



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Musk steals: Democrats hold black placards to protest Trump's speech

UPDATED. Democrats held up placards as United States President Donald Trump addressed his first address to Congress since he returned to power for a second term. Some Democrats are holding black signs that say 'Save Medicaid', 'Protect veterans' and 'Musk steals'. Notably, Elon Musk is heading Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) under Trump administration. Some of them raised the 'False' placard to highlight Trump's "misleading" statements as he continued to speak about how he has done more work in 43 days than the previous government did in four years. While addressing the gathering, Trump claimed Joe Biden's policies "drove up energy prices, pushed up grocery costs, and drove the necessities of life out of reach for millions and millions of Americans."

"As president, I'm fighting every day to reverse this damage and make America affordable again," he added. Meanwhile, Representative Al Green, a Democrat of Texas, was escorted out of the House chamber after interrupting Donald Trump's address by saying, "You don't have a mandate." Democrats, for just this one night, why don't you join us in celebrating so many incredible wins for America? And if you love our nation, then let's work together and truly make America great again," Trump said as Democrats protested.

Netflix Issues Warning About Phishing Emails, Scam Texts Impersonating The Platform

world. With online scams becoming increasingly prevalent globally, cybercriminals are constantly developing sophisticated tactics to defraud individuals. These methods range from phone scams to phishing links and now include targeted campaigns against Netflix users through deceptive emails.

As reported by the Mirror, a new phishing scam targets Netflix users via email, falsely claiming payment problems. The emails direct recipients to a fraudulent link to update billing information, which, if clicked, allows scammers to steal login credentials and financial data, and commit identity theft.

How the Netflix Scam Works

A new Netflix phishing scam is circulating, disguised as an urgent email with the subject line, "Let's tackle your payment details." Unlike typical phishing attempts riddled with typos and suspicious designs, this scam appears highly polished and legitimate, featuring Netflix's branding, colours, and fonts.

When users open the email, they are informed that their Netflix account is on hold due to a billing issue and are urged to update their payment details immediately to avoid service disruption. The email even includes a red banner with a call-to-action button labelled "UPDATE ACCOUNT NOW," making it look like an official Netflix notification. Clicking the button leads to a fake Netflix login page, where users are prompted to enter their login credentials, home address, and credit card details. If users input this information, they unknowingly hand it over to cybercriminals, who can then steal money, make unauthorized transactions, or access other linked accounts.

Australia's East Coast Braces For Cyclone Alfred

Sydney. Australia's east coast braced on Wednesday for a tropical cyclone that is swirling towards Brisbane, the country's third-most populous city, as authorities warned thousands of properties were at risk due to strong winds and flash flooding.

Destructive wind gusts of up to 155 kph (96 mph) could develop from Thursday afternoon as tropical cyclone Alfred is expected to cross the coast as a category-two storm early on Friday morning near Queensland state capital Brisbane, Australia's weather bureau said.

The weather system will bring heavy rainfall leading to life-threatening flash floods, the Bureau of Meteorology said. Category two cyclones - on a five-level scale - are three rungs away from the most dangerous and can cause major damage to trees and caravans, and break boats from their moorings.

"If you're told to leave, you should leave. I can't be more blunt than that," Queensland Premier David Crisafulli told ABC News, calling on residents to heed evacuation orders. Storm warnings on Wednesday



stretched for more than 500 kilometres (311 miles) across the coast in the states of Queensland and New South Wales, impacting millions of people. A total of 122 schools in the north of New South Wales will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday, and vulnerable residents will be urged to relocate by Thursday morning, New South Wales Premier Chris Minns said. "We need to bunker down over the next 48 hours and get through what may be a very difficult time," he told reporters. Many residents have left their homes as authorities rush to open evacuation centres. Sandbags are in short supply and supermarket shelves have been stripped bare as people stock up on essentials. Theme parks in the tourist city of Gold Coast will be closed from Wednesday, the Ladies European Tour co-sanctioned WPGA Championship event was called off, and the season-opening matches of the Australian Football League in Brisbane were postponed.

Trump administration to drop lawsuit against Louisiana petrochemical plant, sources say

WASHINGTON. President Donald Trump's administration plans to drop a federal lawsuit against a synthetic rubber manufacturer accused of worsening cancer risks for residents in a majority-Black community near its Louisiana plant, two sources familiar with the matter said Tuesday. The move would undo one of former President Joe Biden's highest-profile targets for an environmental justice effort aimed at improving conditions in places disproportionately harmed by decades of industrial pollution.

Biden's Environmental Protection Agency sued the Denka Performance Elastomer plant in early 2023, alleging it posed an unacceptable cancer risk and demanding cuts in toxic emissions of cancer-causing chloroprene. The AP sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the action has not yet been made public, said court action is expected in coming days. The plan to drop the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Louisiana, was first reported by the New York Times. The Trump administration has

moved quickly to reverse the environmental justice focus of Biden's administration, placing roughly 170 environmental justice-focused staffers on administrative leave. Dropping the Denka case relieves pressure on a company that has spent years fighting federal lawsuits and investigations over its impact on public health. Denka, based in Japan, bought the former DuPont plant in LaPlace, Louisiana a decade ago. It's located near an elementary school in a community about 30 miles outside New Orleans. The site produces neoprene, a synthetic rubber that is found in products such as wetsuits and laptop sleeves. The Department of Justice sued the company in early 2023, accusing it of emitting unacceptable levels of chloroprene, a chemical that may be especially harmful to children. A judge had scheduled a bench trial for April. David Uhlmann, who oversaw enforcement and compliance assurance for the EPA in the Biden administration, said Justice officials under Biden pursued the case and stood up for



community members who are exposed to cancer-causing pollution. "The Trump administration chose to protect a well-heeled and well-connected, multinational corporation over protecting American children and their families, ignoring the clear requirements of the Clean Air Act," Uhlmann told the AP. The Justice Department did not immediately respond to an email sent Tuesday seeking comment. An attorney for Denka did not immediately respond to a request for comment, and the company did not immediately respond to a

message. The EPA under Biden issued a related rule aimed at reducing industrial pollution that gave Denka a fast deadline to lower its emissions. The company said it was being singled out — and that other manufacturers were given far more time to comply. The company also said the plant has significantly reduced its emissions in recent years, since the sale was completed in 2015.

The company won an extension of its deadline. The EPA also investigated Louisiana air regulators, making an initial finding that state health officials didn't do enough to inform the public about the plant's cancer risk. But the EPA dropped that investigation in late 2023 after the Republican-led state sued, arguing that the federal agency had overstepped its authority under a decades-old Civil Rights statute. A federal judge last year agreed and reduced the EPA's authority to pursue environmental discrimination in Louisiana.

Trump appoints 13-year-old cancer survivor as Secret Service agent, youngest ever

In a touching moment during his first joint session address, US President Donald Trump made 13-year-old DJ Daniel, a Texas boy battling cancer since 2018, an honorary Secret Service agent.

Truck driver arrest, cause of accident under probe



world. In a heartfelt moment during his first joint session address to Congress, US President Donald Trump surprised the nation by making 13-year-old DJ Daniel, a Texas boy who has battled cancer for years, an honorary Secret Service agent. As DJ sat in the gallery, Trump shared his story, revealing that he was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in 2018 and was given just five months to live. But against all odds, DJ fought on, never letting go of his dream

of becoming a police officer. "The doctors gave him five months at most to live," he said. "That was more than six years ago. Since that time, DJ and his dad have been on a quest to make his dream come true." "Tonight, DJ, we're going to do you the biggest honour of them all," Trump declared. "I am asking our new Secret Service Director, Sean Curran, to officially make you an agent of the United States Secret Service." The chamber erupted in applause, and more than a dozen Democrats joined Republicans in a rare

moment of unity, rising to their feet to celebrate DJ. His father, overcome with emotion, lifted DJ into the air as the House gallery chanted his name: "DJ! DJ!" Secret Service Director Curran then approached the young boy, handing him an official badge as the cheers continued. DJ, beaming, hugged Curran in gratitude. But the moment of bipartisanship was fleeting. As Trump transitioned to discussing his administration's health policies, the applause faded from the Democratic side. Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib silently held up a whiteboard that read, "You cut cancer research," in protest of the president's budget decisions.

Meanwhile, a Republican lawmaker shouted, "MAHA baby!" — a twist on Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," meant to emphasise the president's healthcare stance.

Trump's halt on military aid will hurt Ukraine's defenses. But it may not be fatal

LONDON. The U.S. has been Ukraine's biggest military backer since Russia's full-scale invasion began three years ago. The suspension of that aid by the Trump administration doesn't mean Ukraine's defenses will quickly collapse. But it's a major blow that threatens to remove some of the most formidable weapons in Ukraine's battlefield arsenal, and ratchets up pressure on Kyiv to accept a peace agreement.

Here's a look at the decision and its implications.

How much of Ukraine's aid comes from the US?

The United States has given the Ukrainians more than \$180 billion in assistance since Russia launched an all-out war on February 24, 2022, including more than \$66.5 billion in military aid. Washington provides about 20% of Ukraine's military supplies, and that includes the most lethal and important equipment,



including longer-range missiles and Patriot air defense systems that can shoot down the most powerful Russian projectiles. American military assistance also goes far beyond weapons and ammunition. Ukrainian troops rely on satellite communications systems supplied by Elon Musk's Starlink to communicate on the front line, and on American intelligence to track Russian troop movements and select targets for Ukrainian strikes. If the U.S. stops sharing data from satellites and other assets, it would badly affect Ukraine's capability to strike back at Russia, and Ukraine's other allies lack the resources to fill the gap.

