. The Telangana government has now conducted a caste census, fulfilling a promise made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Reddy said. He emphasised that the survey was carried out with full participation from the people and without legal hurdles. He urged backward class leaders to campaign for the survey's findings. "My responsibility ends with the completion of the process. Now it is your turn to take it forward." He called on the BJP to include caste data in the national census. "We are adopting a resolution demanding that the caste census be included in the national census."



He urged backward class communities to hold meetings and pass resolutions by March 10. "Show your unity. Only then will you get political, educational, and job benefits," he said. "The caste census is like the Bible, Bhagavad Gita, and Quran for all weaker sections," Reddy said.

## Judiciary Doesn't Have Right To Make Changes To Constitution: Vice President

**Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar.** The more we learn about the Constitution, which gives us our fundamental rights, the more we will turn towards nationalism, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said here on Saturday. Addressing the inauguration event of the Constitution Awareness Year celebrations, he also said people must think of nationalism as their biggest religion, above politics and personal interests, and perform their duties in the face of challenges. "There is a challenge before the country. By getting funds from outside, the democratic system is being made unholy. The persons of their (donors) choice is made to win polls. This is dangerous and cannot be tolerated," the VP said in an apparent reference to the recent revelations of alleged USAID funding to raise voter turnout in India.

"Awareness of our Constitution is what is of utmost need today. Our Constitution creators were ascetics who fought for the country's Independence. They wanted to create a Constitution that would meet the expectations of all. They resolved challenges through meaningful dialogue, high level of debate and not through boycotts. They never let the prestige of the temple of democracy go down," Mr Dhankhar said.

In an apparent reference to disruptions in parliamentary proceedings, the VP said people will have no way to get their issues resolved through discussions if Houses are not allowed to run. "Why is there stress on the temples of democracy when dialogue can resolve every problem? Elected representatives must perform their duties faithfully, think of nationalism as their religion and Indianness as their identity," he asserted. He said Constitution Day was being celebrated for the last 10 years to make the new generation aware that the country got freedom due to supreme sacrifices as well as to make them remember basic rights and democratic duties. Observing the day is also important to remember the "darkest hour" when Emergency was declared on June 25, 1975 by the then Indira Gandhi government, leading to trampling of fundamental rights of citizens, he said.



## MSP talks between Centre, farmers' unions end without resolution

**Chandigarh.** Another round of negotiations between central ministers and farmer unions ended without a resolution, as discussions on the minimum support price (MSP) continued without agreement. Farmers sought a legal guarantee for MSP on all crops and demanded data on its implementation. Union and state government representatives described the meeting as constructive, with discussions covering various aspects of MSP. Another round of talks is scheduled for March 19 in Chandigarh.

This was the second meeting in eight days and the sixth in more than a year. A resolution to the crisis remains elusive as the central

dispute concerns the financial viability of MSP for all crops. Farmers estimate the cost to be between Rs 25,000 crore and Rs 30,000 crore, while government argue that the actual requirement is much higher.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the talks were conducted in a positive environment. "We have heard the farmers properly. These talks will continue. The next meeting is on March 19 in Chandigarh," he said.

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema said the discussions were detailed and focused on MSP. "A data set on which crops are sold in open markets and in what quantity



will be shared with the union government in the next few days. MSP was the central point of the talks. Farmers' organisations stressed on getting a legal guarantee for MSP. The union ministers also requested Jagjit Singh Dallewal to end his hunger strike," he said. After the meeting, farmer leader Abhimanyu Kohad said the

discussions were thorough. "The farmers of the country want 23 crops to be covered under MSP with a legal guarantee. This was presented to government ministers. We told them that Rs 25,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore would be needed for MSP. Government ministers said they will analyse the data through their experts and need time. The next meeting is scheduled for March 19," he said. Farmer leader Sarwan Pandher said the government presented its data on central schemes, but farmers shared their perspective. "We demanded an MSP legal guarantee and provided data on its cost. We explained its advantages.

## Tejashwi Yadav says JD(U) could be 'saved' if Nitish Kumar's son enters politics

**Tejashwi Yadav said he would welcome Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's son, Nishant Kumar, joining politics, suggesting it could save JD(U) from its alliance partners. He criticised Nitish's alliance with the BJP and questioned speculation about early elections in Bihar.**

**New Delhi.** Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav said on Saturday that he would be "happy" if Nishant Kumar, the son of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, joined politics, suggesting it could "save" the Janata Dal (United) from its alliance partners, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Speaking to reporters, Yadav dismissed Nishant's recent call for voters to back his father in the upcoming assembly elections, where he assured that Nitish Kumar was "100 per cent" fit. "My father is fitter than his father," Yadav said, referring to Lalu Prasad Yadav, the RJD leader. "Nobody has done as much as Lalu ji for the downtrodden. It was during his reign that the recommendations of the Mandal Commission were implemented in Bihar," he added.

Yadav, who serves as the leader of the opposition in the Bihar Assembly, said he considered Nishant a brother and wished him well. "I would also like



► Tejashwi Yadav claims Lalu Prasad did more for downtrodden than Nitish Kumar  
► Rumours have grown over Nishant Kumar joining politics ahead of Bihar polls  
► Yadav criticises BJP's influence on Election Commission and central agencies

him to get married. If he decides to enter politics, he has the right to do so," he was quoted as saying

by news agency PTI in its report. "I would, in fact, be happy if he enters politics. Perhaps it would give a new lease of life to the party founded by late Sharad Yadav. His father has been hijacked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had once questioned Nitish Kumar's DNA. His other allies, Chirag Paswan and Jitan Ram Manjhi, have their own grievances against the chief minister. Till recently, all these allies had been questioning Nitish Kumar's mental health," former Deputy Chief Minister said.

Rumours had grown that Nishant, 47, might enter politics ahead of the Bihar elections, but neither he nor his father has commented publicly on the matter. Yadav also responded to remarks by JD(U) minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, who said the party was "ready for polls at any time," a statement that has led to speculation that elections might be held earlier than scheduled.

## Facts will come out: S Jaishankar on USAID's 'bad faith' activities in India

**Speaking at the Delhi University Literature Festival, Jaishankar addressed concerns raised after US President Donald Trump claimed that USAID allocated \$21 million to boost voter turnout in India.**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Saturday that the government is examining statements made by the Trump administration regarding possible foreign interference in Indian elections, asserting that "facts will come out." Speaking at the Delhi University Literature Festival, Jaishankar addressed concerns raised after US President Donald Trump claimed that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) allocated \$21 million to boost voter turnout in India. Trump questioned whether the funding was meant to "get someone else elected." Jaishankar, in response to a question from moderator Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, acknowledged that USAID was permitted to operate in India "in good faith, to do good faith activities."



faith. "I think some information has been put out there by Trump administration people, and obviously that is concerning. It would suggest that there are activities which have a certain objective out here to

push a narrative or a viewpoint," Jaishankar said.

He added that the government is actively investigating the matter. "As a government, we are looking into it, because such organizations have an obligation to report. And, my sense is, the facts will come out," he said. advertisement

Addressing an event in Miami on Thursday (February 20), US President Donald Trump questioned the USAID funding of USD 21 million for voter turnout in India and wondered whether it was trying to get someone else elected.

India on Friday said the revelations about USAID funding for certain activities in the country are "deeply troubling" and have led to concerns about foreign interference in its internal affairs. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in response to a query during his weekly briefing, had said "relevant departments and agencies are

► Jaishankar addresses claims of US interference in Indian elections  
► Trump alleged USAID spent \$21 million to influence Indian polls  
► Jaishankar says USAID operates in India in 'good faith'

looking into this matter." "We have seen information that has been put out by the US administration regarding certain USA activities and funding. These are obviously very deeply troubling. This has led to concerns about foreign interference in India's internal affairs," Jaiswal said. He further added that the government is actively looking into the matter, but refrained from making a detailed public statement at this stage.



## The tryst with destiny of Delhi's woman Cms

The surprise choice of first-time MLA Rekha Gupta as the Chief Minister of Delhi has brought back the focus on woman CMs in the national capital. A buoyant BJP is showcasing Rekha Gupta's elevation as proof of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's thrust on 'Nari Shakti' and a reward for woman voters who opted for the saffron party.

Rekha Gupta is the second woman chief minister of the BJP (after Anandiben Patel in Gujarat) since 2014 and the only woman among the current CMs in 20 BJP/NDA-ruled states and UTs. Considering that women account for around 50 per cent of the voting population, this is a dismal record.

We must also remember that Indira Gandhi became prime minister way back in 1966, much before many western democracies got a woman PM. This highlighted the limited space for women in power in their own country. The late Khushwant Singh used to say that a significant presence of women in political-public spaces consisted of the anglicised, upper-class gentry of India and the working class did not have the same ease and access to power as the elite, upper-class women.

While the BJP under Modi is trying to change this, a cursory look at all woman MLAs and MPs shows a disproportionately high representation of dynastic politicians as compared to the inclusion of working class woman leaders. Yet, woman politicians, just like Indira Gandhi, have been successful in transforming politics in a big way. Take Sheila Dikshit, for example. Sonia Gandhi had turned to Sheila Dikshit in 1998 when the glory of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was on full display and Sonia Gandhi had just taken over as Congress president. There was mild rebellion over the manner in which her successor Sitaram Kesri was dumped and how the General Elections in 1998 had given the Congress lesser number of seats than the post-Emergency 1977 Lok Sabha polls. Sonia was desperate to do something spectacular to gain the confidence of her own rank and file. Elections in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were round the corner. The Delhi Congress unit was particularly in disarray, sharply divided between supporters and opponents of an ailing and aging HKL Bhagat. Sajjan Kumar and Jagdish Tytler were not an option as a sizeable Sikh population in Delhi was against them on grounds of their dubious role during the 1984 Sikh carnage. At a meeting of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust held at 10, Janpath, Sheila Dikshit's name was proposed as Delhi CM. While Sonia quickly came on board, Dikshit required encouragement from K Natwar Singh to take up the challenging assignment. The rest, as they say, is history. Sheila Dikshit rode high on the rising onion prices and delivered Delhi for Sonia, beating Sushma Swaraj who was the then BJP chief minister of Delhi. If there was anyone more stunned than Sushma Swaraj and Vajpayee, it was HKL Bhagat and a section of the Congressmen who had tried their level best to sabotage Congress' prospects. Sheila's sincerity, appeal to the great Indian middle class, simplicity and vision for big flyovers, metros, malls and parks helped her tide over all challenges. In 2016, however, Sheila Dikshit faced a rather unsurmountable challenge, when she was projected as the Congress chief-ministerial candidate in Uttar Pradesh. Age was not on her side as Sheila struggled to look for a 'safe constituency' for herself in UP. Unlike Delhi, the UP Congress unit was both defunct and demoralised. Interestingly, Sonia relied on Sheila Dikshit each time she faced a difficult situation. In 2012, when Pranab Mukherjee moved to Rashtrapati Bhavan and P Chidambaram shifted to the Finance Ministry, Sonia had toyed with the idea of making Sheila Dikshit the Home Minister. But Sheila Dikshit reportedly declined the offer, hoping to win Delhi for a record fourth time in 2013. 'Kaun jaaye Dilli ki gallian chhod kar' was the refrain. But her calculations misfired when Sheila lost her own election to a former revenue service official, Arvind Kejriwal. Not only did she miss the North Block bus, she also saw the complete rout of the Congress in Delhi.

