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# The Researchers'

## NEWS BOX

### Trudeau to discuss Canada's sovereignty with King Charles after Trump threat

London Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his priority in talks with King Charles on Monday will be protecting his country's sovereignty after US President Donald Trump recently suggested making Canada the 51st US state. Trudeau said nothing is more important to his citizens than "standing up for our sovereignty and our independence", ahead of the meeting with Charles, who is Canada's head of state. Last week, Charles invited Trump to what would be a historic second state visit to Britain, with Prime Minister Keir Starmer handing over the invitation during a meeting before the world's media in the Oval Office. "I look forward to sitting down with His Majesty tomorrow (Monday), as always we will discuss matters of importance to Canada and Canadians, and I can tell you that nothing seems more important to Canadians than standing up for our sovereignty and our independence as a nation," Trudeau told reporters. Trudeau, the outgoing Prime Minister, said last month that Trump's talk about absorbing Canada "is a real thing" and is linked to the country's rich natural resources. Trump has repeatedly suggested Canada would be better off if it agreed to become the 51st US state.

### UK Police Discover Remains In Search For Woman Murdered By Husband In 2013

world. Police searching near a main road in North Yorkshire believe they have found the remains of a woman murdered by her husband more than a decade ago. Rania Alayed was 25 when she was murdered by Ahmed al-Khatib in a Salford flat in June 2013 in what police at the time described as an "honour" killing, the Guardian reported. A court heard that Khatib, enraged after Alayed left him, lured her to her death and later wore her clothing to deceive friends and family into believing she was still alive. It was known that Alayed's body had been transported to North Yorkshire and buried near the A19. Despite multiple searches over the years, her remains had not been found. However, following new information, Greater Manchester Police launched a fresh search in Thirsk on Monday, which led to the discovery of human remains. While formal identification is still pending, a police spokesperson stated, "We strongly suspect the remains are that of Rania." Alayed's son, Yazan, speaking on behalf of the family, described the discovery as "surreal" and said, "For the past 11 years, all we have wanted is to provide my mother with a final resting place. To finally be able to lay down a few flowers for her is more than I can ask for from this world."

Originally from Palestine, Alayed had moved to the UK with Khatib from Syria. Her marriage was marked by domestic violence, but after leaving Khatib, she was striving to build a better life for herself and her three children. During the murder trial, the court heard that Khatib killed her while their children were in the next room. CCTV footage later captured him wearing her headscarf and jeans in an attempt to maintain the illusion that she was still alive. Khatib was sentenced to life in prison with a minimum term of 20 years. A police detective involved in the case called it an "honour" killing, stating that Khatib's actions were driven by "outrage and jealousy" over Alayed's desire to take control of her own life. "The contempt you showed for Rania in death matched the contempt with which you treated her in life," trial judge Mr Justice Leggatt told Khatib. Greater Manchester Police confirmed that forensic teams would remain at the Thirsk site in the coming days.

### Pope Francis's Condition Stable But Complex

Rome, Italy. Pope Francis is in a "stable" condition in hospital but the clinical picture remains complex, the Vatican said Sunday, as the 88-year-old issued a statement thanking well-wishers for their support. The head of the Catholic Church was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on February 14 with bronchitis, which later developed into pneumonia in both lungs. After appearing to recover slightly during the week, the Argentine pope suffered a breathing crisis on Friday, causing widespread concern, but he passed a quieter weekend. "The clinical conditions of the Holy Father remained stable today," the Vatican said on Sunday in its regular early evening medical update.



The leader of the world's almost 1.4 billion Catholics "did not require non-invasive mechanical ventilation, only high-flow oxygen therapy", it said. He does not have a fever, and on Sunday morning he participated in mass, spending the rest of the day alternating rest with prayer, it added. A Vatican source said that with 48 hours now passed, it appeared there had been "no further consequences" from Friday's crisis. However, the Holy See statement added that "in view of the complexity of the clinical picture, the prognosis remains reserved". However, the Holy See statement added that "in view of the complexity of the clinical picture, the prognosis remains reserved".

## Wildfires engulf North and South Carolina, states declare emergency; check affected areas

### South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency on Sunday amid the ongoing wildfire crisis across the state.

World. The raging wildfires across North and South Carolina have affected the normal lives of thousands as crews evacuated residents amid strong winds and dry conditions. On Sunday, firefighters faced challenges containing the blazes due to dry fuels and very low relative humidity. Fire crews worked tirelessly to contain a large wildfire near Carolina Forest, located west of Myrtle Beach. Horry County Fire Rescue had ordered evacuations for several neighborhoods as the fire spread. According to the South Carolina Forestry

Commission, the fire had burned nearly 1.9 square miles (4.9 square kilometers) by Sunday afternoon and was not contained. However, no casualties or injuries have been reported so far.

### State Of Emergency Declared In South Carolina

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster declared a state of emergency on Sunday amid the ongoing wildfire crisis across the state. With more than 175 fires having scorched large areas of the state, a statewide burning ban has also been imposed. As smoke enveloped the air and entire communities faced evacuation, the situation remained tense. However, in some regions, including Carolina Forest near Myrtle Beach, firefighters made significant progress which helped evacuees safely return home by late Sunday afternoon.



By Sunday evening, the fire had burned over 500 acres, with only 30 percent of it contained, according to Polk County Emergency Management. Meanwhile, the Polk County Emergency Management/Fire Marshal's office reported that the North Carolina Forest Service was carrying out helicopter water drops and back-burning operations on the ground.

In North Carolina, the US Forest Service reported multiple wildfires burning across the state, with crews actively working to contain the blazes that have consumed over 400 acres (161.87 hectares) in four different forests. The largest fire reported at Uwharrie National Forest, nearly 50 miles (80.47 kilometers) east of Charlotte, has burned around 300 acres (121.41 hectares).

## Preserving records of 'atrocities' by Hasina regime critical: Yunus

DHAKA. Bangladesh's interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has called for the "meticulous preservation" of records documenting alleged "atrocities" committed under the administration of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina. During a Sunday meeting with United Nations officials, Yunus emphasised that without a proper archival system "it is difficult to know the truth and ensure justice", the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported.



A statement issued by the chief adviser's press wing said the chief adviser during his conversation with UN Resident Coordinator Gwen Lewis and UN human rights expert Huma Khan cited the crackdown on demonstrators at Shapla Chattar, police brutality against protesters following the Delwar Hossain Sayedee verdict, and years of alleged extrajudicial killings. The UN officials, in response, reaffirmed their willingness to assist Bangladesh in documenting human rights abuses. "This is a process of healing and truth-building," Lewis said, offering the UN's expertise in technical assistance and capacity-building. Yunus also commended the organisation's recent fact-finding report on human rights violations following the July-August

2024 uprising that led to the end of 15 years of Awami League regime from power and Hasina's escape to India. According to Lewis, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk will present the document at the Human Rights Council session in Geneva on March 5. "We are very pleased that the UN has published this report; it is timely," Yunus said. The discussion also touched on the plight of the Rohingya refugees, with Lewis expressing concern over dwindling international aid. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will visit Bangladesh from March 13 to 16. Lewis hopes this trip will refocus global attention on the refugee crisis. "We are very worried about the money situation," Lewis said, noting that USD 15 million per month is required to sustain food supplies for Rohingya refugees and other basic needs.

## Israel supports a US proposal to extend Gaza ceasefire's first phase; Hamas wants Phase 2

CAIRO. Israel's government said early Sunday it supports a proposal to extend the first phase of the ceasefire in Gaza through Ramadan and Passover, though Hamas has insisted on negotiating the truce's second phase instead. The statement by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office came minutes after the first phase ended, and as talks have begun on starting the second phase that's aimed at ending the war and seeing all remaining living hostages in Gaza returned home.

The statement gives new details on what Israel described as a U.S. proposal: A ceasefire extension through Passover, or April 20. On the first day, half the hostages, alive and dead, would be released. The rest would be released if agreement is reached on a permanent ceasefire. The statement said it was proposed after U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff got "the impression that at this stage there was no possibility of bridging the positions of the parties to end the war, and that more time was needed for talks on a permanent ceasefire." There was no immediate comment from Hamas, which earlier rejected an Israeli proposal to extend the ceasefire's first phase by 42 days — doubling its length — saying it goes against the truce agreement, according to a member of the group who requested anonymity to discuss the closed-door negotiations. Officials from Israel and mediators Qatar, Egypt and the United States have been involved in negotiations on starting the ceasefire's second phase in Cairo. But Basem Naim, a member of Hamas' political bureau, told The Associated Press there had been "no progress" before Israeli negotiators returned home on Friday. Hamas did not attend, but its position has been represented through Egyptian and Qatari mediators. Under the ceasefire deal's terms, fighting should not resume while negotiations are underway on phase two. Israel's new statement says it can return to fighting "if it believes that the negotiations are ineffective," and it noted Hamas' refusal to accept the proposal for an extension of the first phase. However, "if Hamas changes its position, Israel will immediately enter into negotiations on all the details of the Witkoff plan," the statement says. Before Israel's new statement, an Egyptian official involved in the talks spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations. The official said Hamas, Qatar and Egypt wanted to continue with the existing ceasefire deal, and they rejected Israel's proposal to extend the ceasefire for four weeks with a release of hostages every Saturday without officially entering negotiations on the second phase. The Egyptian official said the U.S. wants to start negotiations on the second phase but called for hostage releases during the negotiations. Hamas insisted on a full implementation of the ceasefire terms. The first phase, which paused 15 months of fighting in Gaza, saw the release of 33 hostages, including eight bodies, in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners. Hundreds of thousands of people returned home to northern Gaza, aid into the territory increased and Israeli forces withdrew to buffer zones.

## European leaders pledge strong support for Ukraine at London summit amid growing US tensions

LONDON. European leaders closed ranks Sunday in support of Kyiv at a London summit, where they pledged to spend more on security and assemble a coalition to defend any truce in Ukraine. Bringing together 18 allies, the talks were devoted to the key questions of how to provide security guarantees for Ukraine and bolster Europe's future defences while keeping the United States under President Donald Trump onside. Just days after a thunderous row between Trump and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky raised fresh questions over the US leader's commitment to Ukraine and NATO, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer warned that Europe found itself "at a crossroads in history". "This is not a moment for more talk -- it's time to act. It's time to step up and lead and unite around a new plan for a just and enduring peace," the premier added. With no guarantee of US involvement, "Europe must do the heavy lifting" in securing peace in Ukraine, Starmer said, indicating that several countries were ready to help defend any truce. Zelensky was warmly embraced by many of the summit's attendees, including Starmer, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and NATO chief Mark Rutte, while protesters rallied outside the UK

leader's home in support of Ukraine. That welcome stood in stark contrast to Zelensky's treatment in the White House on Friday, where he was berated by Trump for not being grateful enough for US aid and not being



"ready" for peace with Russia. Avoid dividing West. Their argument, played out in front of the world's news cameras, raised fears that Trump wants to force Kyiv into a peace deal giving Russian President Vladimir Putin what he wants while leaving Ukraine broken and insecure. After the leaders gathered on Sunday, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen warned that "we urgently have to rearm Europe" and "prepare for the worst" on the continent. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk meanwhile called for the United States and Europe to "speak

with one voice" in showing Putin "that the West has no intention of capitulating before his blackmail and aggression". Starmer and France's President Emmanuel Macron have said they are prepared to deploy British and French troops to Ukraine to help preserve the peace in the event an agreement is signed to end the war. Rutte pointed to promises from more European countries to "ramp up defence spending", while insisting the United States remained committed to the transatlantic alliance. The London meeting brought together allies from around continental Europe, including France, Germany, Denmark and Italy as well as Turkey, NATO and the European Union. In addition to attending the security summit, Zelensky also met King Charles III at his Sandringham estate in England. Very welcome. As Sunday's gathering got underway dozens of protesters draped in the yellow and sky-blue flag of Ukraine gathered outside Starmer's office, some holding signs bearing the legend "Putin's end is near" and "Stop vermin, Stop Putin". That mirrored the hero's welcome Zelensky received on Saturday when his convoy swept into Downing Street to a cheering crowd.

## USAID official warns of unnecessary deaths from Trump move, put on leave: Report

USAID official Nicholas Enrich warns of deaths due to agency dismantling. Enrich placed on leave after memo criticising leadership. Trump's administration cut \$60 billion in foreign aid.

which was seen by Reuters, said "political leadership" had made it impossible to deliver lifesaving humanitarian assistance around the world, contradicting assurances from Secretary of State Marco Rubio that such aid would continue despite President Donald Trump and billionaire Elon Musk's cost-cutting campaign.

Twenty minutes later, Enrich sent another email, which was also seen by Reuters, that he had "just received notification that I have been placed on administrative leave, effective immediately." A source familiar with the matter said the decision to put Enrich on administrative leave was made Wednesday, before he sent his email on the consequences of USAID's dismantling. Spokespeople for the State Department and DOGE did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Enrich did not respond to a query from Reuters. The blocked USAID programs include efforts to help contain a deadly Ebola outbreak in Uganda that had killed two and infected 10, Enrich said in the memo seen by

Reuters. "This will no doubt result in preventable death, destabilisation, and threats to national security on a massive



scale." Enrich wrote in the memo, which was dated Feb. 28 and shared widely with staff in the global health division on Sunday afternoon. The Trump administration announced last week that it was cancelling nearly 10,000 foreign aid grants and contracts worth almost \$60 billion, ending about 90% of USAID's global work. The shuttering of USAID is part of an unprecedented downsizing of the

federal government by Musk's so-called Department of Government Efficiency. The agency's sudden demise has thrown global humanitarian relief efforts into chaos. In a separate memo seen by Reuters, Enrich estimated that a year-long pause in lifesaving aid from USAID would cause between 71,000 and 166,000 additional malaria deaths, a nearly 40% increase; an increase of between 28% and 32% in tuberculosis cases worldwide; and up to 28,000 cases of emerging infectious diseases such as Ebola. After Trump ordered all foreign aid frozen in January pending a review, Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a temporary waiver for lifesaving assistance, such as essential medicines, food and shelter. But Enrich said DOGE workers and other political appointees have made it impossible to approve payments for those critical programs. According to Enrich's memo, various officials at USAID and the State Department issued conflicting guidance on what programs would qualify for the waiver and how they would be funded.