"A lot will depend on what's covered by the American suspension," said Malcolm Chalmers, deputy director-general of defense think tank RUSI. "Will they suspend all technical assistance to Ukraine? That would have a more dramatic, more rapid impact than simply stopping the pipeline of arms." Why has Trump cut it off?

The White House said the U.S. is "pausing and reviewing" its Ukraine aid to "ensure that it is contributing to a solution." The order will remain in effect until U.S. President Donald Trump determines that Ukraine has demonstrated a commitment to peace negotiations with Russia. The decision follows an explosive meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last week, in which Trump and U.S. Vice President JD Vance said he hasn't expressed sufficient gratitude for American support.

What has been paused?

It's murky at best. Trump's order pausing aid includes military assistance and weapons that had already been approved and were en route to Ukraine, according to a defense official.

NASA's stranded astronauts nearing return to earth after nine months in space

CAPE CANAVERAL. NASA's two stuck astronauts are just a few weeks away from finally returning to Earth after nine months in space.



Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams have to wait until their replacements arrive at the International Space Station next week before they can check out later this month. They'll be joined on their SpaceX ride home by two astronauts who launched by themselves in September alongside two empty seats. During a news conference Tuesday, Wilmore said that while politics is part of life, it did not play into his and Williams' return, moved up a couple weeks thanks to a change in SpaceX capsules.

President Donald Trump and SpaceX's Elon Musk said at the end of January that they wanted to accelerate the astronauts' return, blaming the previous administration. But Williams, in response to a question, did take issue with Musk's recent call to dump the space station in two years, rather than waiting until NASA's projected deorbit

in 2031. She noted all the scientific research being performed at the orbiting lab.

"This place is ticking. It's just really amazing, so I would say we're actually in our prime right now," said Williams, a three-time space station resident. "I would think that right now is probably not the right time to say quit, call it quits." Williams said she can't wait to be reunited with her Labrador retrievers. The hardest part about the unexpected extended stay, she added, was the wait by their families back home. "It's been a roller coaster for them, probably a little bit more so than

for us," she said. "We're here. We have a mission. We're just doing what we do every day, and every day is interesting because we're up in space and it's a lot of fun." Wilmore and Williams expected to be gone just a week or so when they launched last June aboard Boeing's new Starliner capsule, making its crew debut after years of delay. The Starliner had so many problems getting to the space station that NASA ruled it too dangerous to carry anyone and it flew back empty. Their homecoming was further delayed by extra completion time needed for the brand new SpaceX capsule that was supposed to deliver their replacements. Last month, NASA announced the next crew would launch in a used capsule instead, pushing up liftoff to March 12. The two crews will spend about a week together aboard the space station before Wilmore and Williams depart with NASA's Nick Hague and the Russian Space Agency's Alexander Gorbunov.

Trump says millions of dead Americans receiving Social Security, gets fact-checked

Donald Trump repeated his claim that millions of deceased Americans are getting Social Security payments and cited a 300-year-old man.



world. United States President Donald Trump on Wednesday claimed that millions of deceased Americans are getting social security pay, adding that even a 300-year-old man is getting the payment. However, many social media users were quick to point out that the statement was false and shared reports to fact-check Trump. Trump, during his first address to the Congress since returning to office, said 300-year-old man, other deceased are getting Social Security, Americans fact check Trump made the same claim last

month at a press briefing in Florida and said that "we have millions and millions of people over 100 years old" receiving Social Security benefits. "They're obviously fraudulent or incompetent," Trump said. "If you take all of those millions of people off Social Security, all of a sudden we have a very powerful Social

Security with people that are 80 and 70 and 90, but not 200 years old," he said. He also said that there's one person in the system listed as 360 years old. Social Security's new acting commissioner, Lee Deudek, acknowledged recent reporting about the number of people older than age 100 who may be receiving benefits from Social

Security. "The reported data are people in our records with a Social Security number who do not have a date of death associated with their record. These individuals are not necessarily receiving benefits."

WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

According to a 2023 Social Security inspector general report, only 44,000 people age 100 or older in the system were getting payments. A July 2024 report from Social Security's inspector general states that from fiscal years 2015 through 2022, the agency paid out almost \$8.6 trillion in benefits, including \$71.8 billion — or less than 1% — in improper payments. Most of the erroneous payments were overpayments to living people. Besides, in early January, the U.S. Treasury clawed back more than \$31 million in a variety of federal payments — not just Social Security payments — that improperly went to dead people, a recovery that former Treasury official David Lebryk said was "just the tip of the iceberg."

Sunrise on the moon!

#Private Blue Ghost lander captures amazing shot after historic lunar touchdown

RNS: Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lander has captured a breathtaking image of a lunar sunrise following its successful landing on the Moon on March 2. The lander set down near Mons Latreille, a solitary lunar peak in the Mare Crisium region on the Moon's near side, marking a significant achievement in lunar exploration.



The Blue Ghost began its operations immediately after landing, activating its scientific instruments and sending back incredible images of its surroundings, including the Earth in the distance. The most recent image, shared by Firefly on social media, shows a dramatic lunar sunrise, with the bright sunlight contrasting sharply against the shadowed craters of the Moon's rugged surface.

"Rise and shine! Firefly's Blue Ghost lander captured its first sunrise on the Moon, marking the start of the lunar day and the beginning of surface operations," Firefly posted on X. The soft, stable landing was a historic moment for Firefly, making it the first commercial company to achieve a successful soft landing on the Moon as part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative. The mission, dubbed

"Ghost Riders in the Sky," represents a milestone in cislunar exploration and sets the stage for future lunar missions. "We're literally and figuratively over the Moon," said Jason Kim, CEO of Firefly Aerospace. "Our Blue Ghost lunar lander now has a permanent home on the lunar surface, carrying 10 NASA payloads and a

plaque with the names of every Firefly employee." Kim emphasized that this achievement demonstrates Firefly's capability to provide reliable, affordable access to the Moon and its role in leading future lunar exploration efforts. The Blue Ghost, which landed with 10 NASA instruments on board, achieved a precision

touchdown in Mare Crisium at 2:34 a.m. CST, landing just 100 meters from its target near Mons Latreille. The lander's

shock-absorbing legs ensured it remained upright, confirming the success of the mission.



Ranya Rao, Kannada Actress, Arrested at Bengaluru Airport for Smuggling Rs 12 Crore Gold



Bengaluru: Kannada actress Ranya Rao was arrested at Kempegowda International Airport on Tuesday for allegedly attempting to smuggle 14.8 kg of gold, valued at over Rs 12 crore, from Dubai. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) apprehended Rao on Monday night after receiving a tip-off.

Rao, who arrived on an Emirates flight from Dubai, was immediately taken into custody and later remanded to judicial custody for 14 days by a court handling economic offences. Authorities had been monitoring her due to her frequent overseas trips, with investigators noting she had visited Dubai four times in just 15 days, raising suspicions of smuggling.

Officials revealed that Rao allegedly hid gold bars in her clothing, including concealing a significant portion in her jacket. Investigators suspect that she may have used her connections to bypass customs inspections.

Upon landing, Rao reportedly identified herself as the daughter of senior IPS officer Ramachandra Rao, who heads the Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation, and allegedly sought police assistance for an escort from the airport. Authorities are now investigating whether any law enforcement officials, including her father, were aware of or inadvertently assisted in her actions.

The DRI is also looking into whether Rao was acting alone or was part of a larger gold smuggling network between Dubai and India. Rao, known for her role in the 2014 Kannada film Maanikya alongside actor Sudeep, has appeared in several South Indian films.

Two-Day Ethics and Integrity Workshop Concludes at Chinmaya Vidyalaya



Bokaro: A two-day workshop on Ethics and Integrity concluded at Chinmaya Vidyalaya Bokaro, focusing on promoting moral values and good conduct among educators. The event, aimed at uniting teachers in ethical practices, was inaugurated by School Secretary Mahesh Tripathi, Principal Suraj Sharma, Vice Principal Narmendra Kumar, and co-resource persons Shiv Shankar Yadav, Principal of B.I.S.S.S Sector-11D. The ceremony began with a lamp-lighting tradition, followed by the felicitation of the resource persons. A total of 52 participants from schools in Patna, Ranchi, Ramgarh, Saraikela, Hazaribagh, and Bokaro took part in the workshop. Divided into eight groups, they engaged in interactive sessions led by Suraj Sharma and Shiv Shankar Yadav.

Principal Suraj Sharma emphasized the crucial role of teachers and parents in shaping students' moral values, urging the importance of honesty and integrity in education. Yadav highlighted the value of life skills in education and teachers' responsibility in inspiring students to lead meaningful lives.

The first day covered topics such as "Understanding Integrity" and "Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Development," while the second day focused on "Creating Space for Integrity in the Classroom" and "Teachers as Role Models."

The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Vice Principal Narmendra Kumar. The event, coordinated by Randhir Narayan with support from Rajneesh Chaudhary, Ran Vijay Ojha, Nitesh Pandey, Smriti Vohra, and Anjani, was hosted by Supriya Chaudhary.

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DPS Bokaro Students Shine Again at Inspire Manak Award



Bokaro: Four students from Delhi Public School (DPS) Bokaro have once again excelled at the prestigious Inspire Manak Award Scheme, organized by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The award recognizes young innovators for their scientific achievements.