## Walls, chains & cheap labour: West's hypocrisy on migration

While right-wing politicians in destination countries reap the electoral benefits of demonising 'illegal' immigrants, their economies are in dire need of a cheap and docile foreign workforce.

Since the first US military aircraft carrying 104 deported Indians landed in Amritsar on February 5, a slew of comments has emerged in the Indian media addressing the inhumane condition of the deportees' transportation and the response (or lack of) of the Indian authorities.

Many heart-wrenching stories have been published about the infamous dunki route taken by the deportees, the sacrifice of their families, including selling land, to send them abroad. Their socio-economic profiles and reasons for migration have also been highlighted.

As a scholar who has worked for 25 years on the Sikh diaspora, I found that though interesting, these stories miss a very important point — migration is not per se a criminal activity. It has been projected as a criminal activity recently in the countries of destination of migrants. In the US, it has been done mainly since 9/11.

But in Europe, the process had started earlier in the context of the dismantling of EU's internal borders and the fortification of its external ones. Indeed, because of the seemingly unstoppable wave of populist anti-immigrant discourse and the resultant increasingly restrictive border regimes, illegality, criminality and a sense of threat have become the dominant lens through which the state in the destination countries sees migrants from the Global South. Let me argue here that we should apply a different lens and try to change the narrative around international migration and humanise it. To start with, we must change our terminology. Many scholars and activists promote the use of 'undocumented' migrants, which is a more neutral term, instead of 'illegal' migrants, which stigmatises and criminalises mobile people. The lack of humanity and dignity during the horrendous 40-hour journey of the deportees, turbans removed, handcuffed and even leg-chained like criminals is for all to see, except for the Indian government, which seems to find not much wrong with the criminalisation and dehumanisation of its own citizens.

In contrast, Colombian President Gustavo Petro strongly protested against the way the deportations were carried out, stressing the need to treat the deportees with dignity and respect. Initially, he even denied entry to two US flights before backing down, when threatened by Trump of a 50 per cent rise in tariffs on Colombian imports.

Among the reasons for the lack of a strong response by

Delhi seems to be a bid to placate the US government and protect H-1B visas for skilled Indian migrants. This narrative of skilled (read 'good', 'wanted') vs unskilled (read 'bad', 'disposable') migrants is used in many destination countries to exploit the latter and deprive them of basic human rights.

In her book on the experience of foreign workers in Qatar (Does Skill Make Us Human? Migrant Workers in 21st Century Qatar and Beyond, Princeton University Press, 2021), US scholar Natasha Iskander argues that the notion of skill is a political tool, defining the rights foreign workers have

access to. While right-wing politicians in destination countries reap the electoral benefits of demonising 'illegal' immigrants, their economies — particularly the construction,

nearly two decades dozens of undocumented Latin-American construction workers at several properties owned by the company. And, guess why? Because they are cheap, hardworking and too afraid of deportations to complain about a back-breaking, harassing work.

Here, one needs to understand why 'unskilled' men and women from the Global South keep migrating to the Global North despite the increasingly expensive and dangerous journeys they are compelled to take due to the stringent immigration policies enforced by the destination countries. There are multiple reasons for the life-changing decision that emigration entails. They encompass a combination of push factors (socio-economic or political conditions in the country of origin) and pull factors (what attracts people in the country of destination). To put it bluntly, one major reason lies with

the continuous economic and demographic demand for cheap migrant labour in the Global North despite the anti-immigration rhetoric. Take my own country, France. Who looks after our elderly, who cleans hotel rooms, collects garbage, builds bridges, schools, housing complexes, delivers our orders? Immigrants, of course. And, many of them irregular. They neither come to live on social benefits nor to steal the jobs of the French, as the far-right would have it. Mobility is not a crime. It is a natural human urge. Crossing an international border shouldn't mean losing one's basic rights and dignity. Migrants, whether skilled or unskilled, are not criminals. A hateful narrative dehumanising immigrants has become all too common in many western countries. In a debate with Democrat candidate Kamala Harris, Trump went as far as to refer to Haitian refugees in

Ohio as "eating the pets of the people that live there." Many people and advocacy groups oppose this rhetoric in the West. They argue that border enforcement policies are devastating for migrants, costly for the country of destination and ultimately ineffective because regardless of the risks, people will continue to move as they have done throughout human history. In the case of Punjab, mass migration was triggered and organised by the British rule to its own advantage. This colonial engineering created a deeply embedded culture of migration that no deportation, no border regime and no walls will be able to uproot.



services and care sectors — are in dire need of a vulnerable foreign workforce. 'Illegal migration' is not a natural category. It is a political construct, an instrument that serves a purpose: of disciplining and coercing a docile and cheap immigrant labour force into accepting what sociologists call 3 Ds (dirty, dangerous, demeaning) jobs, shunned by the national population.

The hypocrisy of anti-immigrant rhetoric is probably best exemplified by none other than Trump himself. As reported by The Washington Post in 2019, his holding company, the Trump Organisation, has employed for

## Beyond slogans

Tragedy of mothers of only girls in Haryana

Haryana's Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme was launched in 2015 with much fanfare to address gender discrimination and improve the state's skewed sex ratio. A decade later, however, recent tragedies expose the grim reality. Unable to bear the weight of expectations for a male heir, mothers of only daughters are succumbing to societal pressure. The suicide of Kiran, a mother of five daughters, in Hisar's Raipur village on February 14 is a heartbreaking testament to this. While her family denies direct pressure, her distress over not having a son was evident. Similarly, Neelam, a mother of four daughters, ended her life along with two of her girls in January. These are not isolated incidents but symptoms of deep-rooted gender bias that no government scheme has been able to eradicate. Despite the BBBP initiative, Haryana's sex ratio at birth (SRB)



remains a concern, declining to 910 girls per 1,000 boys by the end of 2024 — the lowest since 2017. The

persistence of such figures signals that while awareness campaigns are loud, the societal mindset remains resistant to change. The tragedy extends beyond mothers. Newborn girls continue to be abandoned, their worth determined by outdated patriarchal norms. Gender discrimination is not merely an economic or policy issue; it is a societal failure. Financial aid schemes like the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana or Kanyadan Policy cannot single-handedly erase centuries of entrenched bias. The need of the hour is grassroots-level transformation. Gender sensitisation in schools, active male participation in equality movements and strict monitoring of government schemes to ensure that they reach the most vulnerable families can make a difference. A decade after its launch, the BBBP must move beyond slogans. It's time for Haryana to prove that its daughters are not just being 'saved', but also truly valued.

## Uplifting stories of upward mobility

Go-getters are surmounting restrictions imposed by the deeply entrenched caste system

After 36 years in the Indian Police Service (IPS), followed by four years in Romania as India's Ambassador, I returned in 1993 to Mumbai, where I was born and where my father's forebears had settled in the first half of the 19th century. I decided to accede to my dear wife's wish to "settle down" in our permanent home, refusing offers that would require me to move out of the city.

My first thought after deplaning following a long journey from Bucharest via Lisbon (to touch base with my only uncle who had settled there) was to work for the constabulary that lived in the Police Lines near my permanent residence. One visit alerted me to the fact that the perennial problems of alcoholism, domestic violence and errant children were a thing of the past. The constabulary was vastly more educated, with only graduates having made the cut. In one sense, it reflected the paucity of paying jobs in the private sector or, what was more likely, a lack of skills required by industrial houses even at junior levels. There was one other dominant consideration that prompted cops' children to opt for a career in the police. That consideration was the need to assure the personnel who were about to retire from service of a roof over their heads in the 'maximum city'. If the sons and daughters managed to beat the competition, the paternal 'kholi' would be allotted to the new entrant as per the prevalent policy. That would mean that the father would continue to stay in Mumbai instead of being compelled to return to his village, where his siblings and their families had already established themselves. A far greater revolution had taken place. The new entrants to the ranks had married educated girls, many of whom were college graduates like them. The fact that girls are opting for education beyond the high school level is changing the entire dynamics of life in police colonies and beyond. Not every woman is employed, but the many who are have made a huge impact on their living standards and the social outlook of

the family. They limit the number of their offspring and send their only child or two children to English-medium schools. About a decade ago, I was asked by some eager parents to plead with principals of English-medium schools to admit cops' children to their institutions. Many of them did oblige. My colleague in the IPS, D Sivanandhan, when he was posted as Commissioner of the Thane police, opened a school in the Police Lines to cater to policemen's children in that city. When he moved to Mumbai as the Police Commissioner, I requested him to repeat the feat here. He did try hard, but found it difficult to locate a suitable and available plot for the school in this overcrowded metropolis.

On January 1 this year, my former PSO (personal security officer) Rahul Laxman Bhoj and his wife called on me. They brought along their only child, a girl. Rahul's wife Swati is a software engineer who probably used to earn more than him before she became a mother and was forced to take a break from work. Their seven-year-old daughter, Ira, was clearly a very intelligent child, full of confidence and quick on the uptake. She impressed me immensely. I am sure that with the personal attention that the mother is giving the child, Ira will turn out to be an asset not only to the family but also to Maharashtra and the country. Karthik is the son of Ramesh Wala, who sweeps the compound of the building where my former colleagues and I stay. He had been enrolled in an English-medium school, but his ability to speak the language needed a huge boost. I asked the boy to accompany me on my daily walk around the building, speaking only in English. His skill

improved. He went on to enter a university and landed a job as an event manager after graduation. It gives me immense satisfaction to mention these upward mobility cases that are helping to surmount the restrictions imposed by the deeply entrenched caste system. Even the four-centuries-old conversion to Christianity in Goa

place. His two daughters had studied in English-medium institutions, graduated, done clerical jobs in Mumbai, got married and made a better life for themselves than their disadvantaged parents.

