



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Surprise rebel alliance could boost Sudan's beleaguered RSF

PORT SUDAN. Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have signed a charter paving the way for a parallel government with its allies, including a former foe who analysts say could offer crucial territory, fighters and border access.

Since April 2023, a brutal war between the RSF and the regular army -- represented by the internationally recognised government currently based in Port Sudan -- has killed tens of thousands, uprooted 12 million and visited mass human rights violations upon civilians. Last month, the former US administration declared that the RSF had committed genocide in the western region of Darfur. Until last week, the lesser-known third party to the war was Abdelaziz al-Hilu, whose faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North had previously fought both the army and the RSF in the country's south.

In an unexpected turn of events, Hilu appeared in Nairobi last week, and his group was one of the key signatories to an RSF charter for a "government of peace and unity". If his battle-hardened fighters join forces with the RSF, analysts say it could significantly bolster the weakened paramilitaries, led by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo (widely known as Hemedti).

After weeks of losses as the army charges through the country, the new rebel alliance could also grant key border access to RSF-friendly east African states.

On the back foot

The RSF has conquered nearly all of Darfur, but is unable to cement its hold on the region and appears on the verge of losing all of the capital Khartoum to the army. "Hemedti is on his back foot," Marc Lavergne, a professor at France's University of Tours, told AFP.

Who is Friedrich Merz, Conservative leader set to become new German Chancellor

World Germany's conservative leader, Friedrich Merz, is poised to lead the nation after his party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), won the largest vote share in the country's general elections, overtaking Olaf Scholz's center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD).

69 years old, Merz, a long-time rival of ex-chancellor Angela Merkel within the CDU, has led the center-right Union bloc through the election campaign, which consistently outpaced polling.

Known for his strong business background, including roles at investment fund BlackRock and various corporate boards that made him a millionaire, Merz has never held a government leadership position.

Despite this, he seeks to project a statesman-like persona, confident in his ability to deal with unpredictable global leaders, such as US President Donald Trump, whom he has described as "predictably unpredictable."

Merz, a trained lawyer, has been a vocal critic of Merkel's open-door migrant policy, which led to tensions within the CDU, especially regarding support from the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) on controversial issues in parliament. His fiery rhetoric was directed at Scholz and his government throughout the campaign, particularly as he railed against the perceived failures of the "green-left" coalition. Merz, although lacking strong personal approval ratings, was seen as the favored challenger to Scholz, positioning himself as the remedy to what he has labeled "three lost years" for Germany.

Trump fires 1,600 USAID employees, others sent on indefinite paid leave

WASHINGTON. Most employees at USAID will be placed on leave or fired by midnight on Sunday, the aid agency said, as President Donald Trump's administration plows ahead in slashing government spending.

Around 1,600 workers based in the United States will be laid off in a "reduction-in-force" effort, according to a notice on the US Agency for International Development's website. All other staff directly hired by USAID will be placed on administrative leave globally, except those responsible for "mission-critical functions, core leadership and/or specially designated programs."

The move is a step forward in Trump's effort to dismantle USAID, which has more than 10,000 employees and operates an array of humanitarian and development programs around the world.

The agency announced earlier this month that all staff would be placed on administrative leave -- a directive that faced legal challenges. But on Friday, a federal judge lifted an order pausing the Trump administration's implementation of plans to gut USAID. In its statement on Sunday, the agency said that remaining staff expected to continue working would be informed by management by 5:00 pm (2200 GMT) that day. USAID added that it will fund return travel expenses for staff based overseas. "In the coming week, we will provide details on how to retrieve personal items from the former USAID workspaces and return government issued devices," it said. Trump and his allies -- including billionaire donor Elon Musk -- allege USAID is rife with "fraud," but have provided little proof of the accusations. Its budget of more than \$40 billion is mandated by Congress, with its programs ranging from governance to life-saving food assistance. The decades-old agency has, over the years, faced criticism in the aid sector for its overhead costs and questions on whether some of its programs achieve their objectives. USAID has, however, also been a key US tool of global "soft power" -- the ability of a country to persuade others through its attractiveness.

Zelenskyy says debt label on US aid to Ukraine would open 'Pandora's box'

Kyiv,UPDATED. A contentious Trump administration proposal to give the US \$500 billion worth of profits from Ukraine's rare earth minerals as compensation for its wartime assistance to Kyiv has been taken off the table, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday, indicating a more equitable deal is in the works. Zelenskyy had earlier declined a US draft agreement on exploitation of his country's valuable minerals such as lithium used in the aerospace, defense and nuclear industries because it did not contain security guarantees and came with the \$500 billion price tag. "The question of \$500 billion is no longer there," Zelenskyy told a news conference at a forum of government officials in Kyiv marking the three-year anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The Ukrainian leader said considering aid as a debt to be repaid would be a "Pandora's box" that would set a precedent requiring Kyiv to reimburse all its backers. "We do not recognize the debt," Zelenskyy said. "It will not be in the final format of the agreement."

No further details were given on the state of negotiations. Ukraine has insisted on security guarantees that it needs to deter any potential Russian aggression in the future. Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, said on CNN's "State of the Union" that he expects a deal this week allowing the US to play a greater role in exploiting Ukraine's mineral resources. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the administration's minerals plan was to create a US-Ukraine partnership, calling it a "win-win." "We make money if the Ukrainian people make money," Bessent told Fox News Channel's Sunday Morning Futures program. Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andrii Yermak, left the Kyiv forum early along with Economic Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko for what Yermak said were talks with US officials on a potential deal. Later Sunday, Yermak posted on social media that he'd spoken with US officials, including Bessent and Trump's national



security adviser Mike Walz, saying it had been a "constructive conversation." "We are making progress," Yermak wrote. "The USA is our partner and we are grateful to the American people."

ZELENSKY SAYS HE'D GIVE UP PRESIDENCY FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP

In response to a pointed question from a reporter on whether he would give up his presidency for peace in Ukraine, Zelenskyy said he would if it achieved a durable end to

the fighting under the security umbrella of the NATO military alliance. "If to achieve peace, you really need me to give up my post, I'm ready," he said. "I can trade it for NATO." His comment appeared to be aimed at recent suggestions by President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin that elections should be held despite Ukrainian legislation prohibiting them during martial law.

UKRAINE FEARS TRUMP'S POLICY SHIFT TOWARD PUTIN

Trump's engagement with Russian officials and his recent agreement to reopen diplomatic ties and economic cooperation with Moscow have marked a dramatic about-face in US policy that has rattled leaders in Ukraine and across Europe. Zelenskyy has expressed fear that Trump pushing a quick resolution would result in Ukraine losing territory and being left vulnerable to future Russian aggression.

Jane Fonda's speech at SAG awards: 'Woke just means you give a damn about other people'

UPDATED The 31st Screen Actors Guild Awards showered yet more awards on "Shogun," handed "A Real Pain" co-star Kieran Culkin another supporting actor win and featured a fiery moment of political resistance from Jane Fonda on Sunday. Host Kristen Bell introduced the ceremony, streaming live on Netflix from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, as an ode to both the aspirational spirit of actors who come to Los Angeles to make it, and to the city, itself. The SAG Awards unfolded against the backdrop of the aftermath of the devastating wildfires that began in early January. Those fires forced the guild to cancel its in-person nominations announcement and launch a disaster relief fund for SAG-AFTRA members affected. Bell introduced attending firefighters as "the most attractive tables" among a sea of stars. Fonda, 87, given the guild's Life Achievement Award, provided the evening with its most passionately political moment. Fonda, a famed activist, spoke indirectly about President Donald Trump's administration. "We are in our



documentary moment," said Fonda. "This is it. And it's not a rehearsal." Fonda added that "woke just means you give a damn about other people." "A whole lot of people are going to be hurt by what's happening, by what's coming our way," said Fonda. "We are going to need a big tent to resist what's coming at us." Jean Smart, who had advocated for canceling award shows because of the wildfires, won best female actor in a comedy series for "Hacks." Smart didn't attend, but participated in a pre-taped introduction as her character, Deborah Vance. Also not in attendance:

Martin Short, though he upset Jeremy Allen White to win best male actor in a comedy series for "Only Murders in the Building." The Hulu series also won for best comedy ensemble. "Wait, we never win. This is so weird," said Selena Gomez. "Marty and Steve (Martin) aren't here because, you know, they don't really care." Colin Farrell won his first SAG award, for his performance in "The Penguin" and also became the first winner ever introduced, by Jamie Lee Curtis, as "the man who gave me COVID at the Golden Globes." Farrell bounded to the stage and promptly responded, "Guilty as charged," before blaming Brendan Gleeson for giving it to him.

The night's first televised award went to Culkin, who has won just about every award in the category. Gripping the SAG trophy, he could quickly tell the difference. "It is funny that the heaviest of all awards is given by actors," said Culkin, who characteristically rified his way through a rambling acceptance speech before swearing sincerity: "Believe it or not, this actually means a lot to me."

Ukraine-Russia war 3 years on: Trump's dramatic policy shift rattles world

World Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a "special military operation" to "demilitarise and denazify" Ukraine on February 24, 2022. This was the beginning of the ongoing war between the two neighbouring nations that has so far killed, injured and displaced hundreds of thousands of people and reduced cities to ashes. As the war marks its third anniversary today, Russia controls nearly one-fifth of Ukraine -- or an area about the size of the US state of Ohio -- including Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, about 75 per cent of the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions and more than 99 per cent of the Luhansk region. As the raging war marks its third anniversary today, the world is witnessing a major policy shift as Ukraine's ties with the US, the country's biggest military backer, have rapidly deteriorated since Donald Trump's return to the White House in January. The US President's engagement with Russian officials and Washington's so-called peace talks with Moscow aimed at ending the war without Kyiv's consent, has rattled leaders and allies across the world.

While Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has expressed concerns that Trump's pressure for a quick resolution to end the war would result in the battered nation losing territory and being left vulnerable to future Russian aggression, American officials have asserted that he would be involved in the peace talks when they officially begin. On February 12, Trump and



Far-right AfD cheers historic gains in German polls: Next time we'll come first

Berlin. For the first time since the Second World War, a far-right party has come second in a German national election, a result that will keep it outside government but make it a fearsome opponent of the ruling parties. The Alternative for Germany, which has morphed since it was founded in 2013 from a party of libertarian economists to an anti-immigration, pro-Russia group, is forecast to have won the backing of one-in-five Germans. The AfD has little chance of joining the government as the other parties maintain a "fire wall" to keep it out of office, but leader Alice Weidel implied in her victory speech that it was only a matter of time before that changed. Our hand remains outstretched to form a government," she told supporters, adding that it would be tantamount to "electoral fraud" if the first-placed conservatives



chose to govern with left-wing parties rather than them. If that happened, she said, "next time we'll come first." Weidel, the leader of a nativist party that preaches traditional family values while raising her children with a Swiss-based woman of Sri Lankan background, said the AfD was now "a mainstream party". Once internationally isolated, it now has an

ally in the White House, where Donald Trump's adviser Elon Musk, the world's richest person, regularly posts his support. "It's the most amazing feeling. I've been here since its founding and to see it on 20% is amazing. We'll be kept out of coalition, but as you can see, the conservatives are taking all of our positions," said Gilbert Kalb, an AfD member celebrating at the party's headquarters. If cheers were slightly muted, that was because, although its vote share doubled since 2021, the result fell short of the more optimistic expectations. Traditionally a pensioners' party, the AfD made inroads among the young, many of whom have experienced years of sluggish economic growth. Exit poll data indicated 22% of 25-to-34-year-olds voted for the party, compared to 10% of those aged 70 and over.

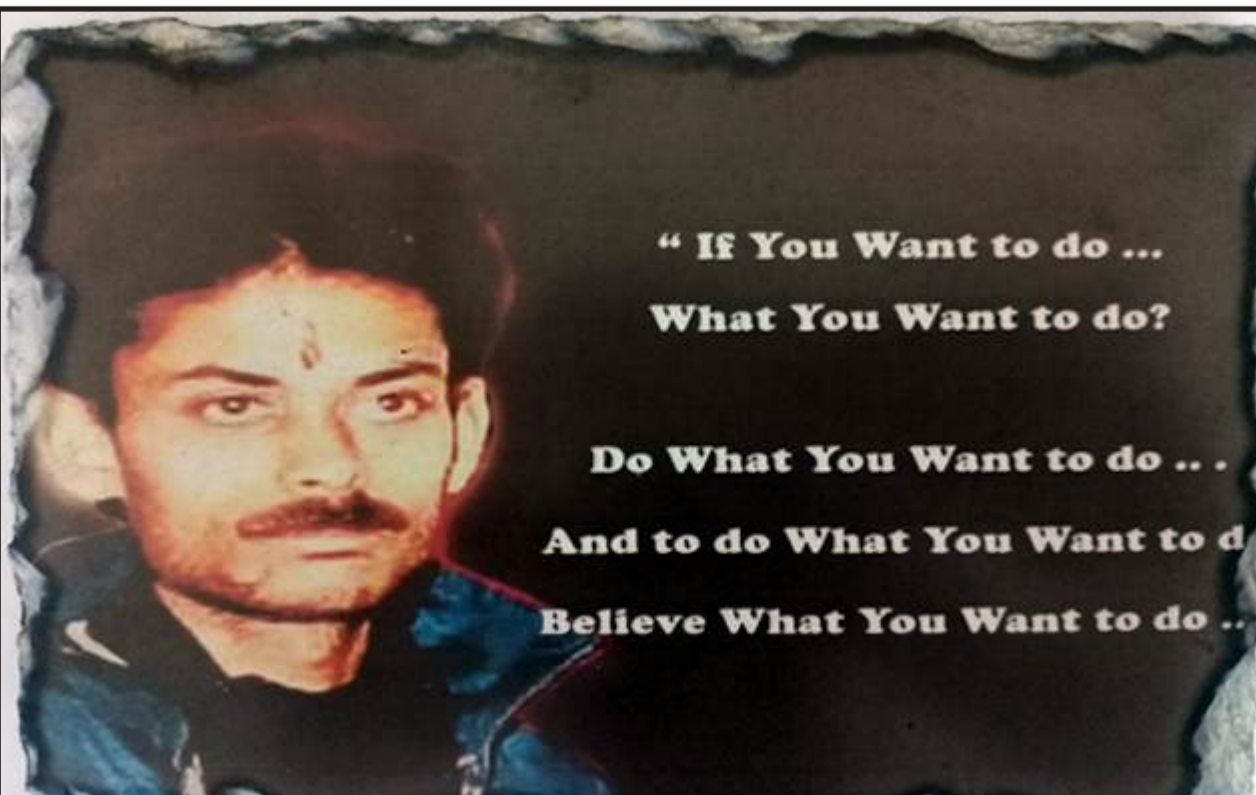
President Vladimir Putin spoke about improving relations and ending the war, and was followed by a meeting between US and Russian officials in Riyadh on February 18. Zelenskyy, however, has rejected the outcome of US-Russia talks, while asserting that there would be "no talks behind Kyiv's back", triggering a public spat between him and the US President.