The students—Shreshta Chaturvedi (Class VII), Ayushi Sharma (Class VIII), Aarush Priyadarshi (Class IX), and Krish Verma (Class X)—were honored for their innovative projects in the 2024-25 session. Each received a Certificate of Award and a Rs. 10,000 grant to further develop their inventions for the District Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC).

Shreshta's project is a Web/Mobile-based Water Mapping System using satellite technology, while Ayushi developed 'Drishti Deepak,' anti-sleep glasses for drivers. Aarush's foldable umbrella aims to protect two-wheeler riders, and Krish created a headband for the visually impaired that detects obstacles in real-time.

This achievement marks the fourth consecutive year DPS Bokaro students have been selected for the Inspire Manak Award, underscoring the school's commitment to fostering innovation. Principal Dr. A.S. Gangwar congratulated the winners and encouraged them to continue their path of scientific discovery.

SAIL Officials Meet Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren for Courtesy Visit



Ranchi: Amarendu Prakash, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), along with Birendra Kumar Tiwari, Director-in-Charge of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), and Vikas Manvati, Executive Director of Mines at SAIL Bokaro, met with Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren today at the Jharkhand Secretariat.

The meeting was a courtesy visit to discuss the plant's operations and related matters. Avinash Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, was also present during the meeting.

DRDO Successfully Conducts High-Altitude Trials of Indigenous Oxygen System for LCA Tejas

New Delhi: The Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL) in Bengaluru, under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has successfully completed high-altitude trials of the Indigenous On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS)-based Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for the LCA Tejas aircraft.

The trials were conducted on Tuesday, marking a significant milestone in India's aerospace capabilities.

The OBOGS-based ILSS is an advanced system designed to generate and regulate breathable oxygen for pilots during flight, replacing traditional liquid oxygen cylinder-based systems. The ILSS was tested on the LCA-Prototype Vehicle-3 aircraft developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).

It underwent rigorous evaluations under various flight conditions, including altitudes of up to 50,000 feet Above Mean Sea Level and high-G maneuvers, ensuring compli-



ance with strict aeromedical standards. According to a statement from the Indian government, the performance assessments covered vital functions such as oxygen concentration, demand breathing, availability of 100% oxygen, and testing of the Anti-G Valve and Breathing Oxygen System (BOS) during taxing, take-off, cruising, G turns, and landing. The system passed all tests and met the required parameters after flight clearance from the Centre for Military Airwor-

thinness & Certification (CEMILAC). The ILSS integrates 10 Line Replaceable Units, including the Low-Pressure Breathing Regulator, BOS, Emergency Oxygen System, Oxygen Sensor, and Anti-G valve, among other components. This will enable real-time oxygen generation, enhancing the pilot's endurance and operational efficiency. Manufactured by L&T as a Development and Production Partner, the ILSS boasts 90% indigenous content, ad-

vancing India's self-reliance in aerospace technology. The system can also be adapted for use in other aircraft such as the MiG-29K with suitable modifications. This achievement is the result of a collaborative effort between DEBEL, ADA, HAL, CEMILAC, the National Flight Test Center, the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance, and the Indian Air Force (IAF), marking a significant step forward in India's military aviation capabilities.

Holi Peace Committee Meeting Held at Sindri Police Station

by Ravi Phillips

Sindri: A peace committee meeting to ensure a safe and harmonious Holi celebration was held at the Sindri police station, chaired by Sub-Inspector Satish Mahato. The meeting brought together community members to discuss preparations for the upcoming Holi Milan ceremony.

During the session, participants addressed potential concerns about miscreants harassing passersby and discussed measures to prevent such incidents. It was



reiterated that the use of DJs during the celebrations remains strictly prohibited, and the public was advised to avoid spreading rumors or sharing unverified information on social media. SI Satish Mahato empha-

sized that Holi should be a time for joy, brotherhood, and harmony, and urged people not to indulge in excessive intoxication. He also cautioned against reckless driving or racing on the roads during the fes-

tivities. The meeting was attended by several local figures, including administrative officers Satish Mahato, Devchand Hansda, Vinod Toppo, and Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, along with Congress District General Secretary Ajay Singh, Mahendra Pandey, Deepak Kumar Deepu, former councilor Dinesh Singh, Vedesh Singh, Jan Adhikar Manch President Ranjit Kumar, Brajesh Singh, Prashant Pandey, LJP's Salendra Nath Dwivedi, Bhakti Paul, and Jitendra Sharma.

"Ready to work under Trump's leadership": Ukraine President

Ukraine: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has proposed a peace plan aimed at ending the ongoing conflict with Russia, expressing willingness to work under the "strong leadership" of U.S. President Donald Trump. Zelenskyy's remarks came just days after a tense encounter with Trump during their White House meeting.

In an effort to mend ties with Washington after the U.S. paused military aid to Ukraine, Zelenskyy wrote on X: "None of us wants an endless war. Ukraine is ready to negotiate for lasting peace. Nobody wants peace more than Ukrainians, and my team and I are prepared to work under President Trump's leadership to achieve that."

Zelenskyy outlined several initial steps for peace, including the release of prisoners, a ceasefire in the sky (with bans on missiles, drones, and attacks on civilian infrastructure), and a ceasefire at sea—if Russia



agrees to do the same. He emphasized Ukraine's eagerness to move quickly toward a final agreement with U.S. cooperation. He also reiterated Ukraine's appreciation for U.S. support, particularly remembering when President Trump provided Ukraine with Javelin missiles, which Zelenskyy credited as a turning point in the war.

Referring to the recent White House meeting, Zelenskyy acknowledged that it did not go as planned, calling it regrettable, and expressed a desire to make things right. He emphasized the need for constructive future cooperation and communication between Ukraine and the U.S. The U.S. had previously paused military aid to Ukraine fol-

lowing the tense exchange between the two leaders, with a White House official stating that the pause was part of a review process to ensure aid contributes to peace. The U.S. has been a major supplier of arms to Ukraine since Russia's invasion in 2022, though there has been a shift in U.S. strategy since Trump's return to office in January.

Trudeau Hits U.S. Goods with 25% Tariff in Response to Trump's Trade War

Canada: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has imposed a 25% tariff on U.S. goods, responding to U.S. President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs on Canadian imports. Trudeau called the move a "trade war" that would ultimately "harm American families."

Speaking from Parliament Hill, Trudeau criticized Trump's decision as "dumb" and questioned the logic of collaborating with Russian President Vladimir Putin while targeting Canada, a close ally. He stated, "Today, the United States has launched a trade war against Canada, its closest partner and ally."

In retaliation, Canada has levied 25% tariffs on \$155 billion worth of American goods, starting with \$30 billion immediately and the



remaining \$125 billion in 21 days. Trudeau also pledged to challenge the U.S. tariffs at the World Trade Organization, arguing that they violate the free trade agreement between the two nations. Trudeau warned that the tariffs would drive up inflation

and harm U.S. jobs, especially in sectors reliant on Canadian imports. He urged Trump to reconsider, stressing the need for cooperation to secure prosperity for North America. "There is absolutely no justification for these tariffs," he added.

The Canadian government has announced support measures for citizens affected by the trade war, including expanded assistance for those losing jobs and aid for struggling businesses. Trudeau vowed to "relentlessly fight" to protect Canada's economy.

BJP accuses Trinamool of caste survey bias: Diverting resources towards Muslims

The Bengal unit of the BJP accuses the Trinamool government of conducting a caste survey to favour Muslim OBCs over Hindu OBCs, calling it communal and illegal.

Kolkata. The BJP has launched fresh allegations against the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal, accusing it of conducting a caste-based benchmark sample survey to benefit Muslim Other Backward Classes (OBCs) at the expense of Hindu OBCs. The allegations come amid Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led party's counterclaims that BJP was

adding fake names to the electoral rolls with the help of the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the 2026 Bengal Assembly polls. Speaking to reporters, BJP General Secretary Jagannath Chatterjee claimed that the ruling party was using the survey as a tool for political appeasement. He alleged that the West Bengal government is seeking detailed financial data of Muslim communities to redistribute benefits in their favour while sidelining Hindu OBCs.



"The TMC government is conducting a benchmark sample survey on backward classes with the intention of diverting resources towards Muslim OBCs. This is a clear attempt at appeasement under the guise of welfare," Chatterjee stated. He further argued that the nature of the

survey questions was designed to foster division between communities, calling it "both communal and illegal". Referring to the survey documents shared by the BJP, Chatterjee highlighted certain

questions, including whether respondents had access to water in their locality and whether they shared food with their neighbours.

"Never before in history have we encountered such questions. This is a deliberate attempt to create

communal rifts. The High Court had struck down the OBC list, and now the matter is pending before the Supreme Court," he added. Notably, the controversy stems from a 2024 Calcutta High Court ruling, which struck down the OBC status of several castes granted by the state government since 2010, deeming the reservations for public sector jobs and state-run educational institutions as illegal. Following the ruling, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had vowed to challenge the decision in the Supreme Court, where the matter currently remains sub-judice. The Trinamool supremo has called the duplication of EPIC (Electronic Electoral Photo Identity Card) numbers in West Bengal an "epic scam" and gave the poll panel a 24-hour deadline to "accept its mistake".

