



# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### Supreme Court, for now, blocks order for Trump administration to release billions in US foreign aid

WASHINGTON. The Supreme Court on Wednesday temporarily blocked a judge's order giving the Trump administration a midnight deadline to release billions of dollars in U.S. foreign aid.

Chief Justice John Roberts said the order issued by U.S. District Judge Amir H. Ali will remain on hold until the high court has a chance to weigh in more fully. Ali had ordered the federal government to comply with his decision temporarily blocking a freeze on foreign aid, ruling in a lawsuit filed by nonprofit groups and businesses.

An appellate panel refused the administration's request to intervene. The federal government froze foreign assistance after an executive order from President Donald Trump targeting what he called wasteful programs that do not correspond to his foreign policy goals.

### Diesel's zombie apocalypse theme stuns Milan Fashion Week with graffiti & milky eyes

MILAN. The zombie apocalypse is now, according to Italian denim brand Diesel, which sent models onto a heavily graffiti-ed runway with unsettling milky gazes and spray-painted smiles.

Revealing silhouettes set the tone for the Fall-Winter 2025-26 co-ed collection premiered on Wednesday on the second day of Milan Fashion Week. Mini skirts were little more than peplums, requiring leggings or matching panties. Men wore cheekily low-rise jeans. Diesel has become a must-see of fashion week, in part due to its textile innovations. A silicone fisherman-pattern V-neck featured realistic chest hair detailing. Denim was treated to a reflective sheen, while jersey seemed to dissolve. Designer Glenn Martens is soon taking his innovative spirit to the Parisian fashion house Maison Margiela, which shares an Italian owner. He takes over from John Galiano. No creative changes have been announced at Diesel.

### Burning Man's iconic 747 art plane finds new home in Las Vegas

UPDATED. A hulking section of a decommissioned jumbo jet that was transformed into a party venue at the 2017 Burning Man Festival is getting a new life off the Las Vegas Strip. The cockpit and section of the fuselage of the Boeing 747 were towed Wednesday from a spot at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway on the northern part of the city to a nearby entertainment district known as AREA 15. The district bills itself as a site for immersive art installations, including Meow Wolf. Organizers say the jet, which was gutted after its Burning Man days in the Black Rock Desert of northwestern Nevada, will be transformed into an event and nightlife venue at AREA 15. We just really want to celebrate the arts community and find immersive and experiential ways (to enjoy art)," said Pearl Verzosa, the district's marketing director. "We are open for everybody. We want families, friends, partners just to have a really good time here. And I think that the airplane will be one of those really special places."

### Mysterious 'crying disease' kills over 50 in Congo: What we know so far

world. Unidentified illnesses have killed more than 50 people in north-western Congo's Equateur province over the past five weeks, with nearly half of the victims dying within hours of falling ill. Notably, 'crying' is also one of the symptoms reported by patients.

Health officials report 419 cases and 53 deaths since the outbreaks began on January 21 in two remote villages separated by over 120 miles.

Authorities are still investigating the cause of the diseases and whether the cases in the two villages—Boloko and Bomate—are linked. It is still unclear how the diseases are spreading, including whether human transmission is involved.

Outbreak details The first outbreak was recorded in Boloko, where three children died within 48 hours after eating a bat. In Bomate, more than 400 people have fallen ill, with malaria identified in some patients.

However, no connection has been established between the outbreaks in the two villages, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Dr Serge Ngalebato, medical director of Bikoro Hospital and a member of the government response team, noted differences between the two outbreaks. "The first one with a lot of deaths is an unusual situation that we continue to investigate. In the second episode, we see many cases of malaria," he said.

Symptoms and investigation Congo's ministry of Health reported that about 80% of patients exhibit symptoms such as fever, chills, body aches, and diarrhoea. Patients experienced symptoms including neck and joint pain, sweating, and shortness of breath. Those under 59 years old reported intense thirst, while children exhibited persistent crying. Initially, concerns were raised about the possibility of a hemorrhagic fever like Ebola, due to the rapid progression from sickness to death. However, Ebola and similar diseases like Marburg have been ruled out after testing more than a dozen samples. The WHO is now investigating other potential causes, including malaria, viral hemorrhagic fever, food or water poisoning, typhoid fever, and meningitis.

## Trump administration says it's cutting 90 per cent of USAID foreign aid contracts

**President Donald Trump and ally Elon Musk have hit foreign aid harder and faster than almost any other target in their push to cut the size of the federal government.**

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration said Wednesday it is eliminating more than 90% of the U.S. Agency for International Development's foreign aid contracts and \$60 billion in overall U.S. assistance around the world, putting numbers on its plans to eliminate the majority of U.S. development and humanitarian help abroad. The cuts detailed by the administration would leave few surviving USAID projects for advocates to try to save in what are ongoing court battles with the administration. The Trump administration outlined its plans in both an internal memo obtained by The Associated Press and filings in one of those federal lawsuits Wednesday. The Supreme

Court intervened in that case late Wednesday and temporarily blocked a court order requiring the administration to release billions of dollars in foreign aid by midnight. Wednesday's disclosures also give an idea of the scale of the administration's retreat from U.S. aid and development assistance overseas, and from decades of U.S. policy that foreign aid helps U.S. interests by stabilizing other countries and economies and building alliances. The memo said officials were "clearing significant waste stemming from decades of institutional drift." More changes are planned in how USAID and the State Department deliver foreign assistance, it said. President Donald Trump and ally Elon Musk have hit foreign aid harder and faster than almost any other target in their push to cut the size of the federal government. Both men say USAID projects advance a liberal agenda and are a waste of money. Trump on January 20 ordered what he said would be a 90-day program-by-program review of which foreign assistance programs deserved to

continue, and cut off all foreign assistance funds almost overnight. The funding freeze has stopped thousands of U.S.-funded programs abroad, and the administration and Musk's Department of Government Efficiency teams have pulled the majority of USAID staff off the job through forced leave and firings. In the federal court filings Wednesday, nonprofits owed money on contracts with USAID describe both Trump political appointees and members of Musk's teams terminating USAID's contracts around the world at breakneck speed, without time for any meaningful review, they say. "There are MANY more terminations coming, so please gear up!" a USAID official wrote staff Monday, in an email quoted by lawyers for the nonprofits in the filings. The nonprofits, among thousands of contractors, owed billions of dollars in payment since the freeze began, called the en masse contract terminations a maneuver to get around complying with the order to lift the funding freeze temporarily. So did a Democratic lawmaker. "The administration is brazenly

attempting to blow through Congress and the courts by announcing the completion of their sham 'review' of foreign aid and the immediate termination of thousands of aid programs all over the world," said Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The State Department said Secretary of State Marco Rubio had reviewed the terminations. In all, the Trump administration said it will eliminate 5,800 of 6,200 multiyear USAID contract awards, for a cut of \$54 billion. Another 4,100 of 9,100 State Department grants were being eliminated, for a cut of \$4.4 billion. The State Department memo, which was first reported by the Washington Free Beacon, described the administration as spurred by a federal court order that gave officials until the end of the day Wednesday to lift the Trump administration's monthlong block on foreign aid funding. "In response, State and USAID moved rapidly," targeting USAID and State Department foreign aid programs in vast numbers for contract terminations.

### What's next for Trump's agenda after House GOP approves tax breaks and slashed spending in US budget

WASHINGTON. Now that House Republicans have passed an ambitious budget blueprint for US President Donald Trump's agenda, it's time for the hard work of turning ideas for \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts and \$2 trillion of slashed spending into a bill that lawmakers warn could bring intense changes to Americans back home.



Republicans are insisting the costs of the tax breaks be partly paid for by the steep reductions in federal government spending as a way to ensure the nation's \$36 trillion debt load doesn't balloon to dangerous levels. But deciding what to cut—health care, food stamps, green energy, government regulations or student aid—is a politically agonizing choice. And it's not just the House that has to agree. GOP senators have their own plans. Their priority is to make the tax cuts permanent, rather than have them expire in a decade, as the House proposed. GOP senators see that as non-negotiable, but it would skyrocket the costs. Eventually, the House and Senate must vote on a final package. "We have a lot of hard work ahead of us," House Speaker Mike Johnson said after the late Tuesday vote.

It's the start of a weeks-long—if not months—slog that is expected to consume Congress as Republicans try to deliver on Trump's agenda and their own campaign promises. Trump met Wednesday with Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune at the White House, after Republicans also met with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. Trump's chief of staff Susie Wiles huddled privately with GOP senators at the Capitol. Republicans say if they fail to act, the lower tax rates first approved in 2017 will expire, which would amount to a massive tax hike for many Americans. They believe keeping the tax cuts in place will partly pay for themselves, unleashing economic growth and fresh revenues, though

others say those projections are optimistic. Democrats put up stiff opposition against the House GOP plan—one lawmaker dashed from California after a week's stay in the hospital and another returned to Washington for the vote with her newborn son. Democrats will spend the weeks ahead warning Americans what's at stake. "Republicans and Trump promised to lower costs on day one, and instead their priorities have been focused on ripping health care away from kids, moms and others who need it most," said Brittany Pettersen, D-Colo., cradling her 4-week-old son, Sam. "All to fund tax breaks for billionaires like Elon Musk while increasing our national deficit by trillions of dollars," she said. "How can anyone show their face in their district after voting yes for this?" Trump, during a freewheeling Cabinet meeting Wednesday at the White House, insisted he will not touch the nation's premier safety net programs—Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security—but seek ways to root out what Republicans call waste, fraud and abuse.

### Clip of Gaza as seaside resort posted on Trump's social media

WASHINGTON. US President Donald Trump's official social media accounts posted an apparently AI-generated video depicting war-ravaged Gaza rebuilt into a seaside resort, replete with a towering golden statue of himself. The video, which racked up more than 15 million views on Instagram and was shared thousands of times on Trump's Truth Social network by Wednesday morning, prompted some commenters to question whether the president's accounts had been hacked. The 33-second clip remained on Trump's accounts without denial or retraction hours after the initial posting on Tuesday night.

The video "Gaza 2025 What's Next?" opens with people on a rubble-strewn street emerging from a tunnel onto a beach with palm trees and yachts. Trump has floated the idea of a US takeover of Gaza under which its Palestinian population would be relocated - a proposal met with global condemnation. He later appeared to soften his plan, saying he was only recommending the idea, and conceding that the leaders of Jordan and Egypt - the proposed destinations for relocated Gazans - had rejected any effort to move Palestinians against



their will. In the social media clip, the soundtrack includes lyrics such as "Donald's coming to set you free, bringing the light for all to see", and "Feast and dance, the deal is done, Trump Gaza number one".

Seemingly AI-generated renditions of Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sip cocktails in swimsuits by a pool, while other shots show what appears to be Elon Musk dancing under a shower of cash on the beach. Social media users reacted with both support and criticism, but many questioned whether Trump himself had posted the montage.

AFP did not find any evidence the video had been shared online before it was posted to Trump's Truth Social and Instagram accounts. One scene closely resembles an AI-generated image of Trump and Netanyahu drinking cocktails that began circulating in early February. Another scene shows belly dancers shimmying on the beach, sporting thick, long beards more typically worn by Islamists. More than 15 months of war, triggered by Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, have left much of the Gaza Strip in ruins and most of its population displaced from their homes. In Gaza, people who watched the video were in disbelief.

## Electrocuted, Whipped, Tortured: The Reality Of Southeast Asia Scam Centres

Nairobi, Kenya. Starved, beaten and electrocuted, Ahmed remains traumatised months after being trafficked to Southeast Asia, one of an untold number of Africans forced to work in scam centres far from home. The complexes have flourished across the region, often staffed by foreigners who are made to swindle people in what analysts say is a multi-billion-dollar industry. Among them are Ethiopians, like 25-year-old Ahmed, who sign up for the promise of well-paid jobs. Instead, they run "love scams" -- often referred to as "pig butchering" -- inside infamous prison-like compounds that have mushroomed across Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. The scammers operate fake profiles of wealthy Western women to lure men, and sometimes women, into investing in crypto-currencies -- before vanishing with their savings. Hundreds have been released from complexes in Myanmar in recent weeks, according to local sources. But the United Nations said in 2023 that "hundreds of

thousands" were "forcibly engaged by organised criminal gangs into online criminality" across Southeast Asia. Ahmed -- whose name AFP has changed to protect his identity -- endured months of captivity last year and returned home in December. "I contemplated suicide," he said. Imprisoned, abused Ahmed said he was approached by an old friend offering him a job abroad that paid up to \$500 a month. It was a fortune in Ethiopia where the median monthly wage hovers around \$24, according to the International Labour Organization. His family raised \$1,600 to send him to Laos, but he soon realised his friend had betrayed him when he was sucked into the scam world. He managed to talk his way out of a compound in Laos, only to be abducted by armed men and taken to another in Myanmar, where his captors demanded \$5,000 for his release. "When I told them I'm poor and don't have money they laughed and then gave me electronic shocks that left me unconscious," he said. On the 11th day,

he said, half-starved, he was presented with a choice: work for free for 18 months, pay the ransom, or have sex on camera. He chose to work for free, but conditions were significantly worse than in Laos. "There were people in the compound who lost limbs because of torture," Ahmed said. "The administrators of the place used to cut fingers of 'misbehaving or mediocre' staff," he added. "I feel lucky... Even though I'm still suffering the effects of electrocution, my limbs haven't been amputated." Africa targeted Ahmed said there were roughly 3,000 people working in the Myanmar centre, including Ethiopians, Kenyans and Ugandans. Africans are increasingly a target for scam centres, which require people who are proficient in English, desperate for work and digitally literate, said Jason Tower, Myanmar country director for the United States Institute of Peace who is based in the Thai capital Bangkok. There is also little intervention from their governments.