While Zelenskyy described Trump as "living in a Russian disinformation bubble", the US President called his Ukrainian counterpart a "dictator" and a "modestly successful comedian".

Trump hit back, describing Ukraine's wartime leader as a "dictator without elections," referring to the absence of a democratic vote in Ukraine since 2019.

On Sunday, the Ukrainian leader also announced that he would "give up" his presidency in exchange for peace. "If you need me to leave this chair, I am ready to do that. And I also can exchange it for Nato membership for Ukraine," he told reporters. EUROPE'S SHOW OF STRENGTH FOR UKRAINE

In a show of strength amid the worsening US-Ukraine relations, European Union leaders will head to Kyiv on Monday in an effort to devise a response to the Trump administration's policy changes.



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

PM Modi Aims to Place At Least One Indian Product in Every Kitchen Worldwide

PM releases Rs 22,000 crore to 9.8 crore farmers under PM KISAN scheme

Bhagalpur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today shared his vision of ensuring that at least one product grown by Indian farmers is featured in every international kitchen. Addressing a public meeting in Bhagalpur, the Prime Minister emphasized that his government is dedicated to promoting the export, processing, and marketing of agricultural products to make this dream a reality. The Prime Minister was in Bhagalpur to release the 19th installment of the PM KISAN scheme, providing financial assistance of 22,700 crore rupees to 9.8 crore farmers across the country. Modi highlighted the gov-

ernment's ongoing efforts to promote agricultural products such as Makhana. He stated that the creation of a Makhana Board would help increase exports, support growers in production, and improve value addition and marketing. Modi also noted that Eastern India, particularly Bihar, has significant potential in food processing. As part of the initiative, the National Institute of Food Technology Management (NIFTM) will be established in Bihar. He expressed confidence that Bihar can play a leading role in the sector, noting that the rise of India would be driven by the East, with Bihar serving as



a key pillar in this transformation. During his visit, the Prime Minister also announced the establishment of three new Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Bihar, located in Bhagalpur, Munger, and Buxar, aimed at promoting the cultivation and pro-

cessing of mango, tomato, onion, and potato. In addition, Modi announced the formation of the 10,000th Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), which has the potential to significantly enhance farmers' incomes. To date, 30 lakh farmers

have joined FPOs across the nation, with 40 percent of members being women, contributing to business ventures worth thousands of crores. PM Modi also addressed concerns raised by opposition parties regarding government initiatives, par-

ticularly the Mahakumbh. He accused Congress and the RJD of maligning efforts for the preservation of heritage, asserting that the people would not forgive them for their criticism. The Prime Minister further revealed plans to establish another central university in Vikramshila, Bhagalpur, alongside the already operational Nalanda University, to boost educational development in the region. Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister inaugurated several development projects in Bihar, including those in agriculture, railway connectivity, and other sectors, with a total investment of over 700 crore rupees.

Historic Trade Resumption: Pakistan, Bangladesh Reconnect After 54 Years



RNS: In a historic move, Bangladesh and Pakistan have resumed direct trade for the first time since the 1971 Liberation War, which resulted in Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan. This marks a significant shift in bilateral relations between the two nations. The first government-approved cargo has already departed from Pakistan's Port Qasim, signaling the beginning of renewed trade ties. According to reports from The Express Tribune, Bangladesh has agreed to purchase 50,000 tonnes of Pakistani rice through the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP). The shipment will be delivered in two phases, with the first 25,000 tonnes now on its way to Bangladesh, while the second batch is expected to depart in early March. This deal is expected to strengthen economic connections between the two countries and establish direct shipping routes. The agreement was finalized earlier this month, and for the first time, a vessel from Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), carrying government cargo, will dock at a Bangladeshi port, a landmark event in maritime trade relations.

The move is seen as a positive step toward improving bilateral ties that have remained dormant for decades. It comes after the installation of an interim government in Bangladesh, led by Muhammad Yunus, following the removal of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hasina fled to India in August amid violent protests over a job quota issue. Since the change in leadership, the relationship between Bangladesh and Pakistan has gradually improved. However, the ties between India and Bangladesh have recently been strained, particularly after the formation of the interim government, with anti-India sentiments running high in Bangladesh and attacks on Hindu minorities. The resumption of trade between Pakistan and Bangladesh is viewed as a key development in fostering stronger economic and diplomatic relations in South Asia.

DPS Bokaro Hosts Workshop on Financial Literacy for Educators



Bokaro: In a bid to empower educators with essential financial knowledge, DPS Bokaro organized a workshop on Financial Literacy at the Kalidas Kala Bhawan within the school premises. The session, aimed at equipping teachers to guide students in understanding financial concepts, was attended by school staff members. The workshop was led by Bhaskar Verma, Product Specialist, and J.K. Sinha, Financial Advisor, from ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Ltd. The experts emphasized the importance of systematic investment and planning to secure a prosperous future. They covered a range of crucial topics, including daily financial management, stock markets, mutual funds, insurance, investments, and banking. The interactive session provided a platform for participants to ask questions and clarify doubts. During the workshop, the resource persons underscored the significance of financial literacy as a vital life skill, essential for both personal and professional growth. They stressed that as electronic transactions become increasingly common, financial inclusion can only be achieved when individuals are financially literate. Principal Dr. A.S. Gangwar noted that such sessions are invaluable for educators, helping them stay informed and make better financial plans for their future. He also highlighted the importance of introducing financial literacy to young learners at an early stage to empower them with financial independence.

NUSRL Ranchi, The Art of Living join hands to promote holistic education



Ranchi: In a significant move to integrate life skills, stress management, and emotional well-being into academic life, the National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Art of Living (TAOL) on Monday. The partnership is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes the importance of holistic education.

The MoU was formalized in the presence of NUSRL Vice-Chancellor, Professor (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil, who met Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in Bengaluru.

The agreement was signed by Rajeev Nambiar, Director of Institutional Programs at The Art of Living, alongside Professor Patil.

This collaboration aims to empower students and faculty with essential life skills to navigate both personal and academic challenges while fostering professional growth. Through this partnership, NUSRL students will gain access to The Art of Living's Youth Empowerment and Skills (YES+) Program, which focuses on key life skills such as stress management, concentration, self-confidence, and interpersonal relationships.

The YES+ program targets several areas, including stress and exam-related anxiety, communication and decision-making skills, promoting healthy habits, and encouraging global citizenship.

In addition to benefiting students, a Faculty Development Program (FDP) will be offered to support faculty and staff in stress management, boosting productivity, and fostering positive interpersonal relationships.

Professor (Dr.) Ashok R. Patil emphasized the significance of holistic education, stating, "Education is not just about academic excellence; it's about holistic development and contributing meaningfully to society."

This collaboration with The Art of Living will inspire our students and faculty to adopt better life skills and routines, leading to success in both personal and professional life."

This initiative is expected to be a transformative step in enhancing the overall educational experience at NUSRL and preparing students and faculty to excel in all aspects of their lives.

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Uproar in Legislative Assemblies from Delhi and Rajasthan to Uttar Pradesh



by Ajay Kumar

Lucknow: It is unfortunate that, like the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the legislative assemblies of many states are becoming battlegrounds for power and opposition struggles, which causes decisions on several public interest issues to be delayed. The situation is such that in Rajasthan, Congress is protesting against the BJP government because a BJP minister referred to former PM Indira Gandhi as 'Dadi' (grandmother). Similarly, in Delhi, leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party are attacking the BJP for not fulfilling their promise of providing ₹2,500 to women, despite the fact that the promise was made four days ago. Meanwhile, in Uttar Pradesh, leaders of the Samajwadi Party are disrupting the legislative assembly because Deputy CM Brajesh

Pathak made a remark during a discussion in the assembly, stating that Samajwadi Party leaders had once said that when boys make mistakes, they shouldn't be hanged. Although Pathak did not mention any leader by name, the comment was seen as a reference to a statement made by former SP leader Mulayam Singh Yadav during a public gathering when he was addressing the rising incidents of rape. This is why the Samajwadi Party members were enraged and created a ruckus in the legislative assembly, demanding that "Netaji's" insult would not be tolerated. The Speaker, Satish Mahana, repeatedly asked the Samajwadi leaders to explain what insult was caused. If the statement was indeed inappropriate, he said, the minister would be asked to apologize, but the Samajwadi members seemed more interested in creating a commotion than resolving the issue. It is noteworthy that the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly's budget session for 2025 is currently ongoing. On February 24, during the budget

session, a commotion erupted in the assembly regarding the name of Mulayam Singh. As soon as the session began, in the question hour, Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak sarcastically referred to a statement made by Mulayam Singh, asking the Samajwadi Party members how many of them agreed with the idea that "boys make mistakes." Following this, chaos ensued in the assembly. Samajwadi members stormed the well of the house and staged a protest. They began chanting slogans and demanded the dismissal of the Health Minister. Speaker Satish Mahana repeatedly warned the Samajwadi members, but their protests continued. Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak had questioned the Samajwadi Party members about whether they would endorse the statements made by their former leader Mulayam Singh. The Samajwadi members responded by making indecent remarks about the deputy CM. Speaker Satish Mahana warned that strict action would be taken against those Samajwadi members who

made inappropriate comments about Brajesh Pathak. The Samajwadi MLAs continued their protest by sitting in the well of the house. Earlier, on Friday, February 21, during the question hour, Samajwadi members Dr. Ragini and Mata Prasad had raised questions, which led Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to strongly criticize the Samajwadi Party. Responding to the questions, CM Yogi remarked that their statement was similar to what their leader had once said that India cannot become a developed country. He further said that this was made out of malice. He added that it seemed evident that the Samajwadi Party members were eating from the same plate they were criticizing. He also stated that the state would achieve its target of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2029, and for that, the government had divided all departments into ten sectors, each with specific responsibilities. Every 15 days, the review of these sectors is conducted by the Additional Chief Secretary or Principal Secretary.

Sensex and Nifty Plunge as IT Stocks Lead Market Decline Amid FII Selling

Mumbai: The Indian stock market experienced a sharp decline on Monday, with the S&P BSE Sensex plummeting by 856.55 points to close at 74,454.41. The NSE Nifty50 followed suit, dropping 242.55 points to end the day at 22,553.35. The IT sector led the market's downturn, with major stocks such as Zomato, HCLTech, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, and TCS posting considerable losses on the Sensex. On a more positive note, stocks like Dr. Reddy's, Eicher Motors, Mahindra &



Mahindra, Nestle India, and Bharat Electronics (BEL) saw gains, with 14 Nifty 50 stocks ending higher. Despite this, IT heavyweights like Wipro, HCLTech, Infosys, TCS, and Bharti Airtel contributed to

limiting the overall losses. Market analysts pointed to ongoing selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) as a primary factor driving the market's decline. Experts explained that the persistent

FII outflows are influenced by global market conditions, particularly the economic recovery in China, where relatively lower stock prices have encouraged a "Sell India, Buy China" approach. Other experts also highlighted the broader global uncertainties, including issues like the Trump tariffs, which continue to weigh on market sentiment. As the market faces these challenges, analysts advise investors to remain cautious and adapt their strategies to navigate the volatility.