Rs 30 crore in 45 days: Yogi Adityanath shares success story of Kumbh boatman

Lucknow. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday rebuffed opposition criticism of the Maha Kumbh, citing a family's massive earnings as proof of the event's economic impact. He claimed that a single family operating 130 boats made Rs 30 crore in profit during the 45-day religious gathering in Prayagraj between January 13 and February 26.

Breaking down the figures in Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister highlighted that a single boat generated daily earnings ranging between Rs 50,000 and Rs 52,000. The remarkable financial success, he said, underscores the economic opportunities created during the Kumbh Mela for local communities. Reacting to the Samajwadi Party's allegation that the boatmen of Prayagraj were 'exploited', the Chief Minister said, "I am telling the success story of a boatman's family. They have 130 boats. In 45 days (of Maha Kumbh), they have profited Rs 30 crore... This means each boat has earned Rs 23 lakh. On a daily basis, they earned Rs 50,000 to 52,000 from each boat."

Furthermore, the Chief Minister said that the recently-concluded 45-day mega-event, calling it a testament to India's rich heritage and development. "We talk about Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. This event has left an indelible mark not just in India but across the world. Its success will resonate globally for a long time," he said. Yogi Adityanath also slammed the opposition parties for questioning the religious congregation and said that only those who actively participated in the Maha Kumbh can truly understand its significance.



"During the Maha Kumbh, several members, parties and organisations made baseless statements. Instead of getting distracted by such remarks, we remained committed to our responsibilities and were witness to the grand event," he said. Adityanath emphasised that an investment of Rs 7,500 crore in the Maha Kumbh yielded a record Rs 3 lakh crore in business, boosting multiple sectors.

TVK chief Vijay demands fair delimitation, questions commission's independence

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay raised concerns over the delimitation process, emphasising fairness and the need for public consultation. He questioned the independence of the Delimitation Commission, arguing that its head is appointed by the ruling government.

New Delhi. Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief and actor Vijay raised concerns over the proposed delimitation process, urging fairness and public consultation. In a five-page statement, he emphasised that his party is not against delimitation but stressed that no state should lose its rightful representation in Parliament due to constituency redistribution.



Vijay argued that instead of simply increasing the number of parliamentary seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha, alternative solutions should be explored. He suggested leveraging technology,

enhancing governance mechanisms, and ensuring better ballot representation to address issues of representation. The focus, he said, should be on public welfare, industrial growth, quality education, and sustainable development, rather

than just expanding the number of MPs.

Highlighting global democratic practices, Vijay pointed out that several parliaments have provisions like the "Prime Minister's Question Time," where leaders directly address representatives' concerns. However, in India, he noted, such structured opportunities for direct political accountability are lacking. He questioned whether increasing the number of MPs alone would lead to better governance, asserting that fundamental issues like political integrity, accountability, and direct public

engagement must be addressed first. "The issue is not about the shortage of MPs." The real concern is not the number of representatives but ensuring fair democratic representation. This is a matter of principle rather than just a numerical increase in seats," he said.

One of his criticisms was directed at the Delimitation Commission itself. Vijay questioned how people could trust the body when its head is appointed by the ruling government. "The Prime Minister appoints the head, and the Commission merely executes government orders. How can people expect it to function independently?" he asked.

Kamal Haasan's 'Hindia' jab at BJP amid language row, backs Stalin on delimitation

Kamal Haasan, who attended the all-party meeting called by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, also opposed the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise.

Chennai. Actor and politician Kamal Haasan accused the BJP of attempting to create "Hindia", emphasising that the Centre's alleged bid to impose Hindi on southern states was against federal principles. Haasan, who attended the all-party meeting called by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, also opposed the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise. "They are creating Hindia. Whatever decision taken by the Centre will not be in favour of non-Hindi-speaking states. This decision, which is against federal principles, is unnecessary," the Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) chief said on the three-language formula under the National Education Policy (NEP). Haasan has previously emphasised the importance of linguistic pride among Tamilians and warned against playing with it. "Tamilians have lost their lives for a language. Don't play with those things. Tamilians, even children, know what language they need," he said



last week amid the raging row. Tamil Nadu has viewed the three-language formula as an attempt to impose Hindi on the state, while the Centre has argued that the policy was meant to ensure that youth get employment across regions.

ON DELIMITATION

On the proposed delimitation, which will adjust parliamentary constituencies based on population, Haasan said there was no need to

change MP numbers in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. "Why are they repairing something that is not broken? Why are they sending democracy to the workshop for repair?" Haasan said.

At the centre of the row is Tamil Nadu's concern that southern states will lose seats in Parliament, and thereby its voice, due to delimitation for successfully implementing population control measures. At the all-party meeting, Stalin asserted that the delimitation exercise should be based on the 1971 Census for the next 30 years. He also floated the idea of forming a committee comprising MPs and representatives from southern states to coordinate a unified response to the exercise. The Congress, an ally of Stalin's DMK, also backed the Chief Minister's status quo proposal. "They should freeze delimitation for the next 30 years. That is the only way," said Tamil Nadu Congress president Selvaperundhagai.

Arvind Kejriwal in Punjab for Vipassana, slammed for convoy: Bigger than Trump's

New Delhi. Amid an ongoing buzz over his potential entry into the Rajya Sabha, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Arvind Kejriwal is currently in Punjab to attend a 10-day Vipassana meditation camp. The former Delhi Chief Minister was, however, criticised for his massive cavalcade, with AAP MP Swati Maliwal taking a sarcastic dig, saying the convoy was "bigger than Donald Trump's". Kejriwal and his wife Sunita will attend the meditation course at the Dhamma Dhaja Vipassana Centre near Hoshiarpur, slated to commence on Wednesday.

Accompanied by the cavalcade, which included more than 100 Punjab Police personnel and bulletproof vehicles, the couple arrived at the Forest Rest House in Chohal, about 14 km from Hoshiarpur, late Tuesday night. In a tweet on Wednesday, Maliwal, the AAP Rajya Sabha MP, who recently accused Kejriwal of shifting priorities for power following speculations that he may enter the Upper House from Punjab, asked why he was "so afraid of the people of Punjab who have given so much love". "Kejriwal, who criticises the whole world for VIP culture, is today roaming around with a security cover bigger than Donald Trump," she quipped.



Also criticising the former Chief Minister, Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa asked, "What kind of Vipassana requires a grand security parade funded by Punjab taxpayers?" Arvind Kejriwal, who once pretended to be a common man in a WagonR, now moves in a lavish convoy of bulletproof Land Cruisers, over 100 Punjab Police commandos, jammers and ambulances like a VIP Maharaja all for Vipassana, a retreat meant for peace," he tweeted.

"If power was his test, he has failed miserably... AAP's truth is out, deception, hypocrisy, and VIP arrogance at its peak." Meanwhile, Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit, who contested the New Delhi seat against Kejriwal and BJP's Parvesh Verma in the February 5 Delhi Assembly polls, accused the AAP chief of getting used to a "pompous and lavish lifestyle". "I have been saying for 10 years that he is greedy for power. When he used to get votes on the basis of simplicity, even then, we used to say that his simplicity was just a pretence... He has become so used to the extravagance that comes with power that he has 100 vehicles in his convoy to accompany him for a meditation retreat," Dikshit added.

Don't just install Sengol, uninstall Hindi from Tamil Nadu: MK Stalin to BJP

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and BJP's Annamalai clashed over Hindi imposition and Tamil identity. Stalin accused BJP of prioritising Hindi and Sanskrit over Tamil, while Annamalai called him a hypocrite, citing past neglect of Tamil funding.

New Delhi. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and BJP state president K Annamalai yet again engaged in a heated exchange on X over the ongoing issue of Hindi imposition and the promotion of Tamil language and culture. In his post, Stalin questioned the BJP's commitment to Tamil, accusing the party of prioritising Hindi and Sanskrit over Tamil.

UNINSTALL HINDI FROM TAMIL NADU, SAYS STALIN

"Rather than installing Sengol in Parliament, uninstall Hindi from Union Government offices in Tamil Nadu. Instead of hollow praise, make Tamil an official language on par with Hindi and allot more funds for Tamil than a dead language like Sanskrit," he wrote.

He also accused the BJP of attempting to "saffronise" Thiruvalluvar and failing to



declare Thirukkural as India's National Book. He criticised the government for conducting 'Hindi Pakhwadas' in Tamil Nadu and giving Sanskrit names to trains instead of Tamil names. "Revert to the practice of naming them in Tamil, like Chemmozhi, Muthunagar, Vaigai, Malaikottai, Thirukkural Express, etc.," he wrote.

He ended his post with the statement: "Love

for Tamil is proven through deeds, not deception," using the hashtag #StopHindiImposition.

ANNAMALAI CALLS MK STALIN HYPOCRITE

Responding to this, Annamalai accused Stalin of hypocrisy and failing to promote Tamil beyond the state. He argued that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has genuinely promoted Tamil language and culture, citing the installation of Sengol in Parliament as proof.

"Only a hypocrite would ask about the increased allocation of funds to Sanskrit over Tamil, knowing the rationality behind it very well," he wrote. He attacked the DMK for neglecting Tamil while in power, pointing out that between 2006-2014, Sanskrit received Rs 675.36 crores in funding while Tamil only received Rs 75.05 crores. He also reminded Stalin that former

Congress leader and ex-Home Minister P Chidambaram had pushed for Hindi promotion nationwide. He accused Stalin of "despiritualising" Thiruvalluvar for political propaganda. "Your hatred has blinded you from seeing a locomotive named after our great Rani Velu Nachiyaar," Annamalai accused Stalin of having a problem with names like Vande Mataram and Vande Bharat.