Bernardo offered me a beer. I asked him to share it with me, but he would not. No amount of gentle persuasion could make him change his mind. I said we would drink to the fact that he had educated his girls so well. Even that was unable to do the trick. In contrast to Goa, Bihar has much catching up to do. After I broke the neck of my femur bone five years ago and underwent surgery, a famous physician, Dr Farokh Udwardia, warned me of worse consequences in case I fell again. I hired a boy from Bihar to ensure that I did not fall. He told me that he was a 'Maha Dalit'. I had not heard of any such category in Maharashtra. Five months ago, he approached me with tears in his eyes as the village medical clinic run by the government had detected a hole in the heart of his recently born son. The doctor in charge told him to take the child to Delhi or Mumbai. The very fact that the authorities have opened a medical unit in one village of a cluster was a great advance. One or two decades ago, the hole in the heart would have gone undetected! Arrangements for mother and son to travel to Mumbai were made. My nephew, one of Mumbai's leading cardiologists, attended on the tiny one who has as much a right to live as you and I. These are positive stories of progress that should take my readers' minds away from Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code and the installation of the new Delhi CM.



had not made a proper dent in the caste configuration. The priesthood was thrown open to all, but inter-caste marriages continued to remain out of bounds. Ten years ago, I met Bernardo, the son of the landless labourer who had been allotted a small plot on my maternal grandparents' landed property in the Goan village from where they hailed. He had worked in Dubai, earned a tidy amount of dirhams, returned and built a proper house to replace the mud hut that passed for his dwelling



## बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाड़खण्डा थेके बेङ्गले यानवाहन प्रवेश शुरू

प्राय २४ घण्टा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाड़खण्डा थेके बेङ्गले याओया समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन प्रवेश शुरू होइछे। गत सक्का १८ टार पर बेङ्गल सरकार आदेशे बाड़खण्डा-बेङ्गल मथन सीमाछे पण्यवाही यानवाहन प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा होइछिल। एर फले रात थेके दुपूर पर्यंत प्राय २० किमी दीर्घ यानजट सृष्टि होइ। चालकद्वारे समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेङ्गल सरकारके टाप देय बाड़खण्डा सीमाछे थेके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करा समस्त यानवाहन बक् करार जन्य। एर फले, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेते बाध्य होइ एबं अवशेषे भारी यानवाहन प्रवेश आर श्वाभाविक होइ। बेङ्गल सरकार एह अनुमति पर, ट्राक चालकरा शक्ति निश्वास फेलन। प्राञ्जल निरसा विश्वक अज्ञा च्याटार्जि बाड़खण्डा मुख्याम्ही हेमन्त सोरेनेर एह उद्योगाग प्रशंसा करेन। तिन बलेन, मुख्याम्ही हेमन्त सोरेन एह विषये क्रमागत श्रुतु दिसेछेन। बेङ्गल सरकार साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर बेङ्गल सरकार निश्चिन्ता तुले नेय। एर पर, सारिते दौड़िगे थाका समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन बीर बेङ्गले प्रवेश करते शुरु करेछे। NH-६ दीर्घ यानजट एखन सीमित हच्छे एबं यानजटो भाङ्गते शुरु करेछे।

## भोजपुरी कृषि लोक गीत (कहरवा धुन) गेहूँ आ के दिनवा

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धनवा कटाइल सईयां गेहुआ के दिनवा।  
हाली घरे अईहा सईयां दवाई कइसे धनवा।  
सास ससुर केवनो 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।  
खेतिया ना होई पिया का खाइब अनवा।  
हाली घरे अईहा सईयां.....।

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

सासु जी के स्वेटर ससुर जी के साल लेअईहा।  
लइकन के टोपी हमके ले अईहा रजइया।  
तरसे तोहरे खातिर नैना मोर बांका सजनवा।  
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mail4daily@gmail.com

# एसईसीएल के दीपका मेगा प्रोजेक्ट में नया साइलो और रैपिड लोडिंग सिस्टम चालू

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** कोल इंडिया की सहायक कंपनी साउथ ईस्टर्न कोल फ़िल्ड्स लिमिटेड (एसईसीएल), कोयला मंत्रालय के मार्गदर्शन में फर्स्ट माइल कनेक्टिविटी (एसईसीएल) परियोजनाओं के माध्यम से अपनी खदानों से सुरक्षित और टिकाऊ कोयला निकाली बढ़ाने के प्रयासों में तेजी ला रही है। एक महत्वपूर्ण मील के पथर में एसईसीएल के दीपका मेगा प्रोजेक्ट ने शुक्रवार को अपने नवनिर्मित रैपिड लोडिंग सिस्टम और साइलो 3 और 4 से पहला कोयला रैक लोड करके सफलतापूर्वक परिचालन शुरू किया। यह पर्यावरण के अनुकूल और

कुशल कोयला परिवहन को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में एक बड़ा कदम है। केन्द्रीय कोयला मंत्रालय के अनुसार नए चालू किए गए दीपका सीएचपी-साइलो एफएमसी प्रोजेक्ट की वार्षिक कोयला निकाली क्षमता 25 मिलियन टन है, जिससे मेगा प्रोजेक्ट की सम्प्रेषण दक्षता में उल्लेखनीय सुधार हुआ है। नए साइलो के चालू होने से पहले दीपका 15 एमटीपीए की क्षमता वाले मेरी-गो-राउंड (एमजीआर) सम्प्रेषण प्रणाली पर निर्भर था। साइलो 3 और 4 के चालू होने के साथ दीपका की कुल कोयला प्रेषण क्षमता अब बढ़कर 40 मिलियन टन प्रति वर्ष हो गई है, जो प्रभावी रूप से परिवहन बुनियादी

द्वारे को उत्पादन स्तरों के साथ संरेखित करती है। कोयला मंत्रालय के मार्गदर्शन में एसईसीएल ने पीएम गतिशील योजना के तहत एफएमसी इका के विकास को प्राथमिकता दी है। एसईसीएल ने 233 एमटीपीए की संयोजी क्षमता के साथ 17 फर्स्ट माइल कनेक्टिविटी (एफएमसी) परियोजनाएं शुरू की हैं। इनमें से, 151 एमटीपीए की कुल क्षमता वाली 9 परियोजनाएं पहले ही चालू हो चुकी हैं, जो कोयला परिवहन को आधुनिक बनाने के लिए कंपनी की प्रतिबद्धता को प्रदर्शित करती हैं। 82 एमटीपीए क्षमता वाली शेष 8 एफएमसी परियोजनाएं विकास के विभिन्न चरणों में हैं और उन्हें अगले 2-

3 वर्षों में चालू करने का लक्ष्य है। एफएमसी को व्यापक रूप से एक कुशल और पर्यावरण के अनुकूल कोयला परिवहन मोड के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त है। दीपका में एफएमसी बुनियादी ढांचे के कार्यान्वयन से कई लाभ मिलते हैं, मसलन दक्षता में सुधार और स्टोक लोडिंग, रैक में कोयले की अंडरलोडिंग और ओवरलोडिंग दोनों को कम करना। तेज लोडिंग समय के कारण टर्नअराउंड समय कम हो गया है और रैक की उपलब्धता में सुधार हुआ है। कोयले की गुणवत्ता में सुधार हुआ है, जिससे संपूर्ण और नुकसान कम हुआ है। सड़क परिवहन पर निर्भरता कम हुई है, जिससे डीजल खर्च में बचत हुई है।

## पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतें स्थिर



**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में जारी भारी गिरावट के बीच घरेलू स्तर पर पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम आज स्थिर, जिससे दिल्ली में पेट्रोल 94.72 रुपये प्रति लीटर तथा डीजल 87.62 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर पड़े रहे। तेल विपणन करने वाली प्रमुख कंपनी हिन्दुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कार्पोरेशन की वेबसाइट पर जारी दरों के अनुसार, देश में आज पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों

में कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ है। दिल्ली में इनकी कीमतों के यथावत रहने के साथ ही मुंबई में पेट्रोल 104.21 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर और डीजल वैश्विक स्तर पर सप्ताहात पर अमेरिकी कच्चे तेल 3.08 प्रतिशत लुढ़ककर 70.25 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर आ गया। इसी तरह लंदन ब्रेंट कच्चे तेल 0.24 प्रतिशत की गिरावट के साथ 74.25 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर रहा।

## प्रधानमंत्री 24 फरवरी को पीएम-किसान की 19वीं किस्त जारी करेंगे

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी 24 फरवरी को बिहार के भागलपुर में पीएम-किसान की 19वीं किस्त जारी करेंगे। इसके तहत 9.8 करोड़ से अधिक किसानों को

है, जो देशभर के किसानों की वित्तीय सहायता को मजबूत कर रहा है। इस संबंध में कृषि मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा पशुपालन और डेयरी



विभाग (एच एंड डी), भारत सरकार, रेल मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार और बिहार सरकार के समन्वय से बिहार के भागलपुर में किसान सम्मान समारोह आयोजित किया जाएगा। पीएम-किसान की 18वीं किस्त जारी करते समय लगभग 9 करोड़ 60 लाख किसानों को किस्त

जारी की गई। कृषि मंत्रालय सक्रिय रूप से छूटे हुए सभी पात्र किसानों को जोड़ने के लिए निरंतर प्रयास कर रहा है और इन प्रयासों के माध्यम से

19वीं किस्त प्राप्त करने वाले किसानों की संख्या बढ़ गई है। 19वीं किस्त जारी होने से देशभर में 2.41 करोड़ महिला किसानों सहित 9.8 करोड़ से अधिक किसान लाभान्वित होंगे, उन्हें प्रत्यक्ष लाभ के माध्यम से 22,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की प्रत्यक्ष वित्तीय सहायता प्राप्त होगी।

## गोदरेज एंटरप्राइजेज ग्रुप का प्रोसेस इक्विपमेंट बिजनेस करेगा 200 करोड़ का निवेश

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** गोदरेज एंटरप्राइजेज ग्रुप के प्रोसेस इक्विपमेंट बिजनेस ने यहां अपनी अत्याधुनिक विनिर्माण सुविधा का विस्तार करने के लिए 200 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश की घोषणा करते हुये अगले पांच वर्षों में कारोबार को दोगुना करने का लक्ष्य तय किया है। गोदरेज एंटरप्राइजेज ग्रुप के प्रोसेस इक्विपमेंट बिजनेस के कार्यकारी उपाध्यक्ष और बिजनेस प्रमुख हुसैन शरियार ने यहां बताया कि यह नया निवेश पहले किये गये 300 करोड़ के निवेश के बाद होने जा रहा है जो घरेलू विनिर्माण को मजबूत करने और भारत के स्वच्छ ऊर्जा लक्ष्यों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए कंपनी की प्रतिबद्धता के अनुरूप है। इस विस्तार का उद्देश्य प्रोसेस इक्विपमेंट विनिर्माण के लिए वैश्विक केंद्र के