## Hamas hands over four dead hostages to Red Cross, as Palestinians leave Israeli prison

**→ Crowds of cheering families, friends and supporters gathered in the West Bank town of Beitunia, jostling for a glimpse of the bus as it arrived.**

KHAN YOUNIS. Hamas handed over four dead hostages to the Red Cross early Thursday in exchange for Israel's release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, days before the first phase of the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip was to end. An Israeli security official confirmed that Hamas handed the hostages' bodies to the Red Cross. Israel said the caskets were delivered with the help of Egyptian mediators through an Israeli crossing and an identification

process had begun. At around the same time, a Red Cross convoy carrying several dozen released Palestinian prisoners left Israel's Ofer prison. Crowds of cheering families, friends and supporters gathered in the West Bank town of Beitunia, jostling for a glimpse of the bus as it arrived. Well-wishers greeted the released prisoners, hugging them and snapping photos. One released man made a victory sign as he was carried on the shoulders of supporters, with the crowd chanting "God is Great." Hundreds of other prisoners were to be sent to Gaza, many of them detained after the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks and never charged. Israel had delayed the release of over 600 Palestinian prisoners since Saturday to protest what it called the cruel treatment of hostages during their handover by Hamas. The militant group has called the delay a "serious violation" of the ceasefire and said talks on a second phase aren't possible until the Palestinians are freed. Earlier Wednesday, Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the latest release of hostages' bodies would be carried out without ceremony, as opposed to past Hamas releases with stage-managed events



in front of crowds. Israel, along with the Red Cross and U.N. officials, have called the ceremonies humiliating for the hostages. Among those scheduled to leave Israel early Thursday were hundreds of detainees arrested from Gaza, held on suspicion of militancy after Hamas's Oct. 7, 2023, attack, without charge for months.

They include 445 men, 21 teenagers and one woman who were all arrested after the Hamas attack, according to lists shared by Palestinian officials that did not specify their ages. Only around 50 Palestinians were released into the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem in this round. Dozens sentenced to life over deadly attacks against Israelis will be exiled out of the Palestinian territories, taken to Egypt at least temporarily until other countries accept them. The handover would complete both sides' obligations under the ceasefire's first phase, during which Hamas returned 33 hostages, including eight bodies, in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. The family of a hostage in Gaza said it was notified he is dead and his body was among those to be returned to Israel. The family did not say who informed them. Notifications typically come from Israel's military.

# Maha Kumbh Concludes on a Grand Note, CM Yogi Sweeps Sangam & Worships Ganga

**Prayagraj:** The Maha Kumbh concluded as a historic and grand event, attracting millions of devotees. Over 66 crore pilgrims took part in the 45-day religious gathering, bathing at the Sangam, setting a unique record. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his cabinet members actively participated in the cleanliness drive, sweeping the Aaral Ghat and offering prayers to the Ganga.



In a blog post marking the event's conclusion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi titled it 'Mahakumbh of Unity - Ahaat of Yug Parivartan'. He described the gathering as a "Maha Yagya of Unity" and emphasized that when a

nation awakens to new consciousness and sheds centuries of subjugation, such an event unfolds. PM Modi also offered an apology to Maa Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati for

**Maha Kumbh 2025 Concluded on Wednesday coinciding with the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri with Record-Breaking Over 66 Crore Devotees Attending Sacred Event**

any shortcomings in worship or service during the event. PM Modi praised CM Yogi Adityanath for his leadership, stating that the success of the Maha Kumbh

was a collective effort between the government, administration, and the public, where everyone served with devotion. CM Yogi acknowledged the safety and cleanliness efforts during the event, commending sanitation workers for their role. He also lauded the residents of Prayagraj for their warm hospitality in accommodating the large number of devotees. The Uttar Pradesh government achieved a Guinness World Record in cleanliness during the Maha Kumbh, marking another milestone in the event's success. The gathering not only symbolized religious faith but also demonstrated social unity and collective cooperation.

## India Brands Pakistan a "Failed State" at UNHRC, Criticizes Its Focus on India



**New Delhi:** India sharply criticized Pakistan as a "failed state" that survives on international aid during a speech at the 58th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva. Kshitij Tyagi, India's Permanent Mission representative, lashed out at Pakistan for spreading falsehoods and misusing the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as a mouthpiece for its agenda.

Tyagi condemned Pakistan's continued rhetoric on human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, reiterating that these regions are an "integral and inalienable part" of India. He highlighted the progress made in these territories since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, which resulted in Jammu and Kashmir being split into two union territories.

"Pakistan, a country plagued by human rights abuses, minority persecution, and systemic erosion of democracy, is in no position to lecture others," Tyagi said. He also emphasized that Pakistan's focus should be on improving governance and providing justice to its own citizens rather than obsessing over India.

Tyagi's remarks came amid decades of cross-border tensions and were a strong reminder of the challenges Pakistan faces both domestically and on the international stage.

## HMS, KIMS Plans to Stage Massive Protest Against Exploitation by BSL Management



**Bokaro:** A meeting was held today at Sudarshan Canteen, SAIL/Bokaro Steel Plant, by the contract labour cell of the Coke-Oven and Coke Chemicals Department, affiliated with Hind Mazdoor Sabha and Krantikari Ispat Mazdoor Sangh. The meeting aimed to address the ongoing issues faced by contract workers at the plant.

General Secretary and NJCS Member, Rajendra Singh, strongly condemned the management of Bokaro Steel Plant for exploiting contract workers. He criticized the management for repeatedly ignoring the workers' concerns, stating that those responsible for the exploitation face no consequences and, in some cases, are even rewarded with promotions. He further accused certain broker unions of siding with the management to weaken the workers' movement.

Singh highlighted that the workers of today are well aware of their rights and are no longer willing to tolerate exploitation. He pointed out that efforts to divert attention with medical checkups had failed, with workers focusing on more pressing issues such as gratuity, night shift allowances, and grade promotions. The meeting also marked the beginning of a determined struggle, with plans for a large protest at the Chief General Manager's office on March 1, 2025. Singh urged workers to unite and continue fighting for their rights, declaring, "We will not rest until the exploitation ends."

## MCMM-2025 Conclave on Maritime Corrosion to be Held in Digha

**Jamshedpur:** The highly anticipated 2nd Industrial Conclave on Maritime Corrosion Monitoring and Management (MCMM-2025) will take place on February 28, 2025, at Hotel LeROI and CSIR-NML's Marine Corrosion Research Station (MCRS) in Digha.

This event is part of the Platinum Jubilee (75th Year) celebrations of CSIR - National Metallurgical Laboratory (CSIR-NML), Jamshedpur.

Organized by the Corrosion and Coating Group of the Advanced Materials Corrosion Division at CSIR-NML, the conclave will bring together industry leaders, maritime experts, engineers, and researchers to explore advancements in corrosion management, particularly in maritime applications.

## CCL Hosts Free Health Camp in Ichapidhi Village



**Ranchi:** A free health checkup camp was organized by the CCL Jan Arogya Kendra Gandhinagar in Ichapidhi village, Ranchi, on 20th February 2025. The camp offered free blood pressure and diabetes screenings, benefiting 135 people who received expert medical advice from specialist doctors.

The camp focused on health checks such as hemoglobin, blood sugar, and hypertension. In addition to the screenings, participants were provided with necessary medications at no cost.

Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) regularly organizes such health camps as part of its ongoing effort to provide quality healthcare services to its stakeholders and the broader community. These camps are designed to benefit people in need, and a large number of locals make use of the services provided. The camp was successfully conducted with the invaluable contributions of Dr. Ratnesh Jain, CMS, CCL, Dr. Preeti Tigga, CMO, CSR Incharge, Dr. Rajni Deepa Kujur, Dr. Deepali, Dr. Shilpi Jha, Dr. Veena Singh, Munna Kumar Singh, Kamlesh Pandit, Harman, and the entire para-medical staff. Their collective efforts played a vital role in the smooth and effective organization of the event.

## IIT-ISM Dhanbad Hosts "Nasha Mukh Bharat" Awareness Program

**Dhanbad:** The Department of Environmental Science and Engineering (ESE) at IIT-ISM Dhanbad, in collaboration with the EIACP Programme Centre and the Society of Environmental Science and Engineering (SESE), organized a successful awareness program on "Nasha Mukh Bharat."

The event aimed to educate participants about the dangers of substance abuse and encourage collective action for a drug-free society. The program featured a pledge-taking ceremony, where attendees committed to combat drug abuse and promote a healthier nation. The pledge was led by Rahul Mondal and Chanchal Tiwari, both B.Tech 2nd-year students and Co-heads of SESE.

The event, attended by 38 participants including faculty, staff, and students, highlighted the harmful effects of addiction and emphasized the importance of a supportive, substance-free community.

Guided by Professor Alok Sinha, Head of the Department of ESE, the program reinforced IIT-ISM Dhanbad's commitment to social responsibility and national welfare in the fight against drug abuse.

## DRDO, Indian Navy successfully conduct flight-trials of Naval Anti-Ship missile

**New Delhi:** The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy have successfully conducted flight trials of the groundbreaking Naval Anti-Ship Missile (NASM-SR) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha, on Tuesday.

During the trials, the missile demonstrated its effectiveness against ship targets when launched from an Indian Naval Seaking Helicopter. The test highlighted the missile's Man-in-Loop capability, achieving a direct hit on a small ship target in sea-skimming mode at its maximum range. The missile's terminal guidance is powered by an Indigenous Imaging Infra-Red Seeker.

The mission also showcased the missile's high bandwidth two-way datalink system, which transmits live images from the seeker back to the pilot for in-flight retargeting. This



advanced feature allows the pilot to select a target mid-flight, as demonstrated during the trials. The missile was launched in Bearing-only Lock-on after launch mode, where several targets were in close proximity. Initially, it locked on to a large target within a specified search zone, but during the terminal phase, the pilot successfully retargeted the missile to a smaller hidden target, resulting in a pinpoint hit.

Developed by multiple DRDO laboratories, including Research Centre Imarat, Defence Research and Development Laboratory, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, and Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, the NASM-SR missile is now being produced in collaboration with MSMEs, startups, and other production partners. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated

DRDO, the Indian Navy, and industry partners for the successful trials, emphasizing the unique Man-in-Loop feature that allows for in-flight retargeting. Dr. Samir V Kamat, Secretary of the Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of DRDO, also praised the efforts of the DRDO team, users, and industry collaborators in achieving this milestone.

## Four DAV-6, Bokaro Students Selected for 'Inspire Manak Award 2024-25'

**Bokaro:** Four students from DAV Public School Sector 6, Bokaro, have been selected for the prestigious 'Inspire Manak Award 2024-25' by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. The selected students are Pranaya Singh 'Solanki' and Somanjay Singh (Class VI), Pratyush Ranjan (Class VII), and Alok Anand (Class IX). Each student received a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 10,000. The award is given to students for their innovative



scientific projects. Pranaya's project was on a 'Washroom Door Alarm', Somanjay's on 'Smart Glass for Blind People', Pratyush's on the

'Animal Intrusion Detector Machine', and Alok's on the 'LPG Cylinder Leakage Safety System'. School Principal Anuradha

Singh congratulated the students for their dedication and scientific thinking, crediting their success to hard work and technical knowledge. She also acknowledged the support of the students' parents and teachers.

Every year, one lakh students are selected for this award, and this year, four out of five promising students from DAV-6 were chosen at the state level. Their models will now be presented at the state competition.

## Moon to get First Mobile Network

# NASA Launches Athena Lander to Establish First Mobile Network on Moon

**RNS:** NASA successfully launched the Athena lander, introducing mobile connectivity to the lunar surface as part of Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission. The mission deploys the Lunar Surface Communication System (LSCS), developed by Nokia, which utilizes cellular technology similar to that used on Earth to establish connectivity on the Moon.

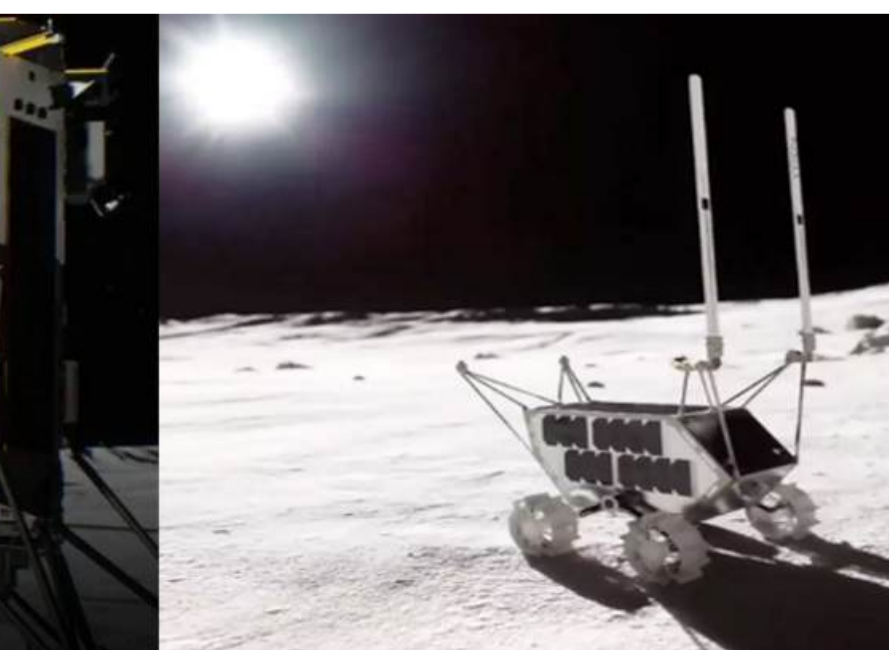
The Athena lander, perched atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on 26 February. The mission paves the way for two U.S. lunar landings within a week. On Sunday, Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lander is scheduled

to land on the near-side of the Moon, followed by Athena's landing on the lunar South Pole just four days later.

The mobile network deployed by the mission will enable seamless communication between the lander and vehicles, providing critical support for high-definition video streaming, command-and-control, and telemetry data. Nokia Bell Labs President Thierry Klein emphasized the resilience of the network, designed to withstand the Moon's harsh environment, including radiation, extreme temperatures, and vibrations. The system operates in a compact "network in a box," which contains all components required for functionality except for the



antenna and power source. The IM-2 mission also features two lunar mobility vehicles: Intuitive Machines'



Micro-Nova Hopper and Lunar Outpost's Mobile Autonomous Prospecting Platform (MAPP) rover.

These vehicles will connect to the network on the Moon's surface, although the network's operation will

be limited to just a few days due to the challenges posed by lunar nights. This achievement is a criti-

cal step toward future lunar missions, including NASA's Artemis program, which aims to return astronauts to the Moon by 2028. Nokia is also working on integrating cellular communication technology into astronauts' spacesuits to facilitate future lunar exploration. Klein pointed out that a single network tower could provide full coverage, similar to terrestrial cell networks on Earth.