Myths of Shimla's Mall and Scandal Point

I have received calls from friends asking about the origin of the word 'Mall'. These enquiries have been tied to Shimla's eponymous and famous promenade. A little bit of truth, mixed with a substantial amount of falsehood, has been passed around somewhat convincingly and seems to have been quite effective. This is still doing the rounds like a never-ending wheel on the Internet and on that fount of infinite knowledge, 'WhatsApp forwards'. One claim was that the word 'Mall' is an acronym for 'Married Accommodation Living Lines'. In some, the word 'Married' has been substituted for 'Military'. Well, the military had its lines at a considerable distance from Shimla's Mall and unless the living was done under shop counters and in drawers stuffed with linen, the story is as false as many of the others that have been connected with the street. That is not to say that people did not live on the Mall. Many shopowners or bankers lived above their commercial premises. These shop-houses were something that gave the place much of its character and ensured that the Mall remained lively even after the banks had closed, and the shops had pulled down their shutters. It did not seem like the deserted places that Chandigarh's Sector 17 or New Delhi's Nehru Place become after shop hours.

Across India, apart from Shimla, many colonial towns or westernised expansions of older cities had a Mall — Lahore, Amritsar, Mussoorie, Kasauli and Darjeeling, to name just a few. While the process of transfer of the word 'Mall' from England to far-flung former colonies, taking on the role of a 'high street', remains open to calculated conjecture, there is no doubt that it originated in London. There is the kilometre-long Mall that connects Buckingham Palace to Trafalgar Square and continues to serve as a ceremonial route. The second, also in London, is the famous and fashionable Pall Mall, which goes back to the 17th century and is lined with smart shops and clubs. Both owe the origin of their names and purpose to the game of 'pall-mall', or 'pell-mell', a precursor of croquet and played with a ball and mallet. In turn, the English word for the game is derived from the Italian pallamaglio, meaning a 'ball and mallet'.

Other whiffs of false news, fake stories and accepted reality have also meandered over the Mall. One being that no Indians were permitted there. Any number of old photographs belie this fact. Also, there was an overwhelming number of Indians who owned shops and other establishments and almost all the staff were Indian. This, however, does have a small ring of truth. There was a municipal bylaw that proclaimed that no job-potter or 'coolie' would 'solicit employment, loiter or carry loads' during the evenings on specified streets — including the Mall. This bylaw was twisted to include 'ill-dressed' Indians and later, to khadi-clad freedom fighters, who would be hustled off the street. But perhaps nothing has been as accepted as the multiple myths of Scandal Point. Sadly, the most salacious story of them all is that there was no scandal. When the soon-to-be-famous Rudyard Kipling came to Shimla, the 'summer capital' of India, he wrote of its glittering social swirl and endless gossip. He created a world that was part-fiction, part-fable and part-reality. Those word-images are still with us. In 1888, Kipling's story 'The Education of Otis Yeere' was first published. Of his creation, two characters appear in the story. There is Mrs Mallow and the formidable Mrs Hauksbee, who "...was sometimes nice to her own sex", while she had "the wisdom of the Serpent, the logical coherence of Man, the fearlessness of Child and the triple intuition of the woman". It is in this story that the phrase 'Scandal Point' first appears in print: "Your salon would become a glorified Peliti's," says Mrs Mallow, "a 'Scandal Point' by lamplight." From this moment on, this phrase from Kipling's pen enters perceived reality and with passing years, steadily gathers more stories. Going by the popular tale, a Maharaja of Patiala carried off a British Viceroy's daughter (or wife) from this spot on Shimla's Mall.

At Corbett park, once more

Credit for raising awareness in our natural world must be given to the British



We have recently returned from a reviving break at the Corbett National Park. This natural sanctuary and wildlife park is one of the earliest of its kind, and a favourite retreat for us Kumaonis. One of the major reasons for this is that it is named after a person who was worshipped all over the Terai and Kumaon as 'Carpet Saa' b'. Jim Corbett, to give him his proper name, was born and brought up in India and was passionately fond of forests and animals. Initially a game hunter who hunted tigers and leopards for sport (like several others of that time), later, he became a fierce protector of the tiger and its cousins (called bagh all over this area) and lived happily amongst leopards and panthers. His sister Maggie and faithful dog, Robin, followed him wherever he went and his jungle tales make for fascinating reading no matter how many times you may have read them.

Corbett's home in Nainital, Guernsey House, was close to where we lived in Ayarpata, a thickly-wooded part of Nainital where many old zamindar and taluqdar families had cottages and homes to escape the heat and sultry monsoons of the plains. The Terai was also where many refugee families from West Punjab were allotted farms to compensate for the lands they had left behind. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Terai was a marshy, unhealthy tract full of tigers, snakes and killer malarial mosquitoes. This is why many chose to send their families and children to the cooler hills just hours away and study at the public schools Nainital was famous for.

This long introduction is because when I went to the lovely resort we stayed in this time, I was delighted to meet the person who runs it as he turned out to be the grandson of someone we knew as the Raja of Pilibhit. I remember Pilibhit House, where his grandparents lived in (now run as a posh hotel), and one of his aunts was in school with me. There is something about the Kumaon hills that compels you to come back over and over again. Each time I go, I get the feeling of returning to my mother's womb. In fact, I can name the exact spot where this happens. Chatting with the owner of this delightful Riverview Retreat, I felt I had met a soulmate because he spends most of his time here while running his huge chain of hotels and resorts. The Corbett Park is strictly guarded and only the old Forest Department dak bungalow (named Dhikala) is inside the park. Naturally, you need serious sarkari connections to be able to stay there, so a number of resorts have sprung up all the way from Ramnagar to the forest limit of the Corbett National Park. Spread over 2,800 sq km and divided into six zones, you have to be very lucky to spot a tiger. On the first day of our morning safari, I'm afraid, all the tiger had left for curious visitors was a lump of shit to let us know what he thought of idiots like us. Sadly, elephant safaris are not allowed any longer, so we were stuffed into an open jeep that made such a racket that only monkeys and langoons stayed on to

the savannah grass and stripes provide this regal animal. It takes the trained eye of a guide to spot pugmarks and observe the claw marks on a tree trunk to calculate when a tiger last passed that route. The alarm system set in motion by the parakeets, the barking deer and the chattering monkeys warns the deer that they are being stalked. I am sad that our schoolchildren are rarely taken on expeditions to familiarise them with the flora and fauna of the country. Discovery Channel or Animal Planet can never replace the thrill of actually being able to hear, see and experience the beauty of the Indian jungle.

A museum has been created by the Forest Department where, apart from the stuffed animals, simulated sounds of rain and thunder are played in a dark room for visitors to demonstrate how frightening the sound of thunder and the crack of lightning can be when you are in a forest at night. The stygian darkness of a stormy night or the eerie feeling that you are being watched can send shivers down the spine. Credit for raising awareness in our natural world must be given to the British, who were intrepid walkers and left a valuable legacy of records. Today, our Forest Department officers ensure that this legacy is preserved.

Scientific spirituality, is it possible

Science, to me, is not just about the latest technology, medicine and other gadgets. It is a humanistic and ethical way of living. Science guides me how to deal with my professional, emotional and psychosocial needs, fears and anxieties. I derive all my ethical principles and actions from science. In recent times, with generally fading practices of the ritualistic aspects of organised religions, a trend is emerging — trying to blend the rationality and objectivity of science with the subjective faith of religion and spirituality. Is it possible, meaningful and necessary to do so? I wish to share my understanding of what is scientific thinking, and what is the scientific way of life. Science inspires me to live a good life in an ethical, responsible, and joyful manner. Being a lifelong student, researcher and teacher of science, my understanding of the foundational elements of scientific thinking are as follows: 1. Science is not any supernatural and transcendental knowledge revealed to one person or a select group of people in one step or in a short span of time. 2. Scientific knowledge is a collective and continuous derived chain of explanations put forward by human beings to resolve the queries, questions and doubts about the natural universe. 3. Scientific explanations are ad hoc and can

be repeatedly modified, revised or changed based on new observations and facts. 4. Science neither claims nor tries to search, discover or reveal any ideal, perfect, absolute and single eternal truth. 5. Scientific explanations are eventually evident and testable, and these are neither dependent upon nor based on the will of any real or imaginary entity.

6. Science thrives and evolves by questioning and challenging its concepts, observations, facts, beliefs, and persons. 7. Scientific concepts, values and technologies apply equally to all. It is not enough to know theoretically what is science, and then claim that I have a scientific attitude and way of life. It is crucial to be also able to recognise the "unscientific" in our behaviour. According to me, I will be unscientific: 1. If I have an unquestionable belief, faith and devotion in one or more assumed transcendent powers or entities imagined to be omnipresent, omniscient, eternal and supernatural. 2. If I perform any kinds of prayers, and other acts and rituals out of want, fear or helplessness in handling uncertainties and emotional challenges of life. 3. If I consider others whose ways of living, dressing up, food habits and physical appearances are different from mine, as being bad, inferior and sinful; and

More than a subject

The fight to protect Punjabi in schools



The Punjab government's decision to make Punjabi a mandatory subject in all schools — public and private — goes beyond academia; it is a reaffirmation of linguistic and cultural identity. The move follows outrage over a CBSE draft that omitted Punjabi from its list of regional languages for Class X exams. Though the CBSE later clarified that its norms were only indicative, the controversy reignited concerns over the diminishing role of regional languages in national education policies. This issue is not confined to Punjab. Across India, debates over language policies have intensified, particularly around the three-language formula. States in southern India have resisted attempts to impose Hindi, while many in the northeast continue to demand greater recognition for their indigenous languages. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 promotes multilingualism, but its implementation remains

inconsistent, often favouring dominant languages over regional tongues. Punjab's response, therefore, is not just about one language but part of a larger pushback against perceived linguistic homogenisation.