'Vultures Got Dead Bodies, Pigs Got Filth': Yogi Adityanath Hits Back At Opposition Over Maha Kumbh Criticisms

by Ashish Sinha

Lucknow: Ahead of the grand finale of the Maha Kumbh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath delivered a sharp rebuttal to his critics, targeting the Opposition for their vocal critiques of the religious event. Speaking at the state assembly, Adityanath took aim at his detractors, including the Samajwadi Party and Congress, while defending the event's organization and the state government's handling of it. Adityanath highlighted the significance of the Kumbh, calling it a sacred gathering where people find what they seek. "Vultures found dead bodies, pigs found filth, but sensitive individuals found the beauty of

relationships, traders found business, and devotees experienced clean arrangements," he said, emphasizing the positive aspects of the festival. The Chief Minister's remarks came in response to fierce Opposition criticism, particularly following the stampede earlier this month that resulted in 18 deaths and many injuries. Critics had also voiced concerns about reports of contaminated waters in the Sangam, raising alarms about safety and sanitation during the event. Adityanath refuted accusations of caste-based discrimination, saying, "No one was stopped from attending Kumbh. Those with good intentions are welcome, but those with ill intent will face consequences if they try to dis-



rupt the event." Taking a direct swipe at Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, Adityanath pointed to past mismanagement during the Kumbh. "Under your leadership, the Chief Minister didn't even review the event, and you appointed a non-Sanatani to oversee the Kumbh. In contrast, I personally review the Kumbh preparations," he asserted. The Chief Minister also criticized the 2013 Kumbh,

calling it chaotic and poorly organized. "In 2013, there was corruption, pollution, and water unfit for bathing at the Triveni Sangam. Even the Prime Minister of Mauritius refused to bathe there," Adityanath added. The Opposition's vocal criticism has been fueled by the deadly stampede and concerns over mismanagement. Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge stirred controversy by paying tribute to "the thousands who

died in Kumbh," while Samajwadi Party's Jaya Bachchan claimed that the bodies of stampede victims were being "thrown into the river." Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also ignited further controversy, calling the event "Mrityu Kumbh" (Death Kumbh) due to the deaths from stampedes. Her comments were strongly condemned by BJP leaders, who accused her of hurting religious sentiments. Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Maharaj, a prominent figure, echoed concerns about crowd management and sanitation. He pointed to the severe traffic jams and long walks for devotees, criticizing the lack of proper infrastructure to accommodate the massive

turnout. "The water mixed with sewage was unfit for bathing, yet people were forced to use it," he said, urging the government to take preventive measures. Former Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav also criticized the scale and expenditure of the Maha Kumbh, adding to the growing list of allegations against the government's handling of the event. Despite these criticisms, the Maha Kumbh, the world's largest religious gathering, is set to conclude on February 26, with the government asserting that necessary arrangements have been made for the safety and well-being of the millions of devotees attending. However, the controversies surrounding the event continue to draw national attention.

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath

किसी ने सच कहा है कि महाकुम्भ में जिसने जो तलाया, उसको वह मिला-

मिट्टी को केवल लाख मिली सूअरों को गंदगी मिली संवेदनशील लोगों को रिश्तों की खबर तब तक मिली आस्थावान को पुष्प मिला सज्जनों को सज्जनता मिली भक्तों को भगवान मिले...

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"Double-Blunder Government": Akhilesh Yadav's Dig Over Maha Kumbh Arrangements

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday targeted Yogi Adityanath government over arrangements for Maha Kumbh.

Etawah. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday targeted Yogi Adityanath government over arrangements for Maha Kumbh, stating that all the people of the country associated with religious activities should review how the religious event was conducted and alleged that devotees felt "hurt" compared to experiences in the past. He accused the state government of being interested in "marketing" and trying to brush up its image even as

people faced inconveniences. He said faith of people increased due to remarks of Chief Minister that preparations are being made to for 100 crore pilgrims. Yadav said noted personalities came to take a dip at the Sangam which also encouraged people to come to Prayagraj in large numbers. He dubbed the Uttar Pradesh government as the "double-blunder" government, pointing to the claims and counter-claims about pollution levels in Sangam in Prayagraj.

"The trust of all the devotees who came to Kumbh increased when the Chief Minister said that we had made preparations for the arrival of 100 crore people for Maha Kumbh... When people saw that big, rich and renowned people were being invited, their trust increased... The biggest lie is that it (Maha Kumbh) is

happening after 144 years," he told reporters here. "This is not a double-engine government... This is a 'double blunder' government...", the SP chief added. He also expressed

them," the SP chief said. "What kind of arrangement has the government made? People could not get food anywhere, people lost their lives in the stampede, accidents are happening...I would say the dates should be extended, many people have not taken a bath yet..." Akhilesh Yadav said.

The Mahakumbh Mela, which started on January 13, will conclude on February 26 coinciding with Maha Shivratri. Akhilesh Yadav also slammed the BJP over the handling of the economy.

"Poor people are not able to understand what this game of million trillion is...The promises that were made to the people that their income would be double, youth would get new jobs, and businesses and big industries are set up, everything has failed," Yadav alleged.



concern over the January 29 stampede at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, which resulted in 30 casualties.

He said Kumbh takes place every twelve years. "This is nothing new, but the BJP invested so much money, did so much publicity, invited people, and after that, left

'Shower of lies': RJD chief Lalu Prasad says PM's Bhagalpur visit for business, not Bihar

PATNA. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo and former Bihar CM Lalu Prasad commented that PM Modi will make false promises during his visit to Bhagalpur on Monday to derive political mileage in upcoming assembly elections. Turning to his social media account 'X' Lalu said, "Aaj phir Jhooth aur jumlo ki barsaat hogi (Lies and gimmicks will shower in Bihar again)." To buttress his point, RJD chief said that several projects of the union government would be launched from Bhagalpur to befool people of Bihar.

He alleged that Bihar would gain nothing from the PM's visit. "He is visiting Bihar for his interest. It's his business. There will be no impact with his visit. NDA will not be able

to form next government in Bihar. Earlier, leader of the opposition in Bihar assembly Tejashwi Prasad said, "Bihar is progressing under double engine government. It's not going down well in Opposition camp. That's why they are making such ridiculous statements. Neeraj said that the people of Bihar have already made up their mind not to give any opportunity to those involved in knee-deep corruption. "Only those who have politically been aligned can make such statements," JD(U) spokesperson said.

Earlier, leader of the opposition in Bihar assembly Tejashwi Prasad



Yadav raised a voice of dissent, calling out the Centre and state government for its failure to deliver on promise made to state.

"There will be no election in the country this year. The only election will be held in Bihar," he added. He

said the elections in Delhi have already concluded. "We have already said that everyone will go to Bihar and people will flock to Bihar. Their only destination will be Bihar," he had told the media, referring to PM's visit to Bhagalpur.

He lamented that the state was at the bottom in several key development indices despite being a double engine government. "Bihar gave these people an opportunity to run double engine government for about 20 years. Narendra Modi has been PM for last 11 years and Nitish has been serving as CM for 20 years. But state remains at the bottom in several key development indices," he asserted.

"Bihar At The Bottom. Why?" Tejashwi Yadav's 15 Questions Before PM's Visit

In a ferocious attack, Mr Yadav claimed the PM only visited Bihar before elections, and said, "... when he comes, he speaks in slogans and tricks the people of Bihar".

Patna. Tejashwi Yadav kickstarted the 'battle for Bihar' Monday by firing 15 questions at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose Bharatiya Janata Party is allied with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's ruling Janata Dal (United). The questions came ahead of Prime Minister Modi's visit to the state - which will hold an Assembly election this year - to release the 19th tranche of direct cash transfers for farmers.

The RJD leader called out the Prime Minister over Bihar's many problems, including low literacy and per capita investment, unemployment, and lack of infrastructure and industrial growth, as well as the oft-demanded 'special status' tag, which unlocks more funds from the centre.

"The people of Bihar gave these people a chance to run the 'double-engine' government... Narendra Modi has been the Prime Minister for 11 years at the centre, and Nitish Kumar has been Chief



Minister of Bihar for 20 years. And now the people want to ask some valid questions and (do not want) lies and rhetoric," Mr Yadav said in a statement issued this morning.

"Bihar is at the bottom. Bihar ranks lowest in per capita income and investment. Bihar ranks lowest

in farmer income, and Bihar is number one in unemployment, migration, and poverty."

Yadav vs PM On Jobs, Industries

In a ferocious attack, Mr Yadav claimed the PM only visited Bihar before elections, and said, "... when he comes, he speaks in slogans and tricks the people of Bihar", referring to what he said were unfulfilled promises about reviving sugar mills and industries across the state. "The Prime Minister promised to start Motihari's sugar mill in 2017 and drink tea with its sugar... will he tell us when he will drink this tea? When will he start the jute mill in Katihar?" "Why was Bihar not given a textile park under the PM Textile Park Yojana?"

"When will he give jobs in the Railways and Army to unemployed people?" he asked. "Why is Bihar top in poverty and unemployment even after 20 years of PM Modi's rule in the state?" "What happened to special packages (of centre aid) for Bihar?"

After Delhi defeat, AAP's promises ahead of mayoral polls in April

The announcement, made ahead of the mayoral polls in April, was delivered at a press conference by AAP leader, MCD Mayor Mahesh Khinchi, Deputy Mayor Ravinder Bhardwaj, and Leader of the House Mukesh Goel.

NEW DELHI. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has introduced a house tax waiver, announced Senior AAP leader and Raja Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Monday. Under this, those who clear their 2024-25 house tax dues will have all previous pending taxes waived off. The announcement, made ahead of the mayoral polls in April, was delivered at a press conference by AAP leader,



MCD Mayor Mahesh Khinchi, Deputy Mayor Ravinder Bhardwaj, and Leader of the House Mukesh Goel.

Additionally, homeowners of properties between 100 and 500 square yards will receive a 50 per cent tax waiver, while those with houses under 100 square yards will be completely exempt from house tax, PTI reported.

Commercial properties in rehabilitation areas will also benefit from tax exemptions, and residents of 1,300 housing apartments, who previously did not receive any concessions, will now get a 25 per cent tax reduction. Mayor Mahesh Khinchi emphasised that this move aligns with AAP's commitment to public welfare. "What AAP promised, we have delivered. We have already confirmed 12,000 MCD workers as permanent employees, and we will officially implement this decision in the upcoming MCD House meeting on the 25th," he said.

Uddhav Thackeray, Cousin Raj's Pics At Wedding Function Sparks Reunion Buzz

The politically estranged cousins were seen together last evening at the wedding of the son of a government official.

Mumbai. MNS chief Raj Thackeray met his cousin and Shiv Sena (UBT) head Uddhav Thackeray at a wedding function in Mumbai, raising speculation that they might be keen on resolving their political differences ahead of civic polls in Maharashtra. The politically estranged cousins were seen together on Sunday evening at the wedding of the son of Mahendra Kalyankar, a government official, in Andheri. Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) Raj Thackeray met the former chief minister and the latter's wife Rashmi Thackeray at the event, amid rumours of a rift in both the ruling Mahayuti and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) camps.



The Thackeray cousins at the wedding of the son of a government official in Andheri. Political observers said there is a possibility of the MNS and Sena (UBT) wishing to resolve their political differences in view of the civic body elections, including the cash-rich Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, due in the state. The schedule for the civic polls has not yet been announced. This was the third public meeting between the cousins in the last two months, further intensifying speculation of a thaw in ties between the two parties.

Raj Thackeray quit the Shiv Sena (then undivided) in 2005 and floated his party the next year. In last year's elections to the 288-member Maharashtra assembly, the Shiv Sena (UBT), which is part of the opposition MVA, won 20 seats, while the MNS drew a blank.

"It's Time To Invest In Madhya Pradesh": PM Modi At Global Investors Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said Madhya Pradesh is becoming a preferred business destination and that this is the time, and right time, to invest in the state.

Bhopal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said with a strong talent pool and thriving industries, Madhya Pradesh is becoming a preferred business destination and that this is the time, and right time, to invest in the state. He was speaking after inaugurating the mega 'Invest Madhya Pradesh - Global Investors Summit-2025' at the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, located near the picturesque Upper Lake in Bhopal, to showcase the state's infinite possibilities for investors and industrialists.

PM Modi said the World Bank has expressed confidence that India will continue to be the world's fastest growing economy in the coming years. The World Bank recently said in its Global Economic Prospects report that India will remain the fastest-growing major economy for next two years.

PM Modi also said the Deregulation Commission will help create investment-friendly regulatory ecosystem in the states. India is emerging as the top supply chain for global aerospace firms, he said, adding that

textile, tourism and technology sectors will generate crores of jobs in the years to come. The PM also unveiled 18 new policies of the Madhya Pradesh government, aimed at attracting major investment in the BJP-ruled state. "With a strong talent pool and thriving industries, Madhya Pradesh is becoming a preferred business destination," PM Modi said.

"This is the time, and right time, to invest in the state," the prime minister said. "The speed of development in Madhya Pradesh has doubled after the formation of the 'double engine' government in the state," he said.

PM Modi further said Madhya Pradesh is among the leading states in India's electric vehicles revolution. There are several opportunities in the health and wellness sector in the country, he said, adding, "The world is liking the 'heal in India' mantra". PM

Modi said in the past two decades, MP has seen a lot of transformations. There were issues pertaining to electricity and water, and law and order was even worse. In such a



scenario, industrial development was difficult, he noted. But in the past 20 years, with the help of the people, the BJP state government focused on governance. Two decades ago, people used

to stay away from investing here (in MP), and now it is among the top states in the country for investment, PM Modi said.

He said that a few days ago, a UN organisation on climate change called India a "solar power superpower". "This organisation also said that while many countries only talk, India shows results," PM Modi added. On the occasion, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said with the organisation of the Global Investors Summit here, Madhya Pradesh will make its identity as a major global investment destination. Mr Yadav said his government is committed to double the state's economy in the next five years, as part of the country's commitment to make India a developed nation by 2047.

Madhya Pradesh has decided to observe 2025 as a year of industries and employment, as part of its commitment towards making India a developed nation, he added.