# India's River Dolphin Population Surpasses 6,300: Survey

**\*PM Modi Chairs 7th National Board for Wildlife Meeting in Gujarat\***

**New Delhi:** India's first-ever population estimate of river dolphins shows a promising count of 6,327 dolphins across the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus River systems.

The comprehensive survey, spanning 28 rivers in eight states, covered over 8,500 kilometers and utilized 3,150 man-days of effort. Uttar Pradesh led the tally, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the report during his visit to Gir National Park in Gujarat, where he also attended the 7th National Board for Wildlife Meeting. In his address, the Prime Minister emphasized the critical role of local communities in dolphin conservation and the potential of eco-tourism to drive wildlife protection. He also stressed the need



for better connectivity to boost wildlife tourism in the country. Today Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the seventh meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) at Sasan Gir in Junagadh district, Gujarat, coinciding with World Wildlife Conservation Day. The meeting was attended by Environ-

ment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, state representatives, NGO officials, chief wildlife wardens, and secretaries from various states. The meeting focused on discussions related to wildlife conservation and management. The National Board for Wildlife, which works towards promoting the conservation and development



of wildlife and forests, operates under the leadership of the Prime Minister. During the session, PM Modi virtually inaugurated the foundation stone for the National Referral Centre for Wildlife in Junagadh. He also unveiled the 16th Asiatic Lion Population Estimation 2025 and inaugurated the Centre of Excel-

lence in Human-Wildlife Conflict Management in Coimbatore. Before the meeting, the Prime Minister embarked on a jungle safari at Gir National Park and took part in a tree plantation drive at Sinh Sadan Campus in Gir. He flagged off patrolling bikes for field staff working on wildlife conservation and manage-

ment. Modi also interacted with eco-guides, trackers, and women field staff. In a post on social media, the Prime Minister praised the collective efforts in Gir forest, highlighting the rise in the Asiatic lion population. He also acknowledged the role of tribal communities and women in preserving the lion's habitat.

## Visually Impaired Can Join Judicial Services



**New Delhi:** In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court today ruled that visually impaired individuals cannot be denied the opportunity to work in judicial services. A bench consisting of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan delivered the judgment after reserving its decision on six petitions.

Justice Mahadevan, while pronouncing the verdict, emphasized that persons with disabilities should not face discrimination in their pursuit of judicial service positions. He stated that the state must implement affirmative action to create an inclusive recruitment framework that ensures equal opportunities for all, regardless of disability. The Apex Court struck down a provision in the Madhya Pradesh Judicial Services (Recruitment and Conditions of Services) Rules, 1994, which previously barred visually impaired and low-vision candidates from entering judicial service in the state. The court highlighted the importance of ensuring substantive equality, urging the state to take necessary steps for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the judicial system.

## Training Program for Newly Promoted M1 Officers Begins at CTPS



**Chandrapura:** A one-month training program for newly promoted M1 officers of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) commenced today at the DVC Training Institute, located at the Chandrapura Thermal Power Station (CTPS) on Monday.

The program was inaugurated by senior DVC officials, including Executive Director (Fuel) Sanjay Kumar Ghosh, CGM and Project Head of Koderma Thermal Power Plant Manoj Kumar Thakur, Senior General Manager and Project Head of Chandrapura Thermal Power Station Vijaya Nand Sharma, Senior General Manager PK Mishra, Deputy Commandant of Central Industrial Security Force Nakul Kumar Verma, and Director of DVC Training Institute Vinod Kumar Rai.

The training aims to provide newly promoted officers with the knowledge and skills necessary for leadership roles within DVC. Participants will receive comprehensive insights into key functional areas such as Human Resources, Finance, Engineering, and more.

The course will include best practices, policies, and interactive sessions with experts, ensuring the officers are well-prepared for effective decision-making and leadership in their respective roles.

## JPSSM Raises Concerns Over eVV Portal Issues in Meeting

**Ranchi:** The Jharkhand Pradesh Sanyukt Shikshak Morcha raised concerns over the eVV portal during a hearing with the Secretary of the School Education and Literacy Department, Umashankar Singh, on 3 March 2025. The hearing followed a court order regarding petition WPS-4571/2024, and was attended by Front representatives including State Convenor Amin Ahmed, District Convenor Somesh Kumar Mishra, Spokesperson Arun Kumar Das, and Senior Advocate Sahdev Chaudhary.

At the meeting, the Front highlighted several issues with the biometric attendance system, including the use of personal mobile phones by teachers to mark attendance, which violates the 2015 Aadhaar-based Biometric Rules. The Front called for the provision of proper devices and the implementation of an offline system to address technical problems like fingerprint mismatches and network issues.

Additionally, they raised concerns about the exploitation of teachers in various districts and criticized the eVV portal's failure to synchronize biometric data and frequent server downtimes. The Front argued that the faulty system disproportionately impacts teachers, violating state-wide biometric attendance rules.

Secretary Umashankar Singh assured that the final decision would be made following the court's order, considering all the evidence and applicable regulations.

## Bihar Govt. Presents Rs 3.16 Lakh Crore Budget for 2025-26 with Focus on Education and Welfare



**Patna:** In the Bihar Legislative Assembly today, Finance Minister and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary presented the state budget for the financial year 2025-26, totaling Rs 3,16,895 crore. This represents an increase of Rs 38,169 crore from the previous year. The budget allocates Rs 61,000 crore to education, the highest expenditure in this year's budget.

Chaudhary outlined a revenue target of Rs 2,60,000 crore for the coming year, marking an increase of Rs 34,033 crore. Key allocations include Rs 60,954 crore for education, Rs 20,335 crore for health, and Rs 16,193 crore for rural development. Notable initiatives include establishing Mahila Haat in Patna, setting up Kanya Vivah Mandaps in all panchayats, and opening one degree college in 358 blocks over time.

The budget also includes Rs 1,289 crore for modernizing 21 market committees. The state government has doubled scholarships for backward and extremely backward class students, with Rs 875 crore allocated to support their education. Additionally, the pre-matric scholarship for SC and ST students has been doubled, with a budget provision of Rs 260 crore. The Chief Minister's SC-ST hostel grant has also been increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 to support students living in hostels.

## Kids Play Zone Inaugurated at DAV-6, Bokaro

**Bokaro:** A new "Kids Play Zone Funfinity" was inaugurated today at DAV Public School Sector-6 for the children of Bal-Vatika 1, 2, and 3. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Assistant Regional Officer Vipin Rai, Vice President of the Local Management Committee B.S. Jaiswal, Committee Member Brahmdev Prasad, and School Principal Anuradha Singh.

The event featured a dance performance by the young students, and Shanvi Mishra from Bal Vatika-2 expressed joy over the new additions to the play zone, which includes a variety of toys like panda scooters, tricycles, bikes, and construction toys.

Principal Anuradha Singh highlighted that the play zone will help children develop social skills, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities. Vipin Rai emphasized the importance of creating an interactive learning environment, while B.S. Jaiswal encouraged children to stay active and engage in physical play for better health.

The event was organized and conducted by teacher Bhavana Ghale, with several staff members in attendance.

## Jharkhand Govt. Unveils Rs 1.45 Lakh Crore Budget Focused on Education, Women Empowerment, & Rural Development

**Ranchi:** In the Jharkhand Assembly today, Finance Minister Radha Krishna Kishore presented the state's budget for the 2025-26 financial year, amounting to Rs 1.45 lakh crore. The budget is focused on rural development, social welfare schemes, and initiatives aimed at improving the economic conditions of the state.

One of the key highlights of the budget is the allocation of Rs 13,363.35 crore for the ambitious Mainiya Samman Yojana, a program introduced by the Hemant Soren government. The scheme aims to empower women by providing them with Rs 2,500 per month. Finance Minister Kishore described this initiative as a step towards creating a financially self-reliant, socially empowered, and mentally alert society.

Additionally, the state government has allocated Rs 9,411.27 crore for child welfare programs. The education sector also received significant attention, with provisions of Rs 15,198



crore for elementary and secondary education and Rs 2,409 crore for higher and technical education. The budget also included plans for expanding educational infrastructure, including the establishment of medical colleges in Ranchi, Khunti, Giridih, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Deoghar, and Jamtara. Further, new universities are set to be established in Jamshedpur, Gumla, and Sahibganj, alongside the opening of five new law colleges in

Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Dumka, and Palamu. To boost higher education, the government has committed to starting studies in newly constructed government engineering colleges in Bokaro and Godda by the 2025-26 academic session. Other engineering colleges are planned in Ranchi, Khunti, Jamshedpur, Gumla, Sahebganj, and Giridih.

In a push for vocational and specialized education, the budget also proposed the

establishment of two new universities—Skill University and Fin-Tech University—as well as the creation of a School of Business and Mass Communication in various districts, including Jamshedpur, Palamu, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Hazaribagh, and Deoghar. The budget reflects a strong focus on education, women empowerment, and rural development, positioning Jharkhand for significant growth and development in the coming years.

## Mithila Mahila Samiti Hosts Holi Milan Samaroh in Bokaro

by Arun Pathak

**Bokaro:** The Mithila Mahila Samiti, a unit of the Mithila Sanskritik Parishad, organized its Holi Milan Samaroh on Monday at Milan Mandap in Sector 4.

The event brought together members of the community to celebrate the spirit of Holi in advance, exchanging greetings with abir and gugal. The gathering was filled with vibrant celebrations as attendees sang Holi songs and danced to the festive tunes.



Mithila Mahila Samiti's President Poonam Mishra and Secretary Abha Jha honored outgoing president Seema Jha for her contributions. President Mishra emphasized that Holi is a festival that fos-

ters love, harmony, and goodwill in society.

The program began with a Bhagwati Vandana and continued with beautiful renditions of popular Holi songs such as Mithila Mein Ram

Khelthi Hori and Biraj Mein Holi Khelat Nandlal.

The event was conducted by Kamala Jha and attended by several prominent members, including Kiran Mishra, Sheela Mishra, Amita Jha, Leela Jha, Ruby Thakur, Seema Jha, Beena Jha, Meera Mishra, and many others.

The festive spirit and camaraderie of the event highlighted the unity and cultural richness of the Mithila community in Bokaro.

## JSSPS Achieves Major Successes in Sports & Facility Development

**Ranchi:** In a remarkable year of achievements, the Jharkhand State Sports Promotion Society (JSSPS) has gained national and international recognition in 2025. The players of JSSPS excelled in several major sports events, showcasing their talent and dedication. Seven players participated in the 38th National Games held in Uttarakhand from January 28 to February 14, winning two bronze medals in Modern Pentathlon.



In cycling, three JSSPS athletes earned the honor of representing India at the Track Asian Championship 2025 in Malaysia from February 21 to 27. Additionally, two footballers were selected for the Indian team at the Pink Ladies U-20 Youth Cup in Turkey, held from February 19 to 25. JSSPS players also triumphed at the 40th Senior National Taekwondo Championship in Hyderabad, securing three

gold medals. In the Asmita Khelo India Weightlifting Championship, they earned two silver and one bronze medal. JSSPS stadiums also hosted national and state-level events in February 2025, including the State Karate Tournament and the National Men's Handball Championship, with over 600 athletes participating in total. To enhance security and

streamline operations, JSSPS introduced a new action plan that requires entry registration for all visitors, alongside plans for issuing ID cards. Additionally, the "Pay and Play" system will be fully digitized to ensure transparency. The organization is also focusing on improving the campus environment by planting medicinal plants and beautifying the space with flowers. A priority is also set

## IIT-ISM Introduces Cutting-Edge Course with Global Expert Professor Biswajeet Pradhan

**Dhanbad:** The Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad (IIT-ISM) has unveiled a groundbreaking new course designed to equip students with advanced skills in emerging technological fields, particularly in geospatial technology, artificial intelligence, and data analytics. This innovative initiative is bolstered by the expertise of globally recognized academician and researcher, Professor Biswajeet Pradhan, who will provide invaluable insights to the program.

The course is structured to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical applications, focusing on crucial areas such as 3D flood modeling, dam break analysis, subsidence mapping, disaster-prone area identification, terrain analysis, and watershed delineation. As industries increasingly rely on these advanced technologies for decision-making and problem-solving, IIT-ISM aims to prepare students with future-ready

capabilities, bridging the gap between academia and industry. Professor SR Samadder, Associate Dean (R&D) and Local Coordinator, highlighted the significance of geospatial intelligence in disaster mitigation and decision-making. He emphasized the course's role in advancing the understanding of these critical technologies. Professor Pradhan, a distinguished scholar known for his pioneering work in geoinformatics and remote sensing, will be instrumental in shaping the curriculum and mentoring students. With his vast experience in research and global collaborations, Professor Pradhan's involvement will provide students with unique perspectives on cutting-edge advancements in the field.

Speaking to the participants, Professor Pradhan discussed the importance of geospatial technologies in today's rapidly changing climate. He explained, "Geospatial technologies are

fundamentally about data collection, but the key is to ensure that the data collected is intelligent and meaningful for predictive analysis, particularly in mitigating natural disasters." Professor Pradhan, with expertise in hazard risk assessment and explainable AI, stressed the need to integrate spatial modeling with machine learning techniques to improve disaster preparedness and resource management.

Professor Dheeraj Kumar, Deputy Director of IIT-ISM, underscored the importance of geospatial intelligence in natural resource exploration and sustainable management. He also emphasized IIT-ISM's leading role in geospatial engineering, pointing out the institute's contributions to the field.

The course, coordinated by Professor Srinivas Pasupuleti, Head of the Civil Engineering Department, spans 40 sessions over 10 days, combining classroom lectures with laboratory training.

Participants include engineers, faculty members, professionals, research scholars, and students from across India.

Professor VGK Villuri, Co-Coordinator of the course, extended a vote of thanks to Professor Pradhan, recognizing his impressive achievements, including being named a Highly Cited Researcher by Clarivate Analytics for five consecutive years (2016-2020). With over 880 journal publications, 76,000 citations, and an h-index of 137, Professor Pradhan is regarded as a leading authority in integrating spatial modeling with AI to predict extreme hydro-meteorological events such as landslides, floods, forest fires, and droughts.

This course is expected to provide participants with valuable insights into geospatial intelligence applications, preparing them to tackle contemporary challenges in resource management and disaster preparedness.