Meanwhile, NASA's Polar Resources Ice Mining Experiment 1 (PRIME-1) is underway, studying lunar regolith and resources to support future missions. While the launch of the mobile network has been met with enthusiasm, it has also sparked some con-

cerns. Critics, such as Chris De Pree from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, have raised alarms about potential interference with radio astronomy due to overlapping frequencies. Nokia received a special waiver for the IM-2 mission and is exploring alternative frequency bands for future deployments.

As lunar exploration intensifies, the success of the LSCS network underscores the growing importance of mobile connectivity for future missions. The development of such technology is pivotal for the goal of establishing a permanent human presence on the Moon by the 2030s, and it will also lay the groundwork for future missions to Mars and beyond.

# Savarkar's grandson opposes Rahul Gandhi's plea in defamation case: Delay tactic

► **Satyaki Savarkar, grandson of VD Savarkar, alleged that Rahul Gandhi is trying to prolong the defamation case--filed over his remarks on Savarkar--by making irrelevant arguments about historical events.**



**Defamation case over Rahul Gandhi's remarks on Savarkar during London speech**  
Congress leader seeks historical review of Savarkar's role in freedom fight  
Savarkar's grandson calls it an attempt to divert attention

**Pune.** The grandson of Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar has objected to a petition filed by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a Pune court in connection with a defamation suit. The petition sought to consider an accurate historical account of Savarkar's contributions to India's freedom struggle and analyse historical documents. Satyaki

Savarkar, the grandson, alleged that Gandhi was attempting to divert and prolong the defamation case by making irrelevant arguments about Savarkar's role in the Indian freedom struggle.

Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, faces 18

legal cases across various courts in India, 14 of which are related to defamation. In one such case in Gujarat, he was found guilty and sentenced to two years in prison, but the Supreme Court later stayed the verdict. Citing this background, Satyaki Savarkar argued that

Gandhi has a pattern of making defamatory statements.

The case stems from Gandhi's controversial remarks about Savarkar during a speech in London before a group of Non-Resident Indians. Following these comments, Satyaki Savarkar filed a defamation case against him in a special court in Pune. In response, Gandhi's lawyer, Advocate Milind Pawar, submitted a petition requesting that the case be converted from a "summary trial" to a "summons trial".

In his petition, Gandhi argued that the case revolves around historical events from the pre-independence era. He stated that it is essential for the court to consider an accurate historical account of Savarkar's contributions to India's freedom struggle and suggested that relevant historical documents could be presented as evidence.

However, Satyaki Savarkar's lawyer, Advocate Sangram Kolhatkar, opposed this request.

## MK Stalin says Hindi erased 25 regional languages, many gasping for survival

**Tamil Nadu MK Stalin accused Hindi of swallowing regional languages and erasing diversity. He reiterated Tamil Nadu's opposition to the Centre's three-language policy, insisting on Tamil and English. Several regional tongues that he claimed were 'gasping for survival', he said.**

**Tamil Nadu.** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin questioned the impact of Hindi on other Indian languages, listing several regional tongues that he claimed were "gasping for survival." He voiced strong opposition to Centre's 'Hindi imposition' through National Education Policy (NEP) in a post on X. "My dear sisters and brothers from other states, Ever wondered how many Indian languages Hindi has swallowed? Bhojpuri, Maithili, Awadhi, Braj, Bundeli, Garhwali, Kumaoni, Magahi, Marwari, Malvi, Chhattisgarhi, Santhali, Angika, Ho, Kharia, Khortha, Kurmali, Kurukh, Mundari, and many more are now gasping for survival," Stalin wrote.



He accused the push for a "monolithic Hindi identity" of erasing linguistic diversity, arguing that states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were never merely "Hindi heartlands" but had distinct languages that are now "relics of the past." In a letter to his cadre, he said,

"will oppose Hindi imposition. Hindi is the mask, Sanskrit is the hidden face." His remarks come amid ongoing concerns over the Centre's three-language policy, which the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has fiercely opposed. The DMK has historically resisted Hindi imposition, with the anti-Hindi agitations of 1965 serving as a defining moment in Tamil Nadu's political and linguistic identity. The party has consistently insisted on following a two-language formula, Tamil and English, while rejecting the Centre's policy. When asked whether the Centre was "sowing the seeds for another language war," Stalin responded, "Yes, certainly. We are ready for it." Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin too had earlier said that Hindi has already become a disruptive language. "Many languages like Hariyanvi and Rajasthani have been swallowed by Hindi," he pointed out, implying the Tamil language was facing a similar challenge.

## Shivakumar faces Congress heat over Sadhguru invite: Aligns with RSS narrative

**A Congress leader questioned DK Shivakumar's loyalties after the latter posted a thank you note to Sadhguru. Shivakumar was thanking Sadhguru for his invitation to celebrate Mahashivratri at Sadhguru's Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore.**

**New Delhi.** DK Shivakumar, the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka and the state Congress president, faced criticism from within his party after he shared an invitation for a Mahashivratri event hosted by Sadhguru, the founder of Isha Foundation and a prominent spiritual leader.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretary PV Mohan expressed his disapproval in a post on the social media platform X, stating that Shivakumar's action "damages the core" of the party.

At the event on Wednesday, Shivakumar also shared the stage alongside Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The Mahashivratri event, organised by Isha Foundation, is a night-long festival that includes musical performances and meditations by the spiritual leader. In his post, tagging the Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister, PV



Mohan asked him, how could he thank someone who mocked Rahul Gandhi, while "serving as a president of a secular party".

Mohan was referring to a thank-you note posted by Shivakumar for being invited to Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore to celebrate Mahashivratri. Shivakumar, who later shared on the social media platform about his experience at Isha Yoga Center, had posted a picture of the invitation, along with a "thank you" to Sadhguru.

"I am not criticising, I was just expressing my opinion about his (Shivakumar's) ideological ways. Both Isha Foundation and Jaggi Vasudev's ideologies align with that of BJP and RSS. We are totally against RSS ideologies and Rahul has repeatedly mentioned that whoever follows RSS ideologies can leave the party," Mohan told India Today, clarifying his comment on X. He also made it clear that while he had no objections to Shivakumar visiting temples, as the KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister, his actions should better reflect the party's values.

## PM Modi reflects on Maha Kumbh: 'It wasn't easy, forgive me if...'

**New Delhi.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi today penned a blog after the grand Maha Kumbh concluded on Wednesday and thanked the countrymen for their participation. The PM said the way the faith of 140 crore countrymen came together for 45 days at the Maha Kumbh of unity in Prayagraj, at one time, and joined this one festival, is overwhelming.



Saraswati, O Mother, if there was any shortcoming in our worship, please forgive us. If there was any lapse in serving the devotees, whom I consider the embodiment of God, I also seek forgiveness from the people," PM Modi wrote on his blog.

PM Modi also added that the Maha Kumbh has now become a subject of research for management professionals, as well as planning and policy experts worldwide.

"The massive participation of devotees in the Maha Kumbh is not just a record but it has also laid a strong foundation for centuries to come, reinforcing and enriching our culture and heritage," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister, on his blog, said

that the present India, which takes pride in its heritage, is moving forward with new energy.

"People from all sections of society and every field came together in this Maha Kumbh. This unforgettable sight of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' became a grand festival of self-confidence for millions of Indians," PM Modi said.

Hundreds of thousands of devotees gathered at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj on Wednesday for the final holy dip of the Maha Kumbh Mela on the occasion of Mahashivratri, as the six-week-long religious congregation concluded on Wednesday.

Mahashivratri marks the divine union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and holds profound significance in the context of the Kumbh Mela, held once every 12 years and believed to grant 'moksha' to the devotees.

He shared the blog on X with mesmerising pictures of the grand event and wrote in Hindi, "The Maha Kumbh has concluded...the Maha Yagya of unity has been completed. The way the faith of 140 crore countrymen came together for 45 days at the Maha Kumbh of unity in Prayagraj, at one time, and joined this one festival, is overwhelming! I

have tried to pen down the thoughts that came to my mind after the completion of the Maha Kumbh..." The Prime Minister acknowledged that organising such a grand event was not easy. He apologised to the people for any lapses in serving the devotees.

"I know that organising such a grand event was not easy. I pray to Mother Ganga, Mother Yamuna, Mother

## After Mustafad, BJP MLAs call for renaming of Najafgarh constituency

**BJP MLA Neelam Pahalwan proposed renaming Najafgarh to Nahargarh in the Delhi Assembly, claiming Aurangzeb had changed its original name. She won the Delhi polls, defeating AAP's Tarun Kumar by over 29,000 votes.**

**New Delhi.** BJP MLA from Najafgarh, Neelam Pahalwan, proposed in the Delhi Assembly to change the name of her constituency, Najafgarh, to Nahargarh. She claimed that Mughal ruler Aurangzeb had renamed Nahargarh as Najafgarh and demanded that its original name be restored.

Pahalwan won the Delhi elections by defeating AAP candidate Tarun Kumar by a margin of over 29,000 votes. Following her proposal, BJP MLA from RK Puram, Anil Sharma, also sought a name change for a village in his constituency. He stated that Mohammadpur should be renamed as Madhavpuram and announced that he would put forward this proposal in the Delhi Assembly.

The demand to rename areas is gaining momentum among BJP leaders in Delhi. After securing



victory in the Mustafabad constituency, senior BJP leader Mohan Singh Bisht declared that he would rename Mustafabad as either "Shiv Puri" or "Shiv Vihar" once he officially took office.

"I will change the name of the area from Mustafabad to Shiv Puri or Shiv Vihar. I have

stated this before. I fail to understand why political parties are insistent on retaining the name Mustafabad. Why can't an area predominantly inhabited by Hindus be named Shiv Puri or Shiv Vihar? People are troubled by the name 'Mustafa,' and it should be changed. I will make sure it happens," Bisht said while speaking to news agency .Mustafabad, a Muslim-majority constituency in North-East Delhi, was among the worst-affected areas during the 2020 communal riots. Bisht, a four-time BJP MLA from Karawal Nagar, was fielded from Mustafabad in the recent elections, replacing Kapil Mishra.

He won by a massive margin of over 17,500 votes, defeating AAP candidate Adeel Ahmad. His victory has further fuelled the BJP's push to rename places across Delhi.

## Navy to receive 'Tamal' from Russia, a stealth missile frigate with BrahMos power

- **India to induct advanced stealth frigate Tamal from Russia**
- **Tamal equipped with BrahMos missiles, anti-submarine weapons**
- **200 Indian Navy personnel in Russia for Tamal's trials**

**New Delhi.** India is set to welcome one of the world's most advanced multi-role stealth guided missile frigates, Tamal, built at Russia's Yantar Shipyard. This warship, capable of launching the deadly BrahMos anti-ship missile, is part of the Indo-Russian agreement signed in 2016 for the construction of four Talwar-class stealth frigates, two in Russia and two in India. The second warship under this deal is now ready and is expected to be commissioned into the Navy by June 2025.

The first of the two Russian-built frigates, INS Tushil, has already joined the Navy. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh personally inducted it during his visit to Russia on December 9, 2024. After covering over 12,500 miles and passing through eight countries, INS Tushil has successfully reached India.

INDIAN CREW ARRIVES IN RUSSIA FOR TAMAL'S TRIALS

Trials for Tamal are currently underway in



Russia. Once the warship is officially inducted, an Indian naval crew will sail it home. In preparation, around 200 Indian Navy personnel have arrived in St. Petersburg to undergo training and participate in sea trials. These trials will last for about six weeks, after which the warship will be readied for its voyage to India.

### DEADLIEST WARSHIPS?

Like a sharpened sword (Talwar), Tamal is designed for precision strikes and high maneuverability. It can cruise at speeds of up to 30 knots (55 km/h) and has an operational range of 3,000 kilometers on a single mission.

Key features include BrahMos missile capability where the warship can fire the supersonic BrahMos missile, making it a formidable threat to enemy vessels. Tamal is equipped with advanced anti-submarine rockets and torpedoes to counter underwater threats. Helicopter Deployment is another important component of the warship as it can carry and operate a multi-role helicopter for extended surveillance and combat missions. It is built to evade enemy radar detection, enhancing its survivability in modern warfare. Tamal weighs 3,900 tons, making it a heavily armed yet agile warship.

### IMPORTED WARSHIP

INS Tushil and Tamal are part of the third batch of Talwar-class frigates. However, the Navy has declared that Tamal will be the last imported warship, showing a shift toward complete indigenous warship production.

India has been operating Talwar-class frigates since 2003, with six currently in service. Four of these have already been armed with BrahMos missiles, while the remaining two are undergoing upgrades. Despite concerns about possible delays due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, the delivery of Tamal has remained on schedule.

The frigate is powered by Ukrainian-built engines, which were delivered before the war began. India's Goa Shipyard is also constructing two additional stealth frigates, with engines already secured. The first of these, INS Tripud, has been launched for sea trials, marking significant progress in India's indigenous warship-building capabilities.

TAMAL TO BE INDIA'S LAST

## This war is no longer about Ukraine

THREE years and counting — this is what we might have possibly said of Russia's conflict with Ukraine. But today, we may need to count no more. If this sounds too good to be true, it is. The big story on the third anniversary of the war is not the untold death and destruction, not the imminent collapse of the Ukrainian forces and not the rupture of Europe's relations with Russia. It is the arrival onto the diplomatic stage of the President of the United States, Donald Trump, with his determination to bring the war to an immediate end. President Trump is set to succeed, not because he says so but because the adversary is saying so. Russia is ready for closure. For India, and for most of the world, there could not be better news. India, for a very good reason, has been on the side of peace and has always wanted the conflict to end on the negotiating table. Not everyone is happy. The Munich Security Conference has been a celebration of the trans-Atlantic alliance. Its 2025 edition could well have been its funeral ceremony. The blunt admonition of Europe by US Vice-President JD Vance was the forerunner to even more dramatic events that followed. The US and Russia met face to face soon thereafter and in a historic breakthrough have set the ball rolling for an early summit meeting between their Presidents, and resetting the relationship. Ukraine will only be one piece of this reset.

Few would have imagined this turn of events. If Russia's invasion in 2022 was a geopolitical shock, the manner in which the war is being steered to an end is no less disruptive. Trump's diplomatic blitzkrieg has not happened in a vacuum. Apart from domestic causes within the US, it has come against the backdrop of a growing sense of frustration, despair and fatigue in Europe over the war. Europe's political institutions and its economy have not measured up to the challenge. The war has taken a heavy toll on the European project. Today, Europe is seething, bitter, divided and feeling let down. Trump has succeeded in convincing US voters that Europeans have become free riders. Europe is thus faced with its biggest crisis since the end of the Cold War.