The decision to penalise non-compliant schools and nullify certificates without Punjabi as a main subject underscores Punjab's determination to safeguard its language. However, this raises a fundamental question: should linguistic identity be preserved through mandatory policies, or should it be nurtured through organic cultural promotion? The answer likely lies somewhere in between. While compulsion ensures Punjabi's presence in education, true preservation depends on fostering pride in the language beyond academic. In a country as linguistically diverse as India, balancing national cohesion with regional linguistic rights is a complex challenge. Punjab's move reflects a broader demand — one that seeks not just recognition but also respect for India's linguistic plurality. The real challenge, however, is ensuring that this respect translates into policies that empower all languages, not just a select few.

Repositioning God as a marketable product

The spiritual and ascetic in Hinduism has been replaced with the commercial and extravagant



Marx missed the full picture when he described religion as an opiate of the masses. So did George Carlin when he claimed that God was fiction. For, today, neo-capitalism and right-wing fundamentalism have assigned God a new role and turned Him into an FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Good): far from being an opiate, He is now a stimulant for consumption on a gigantic scale, the driver for GDP and GST growth. If, along the Laffer curve, a few consumers die in a stampede or fire, that is acceptable collateral damage, a tax write-off where the public picks up the bill while the high priests of Mammon go chuckling to the bank. The Maha Kumbh, which the UP government claims will add Rs 2 lakh crore to the state's GDP, is the apotheosis of this new divine role.

Hindu religion being one of the main pillars of the BJP's very existence and power play, it has to be constantly glorified, burnished and made larger than life. As Yuval Noah Harari asserts, a religion is not just its deities but also the social functions it performs. The BJP's aim is to ensure that one of these 'social functions' is legitimising and consolidating its power and narrow worldview. Given these high stakes, Hinduism can no longer be left to the tender mercies of the Shankaracharyas, Mahamandaleshwars, priests, purohits or the humble devotee and pilgrim in the villages. It must be ornamentalised, over-hyped and aggrandised, made a TV spectacle, a platform for projecting the party and the PM as its prime custodian.

This is a continuation of a medieval mindset we thought the modern world had left behind: did not the emperors and kings of that time build cathedrals, pyramids, gigantic statues, temples and monuments to perpetuate their own myths, dogmas and personalities, to remain in the public eye and memory? Were kings and pharaohs not considered embodiments of the divine power? Religion may be fiction, so it has to be dressed up, for the

grander the fiction, the easier it is to get the public to swallow it.

It is in this backdrop that we must understand this government's hostile takeover of religion, and its obsession with the Disneyfication of our religious places and the conversion of all major Hindu festivals into a Cecil DeMille type of Hollywood productions. A few recent instances will help to establish this point:

- n The inauguration of the new Parliament building on May 28, 2023, was done with the splendour of a Roman coronation, complete with the Sengol substituting for a sceptre and a procession of high priests. A secular political function was transformed into a religious one.
- n The consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, built at a reported cost of Rs 1,800 crore, was an even grander event, the tempo having been built up for weeks before, like some gladiatorial show at the Colosseum.

n The Kashi Vishwanath corridor, which will cost Rs 800 crore when all its phases are complete, was hyped up as the rebirth of Varanasi, another re-affirmation of a resurgent Hinduism; the destruction of hundreds of houses and private temples to make way for the corridors was, of course, acceptable collateral damage.

n The Char Dham Highway, ripping through the heart of the Himalayas and built against all environmental considerations, is again an emblem of religious revivalism, even though it is rationalised on strategic defence grounds. It will cost about Rs 12,000 crore.

n A dedicated and wholly unnecessary highway is being built for the Kanwariyas in UP at a cost of Rs 650 crore and a reported 33,000 trees, once again to project religion in a larger-than-life format and to milk religious sentiments.

n The exaggerated claims of the Maha Kumbh, its

deafening publicity and 24x7 media coverage, the Guinness scale of infrastructure created at a reported cost of Rs 7,000 crore (and Rs 5,000 crore by the Railways) is again meant to amplify the same message.

It's the same with festivals. The Kumbh has been celebrated since time immemorial, but the frenzy this year was unprecedented, with even Blinkit home-delivering sangam water, dips being offered online, and someone else taking a dip on your behalf for a nominal charge! I have lived in Delhi for 50 years, but have never witnessed occasions like Ganesh Chaturthi, Chhat Puja or Kanwariya yatra being magnified to the kind of spectacles we witness nowadays. This resurgence of a placid faith is clearly contrived, funded and Disneyfied with a purpose.

Somewhere along the way, the spiritual and ascetic in Hinduism has been replaced with the commercial and extravagant, to serve the 'function' of a political party. Which should not surprise anyone, because religion has always been a business and tool for power. As Prof Paul Seabright says in his extraordinary book, 'The Divine Economy', the divine science (religion) has always had a large element of the dismal science (economics) mixed with it. It offers a product (salvation), has a network of providers (priests) and well established distribution channels. There are many 'products' in the market (Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc) and they all compete with each other for market share.

It should not surprise anyone, therefore, that the corporatisation of Hinduism now has a righteous, if not liturgical, angle to it, to serve a political purpose. It has become a bustling share market where the common investor gets returns in divine indulgence, and the new corporates in votes. And those who do not buy into this stock market are the new kafirs. Nietzsche famously said that God is dead. He was wrong — God has now been repositioned as a marketable product.

बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाङ्गुल खेके बेङ्गले यानबाहनर प्रवेश शुरू

प्राय २४ घण्टा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाङ्गुल खेके बेङ्गले यानबाहरी यानबाहनर प्रवेश शुरू ह्येछे। गज सङ्घा १८८२ पत्र ब्रेङ्गल सरकारर आदेशे बाङ्गुल-बेङ्गल मथन सीमाछे पन्याबी यानबाहनर प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा ह्येछिन।

एर फले रात खेके दूपुर पर्यंत प्राय २० किमि दीर्घ यानजट सृष्टि हय। चालकरदेर समस्यार कथा बिबेचना करे, MASS बेङ्गल सरकारके चाप देय बाङ्गुल सीमाछे खेके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करा समस्त यानबाहन बक्कर करन। एर फले, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेते बाध्य हय एबं अवशेषे भारी यानबाहनर प्रवेश आबार स्वाभाविक हय।

बेङ्गल सरकारर एर अनुमतिर पर, टाक चालकरा स्रष्टिर निश्चास फेलन। प्राञ्जल निरसा विधाकर अज्ञात च्याटार्जि बाङ्गुलर मुख्यमन्त्री हेमन्त सोरनेर एर उदेयागेर प्रशंसा करन। तिनि बलन, मुख्यमन्त्री हेमन्त सोरन एरि विषये क्रमागत शुरू दियेछे। बेङ्गल सरकारर साथे इतिवाचक आलोचना करार पर बेङ्गल सरकार निषेधाज्ञा तुलेनेय। एर पर, साहिते दौड़िये थाका समस्त पन्याबी यानबाहन बीरर बीरर बेङ्गले प्रवेश करतेशे शुरू करछे। NH-६ दीर्घ यानजट एखन सीमित हच्छे एबं यानजटो भाङ्गुले शुरू करछे।

भोजपुरी कृषि लोक गीत (कहरवा धुन)

गेहूँआ के दिनवा

- श्याम कुंवर भारती (राजभर)

धनवा कटाइल सईयां गेहूँआ के दिनवा।

हाली घरे अईहा सईयां दवाई कइसे धनवा।

सास ससुर केवनो जोरओ ना लागता।

लहुरा देवरवा हमरो बतियो ना मानता।

पडल पडल सड़ता धान खरीहनवा।

हाली घरे अईहा सईयां.....।

नवहर बदन हमरो कइसे खेतवा जोताई।

जाडा के महीनवा हमसे गेहूँ ना बोआई।

खेतिया ना होई पिया का खाइब अनवा।

हाली घरे अईहा सईयां.....।

किसान के बेटा पिया आके करा तू किसानी।

करबा जे किसानी पिया देशवा मिली अन्न पानी।

अन्न धन भरल रही हमरे हिंदुस्तनवा।

हाली घरे अईहा सईयां.....।

सासु जी के स्वेटर ससुर जी के साल लेअईहा।

लइकन के टोपी हमके ले अईहा रजइया।

तरसे तोहरे खातिर नैना मोर बांका सजनवा।

हाली घरे अईहा सईयां दवाई कइसे धनवा।

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टैरिफ वॉर की आशंका से सहमा शेयर बाजार, लगातार 10वें दिन निफ्टी में गिरावट