रूप में भारत की स्थिति को मजबूत करना है और यह सरकार की मेक इन इंडिया और आत्मनिर्भर भारत पहलों के साथ संरेखित है। यह राष्ट्रीय हरित हाइड्रोजन मिशन और परमाणु ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र के निजी कंपनियों के प्रवेश देने की बजट घोषणा के अनुरूप है। उन्होंने कहा कि अभी कंपनी का कारोबार एक हजार करोड़ रुपये का है जिसको अगले पांच वर्षों में बढ़कर दो गुना करने का लक्ष्य तय किया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि मुंबई के विक्रोली स्थित संयंत्र को धीरे धीरे बंद करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू की गयी है क्योंकि वहां लॉजिस्टिक की बहुत समस्या हो रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि देहज सुविधा के तीसरे चरण विस्तार से वार्षिक विनिर्माण क्षमता लगभग 30,000 मीट्रिक टन तक बढ़ जाएगी, जिसमें विदेशी सामग्रियों के

निर्माण के लिए नए धूल-मुक्त बाड़े का विकास, आंतरिक विनिर्माण के लिए सर्मापित बे और विस्तारित विनिर्माण यार्ड का विकास सहित उत्पादन स्थान में वृद्धि होगी। इस विस्तार का उद्देश्य रिफाइनी और पेट्रोकेमिकल्स जैसी पारंपरिक ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के साथ-साथ हाइड्रोजन, परमाणु और भूतापीय ऊर्जा जैसे क्षेत्रों के लिए उच्च-स्तरीय और महत्वपूर्ण प्रक्रिया उपकरणों के निर्माण में क्षमता और क्षमता विकसित करना है। उन्होंने कहा कि विस्तारित सुविधा में एक अतिरिक्त विस्तारित फैब्रिकेशन यार्ड होगा जो बड़े और जटिल प्रक्रिया उपकरणों के निर्माण के लिए सर्मापित होगा, जिसमें 16 मीटर व्यास और 140 मीटर लंबाई तक के उपकरण शामिल हैं, जिसमें प्रक्रिया मॉड्यूल के लिए बड़ी हुई क्षमताएं हैं। रणनीतिक रूप से रखा

गया 30 मीटर गुना 10 मीटर का उन्नत हीट ट्रीटमेंट फर्नेस संचालन के दौरान कार्बन उत्सर्जन में कमी सुनिश्चित करेगा। स्थिरता के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को मजबूत करते हुए, इस सुविधा के पास जीरो वेस्ट टू लैंडफिल प्रमाणन है, जो पर्यावरण के लिए जिम्मेदार विनिर्माण प्रथाओं पर जोर देता है। इसके अतिरिक्त, 80 प्रतिशत से अधिक स्वचालन के साथ वर्तमान में, इसके उत्पादन का 70 प्रतिशत अमेरिका और मध्य पूर्व पर विशेष ध्यान देने के साथ छह महाद्वीपों के 40 से अधिक देशों को निर्यात किया जाता है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह विस्तार भारत के राष्ट्रीय हरित हाइड्रोजन मिशन और शुद्ध-शून्य लक्ष्यों के साथ भी संरेखित है, जो स्वच्छ ऊर्जा प्रौद्योगिकी और औद्योगिक विनिर्माण में अग्रणी बनने की देश की महत्वाकांक्षा का समर्थन करता है।

## एनएसओ इंडिया ने 'भारत में डेटासेट और रजिस्ट्री का संग्रह, 2024' जारी किया

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** केन्द्रीय सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (एमओएसपीआई) ने भारत में डेटासेट और रजिस्ट्री का संग्रह, 2024 का नवीनतम संस्करण प्रकाशित किया है। यह डेटा की पहुंच को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से एक प्रमुख पहल है। राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी प्रणाली के चल रहे आधुनिकीकरण के हिस्से के रूप में यह संग्रह सुनिश्चित करता है कि नीति निर्माताओं, शोधकर्ताओं, शिक्षाविदों, छात्रों, विश्लेषकों, व्यवसायों और आम जनता के लिए सरकारी डेटा आसानी से सुलभ हो। सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के अनुसार यह व्यापक संसाधन भारत सरकार के 40 मंत्रालयों और विभागों से प्राप्त लगभग 270 डेटासेट और रजिस्ट्री के मेटाडेटा को समेकित करता है, जिसमें कृषि, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, श्रम, ग्रामीण विकास, पर्यटन, सामाजिक न्याय, बैंकिंग और अन्य जैसे क्षेत्र शामिल हैं। वन-स्टॉप संदर्भ के रूप में कार्य करके यह

संकलन उपयोगकर्ताओं को सरकारी डेटासेट की उपलब्धता, दायरे और पहुंच को आसानी से तलाशने में सक्षम बनाता है। इसमें मानकीकृत मेटाडेटा, डेटा संग्रह पद्धतियों, विघटन के स्तर पर अंतर्दृष्टि प्रदान करता है। उपयोगकर्ता संबंधित मंत्रालय या विभाग पोर्टल के लिंक के माध्यम से डेटा स्रोतों तक सीधी पहुंच से भी लाभ उठा सकते हैं, जिससे निर्बाध पहुंच सुनिश्चित होती है। विश्वसनीय और सुव्यवस्थित सरकारी डेटा की बढ़ती आवश्यकता को पहचानते हुए यह पहल राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी प्रणाली को आधुनिक बनाने और सुव्यवस्थित करने के लिए सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के व्यापक प्रयासों के साथ संरेखित है।



अद्यतनों की आवश्यकता और मंत्रालयों में डेटा-संझाकरण नीतियों का विवरण शामिल है। इसके अतिरिक्त यह प्रत्येक डेटासेट के संग्रह और प्रसार को नियंत्रित करने वाले कानूनी और नियामक ढांचे की रूपरेखा तैयार करता है जबकि गहन विश्लेषण और सांख्यिक-आधारित नीति निर्माण का समर्थन करने के लिए

अद्यतनों की आवश्यकता और मंत्रालयों में डेटा-संझाकरण नीतियों का विवरण शामिल है। इसके अतिरिक्त यह प्रत्येक डेटासेट के संग्रह और प्रसार को नियंत्रित करने वाले कानूनी और नियामक ढांचे की रूपरेखा तैयार करता है जबकि गहन विश्लेषण और सांख्यिक-आधारित नीति निर्माण का समर्थन करने के लिए

## आरबीआई के पूर्व गवर्नर शक्तिकांत दास प्रधानमंत्री के प्रधान सचिव-2 नियुक्त

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (आरबीआई) के पूर्व गवर्नर शक्तिकांत दास को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का प्रधान सचिव-2 नियुक्त किया गया है। उनका कार्यकाल प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के कार्यकाल के साथ समाप्त होगा। शक्तिकांत दास प्रिंसिपल सेक्रेटरी-1 पीके मिश्रा के साथ मिलकर काम करेंगे। केंद्र सरकार में नियुक्ति समिति द्वारा जारी अधिसूचना में कहा गया है, मंत्रिमंडल की नियुक्ति समिति ने शक्तिकांत दास, आईएएस (रिटायर्ड) (टीएन:80) की प्रधानमंत्री के प्रधान सचिव-2 के रूप में नियुक्ति को मंजूरी दे दी है। गुजरात कैडर के सेवानिवृत्त आईएएस अधिकारी पीके मिश्रा वर्तमान में प्रधानमंत्री के प्रधान सचिव के रूप में कार्यरत हैं। आधिकारिक आदेश के अनुसार



तमिलनाडु कैडर के सेवानिवृत्त आईएएस अधिकारी दास का कार्यकाल प्रधानमंत्री के कार्यकाल तक या अगले आदेश तक होगा। आदेश में कहा गया, मंत्रिमंडल की नियुक्ति समिति ने शक्तिकांत दास, आईएएस (सेवानिवृत्त) को प्रधानमंत्री के प्रधान सचिव-2 के रूप में नियुक्त करने की मंजूरी दी है। उनकी नियुक्ति पदभार ग्रहण करने की तारीख से प्रभावी होगी। उल्लेखनीय है कि शक्तिकांत दास ने एक सिविल सेवक के रूप में मुख्य रूप से विद्युत, काराधान, निवेश और बुनियादी ढांचा क्षेत्रों में काम किया।

# एनएसओ ने डेटासेट, पंजिका संग्रह 2024 किया जारी

**एजेंसी नयी दिल्ली।** सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (एमओएसपीआई) के भारतीय राष्ट्रीय सांख्यिकी कार्यालय (एनएसओ) ने 2024 का नवीनतम डेटासेट और पंजिका संग्रह प्रकाशित किया है। यह सरकारी डेटा नीति निर्माताओं, शोधकर्ताओं, छात्रों और जनता के लिए सुलभ होगा। मंत्रालय की जारी विज्ञापन के अनुसार, संग्रह 40 मंत्रालयों और विभागों से प्राप्त 270 डेटासेट तथा पंजीकाओं के मेटाडेटा को समेकित करता है, जिसमें कृषि, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, श्रम, ग्रामीण विकास, पर्यटन, सामाजिक न्याय, बैंकिंग और अन्य क्षेत्र शामिल हैं। मंत्रालय के अनुसार यह डेटा की पहुंच बढ़ाने और सूचित निर्णय लेने



डेटा साझा करने की नीतियों दी गई हैं। इसके अलावा, यह डेटासेट संग्रह और प्रसार के कानूनी एवं न्यायिक ढांचे को निर्धारित करता है। यह गहन विश्लेषण और नीति निर्माण के लिए

अंतर्दृष्टि प्रदान करता है। उपयोगकर्ता मंत्रालय/विभाग पोर्टल के लिंक से महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी को एक स्थान पर एकत्रित करके, यह संकलन डेटा-संचालित शासन को आगे बढ़ाने, अनुसंधान को बढ़ावा देने और प्रमाण-आधारित नीति निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। इसे एक संचालक दस्तावेज के रूप में डिजाइन किया गया है और इसे समय-समय पर नए डेटासेट और नीतियों के साथ अद्यतन किया जाता है ताकि हितधारकों को नवीनतम जानकारी मिल सके। सभी हितधारक इस संग्रह से अंतर्दृष्टि प्राप्त कर सकते हैं और राष्ट्रीय विकास से सरकारी डेटा के उपयोग में योगदान दे सकते हैं। यह डेटा संग्रह मंत्रालय की आधिकारिक वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