Pick CEC & EC by consensus, not majority

The nation has a new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) but we continue to grapple with an old controversy. The controversy acquires a new grist whenever it is time to appoint an election commissioner (EC) in the Election Commission of India. Earlier, in November 2022, an EC was appointed a day before the petitions on the subject of appointments were listed for hearing in the Supreme Court of India (SC). History has been repeated by the appointment of the CEC and an EC on February 17, 2025 as the case was listed for hearing on February 19 after it was adjourned on February 12. In March 2023, the SC asked a few tough questions and made some grave observations while ordering the government to legislate in keeping with the provision of Article 324 of the Constitution. As an interim measure, it constituted a committee comprising the Prime Minister (PM), the Leader of Opposition (LoP) and the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The committee would have been required to meet only in February 2024 when the first vacancy was scheduled to arise upon the retirement of an EC. In between, there were at least two sessions of Parliament, giving the government ample time to comply with the SC directions in getting a legislation through Parliament, making the SC-constituted committee "an ineffectual angel." This time, on February 19, the case has been adjourned, perhaps, for a month. The outcome seemed a foregone conclusion as the appointment was made under a valid law. Once the process was complete, there was little possibility of the court overturning the decision. It is unlikely that the SC will interfere with appointments that have been made as per provisions of an extant law. The appointments cannot be invalidated just because the petitioners find the provisions of the law disagreeable. The process might appear to be improper but it wasn't illegal. Now, the selection committee, whatever be its present or future composition, may not be required to meet unless there is an unforeseen exigency because there will be no need to make any appointment till July 2028 when an EC is scheduled to superannuate. However, that may not minimise the angst of the petitioners as the main bone of contention is the composition of the selection committee provided for in the law enacted in December 2023 in pursuance of the SC order. That is now under challenge. Let's look at the historical facts to examine the alleged impropriety. Article 324 of the Constitution, which vests the ECI with the power of "superintendence, direction and control of elections", also provides for its composition and the manner and terms of appointment of the ECs under 324 (2) and (5). The Constitution provided that the appointments shall be made by the President and shall be "subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament."

However, the system of appointment followed for 73 years worked without any specific law made under 324 (2). This process produced CECs known for their fierce autonomy and independence and ECs who exercised their independent judgement fearlessly while dealing with matters pertaining to those in power. The performance of the appointees was not necessarily influenced by the way they were appointed. The process may not always guarantee the product quality; people matter.

However, the SC saw the absence of any specific law on the subject as a "legislative vacuum" and used its power under Article 142 to prescribe guidelines "to govern the process of selection and removal of CEC and ECs, till the Legislature stepped in." It felt that the "legislative vacuum" gave the executive unbridled authority to choose functionaries whose neutrality and independence to hold free and fair election "is a sine qua non for upholding the democracy as enshrined in our Constitution." It ordered that "until the Parliament makes a law in consonance with Article 324(2)", the appointment of the CEC and ECs shall be made on the recommendations of a three-member committee comprising the PM, LoP and CJI.

Platform panic: When poor planning costs lives

Modern tech must play a bigger role in railway crowd management. AI and real-time data analytics can help predict passenger surges, allowing authorities to take preventive action.

THE February 15 stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station, which claimed 18 lives and left many others injured, reinforces a crucial lesson: the key to preventing such disasters is effective crowd control. On festival days, a surge in passengers is inevitable, but if unmanaged, it can lead to dangerous overcrowding, creating conditions for panic and stampedes. Such incidents are unpredictable, yet preventable with proper planning. Unfortunately, over the past 20 years, major stampedes have taken place at railway stations across the country — Lucknow in 2002, New Delhi in 2004, Allahabad in 2013 and Mumbai Elphinstone Station in 2017. They expose systemic failures in railway management. Each of these disasters followed a similar pattern: overwhelming crowds, poor communication and inadequate infrastructure. Despite repeated warnings, the Indian Railways has failed to implement lasting solutions. Investigations typically focus on immediate causes, such as sudden platform changes and mismanaged announcements. They don't address the deeper structural flaws that make such tragedies inevitable. A high-level inquiry has been launched into the February 15 stampede, with early reports suggesting that a last-minute platform change announcement triggered the chaos. But the real failure lies in the lack of proactive crowd management.

The Railways transports over 24 million passengers daily, with major stations like New Delhi handling 5,00,000 footfalls on an average day and up to 7,00,000 during festivals. The Railways has successfully managed even larger crowds during the Kumbh Mela, proving that it has the expertise. The disaster was not due to a lack of knowledge but a failure to implement well-established crowd control measures. The Railways has clear standard operating procedures (SOPs) for managing festival rushes and peak-hour traffic. These include redirecting passengers to satellite stations, creating designated holding areas for different destinations and regulating platform access so that people enter only when trains are ready for boarding. Additional train rakes should be kept on standby to accommodate surges in passenger numbers. These measures have been used successfully before, so their absence on February 15 raises questions about planning and accountability. One of the biggest contributors to platform congestion is the unregulated sale of general tickets for unreserved coaches. Unlike reserved ticket holders, general ticket passengers often gather in large

numbers, leading to dangerous boarding conditions. The sale of general tickets, often exceeding the capacity of unreserved coaches, results in massive, unmanaged crowds. The Railways must rethink how these tickets are issued. Possible solutions include limiting sales per train, introducing pre-booked tokens or creating designated waiting areas for unreserved passengers. Otherwise, the risk of stampedes will persist. A key issue is that major railway stations were not designed to handle today's passenger volumes. While adding footbridges and expanding platforms can help, these are short-term fixes. The sheer scale of passenger movement now requires a new approach.



One potential solution is to develop and expand smaller, nearby stations, such as Subzi Mandi in Delhi, to distribute passenger load. Separating arrivals and departures by constructing multi-level concourses on the pattern of airports is another solution. The Railways continues to rely on outdated layouts, where arriving and departing crowds mix chaotically, increasing the stampede risk. A growing problem is that station redevelopment projects often prioritise revenue generation through commercialisation of land over reducing footfalls. Even the New Delhi redevelopment plan focusses on transforming the stations into commercial hubs and adding shopping malls, restaurants and office spaces around station premises.

While this generates revenue, it also significantly increases foot traffic, further straining the already congested infrastructure. The roads leading to the New Delhi Railway Station are already overcrowded. Adding more commercial and residential spaces, as envisaged in the redevelopment plan, will worsen the problem. The plan of

modernisation should focus on improving passenger movement, safety and access. Modern technology must play a bigger role in railway crowd management. Artificial intelligence (AI) and real-time data analytics can help predict passenger surges, allowing the authorities to take preventive action before congestion becomes dangerous. AI-powered crowd monitoring systems can track movement patterns and alert the staff when areas become overcrowded, enabling timely interventions.

Better coordination between railway authorities and city planners is also essential. Railway stations should not be seen as isolated transit points but as integral parts of the urban infrastructure. This requires a comprehensive strategy that accounts for station location, road access and integration with other public transport systems.

For instance, better metro connectivity, dedicated shuttle buses and improved pedestrian pathways could significantly reduce congestion around major stations like New Delhi. Without such coordination, even well-planned station upgrades may fail to deliver real improvements. The February 15 tragedy should serve as a wake-up call for the Railways, policymakers and urban planners. The growing volume of train passengers is a challenge. It is a long-term reality that demands systemic change. As India's population continues to grow and urbanisation accelerates, railway infrastructure must evolve accordingly.

Investing in new stations, expanding existing ones and integrating modern technology are not optional measures; they are essential. It is time to move beyond outdated methods of crowd management and embrace a more forward-thinking approach. Relying on manual interventions, temporary fixes or last-minute crowd control measures will only lead to more tragedies. The system needs a complete overhaul — one that integrates infrastructure upgrades, technological innovations, urban planning coordination and a cultural shift in station management.

Preventing another stampede requires more than just reactive inquiries and surface-level improvements. It calls for a fundamental change in how railway stations are designed, operated and integrated into India's urban fabric. If the Indian Railways truly wishes to prevent future disasters, it must acknowledge past failures, commit to meaningful reforms and ensure that passenger safety is the top priority. Otherwise, the question is not if another tragedy will occur, but when.

Centre vs Tamil Nadu

Unsavoury row over three-language formula

The Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu are still over a year away, but the political slugfest between the BJP and the ruling DMK has already reached fever pitch. A no-holds-barred verbal duel is in progress over the three-language formula, which figures prominently in the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The formula is ostensibly aimed at promoting multilingualism, but Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin has termed it the Centre's ploy to impose Hindi on the southern state. He has also accused the BJP-led Union Government of not releasing funds for the NEP's implementation in Tamil Nadu. Hitting back at the state government, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged the DMK to prioritise the interests of young learners and rise above political differences. The obvious victims of this unsavoury confrontation are the students, who are facing uncertainty and confusion over the languages they can learn besides their mother tongue. As education is on the Concurrent List, it requires concurrence



between the Centre and states to ensure the success of various schemes. The Centre is rightly laying stress on the NEP, which is an overarching and holistic document, but it must give freedom to the states to proceed in accordance with their specific requirements.

A one-size-fits-all approach undermines India's rich linguistic diversity. Moreover, political affiliations and considerations should not come in the way of release of funds for the education sector. No state should be subjected to discrimination if it decides not to implement the NEP in toto. The Tamil Nadu government is not helping matters by laying bare its aversion to Hindi. It should not force students to opt for one language over another. Parents and teachers have a key role to play here as they can help learners make an informed decision. The Centre and the state must try to reach common ground for the sake of the children's future — and the nation's too.

'Foreign hand' is as distracting as ever

THE GREAT GAME: The current storm means that the BJP and MEA have moved on from the row over shackled deportees

THE much-maligned "foreign hand", a favourite charge of Indra Gandhi against her opponents, is back in vogue. Go back into The Tribune's archives, dear Reader, and you will find several instances of the former Prime Minister alluding to undisclosed forces from abroad bent on wrecking the country. This was more than 40 years ago, of course, and we have surely moved on from those times and become a far more secure and confident nation. This week, with apologies to Marcel Proust, has seemed a bit like wading into remembrances of things past. US President Donald Trump's fast friend Elon Musk's statement about USAID going to spend \$21 million for "voter turnout in India," has been taken as the gospel truth by the BJP. The ruling party is now targeting the Congress — just deserts, some would say — for receiving this money, after Trump's throwaway comment that these monies could have been sent by the Joe Biden administration to try and "get someone else elected." Of course, Trump is playing to his gallery. Clearly, the BJP is also playing to its own, with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) saying this information is "obviously very troubling" and leads to "concerns about foreign interference in India's internal affairs." You could argue that this is "all politics," which basically means the storm is an attempt at embarrassing Rahul Gandhi — not that he needs help. And even if it's going to be blown away by the weekend, let's examine what damage it has done to the teacup so far.

First, the embarrassment is to the MEA itself, not to the Congress party. The ministry, made up of one of the finest sets of diplomats in the world, has always sought to stay above the murky cesspool of politics — and very often, succeeded. It's not for no reason that India's prime ministers have often also been foreign ministers and when they haven't, have maintained a deep interest in its affairs. (In fact, every ambassadorial appointment of the Republic of India is personally signed off by the PM.) If

that's the role of the MEA, to be the protector of the national interest, it follows that it would not like itself to be used by any party in question. That's why it picks and chooses its words carefully. Words, after all, are the only arrows of a diplomat's armour, and each means what it says and intends to say.

Second, this current storm means that the BJP — and the MEA — has moved on from the controversy over the shackled and handcuffed Indians deported on three US military flights in the last fortnight. Two of those flights landed in Amritsar after the PM returned home after meeting Trump, but no one in the government has still answered whether the Indian side raised this issue with Trump. But that story is over. Delhi has moved on.

However, the fact remains that many questions remain unanswered, including why the turbans of Sikh deportees were so unceremoniously removed. As for why they were shackled and cuffed, it seems this is what the Americans do — many other nationalities don't, and haven't, while sending unwanted Indians home, but the Americans ain't taking any chances, it seems.

The original question remains. Did the Indian embassy in the US or the MEA in Delhi summon US diplomats and hand them a demarche asking why Indian nationals were treated so shabbily on those flights home?

Clearly, the Americans seem to have given up flights for the moment — so much cheaper to push them into Panama and Costa Rica. Delhi says it is checking the identities of these men — that may take a while, mark

my words, because the procedure is truly lengthy and



which makes no sense — things back home in Punjab are awful in comparison, and the sunshine in Canada-US just so much more alluring. They want to escape, just like the Gujaratis do — the second highest number of deportees are from that state — and just like those of us with the influence to get that US visa. Fourth, it's time to cut to the chase. The truth is that the current storm has really been drummed up to distract you from analysing the fast-paced changes in the world around you. After the Russia-US talks in Riyadh, Trump & Co seem to be fully in the mood to make nice with the Russians. More to the point, Trump has just invited China's Xi Jinping to DC. Does this mean, then, that a second Yalta-like conference is in the offing? That Trump, Putin and Xi will soon be lordling over their respective continents — Russia to be given Europe and China to be given Asia?

Even if that is an exaggeration, dear Reader, you get the point. You can also bet your last rupee that the best spirits are flowing across Moscow and Beijing these days. And that's the last question of this piece: If Trump is going to embrace Xi in what is obviously looking like a braver new world, what place does India have in it, especially when India and Modi were looking to Trump and America as a hedge against Beijing? Perhaps, this is a wake-up call for India. Perhaps, it's time to focus inwards and develop your own strength. As for the distraction of the "foreign hand," let's see it for exactly what it is and has always been, a distraction.

बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाड़खणु थेके बेङ्गले यानवाहनर प्रवेश शुरु

प्राय २४ घण्टा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाड़खणु थेके बेङ्गले याओया समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहनर प्रवेश शुरु हयैछे। गत सभ्या १८ टार पर बेङ्गल सरकारर आदेशे बाड़खणु-बेङ्गल मथन सीमाछे पण्यवाही यानवाहनर प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा हयैछिल। एर फले रात थेके दुपूर पर्यंत प्राय २० किमी दीर्घ यानजट सृष्टि हय। चालकपेदर समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेङ्गल सरकारके चाप देय बाड़खणु सीमाछे थेके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करा समस्त यानवाहन बक् करार जन्य। एर फले, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेते बाध्य हय एबं अबशेषे भारी यानवाहनर प्रवेश आब राधाविक्रि हय। बेङ्गल सरकारर एहि अनुमतिर पर, ट्राक चालकरा खतिर निश्चास फेलेन। प्राञ्जन निरसा विश्वक अज्ञाप च्याटिर्जि बाड़खणुेर मुख्यमन्त्री हेमन्त सोरनेनर एहि उद्देश्यार प्रशंसा करेन। तिन बलेन, मुख्यमन्त्री हेमन्त सोरनेन एहि विषय कमागत शुरु दियैछेन। बेङ्गल सरकारर साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर बेङ्गल सरकार निषेधाञ्जा तुले नय। एर पर, सारिते दौड़िये थाका समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन बीरर बीरर बेङ्गले प्रवेश करते शुरु करैछे। NH-६ दीर्घ यानजट एखन सीमित हच्छे एबं यानजटो डाङ्गते शुरु करैछे।

भोजपुरी कृषि लोक गीत (कहरवा धुन) गेहूँआ के दिनवा

श्याम कुंवर भारती (राजभर)

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

सास ससुर केवनो जोरओ ना लागता।
लहुरा देवरवा हमरो बतियां ना मानता।
पडल पडल सड़ता धान खरीहनवा।
हाली घरे अईहा सर्इयां.....।

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

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 सर्इयां.....।

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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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 सुशुद्ध 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। केंद्रीय 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

खाद्य तेलों में टिकाव; दाल और मीठे में मिलाजुला रुख

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। विदेशी बाजारों में तेजी रहने के बावजूद स्थानीय स्तर पर मांग कमजोर रहने से बीते सप्ताह दिल्ली थोक जिन बाजार में खाद्य तेलों में टिकाव रहा जबकि दाल और मीठे में मिलाजुला रुख वहीं अन्य जिनसों के भाव स्थिर रहे। तेल-तिलहन : वैश्विक स्तर पर मलेशिया के बुरसा मलेशिया डेरिवेटिव एक्सचेंज में पाम ऑयल का मार्च वायदा सप्ताहांत पर 124 रिगिट उबलकर 4849 रिगिट प्रति टन पर पहुंच गया। इसी तरह मार्च का अमेरिकी सोया तेल वायदा 0.44 सेंट की बढ़ोतरी लेकर 47.03 सेंट प्रति पौंड बढा गया। इस दौरान खाद्य तेलों में टिकाव रहा। सरसों तेल, मूंगफली तेल,



सरसों तेल, सोया रिफाईंड, पाम ऑयल और वनस्पति तेल के भाव में कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ। सप्ताहांत पर सरसों तेल 15751 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल, मूंगफली तेल 18462 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल, सरसों तेल 16484 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल, सोया रिफाईंड 15457 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल, पाम ऑयल 13187 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल और वनस्पति तेल 16044 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल पर रहा।

विदेशी निवेशकों ने घरेलू शेयर बाजार से 2025 में एक लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक निकाले

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। घरेलू शेयर बाजार में विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशक (एफपीआई) लगातार बिकवाल (सेलर) की भूमिका में बने हुए हैं। फरवरी के महीने में एफपीआई अभी तक स्टॉक मार्केट से 23,710 करोड़ रुपये के निकासी कर चुके हैं। माना जा रहा है कि अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की रिसिप्रोकल ट्रेड्री के एलान और स्टील तथा एल्युमिनियम के इंपोर्ट पर नए टैरिफ लगाने की बात उठने के कारण बाजार में वैश्विक स्तर पर चिंता बनी हुई है, जिसकी वजह से एफपीआई अपना पैसा निकालने में लगे हुए हैं। डिपॉजिटरी से मिले आंकड़ों के अनुसार साल 2025 में एफपीआई एक लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की निकासी कर चुके हैं। जनवरी के महीने में एफपीआई ने घरेलू शेयर बाजार से 78,027 करोड़ रुपये की निकासी की थी। इसके बाद फरवरी में भी घरेलू बाजार से अपने पैसे की निकासी करते हुए एफपीआई ने 21 फरवरी तक 23,710 करोड़ रुपये की

सर्गाफा बाजार में तेजी, 88 हजार के करीब पहुंचा 24 कैरेट सोना

नई दिल्ली। घरेलू सर्गाफा बाजार में सोने के भाव में लगातार तेजी का रुख बना हुआ है। इस तेजी के कारण 24 कैरेट सोना 88 हजार रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर के करीब पहुंच गया है। देश के ज्यादातर सर्गाफा बाजारों में 24 कैरेट सोना 87,770 रुपये से लेकर 87,920 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के दायरे में कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह 22 कैरेट सोना आज 80,450 रुपये से लेकर 80,600 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के बीच बिक रहा है। चांदी की कीमत में मामूली तेजी आने के कारण ये चमकीली धातु दिल्ली सर्गाफा बाजार में आज 1,00,500 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के स्तर पर ही कारोबार कर रही है। देश की राजधानी दिल्ली में 24 कैरेट सोना 87,920 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 80,600 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। देश की आर्थिक राजधानी मुंबई में 24 कैरेट सोना 87,770 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 80,450 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा

है। इसी तरह अहमदाबाद में 24 कैरेट सोने की रिटेल कीमत 87,820 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 80,500 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख शहरों के अलावा चेन्नई में कर रहा है। लखनऊ के सर्गाफा बाजार में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 87,920 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 80,500 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। वहीं पटना में 24 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 87,820 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोना 80,500 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह जयपुर में 24 कैरेट सोना 87,920 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 80,600 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है।



ने इस अवधि में वार्षिक आधार पर 4 प्रतिशत का निम्नलिखित रिटर्न दिया है। मार्केट एक्सपर्ट्स का मानना है कि वैश्विक स्तर पर मची हलचल, खासकर अमेरिका में ट्रंप प्रशासन की नीतियों की वजह से निवेशकों में चिंता बनी हुई है। विशेष रूप से निवेशक तरह से अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने टैरिफ वॉर को तेज करने का संकेत दिया है, उससे ग्लोबल मार्केट में प्रबंधन की रणनीति अपना रहे हैं। धार्मी सिन्धोरिटीज के वाइस प्रेसिडेंट प्रशांत धामी का कहना है कि वैश्विक मोर्चे पर बनी चिंता के साथ ही घरेलू मोर्चे पर कंपनियों के उम्मीद से कमजोर तिमाही नतीजे और डॉलर इंडेक्स की मजबूती के कारण रुपये की कीमत में आई गिरावट के कारण भी इंडियन एक्सट्रेस को लेकर ग्लोबल अपील कमजोर हुई है।

टॉप 10 में शामिल 8 कंपनियों के मार्केट कैप में 1.65 लाख करोड़ की गिरावट, टीसीएस को सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। घरेलू शेयर बाजार में सोमवार से कारोबारी सप्ताह के दौरान हुई खरीद-विक्री के कारण देश की टॉप 10 कंपनियों में से 8 के मार्केट कैप में 1.65 लाख करोड़ से अधिक की गिरावट आ गई। इनमें टाटा कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज (टीसीएस) को सबसे अधिक नुकसान का सामना करना पड़ा। इसके अलावा टॉप 10 में शामिल दो कंपनियों के मार्केट कैप में इस सप्ताह 14,931.63 करोड़ रुपये की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। इस सप्ताह के कारोबार के दौरान टाटा कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज (टीसीएस), एचडीएफसी बैंक, आईटीसी, इन्फोसिस, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (एसबीआई), हिन्दुस्तान यूनिटीवर, भारती एयरटेल और आईसीआईसीआई बैंक के मार्केट कैप में कुल 1,65,784.90 करोड़ रुपये की गिरावट आई। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज और बजाज फाइनेंस के मार्केट कैप में बढ़ोतरी हो गई। सोमवार से शुक्रवार के बीच हुए कारोबार के दौरान कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज (टीसीएस) का मार्केट कैप 53,185.89 करोड़ रुपये कम होकर

13,69,717.48 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर तक पहुंच गया। इसी तरह भारती एयरटेल का मार्केट कैप 44,407.77 करोड़ रुपये घट कर 9,34,223.54 करोड़ रुपये हो गया। इसके अलावा आईसीआईसीआई बैंक का मार्केट कैप 18,235.45 करोड़ रुपये कम होकर 8,70,579.68 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर, हिंदुस्तान यूनिटीवर का मार्केट कैप 17,962.62 करोड़ रुपये घट कर 5,26,684.38 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर, इन्फोसिस का मार्केट कैप 17,086.61 करोड़ रुपये घट कर 7,53,700.15 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर, आईटीसी का मार्केट कैप 11,949.42 करोड़ रुपये कम होकर 5,01,750.43 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर, एचडीएफसी बैंक का मार्केट कैप 2,555.53 करोड़ रुपये घट कर 12,94,152.82 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर और स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (एसबीआई) का मार्केट कैप 401.61 करोड़ रुपये गिर कर 6,43,955.96 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर आ गया। रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज का मार्केट कैप 14,547.30 करोड़ रुपये उछल कर 16,61,369.42 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर आ गया।

मूंगफली तेल, सोयाबीन रिफाईंड में तेजी



एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। सप्ताहांत खाद्य तेलों में भाव तेजी लिए रहे। सप्ताहांत मूंगफली तेल चार रुपए एवं सोयाबीन रिफाईंड चार रुपए प्रति किलो मध्या बिकना। तिलहन में रिफाइनरी प्लांटों की लिवाली सुस्त बताई गई। सोमवार को मूंगफली तेल 1380 से 1400 रुपये प्रति 10 किलोग्राम खुला जो 1420 से 1440 रुपये पर रुका। हालांकि कारोबार के दौरान भाव ऊपर नीचे हुए। सोयाबीन रिफाईंड 1285 से 1290 रुपये पर खुलकर 1325 से 1330 रुपये बिकना। पाम तेल 1415 से 1420 रुपये खुलकर 1435 से 1440 रुपये होकर थमा। तिलहन जिनमें मांग से भाव लगभग बने रहे। सरसों, सोयाबीन में रिफाइनरी वालों की खरीदी सीमित रही। पशु आहार कपास्या खली में लिवाली से मजबूती दर्ज की गई।

एआई डाउनलोड्स में चीन और अमेरिका से भी आगे निकला भारत : वित्त मंत्री

एजेंसी कोल्लयम। वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने भारत में इनोवेशन की तेज गति और आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई) को अपनाने में देश की स्थिति पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि भारत एआई डाउनलोड्स में चीन और अमेरिका से भी आगे निकला गया है। वित्त मंत्री ने आईआईआईटी कोल्लयम के दीक्षांत समारोह में अपने संबोधन में माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के सीईओ सत्य नडेला के उस बयान जिक्र किया, जिसमें उन्होंने भारत को 'एआई के उपयोग की राजधानी' बताया था। केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा कि यह एक 'बहुत बड़ा बयान' है क्योंकि इसका मतलब है कि हम सिर्फ एआई के बारे में बात नहीं कर रहे हैं या केवल एआई में शोध नहीं कर रहे हैं, बल्कि हम इसे बड़े पैमाने पर लागू कर रहे हैं। भारत द्वारा तेजी से एआई को



अपनाने को लेकर वित्त मंत्री ने कहा कि 2024 में देश में एआई से जुड़े हुए 3 अरब एप डाउनलोड हुए थे।

यह आंकड़ा अमेरिका के 1.5 अरब और चीन के 1.3 अरब से काफी अधिक है। वित्त मंत्री ने आगे कहा दे रहे हैं कि एआई को कैसे नियंत्रित किया जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि पेरिस में हाल ही में एआई एक्शन समिट में (जिसकी भारत ने फ्रांस के साथ सह-अध्यक्षता की थी) प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा कि एआई सिर्फ एक राष्ट्रीय मुद्दा नहीं बल्कि एक वैश्विक जिम्मेदारी है। हमें एक ऐसे एआई की जरूरत है जो नैतिक, समावेशी और भरोसेमंद हो। उन्होंने आगे बताया कि ग्लोबल इनोवेशन इंडेक्स में भारत की रैंक 2015 में 81वें स्थान से बढ़कर 2024 में 39वें स्थान पर पहुंच गई है। इसके अलावा वित्त मंत्री ने कहा कि भारत का पेटेंट-टू-जीपीओ रेश्यो 2013 में 144 से बढ़कर 2023 में 381 हो गया है। यह दिखाता है कि देश में बीते दस वर्षों में पेटेंट की संख्या में काफी बढ़ोतरी हुई है।

मनसुख मांडविया सामाजिक न्याय और ईएसआईसी के 74वें स्थापना दिवस पर क्षेत्रीय संवाद का करेंगे उद्घाटन

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्री डॉ. मनसुख मांडविया राष्ट्रीय राजधानी नई दिल्ली में सामाजिक न्याय के लिए वैश्विक गठबंधन और कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम (ईएसआईसी) के 74वें स्थापना दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में सामाजिक न्याय पर दो दिवसीय क्षेत्रीय संवाद का उद्घाटन करेंगे। श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय ने जारी एक बयान में बताया कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन (आईएलओ) के महानिदेशक गिबर्ट एफ. हुगबो इस महत्वपूर्ण अंतरराष्ट्रीय वार्ता के उद्घाटन सत्र में उपस्थित रहेंगे। इसके अलावा केंद्रीय श्रम एवं रोजगार राज्य मंत्री शोभा करंदलाजे, श्रम सचिव सुमिता डावरा भी उपस्थित रहेंगे। मंत्रालय ने कहा कि सामाजिक न्याय के लिए वैश्विक गठबंधन आईएलओ द्वारा सामाजिक न्याय को आगे बढ़ाने में नैतिक और कार्रवाई के लिए वैश्विक, क्षेत्रीय और राष्ट्रीय मुताबिक क्षेत्रीय वार्ता के उद्घाटन सत्र में गठबंधन के साझेदारों, सरकारों, भारत सरकार के संबंधित मंत्रालयों,