# MK Stalin writes to DMK cadre slamming Governor Ravi on language policy

➔ **MK Stalin slammed Governor RN Ravi for comments on two-language policy**  
 ➔ **He said Hindi speakers migrate to Tamil Nadu for job opportunities**  
 ➔ **Stalin defended removing Hindi from signs, citing language equality**



**Tamil Nadu.** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday hit back at Governor RN Ravi over his remarks on the state's two-language policy, accusing him of pushing a false narrative and questioning the linguistic policies in BJP-ruled states. Stalin's comments come after Governor Ravi claimed that the rigid two-language policy had deprived Tamil Nadu's youth of opportunities and restricted their ability to learn other South Indian languages. In his sixth letter to DMK cadre, Stalin

said, "Tamil and Tamil Nadu have never opposed any language. But whenever there has been an attempt to impose a language, Tamil Nadu has always stood up against it." Taking a swipe at the Governor's statement, Stalin remarked, "He is reading from a new script, claiming that due to the two-language policy, Tamil Nadu youth have lost the chance to study South Indian languages. How many North Indian languages are taught in BJP-ruled

states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar? The Governor will not have an answer, nor will those who make him speak." Stalin also countered Ravi's claim that knowing Hindi guarantees employment in North Indian states, pointing out that many Hindi-speaking migrants are coming to Tamil Nadu seeking work. "Those who speak only Hindi are coming to developed Tamil Nadu in search of jobs because of its two-language policy. Even the Hon'ble Governor is

being paid with Tamil Nadu taxpayers' money to work here," he added. The DMK leader also responded to criticism from BJP leaders who questioned why party members defaced Hindi on railway sign boards but not on rupee notes. "The rupee note carries multiple languages, ensuring language equality. This is unlike the railway and central government departments, where language imposition is evident," Stalin asserted. Stalin's response comes after Governor Ravi, during a visit to Tamil Nadu's southern districts of Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli, expressed concerns over youth unemployment and drug abuse. He also demanded the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which promotes multilingual education.

## Replacing humans with robots: Akhilesh Yadav rips into calls for 90-hour workweek

**New Delhi.** The debate over long workweeks has intensified, with Samajwadi Party chief and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav weighing in on the argument. Responding to recent remarks by corporate leaders advocating for extreme work hours, Yadav strongly criticised the notion, questioning whether employees were being treated as humans or robots. "Those who are advising employees to work for 90 hours - are they talking about replacing humans with robots, because humans want to live with their emotions and family," Akhilesh Yadav said, adding that true economic progress should benefit all and not just a select few. His comments come amid growing discussions surrounding statements by prominent industrialists such as Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, who suggested young Indians should work 70 hours a week to boost national productivity.



More recently, L&T Chairman SN Subrahmanyam further escalated the debate by advocating a staggering 90-hour workweek, even suggesting that employees should give up Sundays for work. Yadav condemned such proposals, arguing that they disregard employees' well-being and the importance of work-life balance. He emphasised that productivity is not merely about clocking excessive hours but about working wholeheartedly and efficiently. "Quality of work is most important, not quantity. The truth is that the people sitting at the top get the maximum benefit of the hard work of the youth without doing anything, that is why some such people give impractical advice like 'working for 90 hours'," he said.

He also took a dig at the BJP government, questioning the economic benefits of extended work hours. "If economic progress only benefits a few, then whether the economy reaches USD 30 trillion or USD 100 trillion, what difference does it make to the common people? True economic justice means prosperity is shared by all, but that is not possible under this government," Yadav said.

## Kannada actor agrees with DK Shivakumar, Opposition slams 'nut and bolt' threat

**Karnataka.** A day after Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar criticised actors for not attending the inauguration of the 16th Bengaluru Film Festival, actress and former MP Ramya (Divya Spandana) supported Shivakumar's statement. Amid the controversy, she agreed with Shivakumar, arguing that actors have a responsibility toward their culture and language. "What DK Shivakumar sir said is true; there is nothing wrong in what he said. As actors, we always have a responsibility. Look at what Dr Rajkumar did for our Kannada language; he protested so much in the past. The cooperation and support that once existed between cinema and politics are missing today. The patronage is currently lacking. Yes, as actors, we have a duty—it is our responsibility to stand up for our language, land, culture, and water. There is no fault in what DK Shivakumar said."

**OPPOSITION LEADER RASHOKA RESPONDS**  
 However, reacting to Shivakumar's remarks, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, R Ashoka, accused him of threatening Kannada film artists on a public platform. In a post on X, Ashoka wrote, "It is up to the artists to decide whether or not to participate in the Congress party's political march. Your statement that only those who abide by the Congress party will get recognition, while others will not, demeans your position." Ashoka urged Shivakumar to abandon the belief that everyone must bow to him and his party. "Artists are not anyone's property. They have the right and freedom to associate with whomever they choose. They are not Congress party workers, so don't treat them like party members. Learn to respect artists," he added.

**INDUSTRY EVENT, NOT POLITICAL ONE**  
 Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, on Saturday, strongly criticised the Kannada film industry, particularly actors, for their low turnout at the inauguration of the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival. Speaking at the event on Saturday, Shivakumar expressed his disappointment over the absence of industry members, emphasising that the festival was an important occasion for the Kannada film fraternity.

## Shashi Tharoor backtracks on Kerala's startup growth after row: Not just on paper

Shashi Tharoor criticised Kerala's start-up ecosystem, citing MSME shutdowns, but faced backlash from his party as State Minister P Rajeeve refuted the claims with official data. His remarks, contrasting his earlier praise for the state's industrial policy, stirred controversy within Congress.

**New Delhi.** Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has backtracked his stance regarding industrial growth in Kerala, emphasising the need for more MSME start-ups beyond mere paperwork. On Sunday, Tharoor shared a news report on 'X' expressing his disappointment over the state's start-up ecosystem, which he claimed was not as promising as claimed. He highlighted that over 42,000 MSMEs had shut down in Kerala over the past nine years, resulting in the loss of employment for at least 1,03,764 workers. State Industries Minister P Rajeeve dismissed the news report as

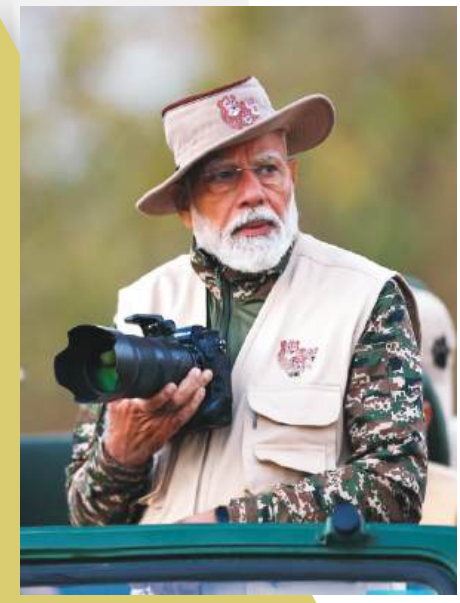
"baseless," stating that he had provided a detailed reply in the Assembly on February 10. Rajeeve pointed out that Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal had recently stated in Parliament that 1,700 MSMEs had shut down in Kerala over the past four years. He further noted that while 30 percent of MSMEs in the country shut down within their first year, the figure in Kerala was only 15 percent. Tharoor's recent remarks on Kerala's



industrial growth have sparked controversy within the Congress state unit. The Congress Working Committee member had previously praised the industrial policy of the Pinarayi Vijayan government in Kerala, which ruffled feathers within the party. His post came just two days after the Congress leadership held a brainstorming session with Kerala leaders at the party headquarters in New Delhi to strategise for next year's Assembly polls.

# Lion safari, photography and wildlife: Stunning glimpses from PM Modi's Gir visit

PM Modi shared some glimpses from his visit to the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat, where he captured breathtaking pictures of flora and fauna on World Wildlife Day.



**New Delhi.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi went on a lion safari at the Gir Wildlife Sanctuary in Junagadh district in Gujarat on Monday morning to mark the World Wildlife Day. The PM, who was seen holding a camera, turned a photographer and captured pictures of the wildlife at Gir. The PM shared some pictures on social media platform X and wrote, "This morning, on #WorldWildlifeDay, I went on a Safari in Gir, which, as we all know, is home to the majestic Asiatic Lion." The images from his safari captured the captivating beauty of these big cats, as they roamed

in the protected area. "Lions and lionesses in Gir! Tried my hand at some photography this morning," PM Modi wrote on X. PM Modi recalled his days as Gujarat CM and talked about the then-state government's efforts to protect wildlife. He also highlighted that in the last many years, collective efforts have ensured that the population of Asiatic Lions is rising steadily. PM Modi also praised the efforts of the Tribal community and women in the surrounding areas in preserving the habitat of the Asiatic Lion. Dressed in a safari outfit, PM Modi was seen enjoying the picturesque landscapes of Gir,

the only home to Asiatic lions in the world. He took a thrilling ride through the lush forest, where he witnessed these majestic creatures roaming freely in their natural habitat. Apart from the lion sightings, the Prime Minister also explored the diverse flora and fauna of Gir. After going to Gir Lion Safari, PM Modi also visited Vantara, an animal rescue, conservation, and rehabilitation centre located at the Reliance Jamnagar refinery complex. Vantara is dedicated to the welfare of captive elephants and wildlife, providing sanctuary, rehabilitation, and medical care to animals rescued from abuse and exploitation.

# BJP intensifies attack on AAP, raises CAG report on health in Delhi Assembly

➔ **The Delhi Assembly saw heated exchanges on Monday as Minister Dr Pankaj Singh slammed the AAP government over the CAG report on health, accusing Kejriwal of widespread betrayal.**

**New Delhi.** The Delhi Assembly witnessed heated exchanges on Monday as Delhi Minister Dr Pankaj Singh launched a scathing attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government over the findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on health services in the national capital. Accusing the AAP government of gross mismanagement in the healthcare sector, Singh said, "There is no one close whom Kejriwal hasn't betrayed." Singh also alleged that the AAP government failed to ensure quality checks on food provided in hospitals and forced people to migrate from the city due to its policies. He also claimed that the government neglected medicine procurement, purchased drugs from blacklisted companies - including expired medicines - and failed to assess the need for new hospital beds. "While people were struggling for oxygen, they were busy building palatial residences. Instead of providing proper healthcare, they allowed financial losses by procuring hospital

medicines from local shops," Singh said. He added that out of 86 contracts proposed by the government, only 24 were approved. Ahead of the Assembly session, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta reiterated that the discussion on the CAG report on health would expose the "scams" of the AAP government. "Today, in the house, we will discuss the CAG report on health, and all their scams will be exposed. The AAP has already been exposed before the people of Delhi. Today, everyone is witnessing how AAP deceived them. They came to Delhi wearing the cloak of honesty but crossed every limit of dishonesty," Gupta was quoted as saying by. She further stated that twelve more CAG reports were yet to be tabled, hinting at more irregularities likely to come to light. Meanwhile, Delhi Minister Ashish Sood also slammed the AAP government, alleging major failures in handling the city's



healthcare and power infrastructure. "With every page of the CAG report, more and more scams of the AAP government are coming to light. When the people of Delhi needed oxygen, when they needed Mohalla clinics, the Delhi government was busy constructing their Sheesh Mahal. The High Court and the CAG have made serious allegations about their 'Mohalla clinics' and the so-called health model. All MLAs will have a detailed discussion on this today," Sood told. The CAG report

tabled in the Assembly on Friday revealed that the Delhi government failed to spend Rs 245 crore out of nearly Rs 788 crore provided by the Centre for emergency response during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also highlighted delays in releasing funds for vaccination efforts. During the session, Speaker Vijender Gupta addressed the issue of the suspension of Opposition MLAs, making it clear that expelled legislators would not be allowed to participate in the proceedings. "Under Rule 277, they will be barred from entering the Assembly premises and from participating in the proceedings of the House and its committees. Permission may be granted for entry only for a specific purpose," Gupta said. He also reiterated that any MLA marshalled out of the House must leave not only the Assembly chamber but also the entire premises. "After suspension, the premises must be vacated."



## Security dynamics of the Siliguri corridor

THE turbulence and violence in the neighbouring Bangladesh reflect latent security threats and implications which may well spill over across the border, especially in the sensitive region of the Siliguri corridor. The geographical attributes and cartographic peculiarities of this area create vulnerabilities which can be exploited by inimical elements using non-conventional methods.

This corridor, which links India with eight of its states in the north-east, is formed due to the sudden decrease in width as the Indian territory extends eastwards across the land mass linking north Bengal with Assam and with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh hedging in this area from the west, north and south, respectively. The shortest expanse is 20 km, between Naxalbari on the India-Nepal border and Phansidewa on the India-Bangladesh border. Close to this is the 30-km transit route for third-party trade permitted by India between the border checkpoints of Kakarbhitta in Nepal and Banglabandha in Bangladesh. The Indian territory's width between Bhutan and Bangladesh is 43 km at its narrowest. Known as the 'gateway to the Northeast', major communication arteries, including NH 17 and 27, broad gauge rail lines, oil and gas pipelines and the national power grid, pass through it. The strategic airfields of Bagdogra and Hasimara, important military formation HQs, and the large towns of Siliguri, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar are located within this corridor. In the north, this area is over 40 km from the Chinese territory of Chumbi Valley, across the undeveloped mountainous terrain of south Bhutan till the Indian border. However, all along its southern length, it is flanked by the undulating border with Bangladesh as it meanders across the riverine terrain and swampy areas.

Guarding such a border, primarily against illegal immigrants and smugglers, is a herculean task as it is also densely populated on either side.

The conventional threats to the Siliguri corridor appear overhyped. Whether it is the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) through Bhutan or the Bangladesh forces from the south, the Indian armed forces can deter them and may well carry the battle across in the unlikely scenario of hostilities breaking out. The real threat lies in the unconventional domain. The high volume of illegal crossings driving a rapid demographic change, ethnic assertion turning to insurgency and support for both from across the borders — these are the actual security challenges.

Illegal immigration from Bangladesh has always been the bane of this region. It has impacted the ethnic composition of the populace in towns and villages. It has built up over the years in the garb of labour, domestic workers and petty businesses, including trans-border smuggling. All this provides a human resource for creating unrest in a vital part of India. A strong vein of Islamic fundamentalism had existed in East Bengal even before and after 1947, when it became the East of Jinnah's Pakistan. 1971 did not exorcise these elements. Pakistan recognised Bangladesh in 1974. Ironically, Pak PM Bhutto got a hero's welcome in Dhaka barely three years after the Pakistan army's infamous Operation Searchlight in 1971, which led to the Bangladesh liberation war. Khaleda Zia's tenure from 2001 to 2006 was the high noon of Pakistan/ISI influence with radical Islamists in government. Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami ran terror operations, targeting Indian interests with impunity. Sheikh Hasina did focus on this common enemy, but she could not eliminate the powerful strain of opinion.