## सज्जन जिंदल 'बिजनेस लीडर ऑफ डिकेड' पुरस्कार से सम्मानित

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** जेएसडब्ल्यू ग्रुप के अध्यक्ष सज्जन जिंदल को 15वें एआईएमए मैनेजिंग इंडिया अवार्ड्स में 'बिजनेस लीडर ऑफ डिकेड' सम्मान से सम्मानित किया गया है। श्री जिंदल को यह पुरस्कार आज यहां आयोजित एक समारोह में प्रदान किया गया। शशस्ति प्र के पीएमएजी इंडिया के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी श्री येजदी नागपुरवाला ने पदार्पण किया। श्री जिंदल को अत्यंत प्रशंसा के साथ पुरस्कार प्रदान किया गया। श्री जिंदल ने उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हासिल की है, जिससे उसका राजस्व दोगुना से भी अधिक होकर 24 अरब डॉलर हो गया है। उनकी रणनीतिक दृष्टि के कारण जेएसडब्ल्यू ने अपनी



वार्षिक इस्पात उत्पादन क्षमता को लगभग तीन गुना बढ़कर 3.9 करोड़ टन कर लिया है, साथ ही समूह को

अक्षय ऊर्जा और सीमेंट निर्माण को एक प्रमुख शक्ति के रूप में स्थापित किया है।

## केंद्र ने कोचिंग सेंटरों पर कर्सी नकेल, छात्रों को 1.56 करोड़ रिफंड दिलाया

**एजेंसी नई दिल्ली।** केंद्र सरकार के उपभोक्ता मामलों के विभाग (डीओसीए) ने शिक्षा क्षेत्र में 600 से अधिक उम्मीदवारों और छात्रों के लिए 1.56 करोड़ की राशि का रिफंड सफलतापूर्वक प्राप्त किया है। सिविल सेवा, इंजीनियरिंग कोर्स और अन्य कार्यक्रमों के लिए कोचिंग सेंटरों में नामांकित इन छात्रों को पहले कोचिंग संस्थानों द्वारा निर्धारित नियमों और शर्तों का पालन करने के

बावजूद उचित रिफंड से वंचित किया गया था। केन्द्रीय उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य एवं सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय के अनुसार यह राहत छात्रों द्वारा राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता हेल्पलाइन (एनसीएच) के माध्यम से दर्ज की गई शिकायतों के माध्यम से संभव हुई, जिसमें विवाद समाधान के लिए एक सुव्यवस्थित प्रक्रिया की सुविधा प्रदान की। विभाग द्वारा की गई त्वरित कार्रवाई ने छात्रों को अधूरी सेवाओं, देरी से कक्षाओं या रद्द किए गए पाठ्यक्रमों

के लिए मुआवजा प्राप्त करने में मदद की है। अपने निर्णायक निर्देशों में उपभोक्ता मामलों के विभाग ने सभी कोचिंग सेंटरों को छात्र-केन्द्रित दृष्टिकोण अपनाने का निर्देश दिया है, जिसमें छात्रों के वित्तीय हितों की रक्षा के लिए स्पष्ट, पारदर्शी रिफंड नीतियों को अनिवार्य किया गया है। विभाग ने यह भी स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि वैध रिफंड दावों को अस्वीकार करने की अन्यायपूर्ण प्रथा को अब बर्दाश्त नहीं किया जाएगा, शैक्षिक संस्थानों से उपभोक्ता अधिकारों को बनाए रखने



का आग्रह किया है। उपभोक्ता मामलों के विभाग ने अपने सक्रिय प्रयासों के माध्यम से शिक्षागत निवारण तंत्र को मजबूत करने और छात्रों को उनके उपभोक्ता अधिकारों के बारे में शिक्षित करने, अनुचित व्यवहार के मामले में कार्रवाई करने के लिए उन्हें सशक्त बनाने के लिए भी प्रतिबद्धता जताई है। राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता हेल्पलाइन छात्रों और न्याय की तलाश में उम्मीदवारों को सशक्त बनाने में एक महत्वपूर्ण संसाधन साबित हुई है। इस प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से व्यक्ति बिना

किसी लंबी कानूनी लड़ाई के मुद्दों को हल करने में सक्षम थे, जिससे समय और ऊर्जा की बचत हुई और साथ ही निष्पक्ष परिणाम सुनिश्चित हुए। मुकदमेबाजी से पहले की अवस्था में शिक्षादाताओं का समाधान करके एनसीएच ने विवादों को बढ़ने से रोकने में मदद की है और औपचारिक कानूनी कार्यवाही के लिए एक प्रभावी और सुलभ विकल्प प्रदान किया है। यह सेवा विशेष रूप से छात्रों के लिए फायदेमंद साबित हुई है, जिनके पास अब अपने हितों की

रक्षा करने के लिए एक भरोसेमंद रास्ता है। इस पहल के हिस्से के रूप में डीओसीए छात्र अधिकारों की वकालत करना जारी रखता है और समान मुद्दों का समाधान करने वाले सभी छात्रों को त्वरित समाधान के लिए राष्ट्रीय उपभोक्ता हेल्पलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म का उपयोग करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता है। विभाग कोचिंग सेंटरों से पारदर्शिता, जवाबदेही और छात्र-अनुकूल दृष्टिकोण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए निर्धारित दिशानिर्देशों का पालन करने का भी आग्रह करता है।

## सैमसंग गतिरोध: कंपनी का कर्मचारियों की सुरक्षा के लिए तमिलनाडु सरकार से हस्तक्षेप का अनुरोध

**चेन्नई।** दक्षिण कोरिया की दिग्गज कंपनी सैमसंग के श्रीपेरंबदूर संयंत्र में कामगारों के एक वर्ग ने कंपनी के खिलाफ अपना विरोध तेज कर दिया। कंपनी ने कहा कि उसकी "किसी भी अवैध गतिविधि के लिए शून्य-सहिष्णुता की नीति है।" कंपनी ने तमिलनाडु सरकार के अधिकारियों से "अपने कर्मचारियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने, अनुशासन बनाए रखने और कारोबार की स्थिति को सुगम बनाने" का आग्रह किया। कर्मचारियों का एक वर्ग पहले सीआईटीयू (सीटू) समर्थित सैमसंग इंडिया वर्कर्स यूनियन के तिन पदाधिकारियों के निलंबन के खिलाफ विरोध प्रदर्शन कर रहा था और बृहस्पतिवार को उसने अपना आंदोलन तेज कर दिया। इसपर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए कंपनी ने कहा, "आज कर्मचारियों के एक खास वर्ग ने एक बार फिर अवैध रूप से परिचालन और औद्योगिक शांति को बाधित करने की कोशिश की।" कंपनी ने कहा, "सैमसंग में, हमारी प्राथमिकता सभी कर्मचारियों के लिए एक सुरक्षित और स्थिर कार्यस्थल बनाए रखना है। आज कर्मचारियों के एक खास वर्ग ने एक बार फिर अवैध रूप से परिचालन और औद्योगिक शांति को बाधित करने की कोशिश की।"



# पूरी दुनिया में मशहूर हैं

# जमीन के ऊपर नहीं

अंदर हैं 10 शानदार झीलों

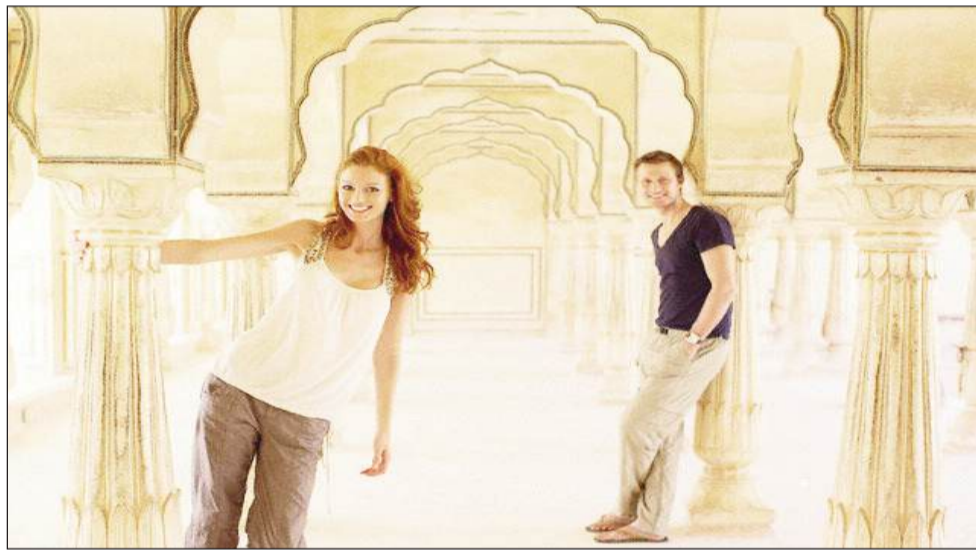
दुनिया बेहद खूबसूरत है। अगर प्राकृतिक ने हमारी गोद में सुंदरता की बरमार सौगत में दी है तो लोगों ने भी इस दुनिया को सजाने में अपनी मेहनत के रंग भरे हैं। आज हम आपको दिखाते हैं दुनिया के सबसे रंगीन शहर जो अपनी खूबसूरती के लिए जाने जाते हैं।

Nyhavn, Copenhagen

डेनमार्क में बसे इस शहर में 17 औ 18वीं शताब्दी की इमारतें, बार, कैफ़े, रेस्टोरेंट्स आदि हैं जो लकड़ी, ईट और प्लास्टर से बने हैं। नहर के पास बने इस शहर की खूबसूरती किसी का भी मन मोह लें।

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
अर्जेंटीना के ब्यूनस आयर्स में ला बोका (La Boca) नाम की जगह है जो अपने खूले म्यूज़ियम के लिए मशहूर है। यहां के लोगों ने अपने आस-पड़ोस की दीवारों पर कबाड़ के सामान और बचे हुए रंगों से बहुत ही सुन्दर म्यूल्स और ग्राफ़िटी बनाई है।  
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

सेंट जॉन न्यूफ़ाउंडलैंड, लैब्राडोर की राजधानी है। यह कनाडा के सबसे पुराने शहर है, जिसका इतिहास 1400 साल पुराना है।



इस जगह का आर्किटेक्चर बहुत ही निराला है क्योंकि पुराने समय में जहाज के कप्तान अपने घर के लिए एक रंग चुनते थे, जिससे

## दस शहर

समुद्र से घर को आसानी से पहचाना जा सके। यही वजह है कि ये शहर इतना रंगीन है।

Valparaiso, Chile  
समुद्र पर बसा वल्परईसो शहर, चिली का ऐतिहासिक और सांस्कृतिक गढ़ है। यहां लोगों ने अपनी क्रिएटिविटी दिखाकर घरों को रंग-बिरंगे रंगों से सजाया है।