'सात परियोजनाओं के लिए मिले 75 करोड़ डॉलर', वित्त मंत्रालय ने कहा- कोई प्रोजेक्ट चुनाव से जुड़ा नहीं

नई दिल्ली। अमेरिकी अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास एजेंसी (यूएसएआईडी) फंडिंग विवाद के बीच वित्त मंत्रालय ने बड़ा खुलासा किया है। वित्त मंत्रालय ने अपनी वार्षिक रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि वित्तीय वर्ष 2023-24 में अमेरिकी एजेंसी ने 75 करोड़ अमेरिकी डॉलर की सात परियोजनाओं की फंडिंग की। लेकिन इसमें से कोई भी परियोजना चुनाव या मतदान बढ़ाने से जुड़ी नहीं है। वित्त मंत्रालय ने अपनी वार्षिक रिपोर्ट में कहा कि मौजूदा समय में भारत सरकार के साथ साझेदारी के तहत अमेरिकी अंतरराष्ट्रीय विकास एजेंसी (यूएसएआईडी) ने सात परियोजनाओं के लिए 75 करोड़ अमेरिकी डॉलर की फंडिंग की है। जबकि वित्तीय वर्ष 2023-24 की सात परियोजनाओं के तहत एजेंसी द्वारा कुल 97 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर (लगभग 825 करोड़ रुपये) का दायित्व बनाया गया है। वित्त मंत्रालय के आर्थिक मामलों के विभाग ने रिपोर्ट में परियोजनाओं की जानकारी भी दी है। इसके तहत अमेरिकी एजेंसी ने कृषि और खाद्य सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम, जल, सफाई एवं स्वास्थ्य, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, आपदा प्रबंधन और स्वास्थ्य से जुड़ी परियोजनाओं के लिए फंडिंग की।

अगले सप्ताह 2 नए आईपीओ की लॉन्चिंग, 5 कंपनियों के शेयरों की होगी स्टॉक मार्केट में लिस्टिंग

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। शुरू हो रहा कारोबारी सप्ताह आईपीओ लॉन्चिंग के लिहाज से काफी सुस्त रहने वाला है। इस सप्ताह सिर्फ दो नए पब्लिक इश्यू लॉन्च होने वाले हैं। ये दोनों इश्यू एएसएमई सेगमेंट के हैं। इसके अलावा निवेशकों के पास पिछले सप्ताह 20 और 21 फरवरी को खुले तीन आईपीओ में भी 24 और 25 फरवरी तक बोली लगाने का मौका है। इस सप्ताह पांच कंपनियों के शेयर

स्टॉक मार्केट में लिस्ट होकर कारोबार की शुरुआत करेंगे। सप्ताह के पहले कारोबारी दिन ही 24 फरवरी को न्यूक्लियस ऑफिस सॉल्यूशंस का 31.70 करोड़ रुपये का आईपीओ सब्सक्रिप्शन के लिए खुलेगा। इस आईपीओ में 28 फरवरी तक बोली लगाई जा सकेगी। इश्यू में बोली लगाने के लिए 44 रुपये प्रति शेयर का मूल्य तय किया गया है, जबकि इसका लॉट साइज 3,000 शेयर का है। कंपनी के शेयर 5 मार्च को बीएसई के एएसएमई प्लेटफॉर्म पर लिस्ट होंगे। इसके अलावा पिछले सप्ताह 20 फरवरी को सब्सक्रिप्शन

के लिए खुले एचपी टेलीकॉम इंडिया के 34.23 करोड़ रुपये के आईपीओ में कुल यानी 24 फरवरी तक बोली लगाई जा सकेगी। इश्यू में बोली लगाने के लिए 108 रुपये प्रति शेयर का मूल्य तय किया गया है, जबकि इसका लॉट साइज 1,200 शेयर का है। ये इश्यू अभी तक फुली सब्सक्राइब हो चुका है। कंपनी के शेयर 28 फरवरी को एनएसई के एएसएमई प्लेटफॉर्म पर लिस्ट होंगे। इसी तरह 20 फरवरी को ही सब्सक्रिप्शन के लिए ओपन हुए

स्ट्रथ फूड टेक के 14.92 करोड़ रुपये के आईपीओ में भी कुल यानी 24 फरवरी तक बोली लगाई जा सकेगी। इश्यू में बोली लगाने के लिए 165 से 175 रुपये प्रति शेयर का प्राइस बैंड तय किया गया है, जबकि इसका लॉट साइज 800 शेयर का है। कंपनी के शेयर 3 मार्च को बीएसई के एएसएमई प्लेटफॉर्म पर लिस्ट होंगे। अगले कारोबारी सप्ताह के दौरान 5 कंपनियां अपने शेयरों की लिस्टिंग के जरिए कारोबार की शुरुआत करने वाली हैं। इनमें कुल यानी 24 फरवरी को क्वालिटि पावर इलेक्ट्रिकल

चुनें मेकअप अपनी

आंखों के अनुरूप



न जाने कितनी कविताएं और गीत आंखों पर लिखे गए हैं। अंतर्मन का झरोखा है आंखें। हर आंख खास है, अलग है, इसलिए हर आंख चाहती है अपने लिए कुछ अलग मेकअप। यहां दिए गए चित्रों के जरिये जानें क्या है आपकी आंखों का शेप और उसके अनुसार करे अपना आई-मेकअप।

गहरी आंखें

ऐसी आंखें भीतर की ओर धंसी हुई दिखती हैं और ब्रो बोन कम उभरी होती है। इसलिए मेकअप ऐसा करे, जिससे आंखें उभरी दिखें। पलकों पर हलका दबा हुआ पिंग या बेज शैडो लगाएं और आंखों की ऊपरी रेखा की तरफसे हलका करें। अब मीडियम-टॉड आईशैडो लें और ब्रो बोन से शुरू करके ब्रो के किनारों तक ले जाएं। आंखों के ऊपरी हिस्से में बनी रेखा को स्मोकी-कलर शैडो से गहरा करे। यह पूरे मेकअप से मैच करने वाला हो। अंत में ब्लैक या ब्राउन पेंसिल से काजल लगाएं।

उभरी आंखें

ये बाहर की तरफ निकली हुई आंखें होती हैं। इसलिए इन्हे बलिंग या प्रोट्रूडिंग आईज भी कहा जाता है। मीडियम कलर से गहरे रंग तक के आई शैडो से पलकों पर शेड दें। कभी भी फॉरवर्ड शेड्स या हाईलाइटर न प्रयोग करे, क्योंकि इससे आंखें और ज्यादा उभरी नजर आएंगी। आंखों के निचले किनारों पर काजल पेंसिल लगाएं। ऊपरी आईलैशेज पर मसकारा के एक-दो हलके कोट्स लगा सकते हैं।

उनीदी आंखें (हूडेड आई)

इसमें आईलैशेज बहुत कम नजर आती हैं जिससे आंखें उनीदी लगने लगती हैं। इसलिए इसमें ऐसे मेकअप की जरूरत होती है जिससे

सौंदर्य विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि खूबसूरत दिखने के लिए जरूरी नहीं है कि आप बाजार में मिलने वाले कीमती उत्पादों के सहारे रहें। किचन में भी सौंदर्य बढ़ाने वाले ढेर सारे उ त प । द मौजूद रहते हैं। इनके इस्ते

का रस निकालकर इसमें एक टीस्पून शहद मिलाकर चेहरे पर लगाने से लाभ मिलेगा।

गाजर

माल से सौंदर्य को निखार सकती हैं

आलू

अगर आपकी आंखों के नीचे काले घेरे हैं तो कच्चे आलू के टुकड़ों को प्रभावित स्थान पर रगड़ें। आप चाहें तो आलू को कुचलकर इसका गूदा भी प्रभावित जगह पर लगा सकती हैं। आलू के प्रयोग से काले घेरों से छुटकारा मिलेगा।

पालक

इसमें मौजूद पोषक तत्व जैसे आयरन और विटामिन ए त्वचा के लिए बहुत फायदेमंद है। इसका जूस निकालकर या इसे उबालकर त्वचा पर मलने से सौंदर्य में निखार आता है।

बंदगोभी

अगर आपके चेहरे पर असमय झुर्रियां पड़ गई हैं तो बंदगोभी के पत्तों

गाजर का रस निकालकर त्वचा पर लगाकर कुछ समय के लिए छोड़ दें। तत्पश्चात साफ पानी से धो लें।

टमाटर

टमाटर का सेवन करने से एक ओर जहां स्वास्थ्य सही रहता है। वहीं इसका उपयोग सौंदर्य निखारने में भी किया जा सकता है। टमाटर का रस निकालकर नींबू के रस की कुछ बूंदें मिलाकर चेहरे पर लगाने से स्किन मुलायम होती है और उसमें निखार आता है।

संतरा

संतरे का रस निकालकर इसे रुई के फाड़े से या साफ हाथों से चेहरे पर लगाने से त्वचा मुलायम होती

है। यही नहीं संतरे के छिलकों को गुलाबजल एवं बेसन में मिलाकर लगाने से मुहांसों से राहत मिलती है। साथ ही त्वचा में निखार भी आता है।

किचन में है स्किन मैजिक



सबसे पहले आंखों और नाक के बीच वाले हिस्से पर छोटे बलशर ब्रश से अपने स्किन टोन से थोड़ा गहरे टोन वाला पाउडर लगाएं। नाक की तरफ ब्रश करते हुए पाउडर को एकसार कर लें। ब्रो की बाहरी रेखा पर न्यूट्रल-टॉड हाईलाइटर प्रयोग करे। क्रीज लाइन (आंखों के ऊपरी हिस्से पर पड़ने वाली रेखा) पर शेड दें और आंख के भीतरी किनारे यानी नाक की तरफ वाले हिस्से को उभारे। आंख के बाहरी किनारे पर हलके मैट शैडो से ब्रश करके आई मेकअप को पूर्णता दें। मसकारा लगाते समय लैशेज सीधी रखें।

उसके बाहरी

आंखें थोड़ी सजग

दिखें, यानी सोई-

सोई सी या नशीली सी न दिखें।

पलकों के भीतरी आधे हिस्से पर मैट या न्यूट्रल कलर का आई शैडो लगाएं। उसके आसपास के हिस्से पर थोड़ा गहरा रंग लगाएं, लेकिन बाहरी हिस्से में इसे न लगाएं। गहरे रंग के प्रयोग से बचें, क्योंकि इससे पलकों भारी लगने लगेंगी। आंखों के ऊपरी और निचले किनारों पर भी गहरे रंग न लगाएं। ऊपरी लैशेज को थोड़ा कर्ल करे और मसकारा के एक-दो कोट्स लगाएं। ब्रो बोन पर न तो बहुत चटख और चमकीले रंगों का प्रयोग करे और न ही बहुत हलके रंगों का।

क्लोज-सेट आई

इनमें दोनों आंखों के बीच की दूरी कम दिखती है। यानी नाक से इनकी दूरी कुछ कम होती है।

पलकों के भीतरी हिस्से पर हलका और बीच के हिस्से पर मीडियम शेड प्रयोग करे। ऊपरी पलकों के बाहरी किनारों पर रेखा सी खींचें। अब ब्रो बोन के बाहरी यानी कान की तरफ वाले हिस्से पर गहरा शैडो लगाकर उसे अच्छी तरह एकसार करें। आंखों में ब्लैक काजल लगा सकते हैं। मसकारा लगाना चाहती है तो भीतरी लैशेज पर हलके रंग का और बाहरी तरफ थोड़ा गहरे रंग का मसकारा प्रयोग करे। बाहरी तरफ उसे थोड़ा उभारने की कोशिश करे और भौंहों की ओर थोड़ा कम उभारे। भीतरी लैशेज पर ब्राउन और बाहरी लैशेज पर हलका काला मसकारा प्रयोग करे।

वाइड सेट आईज

क्लोज-सेट आई की तुलना में इनकी दूरी नाक से थोड़ी ज्यादा होती है। इसलिए ऐसे मेकअप की जरूरत होती है जो आंखों को संतुलित दशाए।

हिस्से पर दाहिनी तरफ ज्यादा मसकारा लगाएं।

एशियन आई

ये आंखें नाक की तरफभीतरी किनारों की ओर थोड़ी झुकी हुई नजर आती हैं। इनमें शैडो का प्रयोग करते समय लेयरिंग इफेक्ट देने के लिए तीन रंगों का प्रयोग करे। आई लैशेज के पास हलका शैडो लगाएं, पलकों पर मीडियम कलर और ब्रो बॉस पर बेहद हलके रंग का प्रयोग करे। आंखों के किनारे रेखा या ऊपरी तरफ क्रीज बनाने से बचें। आई लाइनर का प्रयोग केवल आंखों के ऊपरी हिस्से पर करे।

आमंड शेड आई

बादाम के शेप वाली ये आंखें सर्वोत्तम मानी जाती हैं। इनमें कई तरह का मेकअप किया जा सकता है। जैसे बारीक आई लाइनर, कृत्रिम आई

लैशेज, ब्राइट कलर्स।

सबसे पहले ब्रो बोन में स्किन टोन के मुताबिक हलके रंग का शैडो इस्तेमाल करे। आई लिड (पलकों) से कुछ शेड गहरा रंग चुनें। आंख के निचले किनारों पर ब्लैक या ब्राउन काजल पेंसिल से रेखा बनाएं।

इसे आंखों के बाहरी किनारों की तरफ उभारने की कोशिश करे। अगर आपकी आंखें नीली हैं तो ब्लू पेंसिल भी प्रयोग कर सकती हैं।