Ukraine, and specifically President Zelenskyy, has been accused by Trump and Elon Musk of not only not avoiding the war, but of even causing it. The tables have been turned. Yesterday's allies are today's detractors. Ukraine's existence as a functional state is under question. It is on the brink of defeat with 20 per cent of its territory under Russian occupation and 60 per cent of its energy infrastructure damaged. On the Russian side, 30,000-35,000 troops are estimated to have been killed every month. According to British Defence Ministry sources, the war has led to 700,000 Russian casualties, the loss of 19,000 pieces of equipment and 9,000 tanks and APCs (armoured personnel carriers), giving it the epithet of a 'meat grinder'. In this war of attrition, Russia has won on the battlefield but at a high human cost and reputational damage. Even if not evident in the immediate term, sweeping sanctions have squeezed its economic choices.

The debate has shifted away from the minutiae of the terms of a settlement over Ukraine to the global chessboard. How far will the new version of US-Russia detente go? What will be its terms? And what impact will it have on the global order as we know it? A grand bargain is in the offing, reminiscent of the Ronald Reagan-Gorbachev moment. A new post-1991 architecture will be created to accommodate Russia's security interests in Europe, but with a deeply divided Europe. US and European approaches to Russia are set to diverge, and even within Europe, there are sharp differences. If Russia wants to build on the new opportunity that President Trump is offering it, and address European fears, it will have to make compromises and give concessions. Signals coming so far indicate that this is indeed the likely trajectory. The US is going it alone. Europe is watching and is a straggler, left to its own devices.

## Spare a thought for the unwept migrant

Shackling people does seem to come a bit too easily to the nation that boasts of the Statue of Liberty.

PUNJAB — the land of the five rivers; the Greeks referred to it as Pentapotamia (which means the same). The region was associated in ancient times with the Indus Valley civilisation, the Rigveda and the Mahabharata. Alexander fought Porus on the banks of the Jhelum, Babur fought Ibrahim Lodhi, the Anglo-Sikh wars were fought here — there have been very few examples of a land so continuously invaded, ravaged and pillaged as Punjab has been down the centuries. We will start from 1947 onwards i.e. from what was supposed to be the dawn of a glorious period. The dawn was one of sheer joy and sunshine in India, except in the states of Punjab and Bengal. The Partition that took place was largely a partition of Punjab and Bengal. An imaginary line drawn by the British and accepted by the Congress leadership, Gandhi and Jinnah tore Punjab asunder. It was an amputation of the body and soul of Punjab. It left in its wake a tsunami of murder, rape and mayhem. It was a bloodbath like no other and led to probably the biggest forced migration in history. This enormous disruption was perhaps one of the main underlying causes for the first wave of migration that began to the Western world in the early 1950s. Initially, it was only a trickle and mainly to the UK, followed by Canada. The contribution of this region to the two World Wars was immense, and the returning men brought back stories and experiences from Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Humans have always looked for better pastures, and when the opportunities at home were dismal, they looked outwards. Back home, the Punjabi spirit gradually prevailed and with the help of good leadership and administration, we picked up the pieces and overcame the horrors of the Partition and settled down to a near-normal life. For a few decades, it seemed that we were on the path of prosperity and peace. This proved to be a mirage, and the usual fault lines began to appear in the political and administrative setup. An already truncated Punjab witnessed demands of further division that finally succeeded. The Akalis wanted a Sikh-dominated state, the hill folk demanded their own refuge, as did the people of Haryana. A combined Punjab was split into three states and a UT. Chandigarh, the modern capital being developed as a replacement for Lahore, was also

lost. There were five divisions of the Punjab province before the Partition — Jullundur (now Jalandhar), Lahore, Delhi, Multan and Rawalpindi. This was lauded as a great achievement, but it actually heralded the decline of Punjab as the faltering economy and decadent leadership led to chaos. The mountains and their forest and water resources went to HP, the proximity of the national capital with its dynamism and the lands along the Yamuna to Haryana. Perhaps the region should be renamed 'tiny ab' as it no longer represents 'Punjab'. The three states are laggards in most development indexes. In a democracy, votes count, and in Parliament a state with 80 seats does have a louder



voice and presence as opposed to one with 10 or 13. Gradually, the radicalisation of the youth took place, and a new militant leadership came up with new slogans under the cover of religion related to a violent movement. Behind it was the hand and mind of politicians of all hues; things built up and violence increased, the forces of the state increased. All this led to the disaster of Operation Blue Star and the assassination of Indira Gandhi, which was followed by the slaughter of Sikhs throughout India. This was allowed to go on for days till the bloodlust was partially quenched. The next decade was a lost one, with killings of innocents occurring daily. Our neighbour to the northwest took full advantage of the situation and launched a proxy war in the garb of militant and terrorist action. Punjab paid the price. Pakistan had lost major wars in 1948, 1965 and 1971; it was looking for revenge and we gave it on a platter (it was Punjab again that bore the brunt of the war in 1965 as most of the action was confined to

this front). Things were never the same again in Punjab and it came under President's rule for almost a decade until elections were held. Despite popular demands, there was no financial package or special development programme for Punjab to compensate for decades of trauma for no fault of the people. It should be remembered that unlike the southern, western and eastern coastal areas, Punjab is a landlocked state, its only trade opened to the northwest and Central Asia. This avenue also closed and all pleas to open up have gone unheard. Events of the 1980s led to the second wave of migration, and this time it was big. The needle moved and pointed to Western shores for relief and employment.

The third wave is an ongoing one as the youth look for better pastures for education and livelihood. I call it the third wave because it now comprises the youth who have inherited an indebted (Punjab has a debt of around Rs 4 lakh crore) state devoid of opportunities or the education to create them. The Internet has brought awareness, and awareness has awakened desire. The youth aspire for the life and comforts of the Western world. Alas, they do not get it here or the tools and environment to create it here. People migrate from all over Punjab, legally or illegally. The nexus of politicians, police and travel agents operates openly; humongous amounts of money are paid. Land is sold, loans are taken and relatives mobilised to get the required amount. Coaching centres came up to teach English and again money was extracted. All this action happened openly and was common knowledge in villages, towns and in the corridors of power. However, no action was initiated to stem this plunder of Punjab. Now, the great purge has begun, led by the US. They have started by deporting illegal immigrants in a manner so humiliating that no self-respecting nation can take it lying down. Migrants are brought in shackles in military aircraft with their hands and feet in chains and without turbans. Shackling people does seem to come a bit too easily to the nation that boasts of the Statue of Liberty. Whatever happened to "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." (American Declaration of Independence)?

## Quick retreat

Address lawyers' concerns over draft Bill

WIDESPREAD protests by lawyers and objections by the Bar Council of India have prompted the Central Government to withdraw the draft Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The draft Bill was put in the public domain on February 13 for comments and feedback, but a severe backlash has brought the exercise to an abrupt end. It is back to the drawing board for the government, which has decided to review and revise the proposed legislation in consultation with various stakeholders. Perhaps the most contentious provision pertains to the 'prohibition' of strikes. The participation of advocates and Bar associations in strikes or boycotts that disrupt court proceedings will be regarded as professional misconduct, subject to disciplinary action. Symbolic or one-day protests are permitted, only if they do not interfere with court operations. Staging a peaceful protest is a democratic right of every Indian citizen, and imposing curbs on lawyers can only be



counter-productive. However, the onus is on Bar bodies to ensure that such strikes are not held on flimsy grounds. Another provision seeks to expand the definition of a 'legal practitioner', bringing under its ambit law

graduates doing legal work in any private or public organisation, including domestic as well as foreign law firms and corporate entities. This is an attempt to take the legal practice beyond the court-oriented framework, factoring in contemporary realities of the profession. There is a need to allay the concerns of lawyers, who are fearing that their pre-eminent position will be undermined by this reform.

It is laudable that the government is keen to make the legal profession fair, transparent and accessible to all. But this process should be conducted slowly and judiciously. The withdrawal of the draft Bill is itself an admission that it has flaws. In a refreshing change, the Centre has taken corrective action without any delay, something it had not done in the case of the three farm laws, which were repealed only after an agitation that lasted a whole year.

## Outrage, obscenity and our selective morality

It is almost Faustian how everyone is happy to defend free speech in the Allahbadia case, but is still putting on record how offended they are by his remarks.

I LIKE humour, though I could never quite take to the phenomenon of 'stand-up comedy'. Whenever I chanced to watch stand-up comedians, I often felt the humour didn't land well. Comedy is a tough act to pull off, comic timing is supposed to be the key, though that appears to have been replaced by a generous use of expletives to generate audience reaction. I am aware of the popularity of the genre and I believe in "In joco veritas — In jest, there is truth." Since my knowledge in this form of truth-telling is rather limited, I must admit I had no idea of who Ranveer Allahbadia was, except when I first saw his name in the news. I assumed him to be a poet. His utterances were far from poetic, though he seems to have taken the liberty of 'poetic licence' very seriously. I was told that Allahbadia also goes by the name of 'Beer Biceps' and is a popular podcaster who has gained political heft of the right hue. He manages to get people in high places on his shows, including Narendra Modi. But now that Allahbadia is running for cover, the regime he pandered to doesn't have his back. His joke (I still haven't got the joke!) on a YouTube show, India's Got Latent, about parents and sexual intercourse has 'offended' many Indians, who have liberally got FIRs registered in several states under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Indecent Representation of Women Prohibition Act, 1986. (Incidentally, another comic, Kanan Gill, reportedly made the same 'joke' a decade ago and no one paid any attention). Following threats and charges, Allahbadia approached the SC for relief, which was granted to him, though his freedom of speech was restricted and he was made to surrender his passport. It is now that the plot thickens. The Supreme Court inadvertently, or with clear intentions, stoked a dangerous fire when Justice

Surya Kant told the Additional Solicitor General: "We would like you (government) to do something, if the government is willing to do something, we are happy. Otherwise, we are not going to leave this vacuum and barren area the way it is being misused by so-called YouTube channels and YouTubers."

The government didn't waste time and has already announced the strengthening of its grip over OTT platforms that had in some ways succumbed to censorship. The government has now asked OTT platforms to adhere to an age-based classification of content, ensure self-regulation and follow the Code of Ethics prescribed in the IT Rules 2021. This is only a prelude and the parliamentary panel has asked the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to submit a note on the efficacy of the existing laws and suggest amendments to bring online platforms under legal scrutiny. Over the last few years, many journalists have taken to such platforms to produce news related content, much to the ire of the current regime. YouTubers like Ashish Chanchlani, Jaspreet Singh and Apoorva Makhija have been served notices by the Assam police. It is not surprising, given that the CM of the BJP-ruled state has been proactive in grabbing attention that gives him some national space and allows him to play to the gallery.

Once free speech is restricted, it will set a dangerous precedent. Whether it is Allahbadia or Umar Khalid, everyone should have their right to free speech. It is almost Faustian how everyone in this matter is happy to defend free speech, but is still putting on record how offended they are by his remarks. The controversy has singled out just the contours of free speech but has also invaded another space. "The words you have chosen, parents will be ashamed, sisters will be ashamed. The entire society will feel ashamed. The pervert mind. These are the levels of

depravity you and your henchmen have gone," said Justice Kant. He not only led the government to twist its censorship knife on freedom of expression but his observations on obscenity also take us back to colonial India. Colonial India continues to survive through laws on sedition, obscenity, blasphemy, etc.



It is telling how Saadat Hasan Manto's comment on cases of obscenity against him still rings relevant: "If you find my stories intolerably obscene, it is because the society you live in is obscene."

Manto had frequent run-ins with the law over his writings. The colonial state tried to punish and silence him in line with the emergency legislation of the period. His friend Ismat Chughtai was also summoned under the same charges for her story Lihaaf. The court could not quite define 'obscene', though an attempt was made. As a magistrate in Lahore put it: "The test of obscenity in all cases is

whether the tendency of the matter charged as obscene is to deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such immoral influences." Obscenity is not explicitly defined under the criminal law or the IT Act 2000. The erotic art of Khajuraho and Konark may appear obscene to some, but we have lived through centuries with erotica in public view.

I have not understood why the depiction or mere mention of sex offends the average Indian even though there is only an occasional outrage over routine sexual assault. Or, why hate speech is not considered obscene. Justice Krishna Iyer attempted to articulate this grey zone in Raj Kapoor & Others vs State (1979), where the court quashed criminal proceedings against the makers of the film, Satyam Shivam Sundaram. He observed: "The relation between reality and relativity must haunt the Court's evaluation of obscenity, expressed in society's pervasive humanity, not law's penal perspective. Social scientists and spiritual scientists will broadly agree that man lives not alone by mystic, squints, ascetic chants and austere abnegation but by luscious love of beauty, sensuous joy of companionship and moderate non-denial of normal demands of the flesh." While the jury on obscenity will continue to seek refuge under legalese, free speech is slowly but steadily being chained and gagged.

As an aside, Allahbadia may have truly assumed the role of 'disruptor of the year' (an award he won last year) for shifting the focus from the Maha Kumbh, where lives have been lost and there is an alert for toxic water. He may have done the PM a favour by distracting the bad press on Kumbh, but will the joke now be on free speech?