Izamal, Mexico  
इस शहर को रमैजिकल सिटी नाम दिया गया है क्योंकि यहां की इमारतों से सूर्य जैसा पीला रंग छलकता है। पत्थर से बनी सड़कें और लाइमस्टोन के चर्च और सरकारी इमारतें इस शहर की सुंदरता को और बढ़ाती हैं।

Wroclaw, Poland



पोलैंड के

इस शहर में पर्यटकों के देखने लायक बहुत सारी चीजें हैं जैसे रेस्टोरेंट, कैफ़े आदि लेकिन इस शहर का सबसे सुन्दर भाग है, यहां के रंग-बिरंगे घर जो पूरे वातावरण को सजीव बनाता है।

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2010 में ब्राज़ील की सरकार ने रिओ की बस्तियों को सजाने का काम शुरू किया था। आज यहां की बस्तियां एक बड़ा सा रंग-बिरंगा कैनवास बन गई हैं। इस इलाके में अब टूरिस्ट्स का तांता लगा रहता है।

Jodhpur, India

भारत के राजस्थान में बसा जोधपुर शहर जो ब्लू सिटी के नाम से मशहूर है। यहां के घरों और इमारतों को रॉयल ब्लू रंग में रंगा गया है। ये प्रचलन जोधपुर के राज परिवार ने शुरू किया था। नीले रंग में रंगा गया ये शहर, शान्ति और शीलता का एहसास देता है।

Pattaya, Thailand

पट्टया में सुन्दर बीच तो है ही लेकिन यहां की इमारतों के रंग हर किसी को अपनी ओर आकर्षित करते हैं। यहां के घर और होटलों को कई रंगों में रंगा गया है जो इस शहर को दुनिया का सबसे रंगीन शहर बनाता है।

Burano Island, Italy

चार आइलैंड के द्वीप समूह में स्थित इस शहर में मोहक सड़कें और नहरें हैं लेकिन उससे भी खूबसूरत यहां की इमारतें हैं जो खूबसूरत रंगों से चमचमाती हैं। यहां खास बात यह है कि यहां सरकार निर्धारित करती है कि आप अपने घर को किस रंग से रंगवा सकते हैं।



झीलों की खूबसूरती हमेशा से ही लोगों को अपनी ओर आकर्षित करती रही है। इनकी सुंदरता का जिक्र कई गीतों, शायरों की शायरी और बहुत सारी प्रेम-कहानियों में भी हुआ है। आपने भी वैसे तो बहुत सारी झीलें देखी होंगी लेकिन जिन झीलों के बारे में हम आपको बताने जा रहे हैं, वह रोमांच से भरी पढ़ी हैं क्योंकि ये झीलें जमीन पर नहीं बल्कि अंदर ग्राउंड हैं। यह झीलें पूरी दुनिया में प्रसिद्ध हैं।

रीड फ्लूट लेक

चीन के तांग वंश के समय में गुडलिन में स्थित रीड फ्लूट लेक लगभग 1300 साल पुरानी है।

वूकेई होल

ब्रिटेन के सामर सेट में स्थित ये गुफा दुनिया के सबसे बड़ी गुफाओं में से एक है।

चेडर नदी घाटी

ब्रिटेन की 9000 साल पुरानी इस घाटी में 1903 में पूर्ण नर कंकाल मिला था। लाइम स्टोन की बनी हुई ये घाटी एक अंडर ग्राउंड नदी का परिणाम है।

मेल्लिअसनी लेक

कैलीफोर्निया में स्थित इस झील की खोज 1943 में आए एक भूकंप की वजह से हुई थी।



लेचुगुइल्ला लेक

मेक्सिको के काल्सबैंड सर्वेस नैशनल पार्क यहां की सबसे बड़ी गुफा में शामिल है, जहां ये झील अपनी छटा बिखेरती है।

सेवर्न लेक

चूना पत्थर से बनी मेक्सिको की गुफाओं में स्थित इस झील में दीवारें एक वाटर फाल की तरह दिखता है।

बंपफ लेक

कनाडा के बंपफ नैशनल पार्क में स्थित ये झील अपनी खूबसूरती के लिए दुनियाभर में जानी जाती है।

युकाटन लेक

दुनिया के सबसे खूबसूरत झीलों में से एक युकाटन लेक मेक्सिको के मेकन चे में स्थित है।

लुरेई सवेर्न्स

अमरीका के वर्जीनिया में स्थित इस झील को देखने दुनिया भर से पर्यटक यहां आते हैं।

हेमिल्टन पुल

टेक्सस में स्थित हेमिल्टन पुल का निर्माण एक गुफा की छत ढहने से हुआ था।

# नाव और कुत्तों की सवारी के लिए मशहूर हैं आठ देश

हजारों सालों से पेरू और बोलीविया के टीटीकाका झील के किनारों पर एक खास तरह की टोटोरा बोट मिलती है जिसे रीड बोट्स भी कहा जाता है। जो दुनिया की सबसे पुरानी बोट्स में शामिल हैं। अलग-अलग साइज में मिलने वाली इन नावों को यहां के ऊरोज जनजाति के लोग अपने हाथों से तैयार करते हैं। ड्रेगन की शैप वाले इस नाव को पुराने जमाने में बुरी आत्माओं को भगाने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाता था, ऐसा लोग मानते हैं। हल्की होने के कारण पानी में ये बहुत ही तेज रफ्तार से चलती है। जिससे सफर आसानी से कट जाता है और मंजिल तक समय से पहुंच जाते हैं।

नावों के शांत वातावरण का एक्सपीरिंस कुछ अनेखे तरीके से करना हो तो डॉग स्लीडिंग बेहतररीन ऑप्शन है। यहां के साल्टफेले-स्वार्टिसिन और जॉटुनहाइम नेशनल पार्क अपनी नेचुरल ब्यूटी के लिए जाने जाते हैं जहां तक पहुंचाने में बिनापहिए वाली गाड़ी, जिसे साइबेरियन डॉग खींचते हैं की मदद ली जा सकती है। इस स्लीडिंग का मजा लेने के लिए ओस्लो से 3 घंटे तक का सफर तय करना पड़ता है। टुकटुक, रिक्शे जैसा दिखने वाला वाहन जिसमें आगे साइकिल नहीं बाइक होती है और टुकटुक चलाने वाला बकायदा हेलमेट पहने नजर आएगा।

तीन पहिए वाली ये गाड़ी मोटर की मदद से चलती है और इसका भी बहुतायत तौर पर इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। सबसे पहले टुकटुक थाईलैंड में चलाई गई थी उसके बाद ये लाओस, कंबोडिया, पाकिस्तान से होते हुए इंडिया में आई। धूल और प्रदूषण से परे इसकी सवारी वाकई मजेदार होने के साथ ही अन्य वाहनों के मुकाबले सस्ती भी होती है। ट्रेन, बस, अलग-

अलग सुविधाओं वाली कार के होते हुए भी थाईलैंड में लोग हाथी की सवारी करना ज्यादा पसंद करते हैं। शाही सवारी का अनुभव कराने के साथ ही थाईलैंड के जंगलों को घूमने का मजा इसी से आता है। यहां एक छोटा सा हाथियों का गांव भी है जहां जाकर हाथियों को खिला सकते हैं, बेबी एलिफेंट के साथ मस्ती कर सकते हैं और उनके साथ फोटो भी खिंचवा सकते हैं। थाईलैंड साल भर टूरिस्टों से भरा रहता है। तो बीच पर घूमने के अलावा जंगलों की सैर हाथी पर करना भी एक अच्छा ऑप्शन है (कंबोडिया की राजधानी नामपेह के बत्तामबैंग शहर में लोहे की नहीं बल्कि बांस की ट्रेन देखने को मिलती है। बांस की लकड़ियों से बने खांचे के ऊपर छोटे इलेक्ट्रॉनिक इंजन और नीचे पटरों पर आराम से दौड़ने वाले पहिए, वाकई आवाजाही के लिए गजब का इनवेन्शन है। बड़ी-बड़ी ट्रेनों और बसों को पीछे छोड़ कंबोडिया में लोग एक शहर से दूसरे शहर जाने के लिए ज्यादातर इसका ही इस्तेमाल करते हैं। इसे वहां की सरकार ने भी मान्यता दे रखी है। कंबोडिया के खमेर इलाके में इसे "नीरी"

कहते हैं। लेकिन इसकी सबसे

अजीबोगरीब चीज है कि लोहे की ट्रेन सामने आने पर इस पर से कूदना पड़ता है।

कई तरह की लज्जरी सुविधाओं से लैस ट्रेन, बसों, हवाई जहाज से बहुत सारे सफर किए होंगे, लेकिन कभी बांस की ट्रेन, हाथियों और ऊंट की पीठ पर सवारी की है? शायद नहीं। दुनिया भर में ऐसी कई सारी जगहें हैं जहां टूरिस्टों को बिल्कुल अनोखे अंदाज में शहर घूमने का मौका मिलता है जो वाकई एक अलग ही एक्सपीरिंस होता है। तो ऐसे ही अलग राइड्स का मजा कहां और किससे मिलता है, इसे जानेंगे और जब भी जाने का मौका मिले तो एक बार इनपर सवारी करना तो बनता है।



न्यूजीलैंड शहर को एक्सप्लोर करने की सोच रहे हैं तो इन ट्रांसपैरेट गेंदों (जोर्ब) की मदद ले सकते हैं। घाटियों और पहाड़ों से लुढ़काई जाने वाली इस गेंद में बहुत स्पेस होता है जिसमें एक या दो नहीं बल्कि कई सारे लोग एक साथ बैठ सकते हैं। जोर्ब की सबसे मजेदार बात होती है कि ये पहाड़ों, सड़कों के अलावा पानी में भी इस्तेमाल किए जा सकते हैं। वहां के लोग इसे किवी कहते हैं जो बंजी जम्पिंग, व्हाइट वाटर राफ्टिंग और स्काईडाइविंग जैसे खेलों जितना ही मजेदार खेल है। रंग-बिरंगी, नियाँन लाइट्स और वूड पोस्टर्स से सजी हुई बसें ग्वाटेमाला में पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट के लिए इस्तेमाल की जाती है जिसे "चिकन बस" के नाम से पुकारा जाता है। पुरानी बसों को बिल्कुल अलग तरह से तैयार कर इसे स्कूल बस के तौर पर भी इस्तेमाल करते हैं। बड़े-बड़े पहाड़ों पर इससे सफर करना आसान होता है। पहले बसों में बकरियों और मुर्गियों की भी सवारी होती है इसलिए इस चिकन बस कहा जाने लगा। लेकिन ग्वाटेमाला में सबसे ज्यादा लूट-पाट भी इन्हीं बसों में होती है।