Post the regime change in Bangladesh, the emerging alignment between Bangladesh and Pakistan does not augur well for peace and stability in the adjoining regions. The fundamentalist elements who have come to fore in the post-Hasina era would find mutuality of interests with a rogue state like Pakistan, whose ISI, for one, would like to get involved in this part of the sub-continent.

## Don't dismiss the poor as 'parasites'

Justice Gavai's real lament can be gauged by his subsequent diatribe about pre-poll freebies

JUSTICE BR Gavai, a Supreme Court judge, will occupy the seat of the Chief Justice in the near future. The Gavais are a well-known and respected family hailing from Vidarbha, Maharashtra. The Gavais were prominent in the Republican Party of India (RPI). When the party split, one of the factions was led by this family. In the light of this background, it is difficult to envisage Justice Gavai as being an enemy of the poor and the dispossessed. The RPI was the party of Dr BR Ambedkar's supporters. As a young student in Bombay (now Mumbai), I remember watching numerous open trucks with RPI supporters driving past my home in Byculla, rooting for RPI candidates in Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Yet, along with my friends and colleagues in the Constitution Conduct Group, I sent a letter to Justice Gavai, voicing our collective disappointment because he used the word 'parasites' for homeless people recently while hearing a civil writ petition seeking adequate shelter facilities for them. In the course of the hearing, Justice Gavai made the following oral remarks, "Sorry to say, by not making these people part of mainstream society, are we not creating a class of parasites? Because of freebies, when elections are declared, people are not willing to work. They are getting free ration without doing any work. Would it not be better to make them part of mainstream society so that they can contribute to the nation?" In the Communist country of Romania, where I lived for four years (1989-93), people were provided with a job according to his or her capacity and paid a minimum wage that covered expenses for food, clothing and accommodation. There was, of course, a difference in the standards of housing provided to the Nomenklatura and government officials. That arrangement was not appreciated by the bulk of the population. Such diktats could be enforced only in a regimented form of governance prevalent in Communist regimes. I do not think Justice Gavai was thinking of such a solution to our problems of unemployment and poverty.

Most commentaries on the good judge's remarks were centred on the mention of 'parasites'. Justice Gavai chose the wrong word and I am sure he must have realised this by now. His real lament can be gauged by his subsequent diatribe about "freebies declared just before elections", a form of bribery that is fast becoming acceptable in India as a fact of life. Just like day-to-day corruption has become acceptable. Even in advanced democracies like the US, coupons or other forms of social security cover have been in use. Even illegal immigrants are not left to starve or die of cold. They are housed and fed till they are deported. The problem in our country is that the poor and the unemployed are just too numerous to count. Shelters for the homeless in cities like Delhi are a must, especially during the winter



months when temperatures reach close to zero. I refuse to believe that Justice Gavai is indifferent to the plight of our compatriots who have been condemned to a life of penury. Reading between the lines of his observations made in the open court, I am inclined to believe that his disgust was directed at those in a position to guide economic activity in a direction that opens up avenues of employment for most residents of India and enables them to contribute to our progress. This is a tall order, but what is needed are signs that the government is keen to tackle the problem. At present, we notice no such signs; the ruling party's entire attention is concentrated on winning elections. My friend, Avay Shukla, is a former IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre. I have not met him, but I read his blogs every week. They are a delight to read, not only because of the felicity of language but also because of the subtle fun he pokes at those who need to be prodded. His take on Justice Gavai's use of the word 'parasites' is legitimate ('It's now official, we are a nation of parasites'). But the good judge should not be judged, much less condemned, for that single "slip of the tongue". He has given some good judgments, but human nature being what it is, we pick on just one, albeit unacceptable, error to pillory him.

I have never met Justice Gavai, unlike many of my junior colleagues who have served in Vidarbha. Not one has an

unkind word for him. In the IPS, there was MG Gavai, who was the Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, for a brief period prior to my appointment to that post. His elder brother was in the IAS. He was the Chief Secretary to the Maharashtra Government when I was tasked with heading the Police Commissionerate.

On the day after I assumed charge in February 1982, Chief Secretary Gavai phoned me and told me to accompany him to Delhi to meet the Union Home Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary. I was told that I had been picked for the job in preference to six seniors because the government had decided to tackle the police union that was playing havoc with the discipline of the force. Only Maharashtra was prepared to take on the unions, I was informed. Other states, such as Uttar Pradesh, were reluctant to touch the 'hot iron' for fear of being singed. To cut a long story short, we had trouble carrying out our plan, but were successful within 24 hours!

I met another member of the extended Gavai family in Warsaw. SM Gavai was an IFS officer posted as First Secretary in our embassy in Warsaw. Poland is a very Catholic country. The Pope, John Paul II, hailed from Krakow in Poland. My wife, who hated to travel, was mildly enthusiastic about visiting Poland as she was a good Catholic. Gavai had us over for dinner at his home. He was the last Gavai I met during my service years.

## Tainted politicians

Need to fast-track the trial in cases against them

THE Central Government has rightly told the Supreme Court that it's the prerogative of Parliament to consider whether convicted politicians should be banned from contesting elections for the remainder of their life. The Centre is not keen on a blanket ban and has opposed a plea challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Representation of the People Act. Under this law, a convicted neta is immediately disqualified and also barred from contesting polls for six years, starting from the date of completion of sentence. Subsequently, he/she becomes eligible for entering the poll fray. But is the six-year gap a potent deterrent? Should it be longer, if not lifelong? Various political parties are reluctant to discuss this contentious matter inside or outside Parliament for an obvious reason — they all have tainted leaders in their ranks. The bitter reality is that



criminalisation of politics is par for the course. Of the 70 newly elected MLAs of Delhi, 31 have criminal cases against them — 16 are from the BJP and the rest

from AAP. Both parties had no qualms about giving them the coveted ticket, apparently because their 'winnability' was the decisive factor, not their probity (or lack of it). It's true that a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty, but what stops a political party from preferring someone with a spotless record to one whose name figures in FIRs? And how can voters ascertain the truth about candidates' credentials? They simply can't — it's the job of prosecutors and courts to do the needful, and that too in a time-bound manner. The trial in cases against sitting/former MPs and MLAs often drags on for years or even decades. The protracted litigation allows them to contest one election after another. Fast-tracking of these cases can go a long way in weeding out the black sheep and preventing them from vitiating the electoral process. Political outfits can do their bit by initiating much-needed self-regulation.

## Why India's Oscar submissions need a makeover

India's submissions reflect stories that align with the western perception of India, focussing on poverty rather than the full breadth of its storytelling, including its heritage and achievements

THE 97th Academy Awards, popularly known as the Oscars, will dazzle the audiences on March 2 in Los Angeles, celebrating the finest achievements in global cinema. While anticipation runs high for the winners, the journey to the coveted golden statuette has already seen its share of surprises and heartbreaks. Amidst it all, one enduring question remains: What kind of stories does Indian cinema choose to tell on this stage and why?

India's journey in the 'Best International Feature Film' category at the Oscars has been a complex tapestry of artistic ambition, cultural representation and pursuit of global recognition, often sparking debates about the selection process and narratives chosen to represent its diverse cinema. While the country boasts a rich and varied film industry, its official submissions frequently reflect a preference for stories that align with the western perception of India. They focus on poverty, caste struggles and socio-political unrest rather than the full breadth of India's cinematic storytelling, including its cultural heritage, achievements and progress.

This pattern raises an important question: are we truly showcasing the best of Indian cinema or are we curating narratives that cater to a western gaze? A closer look at past selections suggests that India's choices on the global stage may not always reflect the full spectrum of its cinematic excellence, fuelling discussions about what truly defines Indian storytelling and how India chooses to represent itself internationally. The global reception of Indian films is often shaped by western perceptions. Slumdog Millionaire (2008), not an Indian film, but the United Kingdom's official submission, won multiple Oscars for its portrayal of Mumbai's slums. Similarly, Lion (2016), an Australian production about an Indian child's struggles, gained worldwide acclaim. This year, All We Imagine as Light (2024), which won the Grand Prix at Cannes, was overlooked as India's official submission, reportedly for being 'too European.' Instead,

Laapataa Ladies (2024) was chosen, sparking debates about the criteria used by the Film Federation of India (FFI). Likewise, Santosh (2024), again UK's official entry for the 2025 Oscars, directed by British filmmaker Sandhya Suri, reinforces stereotypes about caste oppression and systemic injustice in India. Though the film is in Hindi and rooted in rural north Indian settings, it represented the UK at the Oscars!

This raises another important question: why do so many foreign productions choose to tell stories about India's struggles, injustices and poverty? India's own submission for the same category, Laapataa Ladies (2024), also follows a similar path, highlighting the challenges faced by rural women. Though distinct in storytelling, both Santosh and Laapataa Ladies cater to an audience eager to see a certain version of India — one of hardships, inequality and deeply ingrained social issues. This fuels the perception of India as a country still trapped in poverty and injustice rather than a rapidly evolving, diverse and modern nation.

Similarly, Anuja (2024), produced by Guneet Monga and Priyanka Chopra, was selected as India's official entry for the 2025 Academy Awards and secured a nomination in the Best Live Action Short Film category. A poignant tale, but again on the same lines — it follows the journey of a poor nine-year-old girl, portraying struggles and triumphs of working children, while addressing such critical issues as child labour and girls' education.

India's Oscar journey began in 1957 when Mother India became its first official submission. The film, depicting a woman's resilience against poverty and societal oppression, resonated globally and secured a

nomination. This set a precedent — Indian films recognised at the Oscars often portray struggle and hardship. Continuing this trajectory, films like Salaam Bombay! (1988) and Lagaan (2001) focussed on themes of street life and drug addiction and colonial oppression, respectively. Notably, these remain the only three Indian films to have secured nominations in the Best

Dangal or Baahubali 2 raised the question if commercial viability and mass appeal should be factored in decision-making. Though thought-provoking, these selections reinforced the narrative of India's struggles rather than its achievements. Consider The Lunchbox (2013) and Court (2014), both internationally acclaimed, but ignored for Oscar submission. Sardar Udham (2021), a

powerful historical drama, was sidelined, as was Kantara (2022), rooted in indigenous traditions. Even Rocketry: The Nambi Effect (2022), celebrating ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan's contributions, failed to make the cut. Meanwhile, The White Tiger (2021), a critique of class struggles, found favour globally.

So, are these choices a reflection of the reality or are they curated to fit western expectations? While acknowledging social issues is crucial, should India not also showcase its progress, scientific excellence and cultural richness? Perhaps, it's time for India's selections to reflect the full spectrum of its storytelling. The Oscars' Best International Feature Film category has often been criticised for favouring narratives that align with western perspectives. Yet, countries like South Korea and Mexico have successfully reshaped their global cinematic image through strategic Oscar campaigns. Parasite (2019) blended dark humour with social critique while Drive My Car (2021) explored human relationships beyond national struggles. Winners like Perfect Days (2023) from Japan and Emilia Pérez (2024) from France highlight diverse storytelling that transcends stereotypes.



International Feature Film category. Bandit Queen (1994), which explored caste violence and oppression, was the official Oscar entry, while Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! (1994), a cultural phenomenon celebrating Indian weddings and traditions, was overlooked. Similarly, Earth (1998) and Hey Ram (2000) delved into communal conflicts while Newton (2017) highlighted electoral challenges in a politically volatile region. The selection of Newton over more popular contenders like



## बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाड़खणु थेके बेङ्गले यानवाहनेर प्रवेश शुरु

प्राय २४ घंटा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाड़खणु थेके बेङ्गले याओया समञ्च पण्यवाही यानवाहनेर प्रवेश शुरु होयेछे। गत सञ्च १८ टार पर बेङ्गल सरकारेर आदेशे बाड़खणु-बेङ्गल मथन सीमाञ्च पण्यवाही यानवाहनेर प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा होयेछिल। एर फले रात थेके दुपूर पर्यंत प्राय २० किमि दीर्घ यानजट सृष्टि ह्य। चालकदेर समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेङ्गल सरकारके चाप देय बाड़खणु सीमाञ्च थेके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करा समञ्च यानवाहन बक् करार जन। एर फले, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेते बाध्य ह्य एबं अवशेषे भारी यानवाहनेर प्रवेश आवार स्वाभाविक ह्य। बेङ्गल सरकारेर एहि अनुमतिर पर, ट्राक चालकरा शक्तिर निश्वास फेलेन। प्राञ्चन निरसा विधायक अरूप चाटार्जि बाड़खणुेर मुख्याम्नी हेमन्त सोरेनेर एहि उद्योगेर प्रशंसा करेन। तिन बलेन, मुख्याम्नी हेमन्त सोरेन एहि विषये क्रमागत शुरुकृ मियेछेन। बेङ्गल सरकारेर साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर बेङ्गल सरकार निषेधाञ्च तुले नय। एर पर, सारिते दौड़िये थाका समञ्च पण्यवाही यानवाहन बीर, बीरते बेङ्गले प्रवेश करते शुरु करेछे। NH-६ दीर्घ यानजट एखन सीमित हच्छे एबं यानजटो डाङ्गते शुरु करेछे।

## भोजपुरी कृषि लोक गीत (कहरवा धुन)

गेहूँआ के दिनवा  
- श्याम कुंवर भारती (राजभर)

धनवा कटाइल सईयां गेहुआ के दिनवा।  
हाली घरे अईहा सईयां दवाई कइसे धनवा।  
सास ससुर केवनो जोरओ ना लागता।  
लहुरा देवरवा हमरो बतियों ना मानता।  
पडल पडल सड़ता धान खरीहनवा।  
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## कमजोर लिस्टिंग के बाद बीजासन एक्सप्लोटेक के शेयरों पर लगा अपर सर्किट, निवेशकों को 12.4 प्रतिशत का नुकसान