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

प्राय २४ घंटा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाड़खणु थेके बेङ्गले याओया समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन प्रवेश शुरू हयैछे। गत सक्का १८ टार पर बेङ्गल सरकार आदेशे बाड़खणु-बेङ्गल मथन सीमाछे पण्यवाही यानवाहन प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा हयैछिल। एर फले रात थेके दुपूर पर्यंत प्राय २० किमि दीर्घ यानजट्ट सृष्टि हय। चालकदर समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेङ्गल सरकारके चाप देय बाड़खणु सीमाछे थेके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करा समस्त यानवाहन बक् करा जन्। एर फले, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे बाध्य हय एबं अबशेषे भारी यानवाहन प्रवेश आब राशाविक हय। बेङ्गल सरकार एह अनुमति पर, ट्राक चालकरा स्रुतिर निश्चास फेलेन। प्राञ्जल निरसा विधायक अरूप च्याटार्जि बाड़खणु मुख्याम्बी हेमन्त सोरनेन एह उद्योगाग पशंसा करेन। तिन बलेन, मुख्याम्बी हेमन्त सोरनेन एह विषये क्रमागत शुरुत्तु मियेछेन। बेङ्गल सरकार साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर बेङ्गल सरकार निषेधाञ्जा तुले नेय। एर पर, सारिते दौड़िये थाका समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन बीरु एर बेङ्गले प्रवेश करते शुरु करेछे। NH-६ दीर्घ यानजट्ट एखन सीमित हच्छे एबं यानजट्टो डाङ्गते शुरु करेछे।

## भोजपुरी कृषि लोक गीत (कहरवा धुन) गेहूँआ के दिनवा

धनवा कटाइल सईयां गेहूँआ के दिनवा। हाली घरे अईहा सईयां दवाई कइसे धनवा। सास ससुर केवनो जोरओ ना लागता। लहुरा देवरवा हमरो बतियां ना मानता। पडल पडल सड़ता धान खरीहनवा। हाली घरे अईहा सईयां.....। नवहर बदन हमरो कइसे खेतवा जोताई। जाड़ा के महीनवा हमसे गेहूँ ना बोआई। खेतिया ना होई पिया का खाइब अनवा। हाली घरे अईहा सईयां.....। किसान के बेटा पिया आके करा तू किसानी। करबा जे किसानी पिया देशवा मिली अन्न पानी। अन्न धन भरल रही हमरे हिंदुस्तनवा। हाली घरे अईहा सईयां.....। सासु जी के स्वेटर ससुर जी के साल लेअईहा। लइकन के टोपी हमके ले अईहा रजइया। तरसे तोहरे खातिर नैना मोर बांका सजनवा। हाली घरे अईहा सईयां दवाई कइसे धनवा।

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# दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट का टर्मिनल-2 अप्रैल से अस्थायी रूप से रहेगा बंद

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी स्थित इंदिरा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे का टर्मिनल-2 आगामी अप्रैल से 4-5 महीने के लिए अस्थायी रूप से बंद किया जाएगा। इस अवधि के दौरान 'अप्रोडेशन' के लिए एक रनवे भी बंद रहेगा। दिल्ली अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे लिमिटेड (डायल) ने एक बयान में कहा कि टर्मिनल 2 (टी2) अप्रैल से चार से पांच महीने के लिए अस्थायी रूप से बंद रहेगा। इस अवधि के दौरान अप्रोडेशन के लिए एक रनवे भी बंद रहेगा। इस हवाई अड्डे में तीन टर्मिनल टी1, टी2 और टी3 हैं। डायल के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) विवेक कुमार अस्थायी रूप से बंद कर दिया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि टर्मिनल-1 मंजूरी मिलने के बाद उड़ानों के लिए खोल दिया जाएगा। टी-2 के करीब 1.5 करोड़ यात्रियों को टी-1 पर स्थानांतरित कर दिया जाएगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि यात्रियों की बढ़ती संख्या के कारण हवाई अड्डे संचालक टी-3 के उस हिस्से को अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों के लिए खोला जाएगा, जहां से वर्तमान में घरेलू उड़ानों का परिचालन होता है। हवाई अड्डे पर सालाना करीब 10.9 करोड़ यात्रियों की आवाजाही होती है। फिलहाल टी-1 पर सालाना करीब चार करोड़ और टी-2 पर 1.5 करोड़ यात्रियों की आवाजाही होती है, जबकि अन्य यात्री टी-3 से आते-जाते हैं।



## देश की जीडीपी ग्रोथ दिसंबर तिमाही में 6.3 फीसदी संभव

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 की तीसरी तिमाही की सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) के आंकड़े कल जारी होंगे। भारत की जीडीपी की ग्रोथ रेट अक्टूबर-दिसंबर तिमाही में सकरात्मक बनी रहने की उम्मीद है। जानकारों का मानना है कि तीसरी तिमाही में यह लगभग 6.3-6.4 फीसदी के दायरे में रह सकती है। आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि 31 दिसंबर, 2024 को समाप्त चालू वित्त वर्ष की तीसरी तिमाही में लिए देश की जीडीपी के आंकड़े 28 फरवरी को शाम 4 बजे जारी किए जाने की संभावना है। आर्थिक मामलों के जानकारों ने उच्च सरकारी खर्च के कारण देश की जीडीपी वृद्धि दर अक्टूबर-दिसंबर तिमाही में 6.3 फीसदी तक बढ़ने की संभावना है। वहीं, अधिकांश रेटिंग एजेंसियों ने अक्टूबर-दिसंबर तिमाही के लिए जीडीपी ग्रोथ 6.3-6.5 फीसदी रहने का अनुमान जताया है। अड्डिया रेटिंग्स ने चालू वित्त वर्ष की तीसरी तिमाही के लिए 6.5 फीसदी का उच्चतम जीडीपी वृद्धि दर का अनुमान दिया है, जबकि नेमुरा का फीसदी जीडीपी ग्रोथ का पूर्वानुमान दिया है। उल्लेखनीय है कि देश की अर्थव्यवस्था की वृद्धि दर चालू वित्त वर्ष की पहली तिमाही (अप्रैल-जून) में 6.7 फीसदी रही थी, लेकिन आम चुनावों की वजह से सरकार के पूंजीगत व्यय में कमी तथा कमजोर उपभोग मांग के कारण जुलाई-सितंबर दूसरी तिमाही में यह धीमी होकर सात तिमाहियों के निम्नतम स्तर 5.4 फीसदी पर आ गई थी।



## सर्गाफा बाजार में चमका सोना, चांदी में मामूली गिरावट

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। महाशिवरात्रि के दिन घरेलू सर्गाफा बाजार में तेजी का रुख बना हुआ है। इस तेजी के कारण देश के ज्यादातर सर्गाफा बाजारों में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 88,100 रुपये से लेकर 88,250 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के दायरे में कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह 22 कैरेट सोना आज 80,760 रुपये से लेकर 80,910 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के बीच बिक रहा है। सोना के विपरीत चांदी की कीमत में आज 100 रुपये की कमजोरी दर्ज की गई है। इस कमजोरी के कारण ये चमकीली धातु दिल्ली सर्गाफा बाजार में आज 1,00,900 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के स्तर पर ही कारोबार कर रही है। दिल्ली में 24 कैरेट सोना 88,250 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 80,810 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख शहरों के अलावा चेन्नई में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 88,100 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 80,760 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह अहमदाबाद में 24 कैरेट सोने की रिटेल कीमत 88,150 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 80,810 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख शहरों के अलावा चेन्नई में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 88,100 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। वहीं पटना में 24 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 88,150 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोना 80,810 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह जयपुर में 24 कैरेट सोना 88,250 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 80,910 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। देश के अन्य राज्यों की तरह कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना और ओडिशा के सर्गाफा बाजार में भी आज सोने के भाव में तेजी आई है। इन तीनों राज्यों की राजधानियों बेंगलूरु, हैदराबाद और भुवनेश्वर में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 88,100 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह इन तीनों शहरों के सर्गाफा बाजारों में 22 कैरेट सोना 80,760 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है।



## देश की अर्थव्यवस्था का 'खराब दौर' बीता, तीसरी तिमाही में जीडीपी ग्रोथ 6.2 फीसदी रहने का अनुमान

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। अर्थव्यवस्था के मोर्चे पर अच्छी खबर आई है। जर्मनी की ब्रोक्रेज फर्म ने कहा कि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के विकास की दिशा में सबसे खराब दौर अब समाप्त हो गया है। डॉयचे बैंक की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 की तीसरी तिमाही (अक्टूबर-दिसंबर) में सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) वृद्धि दर 6.2 फीसदी रहने की उम्मीद है। डॉयचे बैंक ने जारी रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 की दूसरी तिमाही जुलाई-सितंबर में जीडीपी की वृद्धि 5.4 फीसदी थी, जो पिछली सात तिमाहियों में सबसे कम थी। इसके बाद 31 दिसंबर को समाप्त तीसरी तिमाही में जीडीपी की वृद्धि दर 6.2 फीसदी रहने की उम्मीद है। इस रिपोर्ट में यह भी कहा गया है कि हाल में जारी होने वाले आधिकारिक आर्थिक आंकड़ों से पहले हमें भविष्यवाणियों को लेकर सतर्क रहना चाहिए, क्योंकि पिछले वित्त वर्षों के आंकड़ों में बदलाव हो सकता है। उल्लेखनीय है कि सरकार की ओर से चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 की तीसरी तिमाही का आंकड़ा 28 फरवरी को जारी किया जाएगा। भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था की वृद्धि दर अप्रैल-जून तिमाही में 6.7 फीसदी रही, लेकिन आम चुनावों के कारण सरकार के पूंजीगत व्यय में कमी तथा कमजोर उपभोग मांग की वजह से जुलाई-सितंबर तिमाही में यह धीमी होकर सात तिमाहियों के निम्नतम स्तर 5.4 फीसदी पर आ गई थी।

## केंद्र बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास में महाराष्ट्र की पहल को पूरा समर्थन देगा: पीयूष गोयल

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली/मुंबई। केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने महाराष्ट्र सरकार को आश्वासन दिया है कि केंद्र सरकार शहरी पुनर्विकास एवं बुनियादी ढांचे को बढ़ावा देने में उसकी पहल को हसंसभव सहयता प्रदान करेगी। वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा कि पीयूष गोयल ने महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस के साथ उत्तरी मुंबई में 15 स्व-पुनर्विकसित आवासीय सोसायटियों की चाबियां वितरित करने के अवसर पर यह बात कही। केंद्रीय वाणिज्य मंत्री ने उपस्थित लोगों को संबोधित करते हुए महाराष्ट्र सरकार को आश्वासन दिया कि केंद्र सरकार शहरी पुनर्विकास और बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास में महाराष्ट्र सरकार को पूरा सहयोग देगी। पीयूष गोयल ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का संदेश देते हुए कहा कि सरकार बेघर लोगों और वर्तमान में उसी इलाके में कच्चे बंगों में रहने वाले लोगों को पक्के घर उपलब्ध कराने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। इस पहल का उद्देश्य परिवारों का भविष्य सुरक्षित करना, बच्चों और भावी पीढ़ियों के लिए एक स्थायी आवास उपलब्ध कराना है। गोयल ने कहा कि इस क्षेत्र में हाल के दिनों में बुनियादी ढांचे में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति हुई है। उन्होंने कहा कि माणाने मेट्रो स्टेशन के पास 1000 बिस्तरों वाले अस्पताल का निर्माण तेजी से चल रहा है, जबकि पश्चिम कोलिवेली में एक और 1000 बिस्तरों वाले अस्पताल के निर्माण की योजना है जिससे इस क्षेत्र में स्वास्थ्य सेवा की पहुंच और सेवाओं में वृद्धि होगी। गोयल ने कॉन्स्ट्रल रोड (वली-बांद्रा) का वसोला तक विस्तार और अटल सेतु के माध्यम से नए हवाई अड्डे को जोड़ने वाली प्रस्तावित तटीय सड़क सहित प्रमुख बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं के लिए मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस की सरहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि ये परियोजनाएं मुंबई में भीड़-भाड़ को कम करने और कनेक्टिविटी को बेहतर बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएंगी। जल निकासी को प्रदूषित करने वाले अशोधित सीवेज जल की समस्या का प्रभावी ढंग से प्रबंधन किया जा रहा है। समुद्र में छोड़े जाने से पहले सीवेज के उचित शोधन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 26,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक आवंटित किए गए हैं। वाणिज्य मंत्री ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि यह आयोजन शहरी विकास में आत्मनिर्भरता की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है तथा यह सभी के लिए सुलभ और स्थायी आवास बनाने के सरकार के दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाता है। इस कार्यक्रम में उन्होंने मुख्यमंत्री फडणवीस के साथ मिलकर उत्तर मुंबई में 15 स्व-पुनर्विकसित 'हाउसिंग सोसायटी' की चाबियां बांटीं। पीयूष गोयल मुंबई (उत्तर) से लोकसभा सदस्य हैं।



## इंडिगो अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिचालन के लिए तीन बोइंग 787 विमानों को पट्टे पर लेगी

एजेंसी मुंबई/नई दिल्ली। बजट एयरलाइन इंडिगो ने कहा कि वह अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिचालन के लिए अपने बेड़े में तीन अन्य बोइंग 787-9 विमानों को शामिल करेगी। फिलहाल इंडिगो एयरलाइन दिल्ली और मुंबई से इस्तांबुल के लिए तुर्की एयरलाइंस से पट्टे पर लिए गए चौड़े आकार वाले दो बोइंग 777 विमानों का संचालन करती है। देश के अन्य राज्यों की तरह कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना और ओडिशा के सर्गाफा बाजार में भी आज सोने के भाव में तेजी आई है। इन तीनों राज्यों की राजधानियों बेंगलूरु, हैदराबाद और भुवनेश्वर में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 88,100 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह इन तीनों शहरों के सर्गाफा बाजारों में 22 कैरेट सोना 80,760 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इंडिगो एयरलाइन ने जारी एक बयान में कहा कि वह नॉर्स अटलांटिक एयरवेज के साथ नॉर्स अटलांटिक एयरवेज के साथ समझौते के तहत अपने बेड़े में तीन और बोइंग 787-9 विमान शामिल करेगी। कंपनी डैमपिंग नीति व्यवस्था के तहत विमान लेकर वह इस साल गर्मियों के मध्य से यूरोप के लिए उड़ानें शुरू करने की तैयारी कर रही है। फिलहाल गुरुग्राम मुख्यालय वाली एयरलाइन कंपनी मुंबई से इस्तांबुल के लिए दो वाइडबॉडी बोइंग 777 विमानों का संचालन करती है। उल्लेखनीय है कि इंडिगो एक अग्रणी घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय भारतीय एयरलाइन कंपनी है जो कम लागत पर रस्ती, समय पर और पेशानी मुक्त संचालन प्रदान करती है।