NEWS BOX

### Hero to villain Dubai set to play defining role in Babar Azam's career once again

**New Delhi.** On Sunday, February 23, senior Pakistan batter Babar Azam will once again step onto Dubai International Stadium against India. The last time that Babar played India at an ICC event in Dubai, the match made him an international icon and a hero to millions of Pakistanis across the world. In the 2021 game, Babar scored a brisk 68\* against India, helping Pakistan secure their first-ever win in a World Cup match against India. Babar, the captain of the side, became the apple of the eye for the nation and the cricket board. Of course, he was also adored by fans across the world. Fast forward to 2025, Babar Azam, now removed from the post of captaincy, returns to the stadium once again. The conditions of Babar's return are drastically different. Since his win in 2021, many might argue that Babar lost his way in international cricket. Once lovingly dubbed as the 'King', Babar has not only failed to fulfil the promise, but many might say that he has overstayed his welcome in the Pakistan team. Since the highs of the 2021 and 2022 T20 World Cups, Babar Azam's career has gone downhill. Even though Pakistan reached the final of the 2022 World Cup,



Babar was criticised for his poor batting in the tournament. Since then, the criticism has only compounded on Babar, under whom Pakistan crashed and burned in the 2023 and 2024 editions of the ICC events. After Ramiz Raja's departure from the Pakistan Cricket Board, Babar lost his impunity and, with that, his captaincy in all three formats of the game. They say that you either die a hero, or live long enough to become a villain. It rings true for Babar as well, as he simply failed to upgrade himself in the rapidly shifting landscape in all three formats of the game.

Will This be the End of Babar's Superstardom? How bad is Babar's bad patch? Is it as bad as people make it out to be? Maybe? Once a mercurial batter, Babar Azam last scored an ODI century in 2023 - against Nepal in the Asia Cup at home. His last century away from home came way back in 2021 - against England. His records in Test cricket have not been any better either. The batter scored his last home and away red-ball hundred back in 2022 against New Zealand and Sri Lanka, respectively. The horrible patch of form saw Babar get sacked from the Test team earlier in 2025 when England toured Pakistan for a 3-match series.

### Virat Kohli vs Babar Azam: A tale of 2 'kings' looking to break out of form slump

**New Delhi.** When you talk about the greatest batters of the modern era, two names come to your mind. The all-conquering 'King of Indian cricket', Virat Kohli, has achieved major feats across all three formats of the game. Then Pakistan found their own king in the form of Babar Azam, who has gone from strength to strength since his debut in 2015. Kohli broke Sachin Tendulkar's record for the most hundreds in ODIs during India's march to the final of the 2023 World Cup, while Babar became the fastest to 6000 runs in the 50-over format. Both men went on to captain their sides to varying success and have been pillars in the batting lineups for their teams. However, things weren't great for both men coming into the much-anticipated India vs Pakistan game in Dubai on Sunday, February 23. Kohli hasn't scored a hundred since the 2023 World Cup and Babar has been slammed massively for his intent to score



runs during high-pressure games. So what's been going wrong for both the stars and what do they need to do? Let's start with Babar.

Where is the intent? This has been the biggest criticism of Babar in the past few years, especially in the white-ball format. If you look at the New Zealand game, the 30-year-old had a simple job and that was to put the pressure early on the New Zealand bowlers. This role of senior player was amplified as Pakistan lost Fakhar Zaman to injury. So the tone had to be set by Babar early on, but what he did was essentially hold his team back. And mind you, this is a man who has scored 3 T20I hundreds and has hit 447 boundaries and 73 sixes during his 128 matches in the format. And all these hundreds came while he was batting as an opener. So the 30-year-old clearly knows how to take the attack to the bowlers and take apart attacks with his elegant shots. But the New Zealand game saw him go into a shell, with Salman Agha and Khushdil Shah's knocks helping them to get to a respectable total in the end.

# Champions Trophy: Five Talking Points shaping up India vs Pakistan blockbuster clash

- ➔ **India and Pakistan are set to clash on February 23**
- ➔ **India have had an upper hand over Pakistan in recent times**
- ➔ **Pakistan's unpredictability makes the contest exciting for fans**

**New Delhi.** The stage is set for the two cricket nations to set the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 ablaze with some riveting action as India and Pakistan will lock horns on Sunday, February 23 at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai. The two heavyweights have been involved in several memorable fixtures over the years leaving the fans enthralled through their remarkable performances on the field. The upcoming game also promises to live up to the expectations of the fans with both teams full of big names capable of turning matches on their own. As the 'mother of all battles' draws closer, there are

several factors which makes the high-voltage clash even more exciting as fans wait with bated breath for the arch-rivals to collide.

**1. Battle of the Two Superstars**

Over the years, India vs Pakistan game has been seen as a battle between India's great batting strength and Pakistan's fiery pace attack. However, since 2021 the match has been an opportunity to see two batting stalwarts namely Virat Kohli and Babar Azam going up against each other.

Ahead of the upcoming fixture, the duo hasn't been in the best of forms as Kohli has scored just one half century in his last six innings. On the other hand, Babar has been under scrutiny for his poor strike rate. Hence, it remains to be seen which one of the two will be able to rise under pressure and help his team get over the line in the all-important clash.

**2. The Spin Conundrum**

India have selected five spinners in their 15-member squad while Pakistan have just one specialist spinner in their team. As was seen in the first match in Dubai, they managed to get a lot of purchase out of the surface as batting in the middle overs under lights was a herculean task even for a set batter. Spinners are expected to dominate the upcoming



fixture as well, which leaves India in a fix, who had their X factor Varun Chakravarthy warming the bench in the first game. Will India ponder unleashing him against Pakistan, which will give the wrist spinner to make amends for his horrible outing against the arch-rivals in 2021. On the other hand, Pakistan will rely on Abrar Ahmed to control the game in the middle overs and will attack with their three-pronged pace attack of Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah with the new ball. It remains to be seen who will reign supreme in the spin vs pace battle.

**3. India's dominance in recent times**

In the 73-year-old rivalry, both teams have dominated each other in different phases. While Pakistan were a force to reckon with for the first 24 years (1978-2002 in ODIs)

having won 52 out of the first 85 ODI matches played between the two teams, the dawn of the new century has completely turned the tables. The Men in Blue have been successful in giving a counter punch to the arch-rivals more often in the past 23 years as they hold the edge over them since 2003 with 28 wins out of the 50 matches. The battle became one-sided from 2010 onwards with India thumping Pakistan 12 times out of the 17 matches. To further add to the dominance, the Men in Blue have won seven out of the last eight completed matches between the two sides. Hence, while Indian fans had to suffer several heartbreaks in the 80s and 90s, they finally have a lot to cheer in recent times and will be once again rooting for the same in the upcoming encounter.

**4. Never count out Pakistan**

Pakistan have a reputation of being one of the most mercurial teams in the sporting history. On their day, the Men in Green are capable of surmounting highest of obstacles to stun the fiercest oppositions. On other occasions, they look like club team being forced to play up against international stars. Hence, only a novice would dare to count out Pakistan as the cricketing fraternity is well aware of their unpredictable nature.

## 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva scripts history to become youngest WTA 1000 champion

- ➔ **Mirra Andreeva won the Dubai Tennis Championships**
- ➔ **Andreeva beat Clara Tauson 7-6 (1), 6-1**
- ➔ **Andreeva will also make her top 10 debut in the rankings**

**New Delhi.** 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva scripted history after becoming the youngest-ever WTA 1000 champion since the introduction of the format back in 2009. On Saturday, February 22, the teenager won the Dubai Tennis Championships after beating Clara Tauson 7-6 (1), 6-1 in the grand finale.

She also became the fifth player to win her maiden WTA 1000 title in Dubai. The others are Venus Williams (2009), Elina Svitolina (2017), Barbora Krejickova (2023) and Jasmine Paolini (2024). After her dream

run, Andreeva will also make her debut in the top 10 of the WTA rankings at No.9 when the new rankings come out. "I'd set a goal for myself to be in top 10 by the end of the year. Now it's the end of February, and I've already made it, so this is something



incredible for me. I'm just super happy with the way I was playing today. I was hella (very) nervous. I think you could see it during the match with all those double faults, some mistakes," Andreeva said. Andreeva punched above her weight to beat three Grand Slam champions; Iga

Swiatek, Marketa Vondrousova and Elena Rybakina on her way to winning the tournament. "So I'm just really happy that I could manage and deal with the pressure. And now it just feels amazing... This is something I dreamt of and now my dream came true so I'm just, I'm speechless right now. Lastly, I want to thank me for never quitting and always believing in myself," Andreeva added. Andreeva found herself in early trouble after dropping her serve to go 0-2 down, but earned the break to make it 2-2 and took the set into a tie-breaker. Andreeva stayed unbeaten in tie-breaks this year, winning the first six points.

The second set was a completely one-sided affair as Andreeva stormed to a 5-1 lead. During this while, Tauson took a medical time-out and also threw her racket on the ground in frustration. Sensing victory, Andreeva stepped up to serve for the title and clinched it as Tauson's return sailed long on her second championship point.

## Who said what after Josh Inglis helped Australia secure record win vs England

- ➔ **Australia won the match by 5 wickets**
- ➔ **Inglis starred with the bat as he scored 120 off 86 balls**
- ➔ **Australia will next face South Africa on February 25**

**New Delhi.** Josh Inglis was the star of the show for Australia as they scripted history in the Champions Trophy on Saturday, February 22. Chasing a target of 352 to win, Australia were able to chase down the target in 47.3 overs with Inglis top scoring for them with 120 not out. He received help from Alex Carey,

who scored 69 and Matthew Short, who played a fine knock of 63. This was the highest run-chase in the history of ICC events in the 50-over format. England were put into bat by Steve Smith and after some early success, it was all England in Lahore. Duckett scored a sensational 165, the highest score in the history of Champions Trophy, to power his side to the monumental score. Joe Root chipped in with 68 and there were useful cameos from the lower order as well. Australia's chase was in some trouble when Carey and Inglis came together and the duo put on 146 runs to ensure the Aussies were in a strong spot. Glenn Maxwell then put the finishing touches along with Inglis, who hit the winning runs and was adjudged as the Player Of The Match. Speaking after

the win, Inglis said he was over the moon with the win and there wasn't a lot of discussion going on in the Australia camp at half time. "Yeah, the moon obviously. Great win. We knew it was tough to come up against England. 350, a lot of things need to go right to chase it down. So happy with how things went. There wasn't too discussion much at the half time. We knew it was going to be tough with the dew around. It was always going to be better to bat under lights," said Inglis. Inglis said that he wasn't looking too much at the scoreboard and knew that they wanted to ensure Maxwell coming in to play the finisher's role in the final 10 overs. The Aussie batter said that he will take a lot of confidence heading into the next few games.