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। मार्गिंग और डिफेंस सेक्टर के लिए एक्सप्लोटेक बनने वाली कंपनी बीजासन एक्सप्लोटेक के शेयरों ने आज कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशकों को काफी निराशा किया। आईपीओ के तहत कंपनी के शेयर 175 रुपये के भाव पर जारी किए गए थे। आज बीएसई के एसएमई प्लेटफॉर्म पर इसकी एंटी 29 रुपये यानी 16.57 प्रतिशत के डिस्कांट के साथ 146 रुपये के भाव पर हुई। हालांकि लिस्टिंग के बाद खरीदारी के सपोर्ट से ये शेयर उछल कर 153.30 रुपये के अपर सर्किट लेवल पर पहुंच गया। इस रिकवरी के बावजूद कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशकों को पहले दिन



## सर्गाफा बाजार में मामूली गिरावट, सोना और चांदी की घटी कीमत

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। घरेलू सर्गाफा बाजार में आज मामूली गिरावट का रुख बना हुआ है। भाव में आई इस गिरावट के कारण देश के ज्यादातर सर्गाफा बाजारों में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 86,610 रुपये से लेकर 86,760 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के दायरे में कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह 22 कैरेट सोना आज 79,390 रुपये से लेकर 79,540 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के बीच बिक रहा है। चांदी की कीमत में भी आज कमजोरी दर्ज की गई है, जिसे कारण ये चमकीली धातु आज दिल्ली सर्गाफा बाजार में 96,900 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रही है। देश की राजधानी दिल्ली में 24 कैरेट सोना 86,760 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 79,540 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। वहीं देश की आर्थिक राजधानी मुंबई में 24 कैरेट सोना 86,610 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 79,390 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है।



## लगातार दूसरे महीने बिकवाल बने रहे विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशक, दो महीने में की 1.12 लाख करोड़ की निकासी

नई दिल्ली। विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशक (एफपीआई) जनवरी के बाद फरवरी के महीने में भी लगातार बिकवाल (सेलर) की भूमिका में बने रहे। फरवरी के महीने में एफपीआई ने इंडियन स्टॉक मार्केट से 34,574 करोड़ रुपये की निकासी की। इस तरह 2025 के पहले 2 महीने में विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशक घरेलू शेयर बाजार से अभी तक 1.12 लाख करोड़ रुपये की निकासी कर चुके हैं। डिर्पाजिटरी के आंकड़ों के अनुसार विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों ने जनवरी के महीने में भी घरेलू शेयर बाजार में लगातार बिकवाली करके 78,027 करोड़ रुपये निकाले थे। हालांकि जनवरी के पहले दिसेंबर 2024 में एफपीआई ने भारतीय शेयर बाजार में 15,446



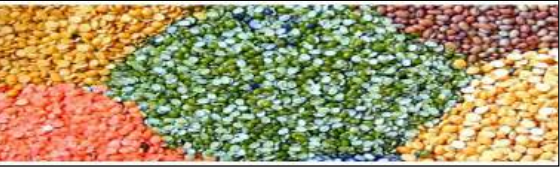
स्थिति और स्लोडॉउन की आशंका के कारण विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशक दुनिया भर के स्टॉक मार्केट से अपना पैसा निकालने में लगे हुए हैं। इसका असर भारतीय शेयर बाजार पर भी नजर आ रहा है। यही कारण है कि साल के पहले 2 महीने

ही 12.40 प्रतिशत का नुकसान हो गया। बीजासन एक्सप्लोटेक का 59.93 करोड़ रुपये का आईपीओ 11.52 गुना सब्सक्राइब हुआ था। इसी तरह नॉन इंस्टीट्यूशनल इन्वेस्टर्स (एनआईआई) के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन में 4.65 गुना सब्सक्रिप्शन आया था। इसके अलावा रिटेल इन्वेस्टर्स के लिए रिजर्व पोर्शन 2.26 गुना सब्सक्राइब हुआ था। इस आईपीओ के तहत 10 रुपये फेस वैल्यू वाले 34,24,800 नए शेयर जारी किए गए हैं। आईपीओ के जरिए जुटाए गए पैसे

## सेबी की पूर्व प्रमुख माधवी पुरी बुच की बढ़ेगी मुसीबत, धोखाधड़ी के आरोप में दर्ज होगी प्राथमिकी

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। मार्केट रेगुलेटर सिनियोरिटीज एंड एक्सचेंज बोर्ड ऑफ इंडिया (सेबी) के चेयरपर्सन पद से अवकाश ग्रहण करने के तुरंत बाद माधवी पुरी बुच की पंशानी बढ़ती हुई नजर आने लगी है। सेबी की पूर्व प्रमुख और पांच अन्य लोगों के खिलाफ शेयर बाजार में रेगुलेटरी प्रावधानों का उल्लंघन करने और कथित धोखाधड़ी के आरोप में प्राथमिक की दर्ज करने का आदेश दिया गया है। ये आदेश मुंबई की एक अदालत की ओर से जारी किया गया है। आदेश में कहा गया है कि इस मामले में प्रथम दृष्टया रेगुलेटरी प्रावधानों के उल्लंघन और मिली भगत की बात नजर आती है। इसलिए मामले की निष्पक्ष जांच की जरूरत है। उल्लेखनीय है कि पिछले शुक्रवार को ही सेबी के चेयरपर्सन के रूप में माधवी पुरी बुच ने 3 साल का कार्यकाल पूरा किया है। अब उनके स्थान पर तुहिन कांत पांडे ने सेबी की कमान संभाल ली है। अपने तीन साल के कार्यकाल के दौरान

## चना कांटा, तुअर सरस्ती, दालों में मिश्रित रंगत



एजेंसी इंदौर। संयोगितागंज अनाज मंडी में सप्ताहांत चना कांटा तथा तुअर सरस्ती बिकी। मूंग- उड़द में कामकाज बना रहा। दालों के दामों में मिश्रित रंगत दर्ज की गई। चावल में खरीदी बनी बतलाई गई। सोमवार को चना कांटा 5800 से 6000 रुपये खुलने के बाद रनिवार को 5600 से 5900 रुपये होकर थमा। मूंग 8000 से 8400 रुपये पर खुलने के बाद नीचे में 7200 रुपये बिकी। भाव 8000 से 8400 रुपये बोले गए। कारोबार में तुअर 6500 से 7400 रुपये खुलकर 6500 से 7400 रुपये बिकी। उड़द 8000 से 8200 पर खुलकर 8000 से 8200 रुपये रही। मसूर 6000 से 6050 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल के स्तर पर खुलने के बाद 6150 से 6200 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल होकर थमी। दालों में भाव मांग सुस्ती से ऊपर नीचे हुए। सप्ताहांत चना दाल के साथ तुअर कम होकर बिकी। मूंग दाल तथा मूंग मोगर महंगी बिकी। रवा, मैदा, गेहूँ का आटा में लिवाली रही।

## सेबी की पूर्व प्रमुख माधवी पुरी बुच की बढ़ेगी मुसीबत, धोखाधड़ी के आरोप में दर्ज होगी प्राथमिकी

माधवी पुरी बुच को कई आरोपों का सामना करना पड़ा। अमेरिकी शॉर्ट सेलर फर्म हिंडनबर्ग ने भी अपनी एक रिपोर्ट में माधवी पुरी बुच पर निशाना साधा था। मुंबई की विशेष अदालत ने एंटी



करण ब्यूरो को शेयर बाजार में कथित धोखाधड़ी और रेगुलेटरी प्रावधानों का उल्लंघन के संबंध में मुकदमा दर्ज करने का निर्देश दिया है। अदालत की ओर से कहा गया है कि मामले की निष्पक्ष जांच सुनिश्चित करने के लिए वो खुद जांच की निगरानी करेगा। अदालत ने 30 दिन के अंदर स्टेटस रिपोर्ट जमा करने का भी निर्देश दिया है। अदालत की ओर से कहा गया है कि माधवी पुरी बुच पर लगाए गए आरोप सींगीन

## पआईआईसीए ने भारत में ईएसजी नेतृत्व को सशक्त करने के लिए गोवा में एनएआईएल की बैठक की मेजबानी की

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। केन्द्रीय कॉर्पोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय के तत्वावधान में भारतीय कॉर्पोरेट कार्य संस्थान (आईआईसीए) ने गोवा में नेशनल एसोसिएशन ऑफ इम्पैक्ट लीडर्स (एनएआईएल) मीट 2025 का आयोजन किया। इस महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्रम में 100 से अधिक प्रतिभागियों ने भाग लिया, जिनमें प्रख्यात ईएसजी पेशेवर, नीति निर्माता और विश्वारक शामिल थे। आईआईसीए के महानिदेशक व सीईओ अजय भूषण प्रसाद पांडे और राष्ट्रीय वित्तीय रिपोर्टिंग प्राधिकरण (एनएफआरए) के अध्यक्ष के मार्गदर्शन में आयोजित एनएआईएल में गहन विचारों का आदान-प्रदान करने, उभरती स्थिरता प्रवृत्तियों पर विमर्श करने और जिम्मेदार कॉर्पोरेट भविष्य के लिए एक नीति तैयार करने

पर मंथन किया गया। बौद्धिक चर्चा के लिए मंच तैयार करते हुए कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत प्रोफेसर गरिमा दाधीच, एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर और स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस एक्वायर्समेंट, आईआईसीए की प्रमुख द्वारा आयोजित स्वागत और संबर्ध सत्र से हुई। उन्होंने कॉर्पोरेट स्थिरता को बढ़ावा देने में ईएसजी नेतृत्व के बढ़ते महत्व को स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त किया और संगठनात्मक रणनीतियों को नई वैश्विक नीतियों के अनुरूप करने की आवश्यकता के बारे में बताया। कार्यक्रम में इंपॉसिबल लिमिटेड की उपाध्यक्ष अरुणा सी. न्यूटन ने इस बारे में एक रोचक दृष्टिकोण प्रस्तुत किया कि कैसे मजबूत शासन व्यवस्था हरित प्रौद्योगिकी को अपनाने में तेजी ला सकती है, जिससे अंततः कॉर्पोरेट स्थिरता की संस्कृति को बढ़ावा मिल सकता है।

## अगले सप्ताह सिर्फ 1 नए आईपीओ की लॉन्चिंग, 4 कंपनियों के शेयरों की होगी लिस्टिंग

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। सोमवार से शुरू हो रहा कारोबारी सप्ताह आईपीओ लॉन्चिंग के लिहाज से काफी ठंडा रहने वाला है। इस सप्ताह सिर्फ एक नए पब्लिक इश्यू की लॉन्चिंग होने वाली है। ये इश्यू भी मेनबोर्ड का नहीं, बल्कि एसएमई सेगमेंट का है। इसके अलावा पिछले सप्ताह 28 फरवरी को ओपन हुए एक इश्यू में भी 4 मार्च तक बोली लगाई जा सकेगी। जहां तक नए शेयरों की लिस्टिंग की बात है तो इस सप्ताह 4 कंपनियों के शेयर लिस्टिंग के जरिए स्टॉक मार्केट में कारोबार की शुरुआत करेगी। इनमें भी मेनबोर्ड सेगमेंट की कोई कंपनी नहीं है। सभी चारों कंपनियों एसएमई सेगमेंट की हैं। सप्ताह के दूसरे कारोबार दिन 4 मार्च को टेक्सटाइल इंपोर्ट कंपनी



एनएपीएस ग्लोबल इंडिया का 11.88 करोड़ रुपये का पब्लिक इश्यू सब्सक्रिप्शन के लिए खुलेगा। इसका अलावा पिछले सप्ताह के

कंपनी के शेयर बीएसई के एसएमई प्लेटफॉर्म पर लिस्ट होंगे। इसके अलावा पिछले सप्ताह के आईपीओ के तहत बोली लगाने के लिए 90 रुपये प्रति शेयर की कीमत तय की गई है, जबकि इसका लॉट साइज 1,600 शेयर का है। आईपीओ क्लोज होने के बाद 7 मार्च को शेयरों का अलॉटमेंट किया जाएगा। इसी तरह 11 मार्च को आखिरी कारोबारी दिन 28 फरवरी को लॉन्च हुए बालाजी फॉस्फेट्स लिमिटेड के आईपीओ में चार मार्च तक बोली लगाई जा सकती है। आईपीओ के तहत बोली लगाने के लिए 66 से 70 रुपये प्रति शेयर का प्राइस बैंड तय किया गया है, जबकि लॉट साइज 2,000 शेयर का है। इस

## वाणिज्यिक कोयला खदान नीलामी पर कोयला मंत्रालय गांधीनगर में करेगा तीसरा रोड शो

जेंसी नई दिल्ली। वाणिज्यिक कोयला खदान को बढ़ावा देने और निजी निवेश को आकर्षित करने के अपने चल रहे प्रयासों के तहत कोयला मंत्रालय गुजरात के गांधीनगर में वाणिज्यिक कोयला खदान नीलामी और निवेश अवसरों पर एक रोड शो आयोजित करेगा। इसका उद्देश्य भारत के कोयला क्षेत्र में निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी में तेजी लाने के लिए उद्योग के हितधारकों, संभावित निवेशकों और नीति निर्माताओं को एक साथ लाना है। इस रोड शो कार्यक्रम में केंद्रीय कोयला और खान राज्य मंत्री सतीश चंद्र दुबे मुख्य अतिथि होंगे। उनके साथ कोयला मंत्रालय की अतिरिक्त सचिव रूफिंदर बरार और मंत्रालय के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी नीलामी प्रक्रिया, निवेश परिदृश्य और क्षेत्र में विकास

को गति देने वाली सरकारी पहल के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान करेंगे। कोयला मंत्रालय वाणिज्यिक कोयला खदान को बढ़ावा देने के लिए रोड शो की एक श्रृंखला के माध्यम से हितधारकों के साथ सक्रिय रूप से जुड़ रहा है। कोलकाता और मुंबई में सफल आयोजनों के बाद मंत्रालय अब संभावित निवेशकों और उद्योग जागत के नेताओं को आकर्षित करने के लिए गांधीनगर में रोड शो आयोजित कर रहा है। वाणिज्यिक कोयला खदान नीलामी का आगामी 12वां दौर मार्च के दूसरे सप्ताह में शुरू होने की उम्मीद है, जो घरेलू कोयला उत्पादन को बढ़ाने और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को और मजबूत करेगा। यह रोड शो कोयला उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने, दक्षता बढ़ाने, नीति समर्थन और क्षेत्र में

## पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों में टिकाव

नई दिल्ली। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में उतार चढ़ाव के बीच घरेलू स्तर पर पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम में आज टिकाव रहा, जिससे दिल्ली में पेट्रोल 94.72 रुपये प्रति लीटर तथा डीजल 87.62



## टॉप 10 में शामिल 8 कंपनियों के मार्केट कैप में 3.09 लाख करोड़ की गिरावट, टीसीएस को सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। घरेलू शेयर बाजार में पिछले सोमवार से शुक्रवार के कारोबारी सप्ताह आरंभ हुआ खरीद-बिक्री के कारण देश की टॉप 10 मोस्ट वैल्यूड कंपनियों में से 8 के मार्केट कैप में 3.09 लाख करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर, आईसीआईसीए के टॉप 10 कंपनियों की सूची में दूसरे स्थान से फिसल कर तीसरे स्थान पर आ गई है। दूसरी ओर, मार्केट कैप में बढ़ोतरी होने के कारण एचडीएफसी बैंक टॉप 10 कंपनियों की सूची में तीसरे स्थान से उछल कर दूसरे स्थान पर आ गया है। इस सप्ताह के

कारोबार के दौरान टाटा कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज (टीसीएस), रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज, आईटीआई, इंपॉसिबल, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (एसबीआई), हिन्दुस्तान यूनिटीवयर, भारती एयरटेल और आईसीआईसीआई बैंक के मार्केट कैप में कुल 3,09,244.57 करोड़ रुपये की गिरावट आई। वहीं, एचडीएफसी बैंक, और बजाज फाइनेंस के मार्केट कैप में बढ़ोतरी हो गई। सोमवार से शुक्रवार के बीच हुए कारोबार के दौरान टाटा कंसल्टेंसी सर्विसेज (टीसीएस) का मार्केट कैप

1,09,211.97 करोड़ रुपये कम होकर 12,60,505.51 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर तक पहुंच गया। इसी तरह इंपॉसिबल का मार्केट कैप 52,697.93 करोड़ रुपये घट कर 7,01,002.22 करोड़ रुपये हो गया। इसके अलावा भारती एयरटेल का मार्केट कैप 39,230.10 करोड़ रुपये कम होकर 8,94,993.67 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर आ गया। इसी तरह रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज का मार्केट कैप 38,025.97 करोड़ रुपये फिसल कर 16,23,343.45



के स्तर पर आ गया। दूसरी ओर, एचडीएफसी बैंक का मार्केट कैप 30,258.49 करोड़ रुपये बढ़ कर 13,24,411.31 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर आ गया। इसी तरह बजाज फाइनेंस का मार्केट कैप 9,050.24 करोड़ रुपये बढ़ कर 5,29,516.99 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर पहुंच गया। मार्केट कैप के लिहाज से रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज 16,23,343.45 करोड़ रुपये के बाजार पूंजीकरण (मार्केट कैप) के साथ देश की सबसे अधिक मार्केट कैप वाली कंपनी रही।



# नारायण और राम में कोई अंतर नहीं



प्राप्त करती हैं। चन्द्रमा पृथ्वी से ज्योति प्राप्त करती है, पृथ्वी सूर्य से ज्योति प्राप्त करती है और सूर्य परम पुरुष से ज्योति प्राप्त करते हैं। वे ही वह सर्वोच्च सत्ता है जो दूसरों को प्रकाशित करते हैं। वह सर्वोच्च प्रकाशमान सत्ता कौन है? परम पुरुष ही सर्वोच्च ज्योति सत्ता है। राति महीधर : का तात्पर्य है, मात्र परम पुरुष, कोई अलग सत्ता नहीं, कोई अन्य सत्ता नहीं। राम का तीसरा अर्थ है, रावणस्य मरण राम :। रावण शब्द का प्रथम अक्षर है रा और मरण का प्रथम अक्षर है म। राम-राम अर्थात् वह सत्ता जिसके चाप से रावण मर जाता है। अस्तु, रावणस्य मरण, रावण की मृत्यु कहां होती है, कब होती है? जब कोई राम की शरण में जाता है तो रावण मर जाता है। अतः रावणस्य मरण राम, जो परम पुरुष, राम, चिति सत्ता की शरण में चला जाता है, वह रावण रूपी राक्षस का नाश कर सकता है। रावणस्य मरण का तात्पर्य सर्वोच्च चितिसत्ता। अतः राम और नारायण में कोई अंतर नहीं है। तुम्हें अधिकाधिक सचाई के साथ अपनी सम्पूर्ण मानसिक वृत्तियों को समाहृत करते हुए बिदुभूत रूप में अपने लक्ष्य परम पुरुष की ओर चलना चाहिए। अपितु, सभी मानसिक वृत्तियों को सूई की नोक (सूच्यग्र) के समान एकाग्र करते हुए अपने में भाव को मात्र उस एक तत्व की ओर, बिना किसी अन्य रूप, नाम, वर्ण अथवा विषय पर ध्यान दिए तुम्हें परिचालित करना चाहिए। इसीलिए

नारायण और राम दोनों वास्तव में एक ही हैं, मात्र नामों का अंतर है। नारायण संस्कृत का शब्द है। राम का अर्थ क्या है? एक अर्थ है रमते योगिनः यस्मिन् रामः। अर्थात् राम ही मात्र एक ऐसे विषय है जो योगियों के आध्यात्मिक मानसिक आभोग है, मानसाध्यात्मिक भोजन है, मानसाध्यात्मिक आनंद और प्रसन्नता के स्रोत है। एक कहानी है कि किसी ने हनुमान से कहा, हनुमान, तुम एक भक्त हो और जानते हो कि मूलतः नारायण और राम में कोई अंतर नहीं है। तब तुम सर्वदा राम का ही नाम लेते हो, कभी नारायण का नाम नहीं लेते हो जबकि दोनों मूलतः एक ही हैं। राम का दूसरा अर्थ है, राति महीधर : रामः। राति का प्रथम अक्षर र है और महीधर का प्रथम अक्षर म, राम। राति महीधरः, सम्पूर्ण विश्व की सर्वश्रेष्ठ ज्योति सत्ता है, जिनसे सभी ज्योति (प्रकाशित) सत्ताएं ज्योति



## जब दैत्यों ने किया समुद्र मंथन के लिए मजबूर



एक दिन ऐरावत पर भ्रमण करते हुए देवराज इन्द्र से मार्ग में महर्षि दुर्वासा मिले। उन्होंने इन्द्र पर प्रसन्न होकर उन्हें अपने गले की पुष्प माला प्रसाद रूप में प्रदान की। इन्द्र ने उस माला को ऐरावत के मस्तक पर डाल दिया और ऐरावत ने उसे अपनी सूंड से नीचे झलकर पैरों से रौंद दिया। अपने प्रसाद का अपमान देखकर महर्षि दुर्वासा ने इन्द्र को शीघ्र हीने का शाप दे दिया। महर्षि के शाप से श्रीहीन इन्द्र दैत्यराज बलि से युद्ध में परास्त हो गये। दैत्यराज बलि का तीनों लोकों पर अधिकार हो गया। हारकर देवता ब्रह्मा जी को साथ लेकर भगवान विष्णु की शरण में गये और इस घोर विपत्ति से मुक्ति दिलाने की प्रार्थना की। भगवान विष्णु ने कहा कि आप लोग दैत्यों से संधि कर लें और उनके सहयोग से मंदराचल को मथानी तथा वासुकी नाग को रस्सी बनाकर क्षीरसागर का मंथन करें। समुद्र से अमृत निकलेगा, जिसे पिलाकर मैं देवताओं को अमर बना दूंगा, तभी देवता दैत्यों को पराजित करके पुनः स्वर्ग को प्राप्त कर सकेंगे। इन्द्र दैत्यराज बलि के पास गये और अमृत लोभ से देवताओं और दैत्यों में संधि हो गयी। देवताओं और दैत्यों ने मिलकर मंदराचल को उठाकर समुद्र तट की ओर ले जाने का प्रयास किया, किंतु असमर्थ रहे। अंत में स्मरण करने पर भक्त भयहारी भगवान पधारें। उन्होंने खेल खेल में ही भारी मंदराचल को उठाकर गरुण पर रख लिया और क्षणमात्र में क्षीरसागर के तट पर पहुंचा दिया। मंदराचल की मथानी और वासुकी नाग की रस्सी बनाकर समुद्र मंथन प्रारम्भ हुआ। भगवान ने मथानी को धंसते हुए देखकर स्वयं कच्छप रूप में मंदराचल को आधार प्रदान किया। मंथन से सबसे पहले विष प्रकट हुआ, जिसकी

भयंकर ज्वाला से समस्त प्राणियों के प्राण संकट में पड़ गये। लोक कल्याण के लिए भगवान शंकर ने विष का पान किया। इसके बाद समुद्र से लक्ष्मी, कौस्तुभ, पारिजात, सुरा, धन्वन्तरि, चंद्रमा, पुष्पक, ऐरावत, पांचजन्य, शंख, रम्भा, कामधेनु, उच्चैः श्रवा और अमृत कुंभ निकले। अमृत कुंभ निकलते ही धन्वन्तरि के हाथ से अमृतपूर्ण कलश छीनकर दैत्य लेकर भागे, क्योंकि उनमें से प्रत्येक सबसे पहले अमृतपान करना चाहता था कलश के लिए छीना झपटी चल रही थी और देवता निराश खड़े थे। अचानक वहां एक अद्वितीय सौन्दर्य से भरपूर नारी प्रकट हुई। असुरों ने उसके सौंदर्य से प्रभावित होकर उससे मध्यस्थ बनकर अमृत बांटने की प्रार्थना की। वास्तव में भगवान ने ही दैत्यों को मोहित करने के लिए मोहिनी रूप धारण किया था। मोहिनी रूप धारी भगवान ने कहा कि मैं जैसे भी विभाजन का कार्य करूँ, चाहे वह उचित हो या अनुचित, तुम लोग बीच में बाधा उत्पन्न न करने का वचन दो तभी मैं इस काम को करूँगी। सभी ने इस शर्त को स्वीकार किया। देवता और दैत्य अलग अलग पक्तियों में बैठ गये। जिस समय भगवान मोहिनी रूप में देवताओं को अमृत पिला रहे थे, राहु धैर्य न रख सका। वह देवताओं का रूप धारण करके सूर्य-चंद्रमा के बीच बैठ गया। जैसे ही उसे अमृत का घूंट मिला, सूर्य-चंद्रमा ने संकेत कर दिया। भगवान मोहिनी रूप का त्याग करके शंख चक्रधारी विष्णु हो गये और उन्होंने चक्र से राहु का मस्तक काट डाला। असुरों ने भी अपना शस्त्र उठाया और देवासुर संग्राम प्रारम्भ हो गया। अमृत के प्रभाव से तथा भगवान की कृपा से देवताओं की विजय हुई और उन्हें अपना स्वर्ग वापस मिल गया।

## युगों-युगों के लिए आदर्श भाई बन गए भरत

श्रीराम वनवास के बाद महाराज दशरथ ने उनके वियोग में अपना प्राण त्याग दिया। फिर गुरुदेव वसिष्ठ के आदेश से उनके शरीर को सुरक्षित रख दिया गया और ननिहाल से भरत और शत्रुघ्न को बुलाने के लिए शीघ्रगामी दूत भेजे गये। भरतजी के ननिहाल से लौटने के बाद कैकेयी ने उन्हें प्रेमपूर्वक गले से लगाया और उनसे अपने पिता, भाई और माता की कुशल क्षेम पूछी। महाराज दशरथ को कैकेयी के महल में न देखकर भरत ने पूछा, मां तुम यहां अकेली बैठी हो, तुम्हारे बिना तो पिताजी एकांत में कभी नहीं रहते थे। भईया श्रीराम भी नहीं दिखाई दे रहे हैं। कारण क्या है उन्हें नहीं देखकर मुझे दुख हो रहा है। कैकेयी ने कहा कि पुत्र तुम्हारे लिये भय और दुख की कोई बात नहीं है। मैंने महाराज से पूर्व वर के अनुसार तुम्हारे लिये राज्य तथा श्रीराम के लिये चौदह वर्षों का वनवास मांग लिया। श्रीराम के वनवास से दुखी होकर तुम्हारे पिता मृत्यु को प्राप्त हुए। कैकेयी के इस ककृत्य को सुनकर भरत शोक समुद्र में डूब गये। उन्होंने कैकेयी से कहा, %अरी पापिनी, तू बात करने योग्य नहीं है। तू अपने पति की हत्या करने वाली हत्यारिणी है और तेरे गर्भ से जन्म लेने के कारण उस महापाप का मैं भी भागीदार हूँ। मैं तेरा मुंह भी नहीं देखना चाहता। अतः तू मेरे सामने से तत्काल हट जा। कैकेयी के ककृत्य की निंदा करने के बाद भरत माता कौशल्या के पास गये और उन्हें विभिन्न प्रकार से सात्वना दी। उसके बाद उन्होंने

गुरुदेव वसिष्ठ की आज्ञानुसार महाराज दशरथ का विधिवत अंतिम संस्कार किया तथा पिता के उद्देश्य से ब्राम्हणों को अनेक प्रकार का दान



दिया। गुरुदेव वसिष्ठ के आदेश और माता कौशल्या के अनुरोध के बाद भी भरत ने राज्य लेना अस्वीकार कर दिया तथा सबको साथ लेकर