## सरकार ने स्टार्टअप को बढ़ावा देने के लिए पेटिएम के साथ किया समझौता

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारत में फिनटेक और मैयूफेक्चरिंग स्टार्टअप को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उद्योग संवर्धन और आंतरिक व्यापार विभाग (डीपीआईआईटी) और पेटिएम ने हाथ मिलाया है। इसके तहत कंपनी स्टार्टअप को मार्गदर्शन, बुनियादी ढांचा समर्थन, बाजार पहुंच तथा वित्त पोषण के अवसर उपलब्ध कराएगी। वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय ने जारी एक बयान में कहा कि सरकार ने भारत में नवाचार को बढ़ावा देने और विनिर्माण तथा फिनटेक स्टार्टअप के विकास में तेजी लाने के लिए पेटिएम (वन97 कम्प्यूटिकेशंस लिमिटेड) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। इस समझौते ज्ञापन पर डीपीआईआईटी के निदेशक सुमित कुमार जारंगल और पेटिएम के संस्थापक एवं मुख्य कार्यपालक पेटिएम स्टार्टअप को मार्गदर्शन, बुनियादी ढांचा सहायता, बाजार संज्ञोव ने कहा, 'पेटिएम की वित्तीय प्रौद्योगिकी विशेषज्ञता और बुनियादी ढांचे का लाभ उठाकर हमारा उद्देश्य उद्यमियों को चुनौतियों से निपटने तथा उनके उद्यमों को बढ़ाने में सहायता करना है।' पेटिएम के संस्थापक विजय शेखर शर्मा ने कहा कि पेटिएम मार्गदर्शन, वित्तीय सहायता और अत्याधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी तक पहुंच के माध्यम से उद्यमियों को सशक्त बनाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। वन97 कम्प्यूटिकेशंस लिमिटेड के पास पेटिएम का स्वामित्व है। उल्लेखनीय है कि डीपीआईआईटी ने पहले भी पेशेवर मंचों अपना, रुकम कैपिटल, अवाना कैपिटल, भाने ग्रुप, फिलफार्ट और आईटीसी सहित कई कंपनियों के साथ इसी तरह के समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।



## विप्रो ने विप्रो वेंचर्स में किया 20 करोड़ का नया निवेश

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। प्रमुख प्रौद्योगिकी सेवा और परामर्श कंपनी विप्रो लिमिटेड ने अपने नवीनतम फंडिंग दौर में अपनी उद्यम शाखा विप्रो वेंचर्स में 20 करोड़ डॉलर निवेश करने की आज घोषणा की। कंपनी ने आज यहां जारी बयान में कहा कि 10 साल पहले अपनी स्थापना के बाद से विप्रो वेंचर्स द्वारा जुटाई गई यह चौथी फंडिंग है और इसका उद्देश्य शुरुआती से लेकर मध्य-चरण के स्टार्टअप में कंपनी के निवेश को गति देना है। 2015 में अपनी स्थापना के बाद से, विप्रो वेंचर्स ने 37 स्टार्टअप में निवेश किया है, 250 से अधिक विप्रो ग्राहकों के लिए समाधान तैयार किए हैं और 12 सफल निकास हासिल किए हैं। विप्रो के सीईओ और एमडी श्रीनि पलिया ने कहा कि यह निवेश स्टार्टअप को तेजी से बढ़ने, नवाचार करने और बड़े उद्यमों का समर्थन करने के लिए आईटी सेवा उद्योग के साथ सहयोग करने में मदद करने की विप्रो की प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि करता है। यह निवेश विप्रो वेंचर्स के माध्यम से विघटनकारी प्रौद्योगिकियों में निवेश करने की विप्रो की दृष्टिकोण की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है। श्री पलिया ने कहा, विप्रो वेंचर्स वैश्विक स्तर पर स्टार्टअप हब में तकनीकी नवाचार में भाग लेने और योगदान देने के लिए रणनीतिक रूप से तैयार है। यह नवीनतम निवेश स्टार्टअप को तेजी से बढ़ने, नवाचार करने और बड़े उद्यमों का समर्थन करने के लिए आईटी सेवा उद्योग के साथ सहयोग करने में हमारी प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि करता है। हम एक सहयोगी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की कल्पना करते हैं जहाँ इन उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियों को वैश्विक स्तर पर तैयार किया जा सके, प्रगति को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके और इन्हें शामिल सभी हितधारकों के लिए स्थायी मूल्य बनाया जा सके। एसवाईएन वेंचर्स के सह-संस्थापक और जनरल पार्टनर जे लीक ने कहा, हम विप्रो वेंचर्स के साथ सह-निवेशक के रूप में वर्षों से काम कर रहे हैं। वे उद्योग में उभरते रक्षकों का लाभ उठाने के लिए अच्छी स्थिति में हैं। हमारा दृढ़ विश्वास है कि विप्रो द्वारा लाया गया मूल्य-वर्धन स्टार्टअप को अपनी प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक बड़त बनाए रखने और दीर्घकालिक सफलता का आनंद लेने में सक्षम बनाएगा।





## जिसमें मन को खुशी मिले वही काम करें

हर इंसान की पसंद, जरूरतें और प्राथमिकताएं दूसरे से अलग होती हैं। इसलिए दूसरों की बिन मांगी सलाह पर अमल करने के बजाय हमें वही करना चाहिए, जो खुद को सही लगे। मैंने दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय से जुलोजी में एमएससी किया था। मैं बचपन से ही पढ़ाई में काफी अच्छी थी और मुझे टीचिंग का प्रोफेशन बहुत पसंद था। मैं करियर को लेकर ज्यादा महत्वाकांक्षी नहीं हूँ और न ही मेरे मन में ज्यादा पैसे कमाने की लालसा है। मेरे पैरेंट्स चाहते थे कि मैं आगे रिसर्च करूँ और साइंटिस्ट बनूँ। इसलिए उनका मन रखने के लिए मैंने रिसर्च के लिए बीएचयू में अप्लाई कर दिया था और वहाँ से बुलावा भी आ गया था। इसी बीच बरेली के एक कॉलेज में भी मुझे जॉब मिल गई जिसे छोड़कर मैं बनारस नहीं जाना चाहती थी। तब परिवार के अलावा दोस्तों और पास-पड़ोस के लोगों ने मुझे बहुत समझाया कि ऐसे मौके बार-बार नहीं मिलते और इन्हें खोना मूर्खता होगी। तुम्हें आगे रिसर्च करना चाहिए। इससे भविष्य और उज्ज्वल होगा। इसके लिए मुझे लोगों से कई तरह की बातें सुनने को मिलीं, पर मैं अपने फैसले पर अडिग रही। मेरा मानना है कि हमें वही कार्य करना चाहिए, जिससे हमारे मन को सच्ची खुशी मिले। अब मैं अपने कार्य से पूरी तरह संतुष्ट हूँ और मुझे

अपने उस निर्णय पर जरा भी अफसोस नहीं है। मैं इस बात का पूरा यकीन करती हूँ कि हर इंसान को अपने जीवन से जुड़े सभी महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय खुद ही लेने चाहिए।

### ध्यान नहीं दिया व्यर्थ की बातों पर

मैंने शास्त्रीय संगीत में विशारद की उपाधि हासिल की है, पर शादी के बाद घर-गृहस्थी की जिम्मेदारियों में व्यस्त हो गई। मैं जॉब करना चाहती थी, लोगों के सामने स्टेज पर गाना चाहती थी, जब भी मैं अपनी यह इच्छा जाहिर करती तो मेरे मायके-ससुराल वाले साथ मिलकर मुझे समझाने लगते कि ये सब बंकार की बातें हैं, बाहर की दुनिया रिश्तों के लिए सुरक्षित नहीं है। अगर गाने का इतना ही शौक है तो घर पर ही रियाज कर लिया करो, लेकिन मैं अपनी पहचान बनाना चाहती थी। इसलिए मैंने लोगों की बातों पर ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं दिया। अपनी सारी पारिवारिक जिम्मेदारियाँ निभाते हुए शहर की कुछ सामाजिक संस्थाओं से जुड़कर मैंने सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों में गाना शुरू कर दिया। आज जब लोग मेरे गायन की प्रशंसा करते हैं तो इससे मुझे सच्ची आत्म-संतुष्टि मिलती है। इतना ही नहीं, अब पारिवारिक लोग भी मेरी इस कामयाबी पर गर्व करते हैं।



## स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग में अच्छी बार्गेनिंग के लिए फॉलो करें ये स्मार्ट ट्रिक्स

स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग में सही बार्गेनिंग करने के लिए आप कुछ आसान ट्रिक्स को फॉलो कर सकती हैं और अच्छे सामान सही दामों में खरीद भी सकती हैं।

दिल्ली की सरोजिनी नगर मार्केट हो या फिर मुंबई की लिफिंग रोड मार्केट, भला किसे सस्ते दामों में अच्छे सामान की शॉपिंग करना अच्छा नहीं लगता है। यूँ कहा जाए कि स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग कई लोगों की जरूरत नहीं बल्कि शौक होता है। दरअसल स्ट्रीट मार्केट ऐसे मार्केट होती है जिसमें कई तरह की अच्छी और ब्रांडेड चीजें भी सही दामों में मिल जाती हैं। जब भी स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग की बात आती है तब आप में से कई लोग दुकानदार के बताए दामों पर ही चीजें खरीद लेते होंगे और कई लोग दाम कम कराने के लिए अच्छी बार्गेनिंग भी करते होंगे। इस तरह की मार्केट में कई बार दुकानदार किसी भी सामान के दाम मनचाहे ढंग से बताते हैं और अगर आपने ठीक तरह से बार्गेनिंग नहीं की तो वो आपको सस्ते दामों वाले सामान भी ज्यादा दामों पर बेच सकते हैं। इसलिए स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग में आपको अच्छी बार्गेनिंग की जरूरत होती है जिससे आप सही सामान उचित दामों में खरीद सकें। अगर आपको बार्गेनिंग नहीं आती है तो आप कुछ स्मार्ट ट्रिक्स से स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग में बार्गेनिंग कर सकते हैं।

### कई दुकानों और स्टालों की जांच करें

आप चाहे दिल्ली की सरोजिनी नगर में स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग कर रही हों या गोवा की फ्ली मार्केट में सामान खरीद रही हों, सबसे पहले आपको किसी एक सामान के लिए कई अलग-अलग स्टालों की जांच करनी चाहिए। ऐसा करके आप देखेंगे कि अधिकांश दुकानों और स्टालों में एक ही तरह के कपड़े और सामान हो सकते हैं। कई बार किसी कपड़े का पैटर्न, प्रिंट, कलर सब लगभग एक जैसा ही होता है लेकिन उनके दाम अलग होते हैं ऐसे में अगर आपको कोई ऐसी चीज मिलती है जो आपको पसंद है, तो कई दुकानों से उसके दाम पता करें। इससे



आपको यह पता लगाने में मदद मिलेगी कि क्या कोई दुकानदार कीमत को ज्यादा बढ़ाने की कोशिश कर रहा था। सामान्य तौर पर मार्केट की छोटी दुकानों की तुलना में सड़क के किनारे के स्टालों की दरें हमेशा सस्ती होंगी आप सही कीमत के हिसाब से बार्गेनिंग करके शॉपिंग करें।

### थोड़ा झूठ भी है जरूरी

स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग के समय आपके लिए थोड़ा झूठ बोलना भी अच्छा होता है। यदि आप चाहते हैं कि दुकानदार आपको गंभीरता से ले, तो आपको यह दिखाना होगा कि आप अलग-अलग जगह और कीमतों से परिचित हैं। आप स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग दुकानदार से यह कह सकते हैं कि आप उस खास जगह और बाजारों में अच्छी तरह से खरीदारी करते हैं और आप हर एक सामान के सही दामों से परिचित हैं। ये स्मार्ट

बार्गेनिंग ट्रिक आपको सस्ते दामों में अच्छी चीजें दिला सकती है।

### अपने एक्सप्रेसन को न्यूट्रल रखें

कई बार आपको स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग में कोई ऐसा सामान मिल जाता है जो आपको पसंद का होता है और आप उसे बहुत दिनों से ढूँढ रहे होते हैं। ऐसे में उस सामान को देखकर ज्यादा एक्साइटेड होने की बजाय अपने एक्सप्रेसन को न्यूट्रल रखें। कभी भी दुकानदार के सामने

ये न जटाएं कि आपको किसी सामान की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत है। अगर दुकानदार आपको जरूरत को समझ जाता है तो वो बढ़ चढ़ कर दाम बताता है। इसलिए आपका न्यूट्रल रिएक्शन बार्गेनिंग में मदद कर सकता है।

### दुकानदार की कीमत का आधा दाम बताएं

कुछ मामलों में यह बेतुका लग सकता है, लेकिन हमेशा जब भी आप स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग कर रहे हों तब आप दुकानदार द्वारा बताए दाम का लगभग 50-60% कम करने से आप उस कीमत के करीब पहुंच जाते हैं, जो वास्तव में उस सामान की कीमत है। दरअसल स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग में दुकानदार अपनी इच्छा से दाम बढ़ा देते हैं जो बार्गेनिंग से कम किये जा सकते हैं।

## चीजों में ढूँढ़ें डिफेक्ट

जब आप स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग के लिए जाएं तो किसी भी सामान में कोई ऐसा डिफेक्ट ढूँढ़ने की कोशिश करें जो वास्तव में डिफेक्ट न होकर उस कपड़े का डिजाइन या कलर ही हो। लेकिन आप डिफेक्ट के नाम पर अच्छी बार्गेनिंग करके स्ट्रीट शॉपिंग (भारत के इन राज्यों में उदाएँ स्ट्रीट मार्केट का मजा) में चीजों के दाम कम करा सकते हैं। स्ट्रीट मार्केट में मिलने वाले बहुत से कपड़े वास्तव में ऐसे होते हैं जो होल सेल से आते हैं और इसमें कोई बहुत छोटा सा डिफेक्ट भी हो सकता है जैसे बटन का ढीला होना या किसी जगह की सिलाई खुलना। सामान सेलेक्ट करने से पहले यह सुनिश्चित कर लें कि आप उसके हर इंच को स्केन कर लें। यदि डिफेक्ट ज्यादा बड़ा नहीं है तो आप इसके दाम कम करा सकते हैं। वास्तव में यह एक स्मार्ट बार्गेनिंग ट्रिक है।