## WPL 2025: Chinelle Henry, bowlers help UP Warriorz thrash Delhi Capitals by 33 runs

- ➔ **UP Warriorz scored 177/9 batting first**
- ➔ **Chinelle Henry scored a breathtaking 62 (23)**
- ➔ **Delhi Capitals got bundled out for 144**

**New Delhi.** UP Warriorz (UP-W) registered their first win of the Women's Premier League 2025 (WPL 2025) as they beat Delhi Capitals (DC) by 33 runs on Saturday, February 22 at M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru. After being put in to bat first, UP rode on Chinelle Henry's breathtaking innings (62 off 23) which took them to a good score of 177/9 in their allotted 20 overs. In reply, Delhi were bundled out for 144 in 19.3

overs as Kranti Goud (4/25) and Grace Harris (4/15, 2.3 overs) took four wickets each. Jemimah Rodrigues was the lone warrior for DChI with her half-century (56 off 35) laced with eight fours and six. As a result, UP registered their first points of the season to move to the fourth spot on the points table, while Delhi slipped to third with four points after facing their first loss of the season.

Delhi's chase didn't get off to a flying start as Shafali Verma started slow scoring five runs off 11 balls. She got a life in the first over itself, being dropped at point before beginning her onslaught in the third over. At the other end, Meg Lanning also decided to break free, smashing her first boundary against Kranti Goud in the fourth over but lost her stumps two balls later leaving Delhi on 26/1 in 4.3 overs.

Her dismissal brought Jemimah Rodrigues at the crease, who attacked right from the word



go, scoring two boundaries in the first eight balls. However, at the other end, Shafali failed to get going and eventually holed out to point against Kranti Goud for 24 (30). With Delhi falling behind on the required run rate, Jemimah continued to deal in boundaries, putting UP bowlers to the sword, but she failed to get any support with wickets falling continuously from the other end. She brought up her half-century off 30 deliveries with a boundary against Tahlia McGrath and

a comeback. Champions Trophy: Full Coverage | Points Table

With each team playing only three group-stage matches, the clash against India has now become a virtual must-win game for the Mohammed Rizwan-led side.

Meanwhile, India heads into the fixture brimming with confidence after a dominant victory over Bangladesh in Dubai on February 22. The Rohit Sharma-led side produced a clinical all-round performance, strengthening their position in the group and making them favorites for the upcoming clash. For Pakistan, the road ahead is anything but easy. Their net run rate suffered a significant blow after the New Zealand loss, further complicating their qualification chances. Adding to their woes is the injury to key batter Fakhar Zaman, who famously dismantled India in the 2017 Champions Trophy final. His absence leaves a major void in the batting lineup, putting additional pressure on Pakistan's top order to step up.

stood as a lone warrior in Delhi's chase before Goud got rid of her and Jess Jonassen (5 off 4) in the 15th over. From there on, there was no comeback for Delhi, who capitulated under pressure to get bowled out for 144. **Chinelle Henry's record-equalling half century** Earlier in the day, UP lost their opener Vrinda Dinesh (4 off 7) cheaply in the third over, who edged Marizanne Kapp to wicketkeeper Sarah Bryce. Following her dismissal, captain

Deepthi Sharma (13 off 19) walked in to bat and made sure that her team didn't lose any more wickets in the powerplay as UP were 38/1 after six overs. However, Arundhati Reddy (17 off 20) and Jess Jonassen got rid of both set batters, leaving UP on 61/3 in 9.2 overs. They further suffered a dramatic collapse as UP went from 79/3 to 109/7 with Jess Jonassen (4/31, 4 overs) and Marizanne Kapp (2/18, 4 overs) doing most of the damage.





# Sharvari Waggh

Looks Breathtakingly Gorgeous In Latest Photos, Makes Fans' Heart Skip A Beat



Sharvari is one of the prettiest Bollywood stars and there is no doubt about it. Each time she drops photos of herself on social media, she leaves fans in complete awe. On Tuesday too, Sharvari took to her Instagram handle and shared a glimpse of her recent photoshoot, which is now setting fire online. In these latest clicks, Sharvari was seen flaunting her million-dollar smile in a cream-coloured off-shoulder top. The actress kept her tresses open and opted for minimal accessories and glam makeup. Needless to say, Sharvari looked stunning as always. Soon after the photos were shared, fans rushed to the comments section to praise their favourite rising star. "I love the way she smiles and those moles we should all love to embrace them just like sharvarione of the fans wrote. "The peace her smiling face holds added another. "I feel okay when I see you smile a third comment read. Check it out here: Meanwhile, on the work front, Sharvari will soon be seen in Alpha. Directed by Shiv Rawail, the film also stars Alia Bhatt in the lead. Previously, Sharvari talked about being a part of the project and said, "I love action as a genre and I binge-watch action movies with my sister! So, when I was offered Alpha, I jumped! In my head I always wanted to do action as an actor. So, I'm getting to live my dream." She also shared that she always believed that action stars have a really fun shooting experience because of all the stunts that they get to do. "I'm now experiencing this feeling first hand and I have to admit that it's supremely fun but physically so taxing. I'm putting in my 200 per cent and I hope people love me in Alpha! I want to become an action star in the near future and so, I'm going for it in Alpha!"

# Alia Bhatt

Is All Smiles As She Aces The Casual Look In A Chic White Tee And Blue Jeans

Alia Bhatt is loved by fans for not only her stellar acting chops but also for her sense of style. Whether it is high fashion on the red carpet or an easy-going look for her day out in town, Alia Bhatt aces the style game with finesse; her latest casual look is no exception. Alia Bhatt was recently spotted in Mumbai in a casual yet chic look. The actress looked radiant in blue jeans paired with a cream-coloured top. She wore minimal makeup and wore her hair open, framing her face naturally. Have a look here:

Meanwhile, Alia Bhatt has found her latest cinematic obsession, and it's none other than Vicky Kaushal's impressive performance in Chhaava! The actress took to social media to shower praises on Vicky, confessing that she simply can't get over his acting in the historical drama. Ever since Chhaava was released in theatres on February 14, 2025, Kaushal has been receiving praise and love from audiences and celebs alike. The film is also doing great business at the box office. Alia,



who has worked with Vicky Kaushal before in Raazi, took to her Instagram handle to re-share a post of Chhaava. Praising the film, she wrote, "Vicky Kaushal! What are you???? Cannot get over your performance in Chhaava! @vickykaushal09."

Alia's praise for Vicky is also special as the two will share the screen soon in Love and War. The film will be directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali and will also star Ranbir Kapoor as one of the leads. Besides

this, Alia Bhatt is gearing up for Alpha, the seventh instalment in YRF's Spy Universe. Directed by Shiv Rawail, it is the first female-led film in the franchise, starring Alia alongside Sharvari. The action thriller also features Bobby Deol, Anil Kapoor, and Ashutosh Rana, who recently confirmed his return as Colonel Sunil Luthra. Alpha is set to release on December 25, 2025.



Abhay Verma Shares Sneak Peek From His 'Meta Day' With Peela Nasha 2.0 Co-Star Pragati Nagpal



Abhay Verma has created a name for himself in the entertainment world with his successful horror comedy Munjya and his sincere performance in Ae Watan Mere Watan alongside Sara Ali Khan. The actor was recently seen in Peela Nasha 2.0, a reimagination of the classic song from 1992's Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikander featuring Aamir Khan and Ayesha Jhulka. Discussing the same, he participated in an interview with Meta along with his co-star from the song Pragati Nagpal. The 26-year-old actor dropped special moments from the same for his Instafam. Sharing the series of pictures and videos, Abhay wrote, "Merry Meta Day." The images featured the actor posing in the studio. One of them also saw him fixing Pragati's makeup during the interview. The Munjya actor looked dapper in a red leather jacket that he layered over a maroon sweater. He paired these with white trousers and sneakers for a trendy look.

The pictures soon caught the attention of Abhay's fans. Reacting to them, one of them wrote, "It's Abhay's world and we are just living in it." Another said, "You look so handsome." Many other fans dropped hearts and fire emojis. Talking about his latest song, Abhay Verma said during an interview with news agency IANS that Peela Nasha 2.0 was his tribute to Aamir Khan whom he considers his 'idol'. He said, "Peela Nasha has been like a love language for me. It's an ode to my idol Aamir sir in my own little way. It was an absolute honour to recreate what these legends had done in a responsible and respectful way and I feel more than fortunate to present this tribute as the face of the song."

Peela Nasha 2.0 is composed by Amaal Mallik and sung by Armaan Malik and Pragati Nagpal. The lyrics are penned by Rashmi Virag. Further on the work front, recent reports suggest that Abhay Verma will be sharing the screen with Shanaya Kapoor for Shujaat Saudagar's next project. Filmfare has reported that the upcoming film would be a love story set in Goa and its shoot would begin in March.

Prateik Babbar And Priya Banerjee Sip Champagne, Pose With Pooja Hegde In Unseen Wedding Photos



Ever since Prateik Babbar and Priya Banerjee tied the knot, their wedding pictures have been all over the internet. On Wednesday too, the latter took to her social media handle and shared some of the unseen pictures from the wedding celebration.

In these new clicks, Prateik and Priya were seen sipping champagne after getting married. Another photo featured the groom dancing his heart out. He was also seen posing with Vir Das in one of the photographs. The pictures also revealed that actress Pooja Hegde also attended the wedding. Priya was also seen sharing a hearty laugh with Hegde in one of the photos. Check it out here:

Prateik Babbar is the son of the late actress Smita Patil and actor Raj Babbar. He married Priya on February 14. However, to everyone's surprise, his father was not invited to the ceremony. Recently, Prateik's half-brother Arya Babbar



expressed his disappointment, questioning what led to this strained dynamic. "Somewhere we as a family must have failed him," Arya told SCREEN and then added, "Not inviting other members of our family, my mother (Nadira Babbar), my sister (Juhi Babbar), or me could be condonable: maybe we have failed him as a family, although we have never treated him as a stepbrother. Lekin chalo, shaayad humse koi bhool ho gayi ho (Perhaps, we made a mistake). But Papa? Not inviting our Papa, his Papa (Raj Babbar)... how can he do this? Papa is very very hurt. By doing this, Prateik has hurt his mother, the great Smita Patilji, as well. If he stops to think for a moment, he would know that his mother, whom he respects and loves so much, must be very hurt. Would she want this?"

Meanwhile, Prateik has not yet revealed why he did not invite his family to his wedding.