राउंड आई

गोल आंखों के लिए गहरे रंग का शैडो चुनें। नाककी ओर से शुरू करके ब्रो के बाहरी तरफऊपर ले जाते हुए शैडो को अच्छी तरह एकसार करे। निचली पलक पर हलके टॉड शैडो या पेंसिल का प्रयोग करे और इसे ऊपर की ओर बाहरी हिस्से तक ले जाएं। ब्रो लाइन के पास म्यूटेड हाईलाइटर लगाएं।

छोटी आंखें

आंखें यदि ये छोटी हैं तो इन्हे बड़ा दिखाने के लिए पलकों के बाहरी किनारे पर ऊपर की तरफहलके रंग का पाउडर शैडो छोटे बलशर की मदद से लगाएं। क्रीज के पास गहरा शैडो प्रयोग करे। लेकिन नाक की तरफआंखों के भीतरी हिस्से पर कोई रंग न प्रयोग करे, क्योंकि इससे आंखें और छोटी दिखने लगेंगी। किनारों पर शैडो लगाने के लिए ब्रश का प्रयोग करे। इसके बाद आंख के निचले हिस्से पर हलकी ग्रे कलर की काजल पेंसिल से रेखा बनाएं।

निस्तेज आंखें

ड्रूपिंग या निस्तेज आंखों के लिए आई मेकअप आंख के भीतरी हिस्से से शुरू किया जाना चाहिए। ऊपरी और बाहरी तरफमीडियम टॉड शैडो ब्रश की मदद से लगाएं। इसे ब्रो लाइन के ठीक पास तक लाकर छोड़ दें। पलकों को बाहरी रेखा पर किसी भी रंग का प्रयोग न करे। लेकिन आंख की ऊपरी क्रीज लाइन को थोड़ा उभारने की कोशिश करें, मीडियम ब्राउन आई शैडो से रेखा बनाएं, फिर अपनी पलकों को थोड़ा कर्ल करें। मसकारा के कुछ कोट्स भी इसमें मदद करेगा।

क्या रूप निखरा है

□ एक अंडे की सफेदी को एक चम्मच शहद के साथ मिला कर चेहरे पर 20 मिनट लगाएं। उसके बाद पानी से चेहरा धो लें।

□ एक केले में शहद और नींबू का रस मिलाकर पेस्ट बनाएं। इस पेस्ट को चेहरे, गर्दन व हाथ-पैरों पर लगाएं। आधा घंटे बाद पानी से धो लें।

□ आम के छिलकों को पीस लें। इसमें एक चम्मच पाउडर मिल्क मिलाकर चेहरे पर हलके हाथों से मलें। इसे हाथ, पैर और गर्दन पर भी लगाएं। 20 मिनट बाद ठंडे पानी से धो लें।

□ दो चम्मच कॉर्नफ्लोर को एक अंडे की सफेदी में मिलाकर चेहरे पर

लगाएं। करीब 20-25 मिनट लगा रहने दें। जब पेस्ट सूख जाए तो हाथों को हलके गरम पानी में डुबोएं और चेहरे को मलें। फिर चेहरा धो लें। ऐसा 10-15 दिन तक लगातार करें।

□ खीरे का रस, गुलाबजल और नींबू का रस बराबर-बराबर मात्रा में लेकर मिला लें। फिर चेहरा धोकर सुखाएं और इस मिश्रण को चेहरे पर लगाकर रात भर के लिए छोड़ दें। सुबह चेहरा धोकर फर्क महसूस करें।

□ इंस्टेंट ग्लो पाने के लिए दो चम्मच



टमाटर के रस को चार चम्मच दही के साथ मिलाकर 15 मिनट तक चेहरे पर लगाएं।

□ खीरे का रस और दही 1-1 चम्मच लें। चुटकी भर हल्दी पाउडर मिला लें। चेहरे पर 15 मिनट लगा कर रखें। फिर ठंडे पानी से चेहरा धोएं।

□ अनन्नास का रस और नारियल पानी को मिलाकर चेहरे पर लगाएं।

□ एक अंडे का पीला भाग लें। इसमें एक टुकड़ा सीताफल का पेस्ट मिला लें। इसे आधा घंटा चेहरे पर लगा कर रखें और इंस्टेंट ग्लो पाएं।

NEWS BOX

Champions Trophy: India vs Pakistan clash breaks viewership record on JioHotstar

New Delhi. The wish of over a billion cricket fans in India was fulfilled as they got to see their favourite sight of star India batter Virat Kohli raising his bat to celebrate his century against Pakistan on Sunday, February 23 in Dubai. Staying true to his tag of being a chase master, Kohli played a magnificent innings of 100* (111) studded with seven fours to help India climb a mountain of 242 runs successfully and thrash the arch-rivals by six wickets. Right from the onset of his innings, Kohli looked at his vintage best, playing every shot with authority as he manoeuvred through the field with the utmost ease. It was in complete contrast to his knocks in recent times, where he had looked like a pale shadow of himself desperate to get some runs. Seeing Kohli return to his best, fans were left wondering what exactly he did to find his mojo back



after enduring poor form across formats since 2024. The hunger for a big knock was always there in the eyes of the batting stalwart as he arrived 90 minutes early to prepare himself for the all-important clash. Having been dismissed against spin time and again in recent times, Kohli was determined to work on his weakness by facing local net bowlers in a rigorous practice session to overcome his shortcomings. When the first over of the match was bowled by Mohammed Shami, the viewership jumped to 6.8 crore at the end of it and kept increasing through the match. The viewership reached 32.1 crore in the last over of Pakistan's innings and reached 32.2 crore during the innings break. When India began their run chase, the viewership increased to 33.8 crore and remained stable at 36.2 crore for a substantial period before surging to record levels when India inched towards a victory. **Champions Trophy: Full Coverage | Points Table** The previous record for the highest peak concurrency was at 3.5 crore registered in 2023 when India played Pakistan in the ICC Cricket World Cup on

They told her women shouldn't box, Now she's Ghana's first female world champion

ACCRA. When Abigail Kwartekaa Quartey decided as a teenager to become a professional boxer – an unusual choice for a young woman in a working-class neighbourhood of Ghana's capital of Accra – her family begged her to stop training. Boxing is the pride of Jamestown, which is based around the fishing industry and also known for being home to many boxing stars. But like most sports in Ghana, boxing has often been seen as for men only, and women are discouraged from taking part. And last year, at age 27, she became Ghana's first female world boxing champion and the first woman to travel the world as a member of the West African nation's national team. "My aunts and siblings didn't like it when I started boxing. They would come here to beg my coach not to let me become a boxer," she said at the Jamestown neighborhood's Black Panthers Gym where Quartey has been training since her teenage years. But when last November Quartey defeated British boxer Sangeeta Birdi in Jamestown's



main boxing area, winning the WIBF World Super Bantamweight title, crowds of friends and supporters from the neighborhood celebrated wildly, seemingly forgetting about the prejudice against female boxers. **Triumph after challenges** Ghanaian media pronounced her win "history," but Quartey is quick to point out that she is by no means the first female boxer in Ghana. "There were women in boxing before I ventured into boxing," she said. But they weren't allowed to travel outside the country, she added. Quartey's long road to this spectacular victory highlights the many challenges that female athletes in African countries face in their careers. Quartey grew up in Jamestown and, as a teenager, sold rice with her aunt to help the family make ends meet. The only people who supported her boxing dream were her brother, a fellow boxer, and her coach. In 2017, she stopped boxing and started selling lottery tickets to earn money.

How Virat Kohli conquered his spin demons to demolish Pakistan in Dubai

Star India batter Virat Kohli was seen at his vintage best, playing a match-winning innings of 100* (111) against Pakistan in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. The batting stalwart had to conquer his spin demons to rise above the odds and script another masterful chase for the Men in Blue.

New Delhi. The wish of over a billion cricket fans in India was fulfilled as they got to see their favourite sight of star India batter Virat Kohli raising his bat to celebrate his century against Pakistan on Sunday, February 23 in Dubai. Staying true to his tag of being a chase master, Kohli played a magnificent innings of 100* (111) studded with seven fours to help India climb a mountain of 242 runs successfully and thrash the arch-rivals by six wickets. Right from the onset of his innings, Kohli looked at his vintage best, playing every shot with authority as he

manoeuvred through the field with the utmost ease. It was in complete contrast to his knocks in recent times, where he had looked like a pale shadow of himself desperate to get some runs. Seeing Kohli return to his best, fans were left wondering what exactly he did to find his mojo back after enduring poor form across formats since 2024. The hunger for a big knock was always there in the eyes of the batting stalwart as he arrived 90 minutes early to prepare himself for the all-important clash. Having been dismissed against spin time and again in recent times, Kohli was determined to work on his weakness by facing local net bowlers in a rigorous practice session to overcome his shortcomings.

Acceptance of weakness

The former India captain was also seen re-introducing the sweep shot into his repertoire as he played it time and again in the practice nets. Apart from that, Kohli also worked on his backfoot game by going deep inside his crease to play cut shots and push the ball into gaps for singles. Former India cricketer turned commentator Aakash Chopra shared the details of Kohli's practice session a day ahead of the game and threw light on the thought process of the batting star. "It was interesting actually a couple of shots, wrist spin has been a problem, let's be

honest. Whether it's Rashid or Rishad, he knows that. There is a problem that's just there and it's ailing him. There's an Abrar, whom he will have to handle against Pakistan. So playing the slog sweep and the sweep shot and going deep inside the crease and then playing the cut shot. And I think,



what also plays a role here is that now he knows how this surface is going to react. So you know, these are the areas, I need to target. This is the bowler, I need to play. And these are my strengths as well that if I were to score runs, I will go sweep and slog sweep and also deep inside the crease and cut shot," said Chopra on Star Sports. Having refined his skills, the King was all ready to pounce on his favourite opponent as he walked to the crease amid loud cheers from fans demanding some sumptuous shots from his blade. Kohli got off to a good start in his

innings as, after scoring a few singles, his trademark cover drive came to the fore, and he moved to 22 (20).

Exorcising the spin demons

Kohli's trial by spin finally began as Abrar Ahmed came on to bowl in the 14th over and he comfortably started the battle with a single. The contest between the two was expected to be a match-defining moment as Kohli had been dismissed by wrist spinners five out of his last six innings. He played three dot balls in the over but never for a second looked perturbed, showing good judgement at the crease, playing both off the front foot and back foot. As his innings went on, Kohli kept on nudging the ball around for singles and doubles and gradually built on his innings. In between, he collected a couple of boundaries against Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah and completed his half-century off 62 balls. The Kohli of the old had returned, as he whittled away the deficit run by run and brought the game into India's grasp in no time. His method was simple, 'go after the seam bowlers and not take too many risks against the spinners but keep rotating the strike'. Kohli stood true to his mantra as he took no risks whatsoever against the spinners and collected occasional boundaries against the fast bowler to keep the required run rate under control.

IND vs PAK: Hardik Pandya delivers a Bumrah-esque performance to win over fans

Hardik Pandya was an unsung hero for India during their win against Pakistan as he played the role of Jasprit Bumrah during the match. Hardik picked up the wickets of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan.

New Delhi. They (fans) said, life for me, had come a full circle. They said, from here on, there was no looking back. I had won them (fans) back."

These were the words of Hardik Pandya before the India vs Pakistan game as the all-rounder once again produced the goods with the ball for his side in a high-pressure contest. The last year or so hasn't been kind for the all-rounder as he was villainised during the IPL for various reasons. However, Hardik stepped up to the plate when India needed him to bowl the last over in the T20 World Cup final.

He got the wicket of David Miller and the rest was history. That was the start of the fan reaction towards Hardik changing and despite losing the vice-captaincy, the all-rounder quietly went about with his work and kept working on his game. | IND vs

PAK, Highlights | The India vs Pakistan game was a crucial one for both sides as a win was needed by both teams in a bid to boost their hopes of making it to the semi-finals. India didn't have the services of Jasprit Bumrah, who was the hero in the last 2 matches against Pakistan in ICC



events. India's start was far from ideal in the match as Pakistan got off to a great start thanks to Babar Azam. To add to the misery at that time, India would lose Mohammed Shami to an injury as well. Hardik steps in to deliver the goods

Hardik came in as the first change bowler for India and Babar would welcome him with a boundary. The all-rounder would be hit for another one soon after as the Pakistan fans were hoping for a Babar special in Dubai.

But Hardik decided to spoil the party as he would ensure India got the breakthrough. While Hardik has always played the role of being a partnership breaker in the past, today his role was like that of Bumrah. The Indian pacer has always taken crucial wickets in the past but also ensured that the run flow was always restricted.

Hardik did the same, and he conceded just 6 runs in his next 3 overs after the Babar wicket one as he kept Mohammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel tied up. This allowed the other bowlers to get through their overs quickly and further restrict the scoring.

It was only after Hardik went out of the attack that Pakistan was able to get the runs to flow and as soon as he came back, the Men in Green started to wobble again. Hardik would then step up in his next over and dismissed Saud Shakeel as Pakistan completely lost their way and ended up scoring just 241 runs. During this, Hardik went on to emulate Kapil Dev as well. Hardik played a brief cameo in the run-chase but his role with the ball has seemingly gone under the radar after Virat Kohli's 51st hundred. India are in with a makeshift pace attack for this Champions Trophy and they need someone to genuinely stand up and deliver.

New Zealand aim to kill two birds with one stone in Bangladesh clash

New Delhi. New Zealand kicked off their Champions Trophy 2025 campaign with a commanding 60-run win over hosts Pakistan on February 19 at Karachi's National Stadium. Twin centuries from Will Young and Tom Latham powered the Kiwis to 320 for five, before William O'Rourke and Mitchell Santner's three-wicket hauls helped bowl Pakistan out for 260 in 47.2 overs. Now, New Zealand have a strong chance of reaching the semis. A win against Najmul Hossain Shanto's Bangladesh on February 24 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium will secure their spot in the next round. But Monday's clash carries even greater significance. The fate of three teams hangs in the balance. A New Zealand victory will confirm India's place in the semi-finals, while Bangladesh and Pakistan will be officially eliminated. Additionally, Bangladesh's game against Pakistan on February 27 and India's match versus New Zealand on March 2 will become inconsequential in the race for the semis.