## मेहंदी का रंग चढ़ेगा गहरा जानिए आसान तरीके

महिलाएं 16 श्रंगार करती हैं, सजती - संवरती हैं। उन्हीं में से मेहंदी भी श्रंगार का ही हिस्सा है। इसके बिना तीज त्योहार या किसी भी प्रकार का पर्व पूरा नहीं होता है। लेकिन बदलते दौर में मेहंदी के रंग भी फीके पड़ने लगे हैं। कुछ नुस्खे हैं जिन्हें फॉलो कर आप अपनी मेहंदी का रंग गहरा कर सकती हो। तो आइए जानते हैं 5 आसान से टिप्स -

- मेहंदी को घोलते समय उसमें सादा पानी नहीं मिलाते हुए चाय की पत्ती का पानी डालें। इसे बनाने के लिए तपेली में एक कप पानी रखें, उसमें पत्ती डाल दें। पानी को थोड़ी देर उबाल लें और ठंडा होने के बाद उससे मेहंदी घोल लें।
- मेहंदी घोलने से पहले मेहंदी में ही तेल डाल दें। इससे मेहंदी का कलर एक जैसा आता है। वहीं मेहंदी हल्की सी सुख जाने के बाद एक कटोरी में पानी लेकर उसमें शक्कर

डाल दें। इसके बाद रूई की मदद से मेहंदी पर लगाएं। कलर अच्छा आएगा।

- मेहंदी सूखने के बाद आप रूई की मदद से अचार का तेल भी लगा सकते हैं। इससे मेहंदी का कलर खूब जमेगा।
- मेहंदी सूखने के बाद आप इसे हटा देते हैं, और लेकिन पानी से हाथ नहीं धोएं। इसके पहले थोड़ी देर के लिए घरेलू बाम का इस्तेमाल करें। अपने हाथों पर हल्के हाथों से लगा लें। ध्यान रहे उंगलियों के पोरस पर नहीं लगाएं। ताकि गलती से आंख में नहीं लग जाएं।
- मेहंदी सूखने के बाद रूई की मदद से हल्के हाथों से मेहंदी का तेल लगा लें। इसके बाद करीब 3 घंटे तक हाथों पर पानी नहीं लगाएं। फिर देखिए कितना गहरा रंग आता है।



## कैसा होना चाहिए बच्चे का पूरे हफ्ते का डाइट चार्ट

सही डेवलपमेंट और ग्रोथ के लिए बच्चे को अच्छी डाइट की जरूरत होती है। अगर आप बच्चे को उसकी उम्र के हिसाब से खाना खिलाएं, तो इससे उसके विकास में काफी मदद मिलती है। आज इस आर्टिकल के जरिए हम आपको बता रहे हैं कि ढाई साल के बच्चे का हफ्तेभर का डाइट चार्ट कैसा होना चाहिए।

### सोमवार का भोजन चार्ट

ढाई साल के बच्चे को सुबह 7 से 8 बजे एक कप दूध में ड्राई फ्रूट्स के साथ एक चम्मच गुड़ और शहद डालकर दें। इसके बाद नाश्ते में 8:30 से 9:30 बजे के बीच बच्चे को नारियल की चटनी के साथ एक डोसा खिलाएं। इसके कुछ देर बाद 11 से 11:30 बजे बच्चे को चुकंदर और गाजर का एक कप सूप पिलाएं। 1 से 2 बजे के बीच बच्चे का लंच करवाना है जिसमें उसे आधा कप हरी मटर के चावल और आधा कप चिकन करी खिलानी है। वैजिटेरियन हैं तो आधा कप चावल, आधा कप सहजन की दाल में एक चम्मच घी डालकर और आधा कप दही दें। शाम को 4:30 से 5:30 बजे बच्चे को पनीर सैंडविच दें और फिर रात को 7:30 से 8:15 बजे डिनर में एक मटर का परांठा और आधा कप दही खिलाएं।

### मंगलवार की डाइट

सुबह बच्चे को एक कप दूध में बादाम और एक चम्मच गुड़ और शहद डालकर दें। नाश्ते में बच्चे को सेरेलेक खिला सकती हैं। इसके थोड़ी देर बाद एक वेज और आधा कप तरबूज खिलाना है। लंच में आधा कप वेज पुलाव और आधा कप रायता खिलाएं। शाम को एक कप मैंगो जूस पिलाएं। अब डिनर में बच्चे को घी लगाकर एक रोटी और आधा कप चुकंदर की सब्जी दें। रात को सोने से पहले एक कप दूध में एक चम्मच गुड़ या शहद डालकर दें।

### बुधवार का खाना

25 साल के बच्चे को सुबह ड्राई फ्रूट्स के साथ एक कप दूध दें। ब्रेकफास्ट में एक इडली और दो चम्मच नारियल की चटनी खिलाएं। कुछ देर बाद एक कप संतरे का जूस पिलाया है। लंच में आधा कप चावल, आधा कप दाल पालक, एक चम्मच घी और आधा कप दही खिलानी है। इसके थोड़ी देर बाद एक रागी का लड्डू और एक केला खिलाएं। डिनर में बच्चे को आधा कप वैजिटेबल खिचड़ी के साथ आधा कप दही दें। रात को सोने से पहले एक कप दूध में एक चम्मच गुड़ या शहद डालकर दें।

### बृहस्पतिवार का भोजन चार्ट

सुबह उठने के बाद बच्चे को एक कप केले के मिल्क शेक में एक चम्मच शहद डालकर दें। इसके बाद नाश्ते में एक कटोरी सेरेलेक खिलाएं। कुछ देर बाद बच्चे को आधा कप मिक्स वेज सूप और आधा कप अनानास खिलाना है। दोपहर को लंच में आधा कप मिक्स वैजिटेबल राइस और आधा कप दाल फ्राई खिलाएं। लंच के बाद एक बेसन का लड्डू और आधा कप खरबूजा खिलाएं। डिनर में आधा कप वेज नूडल्स दें। रात को सोने से पहले एक कप दूध में एक चम्मच गुड़ या शहद डालकर दें।

### शुक्रवार का डाइट चार्ट

शुक्रवार को सुबह नाश्ते से पहले ड्राई फ्रूट्स के साथ एक कप दूध दें। ब्रेकफास्ट में एक कप पोहा खिलाएं। फिर थोड़ी देर बाद एक संतरा देना है। बच्चे को लंच में आधा कप चावल, आधा कप लौकी की दाल और एक चम्मच घी डालकर खिलाएं। शाम को एक वेज कटलेट के साथ आधा कप लस्सी पिलाएं। रात को डिनर में एक परांठा और आधा कप दाल फ्राई में एक चम्मच घी डालकर परोसें। रात को सोने से पहले एक कप दूध में एक चम्मच गुड़ या शहद डालकर दें।

### शनिवार का खाना कैसा रखें

सुबह नाश्ते से पहले ड्राई फ्रूट्स के साथ एक कप दूध दें। इसके बाद नाश्ते में एक कटोरी सेरेलेक खिलाएं। थोड़ी देर बाद एक कप पीपता और 4 से 5 खजूर खिलाएं। लंच में बच्चे को घी लगाकर एक रोटी और आधा कप गाजर और आलू की सब्जी दें। शाम को एक कप गाजर का सूप पिलाएं। रात को डिनर में आधा कप वैजिटेबल पास्ता खिलाएं। रात को सोने से पहले एक कप दूध में एक चम्मच गुड़ या शहद डालकर दें।



NEWS BOX

**PAK vs BAN: Bangladesh, Pakistan look to salvage pride as rain threat looms large**

Pakistan and Bangladesh have nothing to lose when they face off in the penultimate Group A match on Thursday, 27th February, in the Champions Trophy 2025 at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Both teams have already been eliminated from the competition but will aim to avoid finishing at the bottom of the points table. However, there is a significant chance that rain could spoil the game. With an 88 per cent likelihood of rain throughout the match and clouds hovering over the venue, there's a real possibility that the encounter could be interrupted. Earlier, the match between Australia and South Africa was abandoned without a ball being bowled, and the upcoming clash may end up being a damp squib. As the host nation, Pakistan has not had the best tournament. Despite having quality players, they failed to make it to the semi-finals. In their opening game, Pakistan suffered a 60-run defeat at the hands of New Zealand, followed by a six-wicket hammering by India at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Mohammad Rizwan began his tenure as



Pakistan's captain with three consecutive series wins against Zimbabwe, Australia, and South Africa. However, the absence of key opening batsmen Saim Ayub and Fakhar Zaman significantly impacted their performance. Additionally, their decision to include just one specialist spinner, Abrar Ahmed, backfired. Also Read: Even MS Dhoni couldn't have done anything with Rizwan's team: Ex-Pakistan captain

The pace trio of Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah, and Haris Rauf also leaked runs at an alarming rate. Babar Azam showed some promise against India, with five boundaries in his 23-run knock, but was unable to return to his best. The only thing Pakistan can now hope for is to finish with a win in front of their home crowd.

**Can Bangladesh finish on a high?**

Before the Champions Trophy began, Najmul Hossain Shanto stated that Bangladesh would enter the tournament with the aim of winning it. Unfortunately, the Tigers failed to live up to expectations, exiting the competition after back-to-back losses to India and New Zealand. It is clear that Shanto's side have not lived up to the promise they showed in pre-tournament statements.

**No emotional statements: Jos Buttler on captaincy future after England's exit**

New Delhi. Jos Buttler opened up on his future as England captain after the Three Lions failed to qualify for the semi-finals of the Champions Trophy 2025. On Wednesday, February 28, England lost to Afghanistan by eight runs at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. After losing to Australia by five wickets, Buttler's men faltered against the Afghans and failed to go through to the next round. Back in 2023, Buttler couldn't take his team through to the World Cup semis after which England failed to defend their T20 World Cup title under his leadership. Before the Champions Trophy, England lost 0-3 to India in the bilateral series and failed to take any momentum into the multi-nation event.

Champions Trophy: Full Coverage | Points Table

Buttler didn't give an 'emotional statements' on his captaincy, but said that England should 'consider all possibilities'. With Buttler as ODI captain, England have won 18



out of 44 matches and lost 25 while one match didn't produce a result. [AFG vs ENG: Highlights] "I don't want to say any emotional statements right now. But I think for myself and the other guys at the top, we should consider all possibilities," Buttler was quoted as saying in the post-match presentation ceremony.

Buttler praises Joe Root After being asked to chase down a stiff target of 326, England were bowled out for 317 in 49.5 overs. Joe Root scored 120 off 111 balls with 11 fours and a six to keep England in the hunt, but his efforts went in vain. Buttler lauded Root for the way he handled pressure. "He played an unbelievable innings tonight. The way to handle pressure in a run-chase. He needed one of the other top six batters to stay in with him and take the game deeper," Buttler added. England's last and final Group B game is against Temba Bavuma's South Africa on Saturday, March 1 at the National Stadium in Karachi.

**Dope suspended wrestlers at IIS camp, Dangal raise eyebrows**

**The camp was organised in Vijayanagar, Karnataka close on the heels of an MoU signed between the United World Wrestling and Inspire Institute of Sport during the 2024 Paris Olympics**

CHENNAI. An international camp held for women wrestlers at the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) last month and Haryana Dangal organised by the charitable trust on February 19 and 20 have come under the scanner due to participation of athletes serving provisional suspensions for dope violations. The camp was organised at the IIS, Vijayanagar, Karnataka close on the heels of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the United World Wrestling (UWW) and IIS during the 2024 Paris Olympics last year. "This strategic partnership is designed to foster collaboration and enhance the development of wrestling in India by establishing a

framework for mutually beneficial programs, projects, and activities," said an UWW statement soon after the signing of the MoU. Incidentally, an exposure trip to Italy was also planned for a few men and women wrestlers by the IIS after the completion of the camp. One of the selected wrestlers for the trip too was provisionally suspended by the World Anti Doping Agency (for SARMS) after prohibited substances were found in his sample taken during an international tournament in July 2023.

The trip, however, is unlikely to go ahead with chances of selection trials for the Asian Championships next month. Besides, the Italy Federation has enquired its Indian counterpart (Wrestling Federation of India) about the trip and the latter has clarified that it is not part of the plan and the list contains a provisionally suspended wrestler. "I cannot comment on the issue," was the response from an IIS official when queried about the participation of a provisionally suspended wrestler in the camp. He, however, said the tour may not go ahead due to the proposed selection trials. Meanwhile, Siyanand, head of IIS, Hisar, who was also the tournament director at the Haryana Dangal, accepted the woman wrestler had participated in the camp. "She has been provisionally

suspended, that's why she was allowed in the camp. Again that's what my opinion is as only higher officials at the IIS can talk about this elaborately," Siyanand told this daily. Speaking on suspended wrestlers



competing in the Dangal including the above-mentioned woman wrestler, he said, "The said woman wrestler was disqualified ahead of her bouts. We spoke to the National Anti Doping Agency and once we got confirmation from it then we didn't allow her to participate." Interestingly, quite a few suspended wrestlers competed at the tournament with a few of them winning a bout or two. "We prevented a few from competing but as we didn't have any comprehensive list of suspended wrestlers, there is a possibility that a few might have

gone to participate," added the tournament director. The competition was held at the Haryana Agriculture University, Giri Centre, Shahid Madan Lal Dhingra Multipurpose Hall in Hisar. Each participant was charged Rs 1000 as entry fee for the tournament, which was held in four weight categories in each style (men's freestyle and Greco-Roman and women's wrestling). Interestingly, a couple of coaches from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) also assisted the tournament director for the competition. The winners (gold, silver and bronze medallists) were also given cash prizes apart from the medals.

A WFI source said the Italy federation mailed it seeking information on the proposed tour. "The WFI was not kept in the loop before organising the camp and holding the tournament. The federation told its Italian counterpart the same and also informed it about the presence of a suspended wrestler in the list. As far as the tournament is concerned, the guidelines clearly say the competition will be held according to the WFI and UWW Rules and Regulations but the same were not followed. How wrestlers serving suspension or provisional suspension can be allowed to compete," said the source.