श्रीराम को मनाने के लिए पैदल ही चित्रकूट चल दिये। मार्ग में निषादराज गुह और श्रीभरद्वाज जी से मिलते हुए भरतजी चित्रकूट पहुंचे। वहां उन्होंने दूर्वादल के समान श्याम शरीर और विशाल हृदय वाले श्रीराम को बैठे हुए देखा। वे श्रीजानकीजी को निहार रहे थे और श्रीलक्ष्मणजी उनके चरण कमलों में सेवा कर रहे थे। भरत पाहि नाथ कहते हुए दण्ड की भांति जमीन पर गिर पड़े और उन्होंने श्रीराम के युगल चरणों को पकड़ लिया। श्रीराम ने प्रेम से अधीर होकर उन्हें गले से लगाया। भरतजी ने श्रीराम से कहा, हे महाभाग! यह समस्त पेटुक राज्य आप ही का है। आप हमारे बड़े भाई हैं, आप हमारे पितातुल्य हैं। आप इस राज को स्वीकार करें और मेरी माता के अपराध को भुलाकर हमारी रक्षा करें। श्रीराम ने कहा, भाई पिताजी ने मुझे चौदह वर्ष का वनवास और तुम्हें अयोध्या का राज्य दिया है। पिता के आदेश का पालन करना हम दोनों का परम धर्म है। जो मनुष्य पिता के आदेश का उल्लंघन करता है वह जीता हुआ भी मृतक के समान है। अतः तुम अयोध्या का पालन करो और मैं दण्डकारण्य में निवास करूंगा तथा वनवास से लौटने के बाद जैसा तुम चाहोगे वैसा करूंगा। इस तरह विभिन्न प्रकार से समझाकर श्रीराम ने अपनी चरण पादुकाएं श्री भरत जी को सौंप दीं। भरतजी अयोध्या लौट आये और उन पादुकाओं को सिंहासन पर स्थापित कर नंदीग्राम में तपस्वी जीवन व्यतीत करते हुए अयोध्या पर शासन करने लगे।

## उंगलियां बताएंगी आपकी आर्थिक स्थिति

धन-संपत्ति का होना या आपकी जिंदगी में इसका आना काफी हद तक आपके टैलेंट के साथ-साथ आपके हाथों की रेखा पर भी निर्भर करता है। आइए जानें कि उंगलियों को देख आप कैसे पता लगाएंगे कि



आपकी जिंदगी में कब धनागमन होगा

- यदि आपकी कनिष्ठा उंगली और अनामिका उंगली को आपस में सटाने के बाद बीच में गैप नजर आ रहा हो तो समझ लीजिए कि बुढ़ापे में पैसों की तंगी से आप परेशान हो सकते हैं।
- यही गैप यदि मध्यमा और अनामिका उंगली के बीच नजर आ रही हो तो साफ है कि युवा अवस्था में आप पैसों के संकट से जूझ सकते हैं।
- यदि मध्यमा और तर्जनी के बीच यह गैप हो तो बचपन में जातक को आर्थिक समस्या से सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- यदि यह गैप किसी भी उंगली के बीच न हो तो इसका अर्थ है कि व्यक्ति जन्म भर धन-संपत्ति से परिपूर्ण रहता है।
- यदि उंगलियों के सभी पर्व लंबे हों तो व्यक्ति धनवान होता है।
- यदि मध्यमा उंगली के तीसरे पर्व के करीब अनामिका आकर मिल गई हो तो ऐसे लोग कलाकार, बुद्धिमान, विद्वान और विचारशील होते हैं और इस क्षेत्र में धन



- यदि अनामिका उंगली सीधी और लंबी है तो समझ लें कि जातक धन कमाने के मामले में काफी कुशल होता है।
- यदि अनामिका उंगली तर्जनी के समान लंबी हो और उसका पहला पर्व चपटा हो तो व्यक्ति को खूब धन व सम्मान मिलता है।
- यदि व्यक्ति की उंगलियों में अनामिका का तीसरा पर्व ज्यादा लंबा हो और गांठें उभर हों तो बिना वह किसी परेशानी के धन कमाने में लीन रहता है।
- यदि जीवन रेखा से कई छोटी रेखाएं नजर आएं और यह ऊपर की ओर जाती दिखे तो समझ लीजिए कि उस खास उम्र में व्यक्ति धन-संपत्ति और सम्मान पाता है।
- यदि मरिक्का रेखा से कोई रेखा गुरु पर्वत की ओर जाए और उसके अंत पर क्रॉस जैसे निशान हो या फिर कोई टेढ़ी-मेढ़ी रेखा हो तो ऐसे लोगों को चाहकर भी धन पाने में सफलता नहीं मिल पाती।
- अंगूठे के दोनों पर्व यदि कठोर और बराबर हों तो यह धन और बिजनेस को खूब बढ़ाता है।

## अंगूठा बताता है आपका व्यक्तित्व

कहते हैं अंगूठा मरिक्का का अहम बिंदु होता है। पुराने जमाने में किसी का अंगूठा देखकर उसकी बीमारी और उपचार के बारे में बताया जाता था। आइए, जानें कि अंगूठे का शेष क्या-क्या कहता है आपके बारे में...

- अंगूठा यदि मोटा हो तो कहते हैं ऐसे लोग बड़े ही जिद्दी स्वभाव के और भड़े आचरण वाले होते हैं।
- अंगूठा यदि छोटा हो तो ऐसे लोग फिकल माइंड के होते हैं। पल में ये पल में वो- यह सोचने में उन्हें ज्यादा देर नहीं लगती। अंगूठा छोटा और पतला हो तो व्यक्ति की मानसिक स्थिति कमजोर और उनमें लीडिंग पावर की कमी दिखती है।
- लंबे अंगूठे वालों का व्यक्तित्व शानदार होता है। वे काफी जल्दी खुद पर कंट्रोल करना जानते हैं।
- कहते हैं कि अंगूठे के आगे का हिस्सा यदि शेष में पतला हो तो व्यक्ति बेहद होशियार, बुद्धिमान और हर बात को अलग और बेहतर तरीके से सोचने वाला और संवेदनशील होता है।
- कुछ लोगों का अंगूठा ऊपर से बिल्कुल चौड़ा सा नजर आता है। जिनका अंगूठा ऐसा हो, वह व्यक्ति प्रैक्टिकल होता है। कही अनकही बातों पर ध्यान न देते हुए वह वही करता है जो प्रैक्टिकली सही हो। हालांकि ऐसे लोग बड़ी जल्दी उतेजित भी हो जाते हैं।
- हममें से ज्यादातर लोगों का अंगूठा नीचे से मोटा और ऊपर थोड़ा पतला और मुड़ा होता है। लेकिन, यदि किसी का अंगूठा शेष में बिल्कुल सीधा हो तो समझ लें कि मूड खराब होने पर उन्हें समझाना किसी के बस की बात नहीं। स्वभाव से बड़े ही जिद्दी किस्म के होते हैं। लोग उनसे दूर रहना ही पसंद करते हैं।
- कुछ लोगों का अंगूठा बेहद लचीला होता है और ऐसे लोगों का स्वभाव भी काफी सॉफ्ट होता है। दोस्ती तो इनकी सबसे हो जाती है, लेकिन ऐसे लोगों पर भरोसा कोई जल्दी नहीं करता।



NEWS BOX

**Shooting: Seeking productive season with long-term target in mind**

CHENNAI. Shooting was one of the very few sports that helped India capture the coveted Olympic medals during the 2024 Paris Games. After some period of relaxation, the shooters have been looking to recalibrate and gradually find their zone ahead of competitions ahead. There were some notable scores during the national trials that were conducted recently and now, the shooters are set for a national camp ahead of their first international assignment this year. It's a phase that national rifle coach, Deepali Deshpande, is excited about. "This is the first year in the new Olympic cycle. This time we have a very strong bench strength. It is a very interesting situation right now. We have to maintain it for the next three, four years now," she noted.

With rich talent pool in hand, the National Rifle Federation of India (NRAI), the governing body of the sport in the country, and the coaches are looking to ensure that more shooters can get the platform to display



their talents. "More shooters will be getting exposure tours this time. It won't be just No 1, 2 and 3 ranked shooters. The last Olympic cycle was very short, so we need to plan well. This year will be more about training and preparing teams and assessing the shooters. There are many established shooters who have been around for a long but there are some new faces in the squad and we need to check their performances at the international level," she said.

National camp from March 14

During the upcoming national squad camp, which is expected to be held from March 14 in New Delhi, as many as eight shooters (at least) are expected to be part of it. The coaches, who were named recently by NRAI, will also get a close look at the talented bunch. "The camp was originally meant for the team for the upcoming World Cups. But we proposed to have a national squad camp so that we can meet all the shooters. And later, if we can have three camps or so, that would be ideal," the Dronacharya Awardee said.

The size of the squad is fine. Since the shooters are of really high standards, the work at the base level will be much less and it will be different. That is quite exciting. There's more order this time and I hope everything goes smoothly," she added.

**IND vs NZ | Varun Chakravarthy elated with Dubai redemption: Looks good right now**

New Delhi. India spinner Varun Chakravarthy expressed his delight at completing his Dubai redemption on Sunday, February 2 as he guided India to a big win over New Zealand. Varun picked 5 wickets for 42 runs as India won the match against the Blackcaps to finish top of the table in Group A, winning 3 matches out of 3. However, the mystery spinner didn't have the best of times in Dubai last time he was here. In 2021, Varun had a lacklustre T20 World Cup campaign, as he went wicketless in 3 matches and was dropped from the playing XI. Since then, Varun has reinvented himself and made himself a permanent fixture in India's T20I side, before making his ODI debut during the recent England



series. While Varun went wicketless in T20 World Cup 2021, he was economical, something that the spinner pointed to during the press conference. Varun said that the results didn't go his way in 2021, but things look better as the team is doing well.

"Yeah, of course, in 2021, we didn't have a - I didn't, personally, I didn't have a great tournament here. But I do feel that I did bowl decently. But the results were not our way. But it looks good right now. And Team India is doing well. And the combinations have set very well so feels good," said Varun.

"What happened in 2021 did play in my mind during first spell" Varun admitted that in his first spell, he was a bit nervous as the failure in 2021 did play in his mind. However, the spinner said that captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Hardik Pandya were telling him to calm down and kept talking to him.

"And yeah, of course, the first spell of mine I was a little nervous because the previous things, the emotions and all were playing whatever happened in the last three years before in this ground. Where little bit it was playing with me and I was trying to keep it down, control it. But Virat bhai, Rohit and even Hardik, they were telling calm down, calm down. They were coming and talking to me. That really helped," said Varun.

**Atletico hoping Alvarez can end Real Madrid heartbreak in Europe**

**Atletico have reached three Champions League finals and lost every time, including against Real Madrid in 2014 and 2016.**

MADRID. For Atletico Madrid it has been a repetitious and painful tale whenever they have faced city rivals Real Madrid in Europe, but they signed Julian Alvarez to try and rip up the script. The Argentine international has become Atletico's key attacking threat after arriving from Manchester City last summer and will lead the line for them on Tuesday at the Santiago Bernabeu in the Champions League last 16. Atletico have reached three Champions League finals and lost every time, including against Real Madrid in 2014 and 2016.

Those agonising defeats, the first in extra-time and the second on penalties, were compounded by Los Blancos wins in the 2015 quarter-finals and 2017 semi-finals.

The only other occasion they have met in the competition was in 1959, when after an aggregate semi-final draw the tie went to a play-off. Real Madrid emerged triumphant and went on to lift a fourth consecutive European Cup. Their dominance in the competition has held until this day, with Carlo Ancelotti's side record 15-time winners and the current holders.

Diego Simeone's team were ousted by Borussia Dortmund in last year's quarter-finals, one of the low points of a miserable campaign. They responded in the summer by signing Alvarez for 85 million euros (\$88 million), hoping the 25-year-old forward would become the cornerstone of their side.

"He has everything a player needs to play for Atletico Madrid, and for many years to come," said Simeone after Alvarez struck twice to help them beat German champions Bayer Leverkusen in the group phase.

Alvarez has nine goals in his last 13 matches across all competitions, and 21 strikes in 40 games in total. Alvarez is well-rounded, a



sharp finisher with great mobility, ability to link the play and high work-rate. "Every move he gets involved in, he improves," said impressed Athletic striker Inaki Williams. Simeone requires great intensity from his players, with those who don't sweat for the club badge not lasting long at Atletico. Despite arriving as a World Cup winner with Argentina and a Champions League and double Premier League winner with Man City, Alvarez has shown no airs

and graces. His dedication to what Simeone demands of him makes him already seem a better fit than the one more expensive player in the club's history -- Joao Felix.

The Portuguese striker flopped at the Metropolitano and was sold to Chelsea last summer. "(Alvarez) is a guy who won everything and he's the one who runs the most, you look at him and admire him," said Atletico defender Jose Gimenez. "He is an example for all of us, from the youngest to the oldest." The forward has a point of his own to prove too, after Pep Guardiola left him on the bench during City's 2023 Champions League final win over Inter Milan.

"I didn't get to play in the Champions League final, I didn't play much in the semi-finals," Alvarez told Argentine news site Infobae.

"Something inside me told me that I needed a different challenge, to look for something new." Alvarez has found that with Atletico and aims to give the Rojiblancos a new experience against Real Madrid in Europe too.

**Champions Trophy: Australia name Cooper Connolly as Matthew Short's replacement**

**Connolly replaces Short for the rest of the tournament**

**Short picked up a calf injury during Australia vs Afghanistan**

**Australia made first Champions Trophy semi-final in 16 years**



medical staff confirmed that he would not regain full match fitness in time for the semi-final. Champions Trophy: Full Coverage | Points Table

His replacement, Connolly, was already part of the Australia squad as a travelling reserve. The 24-year-old all-rounder has played six international matches for Australia, including three ODIs, and will now step into the squad at a crucial stage of the tournament. While primarily a middle-order batter, Connolly's ability to bowl off-spin gives Australia an extra bowling option in what is expected to be a high-pressure contest against India. Australia's return to the Champions Trophy semi-finals marks

New Delhi. Australia have announced all-rounder Connor Connolly as the replacement for injured opener Matthew Short ahead of their crucial Champions Trophy semi-final clash against India. Short sustained a calf injury during Australia's rain-affected match against Afghanistan on February 28, ruling him out of the remainder of the tournament.

Short picked up the injury while fielding and was seen in visible discomfort after his brief knock of 20 runs off 15 balls before being dismissed by Azmatullah Omarzai. Despite initial hopes of a quick recovery, Australia's

their first appearance in the tournament's final four since 2009. The five-time ODI World Cup winners last won the Champions Trophy in 2006 and will be aiming to add another ICC title to their illustrious record.

Steve Smith, who has been leading Australia in the absence of regular captain Pat Cummins due to injury, confirmed Short's unavailability after the Afghanistan game. The semi-final against India on March 4 will be a major test for Australia, with both teams coming in strong form. With the conditions in Dubai likely to favour spin, the inclusion of Connolly could prove valuable in providing an extra bowling option alongside Adam Zampa and Glenn Maxwell.