As far as Bangladesh are concerned, they would



be looking to make amends after losing to India by six wickets on Thursday in Dubai. The Tigers have happy memories of playing in Rawalpindi after they beat Pakistan 2-0 last year in a Test series.

Is Mahmudullah fit?

Before facing the Kiwis, Bangladesh are grappling with an injury concern over Mahmudullah Riyad, a key player in ICC events. Mahmudullah missed the match against India, where the Tigers fielded both Towhid Hridoy and Jaker Ali Anik. However, Bangladesh are still awaiting his full recovery before deciding on his availability for the New Zealand clash. "Well, we're going to find out that today. He has to do a fitness test today and then we'll know after practice today whether he's fit enough for selection," head coach Phil Simmons said in the pre-match press conference. If Mahmudullah plays, Bangladesh will face another selection dilemma. With Jaker scoring a half-century and Hridoy registering his maiden ODI century.

Nobody can handle pressure and provide stability like Kohli: BCCI, IPL top brass

DUBAI. Virat Kohli provides unmatched stability to the Indian team, according to former Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla, who felt the superstar batter displayed exceptional composure under pressure during his century against Pakistan.

Kohli's majestic unbeaten century was the backbone of India's six-wicket victory over Pakistan in the Champions Trophy. "Virat Kohli has shown how to handle the pressure and how to play for the country. Through his outstanding innings, Virat has won many hearts and the match for the country," former BCCI President Thakur told PTI. "If you look at Virat's innings, he never went outright for the century. For him, the priority was India's win. He was rotating the strike, not going for his own runs only. "He wanted to play till the last and win the match for India. That is a big thing about



Kohli. For big players like him individual innings is not very important, it's country's victory that matters," he added.

After India's bowlers restricted Pakistan to an underwhelming 241, Kohli stitched match-winning partnerships with Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill to chase down the target with 45 balls to spare. Kohli's century was simply fabulous. The way he scored his century. The way he provided stability to Indian team,

nobody can do it," Shukla said.

"Shreyas & Gill also played very well. The Indian team is back to full form. All the players were fully fit and they were ready to take on Pakistan. And they did it in style. The team looks well oiled for the finals," he added. Kohli's century, his 51st in ODIs, was laced with seven boundaries. "The entire country was waiting for Virat to score a century. The way he played today, it was a fantastic innings to watch," IPL Chairman Arun Dhimal said. "I am pretty sure that IPL has played a major role in India's good show at the ICC tournaments. Look at the bench strength. Not just for Indian cricket, IPL has changed the cricket world over.

"That's the change of attitude that has happened over the years. That has made cricket very interesting and that is why you have new audience hooking on to cricket. It augurs well for the game," he added.

Rohit Sharma, Mohammed Shami injuries: Shreyas Iyer provides crucial updates

India vs Pakistan: India captain Rohit Sharma and fast bowler Mohammed Shami were away from the field for a fair amount of time due to injury concerns on Sunday. Shreyas Iyer provides a crucial update on the players after their second group stage game in Dubai.

New Delhi India batter Shreyas Iyer provided fitness updates for captain Rohit Sharma and fast bowler Mohammed Shami after the India vs Pakistan match in the Champions Trophy. While Shami left the field to receive some treatment on his shin inside the first 10 overs of the match, Rohit was off for an extended period of time, supposedly due to a hamstring injury.

Rohit struggled to chase balls at the very end of India's bowling innings. Former pacer Dale Steyn spotted the issue while commenting on the game and said that Rohit was struggling with his left hamstring. On the other hand, Shami's issues seemed to be solved once he returned to the field to bowl his second spell in the match. Shami, however, did not bowl his full quota of 10 overs but looked in much better shape than in his first spell.

India vs Pakistan, Champions Trophy: Match Report The injury concerns with two of India's star players come at a crucial time in the tournament. India has just one more group stage game left in the Champions Trophy. They are all but qualified for the semi-final, which is set to be played on March 4, at the Dubai International Stadium.

Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer was asked



about the fitness updates of both players in the post-match press conference. Iyer revealed that there were no concerns with either of the players.

"Not really. I mean, I had a brief chat with them, both of them were quite comfortable with the way things progressed, and yeah,

from my knowledge, I don't think there is any issue," Shreyas Iyer said after the match.

While Rohit has not had any injury concerns in the recent past, he did work on his fitness after being criticised during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024/25. On the other hand, Mohammed Shami returned to play for India after a long injury layover of 14 months. Shami had an ankle surgery after the

ODI World Cup 2023 and took more than a year to return to international cricket. The fast bowler had recently opened up on his fitness journey, where he said that he had to train at the National Cricket Academy for 8 hours every day to shed 9 kilograms.



Bhumi Pednekar

Says She Is 'Very Possessive' In Relationship: 'I Believe In Monogamy'

Bhumi Pednekar is gearing up for the release of her next film, Mere Husband Ki Biwi. In an exclusive chat with News18 Showsha, she admits to ending up doing a series of films that sees her husband falling in love with another woman, rather serendipitously, and Mere Husband Ki Biwi is one of them. In this romantic-comedy co-starring Arjun Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh, Bhumi plays Arjun's old flame, who returns to his life as he falls for someone new.

Reacting to playing the other women onscreen, she quips, "I don't know what is it about me and the roles I do (laughs)! I keep attracting the women towards my men." So, what's her take on real-life love triangles? "But in real life, I'm very possessive in a relationship. I completely believe in the institution of monogamy. So, there's no chance that I can tolerate a love triangle," she states. Interestingly, despite one single conjecture, Bhumi has always managed to keep her personal life shielded from the public eye.

Bhumi Pednekar says while she's open to falling in love, she's just as content and fulfilled without a man in her life.



And while she's open to the idea of falling in love, she tells us that she'll be comfortable with the idea of not having a man in her life. Sharing her stance on her version of an ideal relationship, Bhumi remarks, "If I fall in love, then great. Even if it doesn't happen, I'm okay with it. When you're so happy in life, you feel complete on your own. But what I look for in a relationship is comfort. I want a relationship where I can just be myself with the person. Ease is really important."

The one relationship, however, that holds a lot of meaning in her life is that of sisterhood. The actor, who didn't have qualms about sharing screen space with her female contemporaries, stresses on the importance of women supporting women. "As women, we all have shared experiences. We all, in a larger bracket, fall towards the same end. And those shared experiences automatically create a lot of empathy for each other. There's this unsaid sisterhood where we know that we've each other's back through thick and thin. We may not be the best of friends but in certain situations, I'll always have their back," she shares.

In Bhumi's words, her role in Mere Husband Ki Biwi maybe best described as the 'Biwi No 1 of this generation'. At the trailer launch when she was asked if she's living her Karisma Kapoor – an actor she took references from for her role in Pati Patni Aur Woh – era, she said, "It's a very big compliment. I grew up on films like Biwi No 1 and I was truly inspired by the female actors of that era. I got the chance to play such characters twice, thanks to Mudassar (Aziz; director) sir. Usually, women today don't get to play comic roles in films. I love being a part of comedy films. In this film, both me and Rakul got to do front-footed comedy, like we used to see in the 'No 1' film series."

Harshvardhan Rane Plans To Stand Outside Sanam Teri Kasam Producer's Office For Sequel: 'No Awkwardness'



Soon after the re-release of Harshvardhan Rane and Mawra Hocane starrer Sanam Teri Kasam on February 7, director duo Radhika Rao and Vinay Sapru announced its sequel. While it may have piqued the curiosity and excitement of several fans, it didn't particularly sit well with producer Deepak Mukut. Speaking to Bollywood Hungama, he said that the intellectual property rights of the film lie with him and that the directors don't have the authorisation to announce a second part to Sanam Teri Kasam. Further, according to him, the director hasn't been finalised and he hasn't had a discussion with Vinay and Radhika yet.

In September last year, Deepak and Harshvardhan announced the sequel but the news had no mention of Vinay and Radhika or any other director. And recently, in an exclusive chat with News18 Showsha, Harshvardhan revealed that a director is yet to be locked. "I'm just a channel here. I'm looking for an association to happen. It's said that with great power comes great responsibility. And with love comes even greater responsibility. It's like if a girl loves you, you need to make sure that you give her the best treatment and place her on a pedestal over your head," he told us.

Hoping for the sequel to happen soon, the Taish and Tara vs Bilal actor further added, "I think this is the same responsibility that the producer is also feeling towards the audience. We've to be extremely responsible and diligent when it comes to the sequel because there's so much more riding on us this time around. We're all working towards it. I hope everything falls into place."

Harshvardhan, in fact, wouldn't even mind gathering his fans and hold up placards outside the producer's office to speed up the process. "Step one was me posting on social media for Sanam Teri Kasam to get re-released. Step two was, standing below Deepak sir's office. Step three was getting the film finally re-released. Step four was the desire to see a house full board outside cinema houses because that's something that I've never seen in my career. And the final step is the fifth one where you'll find me standing below his office once again, requesting him to make part two. I've no awkwardness about it. I'm ready to do it," he remarks.

Tara Sutaria's Ex Aadar Jain Says He Has Done 'Timepass' For 4 Years: 'I've Always Loved Alekha'



Aadar Jain and Alekha Advani recently celebrated their mehndi ceremony surrounded by close friends and family. The event, attended by Rima Jain, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Soni Razdan, Karisma Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor, and others, was filled with emotional moments, including a heartfelt speech from Aadar.

In a video shared online, Aadar professed his deep love for Alekha, saying, "I have always loved her and I have always wanted to be with her. So she sent me on this long journey of 20 years through time-pass. It was worth the wait because I get to marry this beautiful, beautiful woman, who looks like a dream. I love you, and it was worth the wait. It's a secret, I have always loved her. I have done time pass for four years of my life. But now I'm with you, baby."

The couple's wedding celebrations have been the talk of the town, with glimpses of their ceremonies surfacing online. In early 2024, Aadar and Alekha tied the knot in a dreamy white wedding in Goa. The intimate affair was attended by their families and close friends, with the duo sharing multiple stunning pictures from the ceremony.

Aadar and Alekha got engaged in September 2024, making their relationship official with a heartfelt social media post. Aadar had written, "My first crush, my best friend & now, my forever." Their love story has been closely followed by fans ever since.

Before finding love with Alekha, Aadar was in a relationship with Bollywood actress Tara Sutaria. The two frequently made public appearances together and attended Kapoor family gatherings, including Christmas celebrations and Armaan Jain's wedding. However, their relationship ended in 2023.

Interestingly, Alekha and Tara shared a friendly equation. The two reportedly had a close bond and even followed each other on social media. Alekha once posted a picture with Aadar and Tara, jokingly calling herself the "third wheel." Reports suggest that Alekha even joined the ex-couple on a trip to Paris in 2022. Aadar Jain, son of Rima Jain and grandson of Bollywood legends Raj Kapoor and Krishna Kapoor, made his Bollywood debut in 2017 with Qaidi Band and was last seen in Hello Charlie.

Arjun Kapoor

Opens Up About 'Ideal Relationship' After Breakup: 'Love Doesn't Mean Staying...'

Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora, reportedly, began dating in 2018. The former lovebirds rarely shied away from sharing pictures together from their vacations. They were often captured by the shutterbugs as they got spotted in and around the city, hand in hand. Last year, however, they called it quits, the reason of which remains unclear. Following many weeks of speculation, Arjun finally revealed that he is single at Raj Thackeray's Diwali party, which also saw his Singham Again co-stars Ajay Devgn, Tiger Shroff and director Rohit Shetty in attendance.

Now, in an exclusive chat with News18 Showsha, Arjun opens up on what his idea of an ideal relationship is. "Jo de uska bhi bhala, jo na de uska bhi bhala," he quips. Talking about his expectations from his future relationship and stressing on the importance being comfortable in each other's silences, he tells us, "What I want from love today is someone to share my silences with and that's very important. Even if you're in two different spaces, you can still be connected without having to speak all the time. The idea is to share things without even realising it."

According to the Ishaqzaade and Ek Villain Returns actor, love between two people doesn't need to be spelt out in so many words. "There has to be comfort and ease. You should've to look forward to going back and spending time with your person after finishing the day. Love doesn't mean staying together with the person all the time. You should be wanting to genuinely building your life with them. It's necessary for two people to understand each other's professions too," he says.

In fact, at the trailer launch of his upcoming film Mere Husband Ki Biwi, he spilled the beans on his marriage plans. "If there is anything, I will let you all know. Today is about discussing the film and celebrating it. And I have to talk about the film. I think I have allowed enough conversations and chatter about my personal life whenever I've been comfortable, and when the time was right. For me, right now, let me celebrate being my husband's wife. And when the time comes to talk about my wife, we will talk about it at the right moment," he shared.

As for Mere Husband Ki Biwi, the film will mark his return to the romantic-comedy space – which he refers to as his 'old friend' – after many years. Speaking about it, he had said, "I've always loved stories that bring warmth, laughter and love to the screen, and this film does exactly that. I've been fortunate that the audience has loved and accepted me in the romance genre in films like 2 States, Ki & Ka, and other films. It's good to be doing something in the light-hearted zone. I hope the audiences shower me with the same kind of love and acceptance for Mere Husband Ki Biwi."

Arjun Kapoor talks about the importance of not talking always and but being comfortable in 'shared silences' in relationships