**Afghanistan replicate Delhi heroics to show World Cup win was no fluke**

**Champions Trophy 2025: Afghanistan are one win away from securing their maiden semi-final berth in the history of the tournament. On Wednesday, Hashmatullah Shahidi's men beat England by eight runs and knocked the Three Lions out of the competition.**

New Delhi. Never count out Afghanistan. NEVER! The team may have suffered a 107-run defeat against South Africa and seemed in trouble, but Hashmatullah Shahidi's men scripted a remarkable comeback to knock England out of the Champions Trophy. In their maiden appearance in the mega event, Afghanistan now stands a realistic chance of qualifying for the semi-finals. In the 2023 ODI World Cup on Indian soil, Afghanistan looked down and out after defeats to Bangladesh and India in their first two games. However, under Hashmatullah's leadership, they rose

from the ashes to defeat England by 69 runs at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. In Lahore, they fought even harder to come out on top. Afghanistan isn't a team that gets bogged down under pressure. They demonstrated this in the ODI World Cup, the T20 World Cup last year, and now the Champions Trophy. Their win over



England in Delhi was no fluke. It was their first-ever World Cup victory against a full-member nation, and now, their first win in Champions Trophy history. Ibrahim Steps Up Under Pressure  
Rahmanullah Gurbaz is the more popular Afghan batter due to his hard-hitting

proWess, especially in T20 leagues around the world. But his opening partner, Ibrahim Zadran, is not far behind. At just 23, Ibrahim has already etched his name in Afghan cricket history not once, not twice, but three times. [AFG vs ENG: Highlights]

In the ODI World Cup, Ibrahim became the fastest Afghan batter to reach 1,000 runs in the 50-over format. He also became the first Afghan batter to score a century in an ODI World Cup. Later, Ibrahim also broke Ben Duckett's record for the highest ODI score in Champions Trophy history. This is the same Ibrahim who was on crutches after ankle surgery in September. The same Ibrahim who made his ODI comeback in the Champions Trophy after 11 months. The winning catch to dismiss Adil Rashid only added to what was a memorable day for the Khost-born Ibrahim. "It means a lot to me. As much as you work hard, I had trust in myself and wanted to keep batting. That 177 is a special moment for me. We played here last time in the Asia Cup, so I had an idea. I wanted to take my time and play proper cricketing shots, and it worked for me. I'm happy," Ibrahim said after the match.

**Shoaib Akhtar recalls inspiring message to Afghan player, celebrates England's exit**

New Delhi. Pakistan cricket legend Shoaib Akhtar was thrilled after Afghanistan's thrilling win over England in the Champions Trophy on February 26. The former pacer took to social media to congratulate the Afghan team and revealed a special conversation he had with all-rounder Gulbadin Naib before the match. Akhtar shared how he had encouraged Naib to do whatever it takes to secure victories against England and Australia, a message that seemed to have inspired Afghanistan's fighting spirit.

Afghanistan's historic 8-run victory over the defending champions knocked England out of the semi-final race in a high-intensity clash that went down to the wire. Shoaib Akhtar, through a special video message on his social media account, praised Afghanistan's resilience and lauded their achievement in securing their first-ever Champions Trophy win. [AFG vs ENG: Highlights] "Congratulations Afghanistan, very happy for you! I remember telling Gulbadin 'please defeat England'. He said



**WPL 2025: All-round Nat Sciver-Brunt fires as Mumbai Indians hammer UP Warriorz**

New Delhi Nat Sciver-Brunt put in a strong performance as Mumbai Indians (MI) beat the UP Warriorz by eight wickets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru to go to the top of the points table in the WPL 2025. On Wednesday, February 26, Sciver Brunt won the Player of the Match award after scoring a match-winning half-century and taking a three-wicket haul. After being asked to bat first, the Warriorz got themselves to 142 for the loss of nine wickets. Sciver-Brunt gave MI the crucial breakthrough after dismissing Kiran Navgire. But Grace Harris, who was promoted to open the batting, and Vrinda Dinesh's 79-run stand injected momentum into the innings for the Warriorz.

WPL 2025 Full Coverage Harris scored 45 runs off 26 balls before holing out to

Shabnim Ismail off Amelia Kerr. Sanskriti Gupta dismissed Vrinda, who gave Harris support with a steady 33-run knock. But



after Harris got out, the Warriorz lost momentum and could only manage 61 runs off their last 10.4 overs. Sciver-Brunt was the pick of the bowlers for MI with figures of 4-0-18-3. Ismail took two wickets while

Gupta and Kerr accounted for a scalp apiece. From once having a chance of posting a score in the range of 180 and 200, the Warriorz would be disappointed with their second half.

Sciver-Brunt rocks UP Warriorz  
MI lost the early wicket of Yastika Bhatia as Deepti Sharma gave the Warriorz a good start with the early wicket. But Sciver-Brunt and West Indies captain Hayley Matthews made sure to put MI in a position of command. The duo built a partnership of 133 runs to take the sting out of the Warriorz batting. Matthews scored 59 runs off 50 balls with seven fours and two sixes. By the time Sophie Ecclestone dismissed her, MI were on the cusp of victory. Sciver-Brunt, on the other hand, batted until the very end as Mumbai romped home with three overs to spare.

**How cricket greats reacted to Afghanistan's win vs England, ft Sachin Tendulkar**

- Ibrahim Zadran's 177 powered Afghanistan to a strong total
- Azmatullah Omarzai's five-wicket haul sealed Afghanistan's historic victory
- Cricket greats, including Tendulkar, hailed Afghanistan's England triumph

New Delhi. Afghanistan's thrilling win over England in their Champions Trophy Group B clash on February 26 left the cricketing world in awe. The Hashmatullah Shahidi-led side stunned the defending champions, keeping

their semi-final hopes alive while officially eliminating England from the tournament. The match saw edge-of-the-seat action, prompting many cricketing greats, including Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar, to heap praise on Afghanistan's spirited performance. Opting to bat first, Afghanistan put up an imposing total of 325/7 in their 50 overs, thanks to a phenomenal knock from opener Ibrahim Zadran. The 22-year-old smashed 177 off 146 balls, anchoring Afghanistan's innings with a masterclass in batting. His innings, laced with exquisite stroke play, ensured Afghanistan set a stiff target for England. England, in response, put up a fight but ultimately fell short. Despite Ben Duckett's brilliant 100, they were bowled out for 317 in 49.5 overs. Azmatullah Omarzai was the hero with the ball, claiming a match-



winning five-wicket haul (5/58) and sealing Afghanistan's first-ever Champions Trophy win. [AFG vs ENG: Highlights]

Afghanistan's performance earned widespread appreciation from cricketing legends. Sachin Tendulkar took to social media to praise the team's resilience, while former Indian pacers Munaf Patel and Irfan Pathan also

congratulated the side. Pakistan legend Shoaib Akhtar went a step further, backing Afghanistan to push beyond the semi-final stage. Even former England skipper Michael Vaughan praised Afghanistan's performance, hailing it deserving of the win over an England which was just not up to the mark. Even former India cricketer and former Afghanistan mentor Ajay Jadeja took to his social media to congratulate Afghanistan on the win. With England now out of the tournament, Australia, South Africa, and Afghanistan remain in contention for the two semi-final spots from Group A. Currently sitting third with one win from two games and a net run rate of 0.160, Afghanistan must beat Australia in their final group match to qualify. Meanwhile, a victory for Australia will see them and South Africa progress to the semi-finals.

# Dhanashree Verma

Was 'Shocked' After Yuzvendra Chahal's Marriage Proposal: 'Unhone Chakka Maar Diya'

Indian cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal and choreographer-influencer Dhanashree Verma have reportedly finalized their divorce, ending their marriage of over four years. They first met virtually during Covid lockdown, when Chahal was taking dance lessons from Dhanashree. Last year, during her appearance on the dance reality show Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 11, Dhanashree had opened up about Yuzvendra Chahal's marriage proposal. She revealed that after two months of dance training, he suddenly proposed to her, and it left her shocked.

On Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 11 last year, Dhanashree Verma said, "During the lockdown no matches were happening and all the cricketers were sitting at home and getting frustrated. During that time Yuzi decided one fine day that he wants to learn dance. He had seen my dance videos on social media and back in the



day, I used to teach dance and he approached me to be my student. I agreed to teach him. It was a very professional student-teacher relationship. I want to make it very clear." She further added that he took two months training from her, during which she made him a good dancer.

"Suddenly after two months he directly proposed to me for marriage. Woh batting karte bhi nahi but unhone chakka maar diya direct." She revealed that she was 'shocked' and that she told her mom about it. Revealing her mom's reaction, Dhanashree said, "The first thing she said was, 'Gaya tera student'. I was a very professional teacher." Yuzvendra and Dhanashree got married in a Hindu ceremony in December 2020.

Chahal and Dhanashree have reportedly finalized their divorce, and have completed the legal proceedings at Bandra Family Court on Thursday. Reportedly, they were living separately for the past 18 months. Amidst the reports of their divorce being finalised, both Chahal and Dhanashree have shared cryptic posts on their respective Instagram accounts.

"God has protected me more times than I can count. So I can only imagine the times I've been rescued that I don't even know about. Thank you, God, for always being there, even when I don't know it. Amen," read a post shared by Chahal.

Meanwhile, Dhanashree wrote, "From Stressed To Blessed. Isn't it amazing how God can turn our worries and trials into blessings? If you're stressing about something today, know that you have a choice. You can either keep worrying, or you can surrender it all to God and choose to pray about everything. There is power in having faith that God can work all things together for your good."

'I Was Happy'

# Kaveri Kapur

Makes Rare Comment On Parents Shekhar Kapur, Suchitra Krishnamoorthi's Divorce



**Kaveri Kapur, who debuted in Bobby Aur Rishi Ki Love Story, revealed her parents' divorce, Shekhar Kapur and Suchitra Krishnamoorthi, affected her mental health.**

Kaveri Kapur recently made her acting debut with Bobby Aur Rishi Ki Love Story. Amid the film's mixed reviews, she opened up about her parents, celebrated filmmaker Shekhar Kapur and actor-singer Suchitra Krishnamoorthi's divorce. In a rare revelation, Kaveri mentioned that though she was happy when they parted ways, it took a toll on her mental health while growing up.

"It wasn't the separation that affected me as much as the relationship itself. I was happy when they got divorced. But yes, it took a toll, especially because it was so public. You get exposed to things a child wouldn't normally have to deal with. I have struggled with my mental health as an adult because of it," Kaveri told The Times of India.

She added that she probably hasn't found her ground yet. "I still struggle with my mental health—it's a process. I have OCD and I'm still healing. But I'm happy and grateful, and I know it takes time," added Kaveri.

Shekhar Kapur married Suchitra Krishnamoorthi in 1999 when she was just 22. The two welcomed Kaveri in 2001. However, the couple parted ways in 2007 i.e. after 12 years of marriage.

Kaveri, in the same interview, revealed who she is closer to, her mother or father. The debutante said, "Both, but in different ways. My dad is like my best friend—we talk about relationships and philosophy. My mom and I have a classic mother-daughter dynamic—she's my fierce protector and takes care of me. I turn to either one depending on the situation."

Meanwhile, Shekhar Kapur recently received the Padma Bhushan award. He is a celebrated filmmaker, known for directing films like Masoom, Bandit Queen, Mr India, and a few international projects. He is currently working on the sequel of Masoom, which also stars Kaveri in a key role.

Salman Khan And Atlee's Film Put On Hold, Production House Asks Director To 'Rework'



For a long time now, Salman Khan's upcoming collaboration with Atlee has been making headlines. While not many details about the project are known as of now, it was recently reported that the South superstar Rajinikanth might also be a part of the show. However, in a shocking turn of events, it has now been reported that the film has been put on hold.

As reported by Bollywood Hungama, Salman and Atlee's next has been put on hold due to casting issues. Reportedly, the production house – Sun Pictures, asked Atlee to rework the project after he failed to get Rajinikanth or Kamal Haasan on board.

"When Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth casting didn't work out, Atlee was looking to cast Will Smith in the film. Salman helped Atlee connect to Will Smith and the conversations were proceeding on a very positive side. But in a shocking turn of events, Sun Pictures demanded the presence of a South Superstar in the film alongside Salman," a source cited by the entertainment portal claimed.

"When Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan conversation fell through, Sun Pictures didn't want to associate themselves with an International Film devoid of South stars. That's when they told Atlee to hold on to the things and rework," the insider added.

However, it should be noted that the project has not been called off yet and Salman Khan is trying to resolve the issue. "Atlee and Salman continue to be in talks and are trying to resolve all the issues with Sun Pictures. Both the powerhouses want to collaborate and do this film, as it's a dream they want to bring to life. We will get a clear picture of the scenario of A6 with Salman by the end of March," the source said. However, it should be noted that there is no official word from the makers' side as of now regarding the project being put on hold. News18 Showsha can also not vouch for the authenticity of the report.

**'Role Reversal': Kanwaljit Singh Serves Food To His 'Beta' In Latest Video To Promote Mrs**



Veteran actor Kanwaljit Singh has been making all the right noises for his role in the social drama Mrs. He played the role of a heartless father-in-law to Sanya Malhotra's Richa in the film. Now, in a recent video, the actor indulged in a role reversal and the Internet seemed happy about it.

In the clip, Kanwaljit Singh can be seen preparing food for a woman and serving it to her. While the identity of the woman is not known, he addresses her as 'beta', the same as what he called Richa in Mrs. He says in the video, "Beta maine apki mummy ki recipe pe banaya hai aaj (I've prepared your mother in law's recipe)". As he serves the food to the woman, he expectantly asks, "Kesa bana hai?" The woman replies "Namak kam hai" with a straight face, similar to the snooty men in the movie. Kanwaljit then resigns to the kitchen with disappointment, just like Richa. Next, the woman says, "Chai bana dena."

Sharing the video, Kanwaljit Singh wrote, "Mister, #MrsonZees"

Social media users were won over by the hilarious take in the video. The clip has received hundreds of comment. Reacting to the video, a user wrote, "On behalf of the whole women community, ab pata chala?" Another said, "Loved this role reversal, ab zara chutney bhi bana dijiye." Hilarious reactions continued with a user saying, "Change of heart for rude father-in-law, incredible." Many users also appreciated the actor's performance and comeback in Mrs. One of them said, "The great actor is back on screen and how." After receiving praise at several international film festivals, Mrs released on Zee5 on February 7. The film broke records after becoming the most searched film on Google and receiving the highest opening ever on the platform. Directed by Arati Kadav, the film tells the story of how a young woman finds her voice muted in a patriarchal household post-marriage and her eventual journey to freedom. Apart from Sanya Malhotra and Kanwaljit Singh, the film stars Nishant Dahiya and Loveleen Mishra in key roles.