Australia squad: Steve Smith (c), Sean Abbott, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Adam Zampa. As Australia prepare for their biggest challenge in the tournament yet, all eyes will be on how Connolly performs in his new role as the team pushes for a spot in the final.

**Shreyas Iyer on Indian team comeback after whirlwind 1.5 years: It's you vs you**

New Delhi. Shreyas Iyer commented on the mantra that he followed to get back into the Indian team after a whirlwind one and a half years. Shreyas was one of the key players for India during the ODI World Cup in 2023, which he played after recovering from surgery on his back. However, 2024 saw the Mumbai batter get dropped from the Test team and lose his BCCI central contract before guiding KKR to the IPL 2024 title. Shreyas would make a return to the ODI team during the England series, where he initially admitted he wasn't the first choice to be in the lineup for the first match. Since then, the 30-year-old has made a great impact for his side and has scored 150 runs in 3 matches during the Champions Trophy, which includes 2 fifties. Speaking to the broadcasters after India's win over New Zealand, Shreyas said that the last one and a half years taught him how to take responsibility for himself rather than depend on someone else. The 30-year-old said he has been backing himself and his instincts. Shreyas also pointed out to the technique he has developed in the last few



years for helping him get back his spot and said he has been focussing on staying in the present. "It has definitely taught me a lot as a person, as an individual, on how to take the responsibility on myself rather than depending on someone else because over a period of time, I realised that it's only you versus you. No one is going to be there to help you in your tough times, but there are only limited people who would be there and you know them very closely. So yeah, I've been just backing myself and showing that sort of confidence in every situation I enter in. I always love to back my instincts." "I keep saying that again and again, and I think that's what has helped me in the last 1.5 years. And also the technique that I've developed. I think we had a vivid chat about it. But other than that, just to stay in the present as much as possible and not to dwell in those thoughts which has happened in the past," said Shreyas.

**I was nervous and emotional ahead of first spell, but chat with seniors calmed me down: Varun Chakravarthy**

DUBAI. Varun Chakravarthy erased his painful Dubai memories with a match-winning five-wicket haul against New Zealand, but the India spinner admitted feeling "nervous" ahead of his opening spell due to the "emotions" running through his mind. The 33-year-old had figures of 4 for 33 in a 10-wicket drubbing by Pakistan during the 2021 T20 World Cup here, but four years later he registered 5 for 42 as India defeated New Zealand by 44 runs in the Champions Trophy to top group A here on Sunday.

"In 2021, I didn't have a great tournament here. But it looks good right now. I was a little nervous ahead of my first spell (vs NZ). The emotions were playing (in mind) because of whatever happened three years before at this ground," said Chakravarthy in the post-match press conference. Chakravarthy, who replaced rested Harshit Rana in the playing eleven, said a chat by the senior pros helped him to "calm down". "They (emotions) were playing with me and I was trying to keep it

down, control it. But Virat bhai, Rohit and Hardik, were telling me to calm down. They were coming and talking to me. That really helped," he added. Once settled down, Chakravarthy, who made his ODI debut



against England last month, had to find a way to shift through the spells unlike in T20Is, where he largely bowls four overs on the trot. "In T20s, my sequencing of balls as in how I construct an over is totally different compared to the 50-over format. I was able

to figure it out when I played the last two years in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. It really helped me to understand when I can bowl my incoming delivery or outgoing delivery or the straighter one or the top spin. It is completely different from what I do in the T20s," he said. The DICS pitch had considerable assistance for spinners, and Chakravarthy said he was judicious in using his bottomless bag of tricks. "It was not a rank turner which people were projecting it to be. But definitely it was holding on a bit, and it was deviating a little bit just to create the doubt.

So, basically, you had to play around it. I would also dedicate my five wickets to the other bowlers as the way they bowled helped me pick wickets," he noted. Patience was another key component for Chakravarthy while bowling on such pitches. "It is a patience game. You just need to wait on such slow wickets as the ball doesn't turn fast. So, you need to wait," he said.

**Sourav Ganguly hails India favourites for Champions Trophy: Can defeat anyone**

**Ganguly hailed India's unbeaten run in Champions Trophy**

**Varun Chakravarthy's five-wicket haul stunned New Zealand**

**India secured semi-final clash against Australia**



from spin maestro Varun Chakravarthy. This win further solidifies their status as title favourites, having already defeated Bangladesh and arch-rivals Pakistan in the group stage. Speaking to ANI, Ganguly praised India's squad depth and dominant performances, highlighting their ability to

overcome any challenge in the competition. "India won the last T20 World Cup (in 2024) and played in the final (of 50-over in 2023). It is a very strong team in white-ball cricket, no matter who is on the opposite side. It has the capability to defeat anyone," Ganguly said. India posted a competitive total of 249

against New Zealand, with their batters playing spin exceptionally well. Of those 249 runs, 124 came against New Zealand's spinners in 25 overs for the loss of just two wickets, showcasing India's adaptability in tough conditions. Their bowlers then put in a disciplined performance to successfully defend the total, with spinners leading the charge.

**[IND vs NZ, Highlights] SEMI-FINAL LINE-UP CONFIRMED**

Varun Chakravarthy, who was drafted into the Champions Trophy squad as a late addition, seized his opportunity with a stunning display of spin bowling. Making his first appearance in the tournament, he dismantled the BlackCaps' batting order, registering his maiden five-wicket haul in ODIs. His remarkable spell came at a crucial time for India, proving their incredible bowling depth. With this victory, India now sets its sights on the semi-final against Australia on March 4.





# Parineeti Chopra

Makes Netflix Debut With Thriller Series, Starts Shooting

Parineeti Chopra starts filming her Netflix debut, a thriller series in Shimla, produced by Siddharth P Malhotra and directed by Rensil D'Silva, featuring Tahir Raj Bhasin, Anup Soni, and Jennifer Winget.

Bollywood's favourite girl-next-door, Parineeti Chopra, is all set to bring her charm to the world of streaming. The actress has officially begun shooting for her Netflix debut, and guess what? It's not a rom-com but a thriller series. Netflix has now announced its upcoming compelling Mystery Thriller set amidst the picturesque hills of Shimla.

Produced by the acclaimed Siddharth P Malhotra, director of Maharaj and Sapna Malhotra of Alchemy Productions and written and directed by the visionary writer Rensil D'Silva of Rang De Basanti and Ungli fame, the currently untitled series promises a gripping blend of intrigue and suspense.

The series boasts an ensemble cast including Tahir Raj Bhasin, Anup Soni, Jennifer Winget, Chaitannya Choudhry, Harleen Sethi, and Soni Razdan. Parineeti shared a post on X and wrote, "Some mysteries don't just unfold—they pull you in, keep you guessing, and refuse to let go!" We've got a lead on this case. A new mystery thriller series is in the making! Shooting has begun, can't wait for you all to see this labor of love from team Netflix and us when it's ready! Making my series OTT debut (sic)."

Speaking to the exciting new series and cast, the creators Siddharth Malhotra and Rensil D'silva shared, "We are thrilled to collaborate on this Noir Mystery Thriller with Netflix, a platform that celebrates storytelling in its most diverse and compelling forms. Working with Netflix has allowed us the creative freedom to push boundaries and bring a unique narrative to life. With a cast as talented as this and Parineeti choosing to foray into series with our production, we are excited for what lies ahead and cannot wait for the world to watch the mystery unfold."

Tanya Bami, Series Head, Netflix India, added, "Some mysteries don't just unfold—they pull you in, keep you guessing, and refuse to let go. Set against the misty hills of Shimla, this gripping thriller unravels secrets, emotions, and the depths of human nature with unmatched intensity. With the creative vision of Rensil D'Silva and Siddharth P. Malhotra, and a powerhouse cast featuring Tahir Raj Bhasin, Anup Soni, and Harleen Sethi, the series captivates from the very first scene. We are delighted to welcome Parineeti Chopra back to Netflix following her stellar performance in Amar Singh Chamkila—now in her first-ever series and we're equally excited to have Jennifer Winget join us: Prepare for a journey that will keep you on the edge of your seat, hooked and guessing until the very end."

This thriller series marks Parineeti Chopra's fourth outing with Netflix. She previously teamed up with the platform for Ribhu Dasgupta's mystery drama The Girl on the Train, Imtiaz Ali's biographical film Amar Singh Chamkila alongside Diljit Dosanjh, and an upcoming romantic comedy directed by Dhruv Tripathi. With each project spanning a different genre, Parineeti is proving she's here to conquer every corner of the OTT world!

## Jyotika On Facing Sexism For Being Married To 'Superstar' Suriya: 'You May Have Identity Crisis'



After 26 years, Jyotika returned to Hindi films with Srikanth in 2024. And now, she's gearing up for the release of her next Hindi project, Dabba Cartel, a series that chronicles the story of five ordinary women, who accidentally become involved in a high-stakes drug cartel. The film sees Jyotika playing a housewife of a business tycoon, who has put her own high-profile career on hold to focus on her family. Incidentally, in real life, she too took a hiatus from the movies after her marriage to south star Suriya in 2006.

Dabba Cartel, apart from narrating a gripping investigative tale, also touches upon the theme of casual sexism. Now, in an exclusive chat with News18 Showsha, Jyotika reveals that despite spending so many decades in the film industry, she often faces discrimination for being a woman and a large part of the same stems from being Suriya's wife. "It seems like an everyday thing. I'm married to a superstar. So, I face it every now and then, till date. I see it happening even during interviews," she tells us.

Explaining her stance further, she says, "If I say that I feel lucky to have married Suriya, people say that he's a really nice guy. If he says that he feels lucky to have married a nice woman, it suddenly becomes something like Suriya is such a nice guy that he's thinking of his wife. You experience casual sexism even when it comes to materialistic things. I may buy a car but someone else is supposed to press the button and check the features out. It's now a part of daily life. There are hundreds of instances that I can point out."

And this discrimination just doesn't end here. According to Jyotika, it often makes her question her own identity. "Sometimes, it reaches a level where you may have an identity crisis. A woman's search for her identity also nudges one to take a lot of decisions and make choices on their own. That's also how I chose my career path," she states. For the unversed, Jyotika and Suriya had first met on the sets of the 1999 Tamil film, Poovellam Kettuppar. After dating for a few years, they finally got married that led her to shift base from Mumbai to Chennai.

A while ago, Suriya had revealed that post the pandemic, they shifted back to Mumbai as a family to help revive Jyotika's career and give a regular lifestyle to their children. Earlier, in an interview with us, Jyotika spoke about her strong relationship with Suriya and said, "My husband is my best friend. He was the first guy I met in the industry and I did my first film with him. We remained friends for a long time. Since we've lasted this long and continue to, I'm imagining that it's because of the friendship we share."

**John Abraham Calls Entourage Costs 'Mental', Urges Actors To Cut Down Fees: 'We Are Suffering'**



John Abraham recently expressed his take on why the film industry is suffering. He called out actors demanding a hefty fee and loading a film with their entourage costs. He introspected the dire condition of the film industry, stating that it is "bleeding". The Satyameva Jayate actor also suggested that actors accept a pay cut and work on a film from the backend.

"It's already hurting Hindi cinema," John Abraham told The Hollywood Reporter. He added, "At this point of time, we shouldn't be paying people to act in films because we don't justify those huge budgets. The huge fees that we get paid, and we can't load a film with entourage costs as well. It's ridiculous. Don't know if actors are thinking this way or is it their agent making them think differently. I understand you are put in a bubble, but you can't be so daft. You need to see the real world. If people are blowing sunshine from your backside, you need to wake up and smell the coffee. As an industry, we are really suffering."

The actor said that stylists these days charge Rs 2 lakh per day, which is "mental". He called this one of the reasons why the film industry is not able to rake in money. "First thing to make amends is by cutting your personal cost. When a director tells you that you aren't worth that much, you need to take that in cognizance. We don't have that thought yet. We compare ourselves to other actors, and we want to broadcast our fees, and that's the worst thing to do," explained John. The Jism star further expressed his concern for the industry and said that it's time actors realise the "deep black hole" they are steadily seeping into. He felt artists should go to the backend to work on a film. He further added that actors' profit-making from films should be dependant on the film's box office business. "How much more will you suck the system dry?", a concerned John said.

## Govinda's Wife Sunita Ahuja

Lived Separately, She Feared He Was Cheating: 'Never Trust A Man'

**Govinda and Sunita Ahuja may divorce after 37 years. Sunita hinted at worries about Govinda cheating and revealed they lived separately amid unconfirmed disagreements.**



In the latest shocking development, Govinda and his wife Sunita Ahuja may be heading for divorce after 37 years of marriage, according to reports. However, it has to be noted that the couple has not confirmed or denied the news yet. According to unverified sources, ongoing disagreements and differing lifestyles have led to frequent arguments between them.

This reminds us of a recent interview that Sunita gave wherein she hinted at her worries about Govinda cheating on her. She had made some startling revelations about their marriage including the fact that they lived separately.

Sunita had revealed that she was the one who initiated their relationship, as Govinda "was even scared to touch women." However, she added that Govinda is not the romantic type, at least not in real life. "Now, I don't know if he has become like that. You never

know what people do behind your back. Never trust a man. People change colours like a chameleon. It's been 37 years since we got married. Where would he go? Earlier he never went anywhere, now I don't know..." she said in an interview with Hindi Rush.

Sunita also shared that they mostly lived in separate houses, with Govinda often staying at his bungalow. "We have two houses, we have a bungalow opposite our apartment. I have my temple and my kids in the flat. We live in the flat whereas he gets late after his meetings. He loves talking so he'll gather 10 people and sit chatting with them. Whereas me, my son and my daughter live together, but we hardly talk because I feel if you end up wasting your energy by talking too much," she explained.

When asked about Govinda's romantic nature, Sunita said, "I have told him that in my next life, he should not be my husband. He doesn't go on holidays. I am a person who wants to go out with her husband and eat pani-puri on the streets. He spent too much time working... I don't recall a single instance when we both went out to watch a movie."

Sunita also shared that she used to feel secure in her marriage earlier but it's not the case anymore. "I used to be very secure earlier on in our marriage, now I am not," she said with a laugh. "Kya hai na saath (60) ke baad log sathiya bhi jaate hai na... (After 60, people even lose their senses) He has crossed 60, you never know what he does..." she added.

News18 Showsha contacted Sunita Ahuja and daughter Tina Ahuja for a comment, but they had not responded at the time of publication.