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। टैरिफ वॉर तेज होने की आशंका के कारण घरेलू शेयर बाजार एक बार फिर गिरावट के साथ बंद हुआ। निफ्टी ने आज लगातार 10वें कारोबारी दिन लाल निशान में अपने कारोबार का अंत किया। सेंसेक्स आज 73 हजार अंक के स्तर से नीचे फिसल कर बंद हुआ। इंडेक्स शेयरों के विपरीत स्मॉल और मिडकैप शेयरों में खरीदारी होती रही। बाजार खुलते ही लिवालों और बिकवालों के बीच खौंचतान शुरू हो गई, जिसकी वजह से दिन भर शेयर बाजार की चाल में भी उतार-चढ़ाव होता रहा। पूरे दिन के कारोबार के बाद सेंसेक्स 0.13 प्रतिशत और निफ्टी 0.17 प्रतिशत

की कमजोरी के साथ बंद हुए। आज दिन भर कारोबार के दौरान पब्लिक सेक्टर एंटरप्राइज, ऑयल एंड गैस तथा एनर्जी सेक्टर के शेयरों में खरीदारी होती रही। इसी तरह बैंकिंग, कैपिटल गुड्स, कंज्यूमर ड्यूरोबल, हेल्थ केयर और मेटल इंडेक्स भी बढ़त के साथ बंद हुए। आईटी, ऑटोमोबाइल, टेक और एफएमसीजी सेक्टर के शेयरों में बिकवाली होती रही। इंडेक्स शेयरों में बिकवाली होने के बावजूद ब्रोड मार्केट में आज खरीदारी होती रही, जिसके कारण बीएसई का मिडकैप इंडेक्स 0.08 प्रतिशत की मजबूती के साथ बंद हुआ। इसी तरह स्मॉलकैप इंडेक्स ने 1.28 प्रतिशत की तेजी के साथ

आज के कारोबार का अंत किया। आज मिडकैप और स्मॉलकैप शेयरों में हुई खरीदारी के कारण बाजार की कमजोरी के बावजूद स्टॉक मार्केट के निवेशकों की सर्पति में 95 हजार करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की बढ़ोतरी हो गई। बीएसई में लिस्टेड कंपनियों का मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन आज के कारोबार के बाद बढ़ कर 384.97 लाख करोड़ रुपये (अस्थायी) हो गया, जबकि पिछले कारोबारी दिन यानी सोमवार को इनका मार्केट कैपिटलाइजेशन 384.01 लाख करोड़ रुपये था। इस तरह निवेशकों को आज के कारोबार से करीब 96 हजार करोड़ रुपये का फायदा हो गया। आज दिन भर के कारोबार में

बीएसई में 4,086 शेयरों में एक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें 2,217 शेयर बढ़त के साथ बंद हुए, जबकि 1,740 शेयरों में गिरावट का रुख रहा, वहीं 129 शेयर बिना किसी उतार चढ़ाव के बंद हुए। एनएसई में आज 2,639 शेयरों में एक्टिव ट्रेडिंग हुई। इनमें से 1,573 शेयर मुनाफा कमा कर रहे निशान में और 1,066 शेयर नुकसान उठा कर लाल निशान में बंद हुए। इसी तरह सेंसेक्स में शामिल 30 शेयरों में से 12 शेयर बढ़त के साथ और 18 शेयर गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए। जबकि निफ्टी में शामिल 50 शेयरों में से 23 शेयर रहे निशान में और 27 शेयर लाल निशान में बंद हुए।

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सरकार नियामकीय बोझ कम करने, देश को निर्यात अनुकूल बनाने के लिए उठा रही कदम: वित्त मंत्री

नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा कि सरकार नियामकीय बोझ को कम करने के साथ राज-काज के स्तर पर भारीसा बढ़ाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। इसके साथ भारत को निर्यात अनुकूल अर्थव्यवस्था बनाने के लिए कदम उठा रही है। वित्त मंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार विश्वास आधारित शासन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए काम कर रही है। वित्त मंत्री ने 'नियामक, निवेश और कारोबार में आसानी (ईओडीबी) सुधार' विषय पर बजट के बाद वैबिनार को वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग के जरिए संबोधित करते हुए यह बात कही। उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार विनियामक प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। इसके अलावा 100 से ज्यादा प्रावधानों को अपराधमुक्त करने के लिए जन विश्वास विधेयक 2.0 पेश करने की तैयारी में है।

उन्होंने अपने संबोधन में कहा कि बजट घोषणाओं के माध्यम से हम भारत को एक निर्यात और निर्यात-अनुकूल अर्थव्यवस्था बनाने की दिशा में कई कदम उठा रहे हैं, जहां व्यवसाय नवाचार और विस्तार पर काम करने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं, न कि कागजी कार्रवाई और दंड पर। बजट के बाद वैबिनार को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि अनावश्यक नियामकीय बाधाओं से मुक्त एक मजबूत विनिर्माण क्षेत्र फरेलू और विदेशी दोनों निवेश को आकर्षित करेगा, आर्थिक वृद्धि को गति देगा और भारत को एक भरोसेमंद वैश्विक खिलाड़ी के रूप में स्थापित करेगा। इससे पहले, प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने 'विकास के इंजन के रूप में एमएसएमई', 'विनिर्माण, निर्यात और परमाणु ऊर्जा मिशन' और 'विनियामक, निवेश और व्यापार करने में आसानी सुधार पर आयोजित

बजट के बाद आयोजित वैबिनार को संबोधित किया। इन वैबिनार में विभिन्न सरकारी विभागों, नियामकों, निजी क्षेत्र के विशेषज्ञों, उद्योग प्रतिनिधियों और विषय विशेषज्ञों ने भाग लिया, ताकि बजट घोषणाओं के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन के लिए प्रयासों को संरक्षित किया जा सके।

बजट के बाद आयोजित वैबिनार को संबोधित किया। इन वैबिनार में विभिन्न सरकारी विभागों, नियामकों, निजी क्षेत्र के विशेषज्ञों, उद्योग प्रतिनिधियों और विषय विशेषज्ञों ने भाग लिया, ताकि बजट घोषणाओं के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन के लिए प्रयासों को संरक्षित किया जा सके।

तो शुरूआती दो महीने में मेनबोर्ड सेगमेंट की किसी भी कंपनी का आईपीओ लॉन्च नहीं हुआ था। दूसरी ओर, एसएमई सेगमेंट की 21



कंपनियों ने आईपीओ के जरिए 340 करोड़ रुपये का कलेक्शन किया था। माना जा रहा है कि इस साल सेकेंडरी मार्केट में गिरावट आने के बावजूद विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों ने सेकेंडरी मार्केट की तुलना में प्राइमरी मार्केट में अधिक दिलचस्पी दिखाई है, जिसकी वजह से जनवरी और फरवरी के महीने के दौरान प्राइमरी मार्केट में रिकॉर्ड फंड कलेक्शन हुआ। इस दौरान मेनबोर्ड सेगमेंट की 9 बड़ी कंपनियों ने आईपीओ के जरिए 15,723 करोड़ रुपये जुटाए। जनवरी और फरवरी के दौरान एसएमई सेगमेंट की 40 कंपनियों ने आईपीओ के जरिए 1,804 करोड़ रुपये का कलेक्शन किया। एनएसडीएल के आंकड़ों के अनुसार पिछले साल 2024 में इसी अवधि में यानी जनवरी और फरवरी के दौरान मेनबोर्ड की 16 बड़ी कंपनियों ने आईपीओ के जरिए 10,763 करोड़ रुपये इकठ्ठा किए थे। एसएमई सेगमेंट की 34 कंपनियों ने 1,140 करोड़ रुपये जुटाए थे। अगर साल 2023 की बात की जाए,

फरवरी के महीने में प्राइमरी मार्केट में उन्का निवेश 82.5 करोड़ डॉलर का रहा है। प्राइमरी मार्केट की विपरीत अगर सेकेंडरी मार्केट में विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों के कारोबारी आंकड़ों पर नजर डालें, तो जनवरी में एफआईआई ने सेकेंडरी मार्केट में 9 अरब डॉलर की बिकवाली की। इसी तरह फरवरी में उन्होंने करीब चार अरब डॉलर के शेयर बेच डाले।

सर्राफा बाजार में महंगा हुआ सोना, चांदी में मामूली गिरावट

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। घरेलू सर्राफा बाजार में सोने में तेजी का रुख नजर आ रहा है। हालांकि चांदी आज मामूली गिरावट के साथ कारोबार कर रही है। सोने के भाव में आज 720 रुपये से लेकर 780 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम तक की तेजी दर्ज की गई है। इस तेजी के कारण देश के ज्यादातर सर्राफा बाजारों में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 87,390 रुपये से लेकर 87,540 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के दायरे में कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह 22 कैरेट सोना आज 80,110 रुपये से लेकर 80,260 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के बीच बिक रहा है। चांदी में आज मामूली गिरावट आने के कारण ये चमकीली धातु आज दिल्ली सर्राफा बाजार में 96,800 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रही है। देश की राजधानी दिल्ली में 24 कैरेट सोना 87,540 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है,

जबकि 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 80,260 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। वहीं देश की आर्थिक राजधानी मुंबई में 24 कैरेट सोना 87,390 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 80,110 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह अहमदाबाद में 24 कैरेट सोने की रिटेल कीमत 87,440 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 80,160 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख

शहरों के अलावा चेन्नई में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 87,390 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। वहीं देश की आर्थिक राजधानी मुंबई में 24 कैरेट सोना 87,390 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 80,110 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह अहमदाबाद में 24 कैरेट सोने की रिटेल कीमत 87,440 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 80,160 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख

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रिकांत पिट्टी 2025-26 के लिए सीआईआई-दिल्ली के चेयरमैन नियुक्त

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। इंजमाईट्रिप के मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी (सीईओ) और सह-संस्थापक रिकांत पिट्टी को 2025-26 के लिए भारतीय उद्योग परिषद (सीआईआई) दिल्ली राज्य का चेयरमैन बनाया गया है। देश के सबसे बड़े ऑनलाइन ट्रेवल टेक प्लेटफॉर्म में से एक इंजमाईट्रिप ने बताया कि सीआईआई के इतिहास में पहली बार किसी यूनिकॉर्न कंपनी के सह-संस्थापक को सीआईआई दिल्ली राज्य का अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया गया है। सीआईआई दिल्ली के चेयरमैन के तौर पर रिकांत कारोबार विकास, डिजिटल बदलाव और उद्योग-सरकार सहयोग को मजबूत करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेंगे। रिकांत पिट्टी ने कहा, 'मेरा लक्ष्य राष्ट्रीय राजधानी दिल्ली को वैश्विक व्यापार और पर्यटन केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित

करना है। इसमें प्रौद्योगिकी, स्थिरता और उद्योग सहयोग का लाभ उठाकर नए अवसरों को खोलना है। मैं नीति-निर्माताओं और व्यापार जगत के लोगों के साथ मिलकर काम करने के लिए उत्सुक हूँ, ताकि एक ऐसा भविष्य बनाया जा सके जो गतिशील, समावेशी और विकास और परिवर्तन से प्रेरित हो।' रिकांत पिट्टी, डिजिटल बदलाव और उद्योग-सरकार सहयोग को मजबूत करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेंगे। रिकांत पिट्टी ने कहा, 'मेरा लक्ष्य राष्ट्रीय राजधानी दिल्ली को वैश्विक व्यापार और पर्यटन केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित



श्रीनाथ पेपर ने निवेशकों को किया निराश, कमजोर लिस्टिंग के बाद लोअर सर्किट पर पहुंचे शेयर

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। पेपर प्रोडक्ट स्पन्डॉल करने वाली कंपनी श्रीनाथ पेपर के शेयरों ने आज कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशकों को काफी निराश किया। आईपीओ के तहत कंपनी के शेयर 44 रुपये के भाव पर जारी किए गए थे। आज बीएसई के एसएमई प्लेटफॉर्म पर इसकी एंटी 8.80 रुपये यानी 20 प्रतिशत के डिस्काउंट के साथ 35.20 रुपये के भाव पर हुई। आईपीओ निवेशकों को उस समय और झटका लगा, जब लिस्टिंग के थोड़ी देर बाद ही बिकवाली के दबाव में ये शेयर टूट कर 33.44 रुपये के लोअर सर्किट लेवल पर पहुंच गया। इस तरह कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशकों को पहले दिन ही 24 प्रतिशत का

नुकसान हो गया। श्रीनाथ पेपर का 23.36 करोड़ रुपये का आईपीओ 25 से 28 फरवरी के बीच हुआ था। इसमें रिटेल इन्वेस्टर्स के लिए रिजर्व पोशन में 3.18 गुना सब्सक्रिप्शन आया था। इस समय और झटका लगा, जब लिस्टिंग के थोड़ी देर बाद ही बिकवाली के दबाव में ये शेयर टूट कर 33.44 रुपये के लोअर सर्किट लेवल पर पहुंच गया। इस तरह कंपनी के आईपीओ निवेशकों को पहले दिन ही 24 प्रतिशत का



सब्सक्रिप्शन के लिए खुला था। ये आईपीओ रिटेल इन्वेस्टर्स के दम पर ओवरऑल 1.85 गुना सब्सक्राइब

आईपीओ के तहत 10 रुपये फेस वैल्यू वाले 53.10 लाख नए शेयर जारी किए गए हैं। आईपीओ के जरिए

जुटाए गए पैसे का इस्तेमाल कंपनी वॉर्किंग कैपिटल की बढ़ी हुई जरूरतों को पूरा करने और आम कॉर्पोरेट उद्देश्यों में करेगी। कंपनी की वित्तीय स्थिति की बात करें तो प्रॉफिटबिलिटी में किए गए दावे के मुताबिक इसकी वित्तीय सेहत लगातार मजबूत हुई है। वित्त वर्ष 2021-22 में कंपनी को 1.34 करोड़ रुपये का शुद्ध लाभ हुआ था, जो अगले वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 में बढ़कर 4.38 करोड़ रुपये और 2023-24 में 4.39 करोड़ रुपये के स्तर पर पहुंच गया। मौजूदा वित्त वर्ष के पहले 9 महीने यानी अप्रैल से दिसंबर 2024 के बीच कंपनी को 2.41 करोड़ रुपये का शुद्ध लाभ हो चुका है। इस अवधि में कंपनी 78.62 करोड़ रुपये का रेवेन्यू हासिल कर चुकी है।

प्रभावों को कम करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट

प्रबंधन नियम (2016) के जरिए नगरपालिका, औद्योगिक, आवासीय और वाणिज्यिक क्षेत्रों को लक्षित करते हुए महत्वपूर्ण उपाय किए गए हैं। भारत ने 2022 में अधिसूचना के माध्यम से एकल-उपयोग वाले प्लास्टिक की कुछ श्रेणियों पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है, जिसके लिए

सुलभ और विश्वस्तरीय रूप में बदल रहा है। विकसित भारत की शुरुआत स्वस्थ भारत से होती है। हम देश के हर नागरिक के लिए

बेहतर स्वास्थ्य देखभाल पर जोर दे रहे हैं। प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के विकसित भारत के दृष्टिकोण को हासिल करने के लिए स्वास्थ्य सेवा में उत्कृष्टता महत्वपूर्ण है।

2050 तक भारत की सर्कुलर अर्थव्यवस्था लगभग 10 मिलियन नौकरियां पैदा कर सकती है: केंद्रीय मंत्री भूपेंद्र यादव

एजेंसी जयपुर। केंद्रीय वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्री भूपेंद्र यादव ने कहा कि वर्ष 2050 तक भारत की सर्कुलर अर्थव्यवस्था 02 ट्रिलियन डॉलर से अधिक का बाजार और लगभग 10 मिलियन नौकरियां पैदा कर सकती है। वहीं वैश्विक स्तर की बात करें तो यह सर्कुलर अर्थव्यवस्था वर्ष 2030 तक 4.5 ट्रिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर का अतिरिक्त आर्थिक उत्पादन कर सकती है। भूपेंद्र यादव जयपुर में

चल रहे भारत और प्रशांत क्षेत्र के 12वें क्षेत्रीय 3आर और सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी फोरम को संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि सर्कुलर अर्थव्यवस्था 250 साल पहले हुई औद्योगिक क्रांति के बाद व्यापार और लागत 10 मिलियन नौकरियां पैदा कर सकती है। वहीं वैश्विक स्तर की बात करें तो यह सर्कुलर अर्थव्यवस्था वर्ष 2030 तक 4.5 ट्रिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर का अतिरिक्त आर्थिक उत्पादन कर सकती है। भूपेंद्र यादव जयपुर में

आयोजन के लिए उम्मीदवार है। उन्होंने कहा कि हर साल, विश्व सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी फोरम का आयोजन किया जाता है और इस वर्ष, 2025 में इसका आयोजन ब्राजील के साओ पाउलो में किया जा रहा है। भारत ने विश्व सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी फोरम 2026 की मेजबानी करने की इच्छा व्यक्त की है। 2030 और उससे आगे की ओर देखते हुए, इस फोरम को वास्तविक परिवर्तन लाना चाहिए। यादव ने कहा कि

भारत प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट चुनौतियों और उनके संबंधित पारिस्थितिक

प्रभावों को कम करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट

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सिद्धांतों को बढ़ावा देते हुए पर्यावरण के अनुकूल उत्पादों की मांग बढ़ाने के लिए इको-मार्क नियम लागू किए हैं। केंद्रीय मंत्री यादव ने बताया कि 10 अपशिष्ट श्रेणियों के लिए सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी एक्शन प्लान को अंतिम रूप दिया गया है, जिसके लिए विनियामक और कार्यान्वयन रूपरेखा पर काम चल रहा है। यादव ने कहा कि देश में एक मजबूत रीसाइक्लिंग उद्योग तेजी से विकसित हो रहा है जो अर्थव्यवस्था और रोजगार सृजन में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देगा।

सिद्धांतों को बढ़ावा देते हुए पर्यावरण के अनुकूल उत्पादों की मांग बढ़ाने के लिए इको-मार्क नियम लागू किए हैं। केंद्रीय मंत्री यादव ने बताया कि 10 अपशिष्ट श्रेणियों के लिए सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी एक्शन प्लान को अंतिम रूप दिया गया है, जिसके लिए विनियामक और कार्यान्वयन रूपरेखा पर काम चल रहा है। यादव ने कहा कि देश में एक मजबूत रीसाइक्लिंग उद्योग तेजी से विकसित हो रहा है जो अर्थव्यवस्था और रोजगार सृजन में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देगा।



एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस ऊर्जा को बचाने, बायोडायवर्सिटी, क्लाइमेट चेंज, ग्राउंड वॉटर आदि के अध्ययन वाला विषय है। एकेडमिक तौर पर देखें तो एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस का दायरा काफी व्यापक है और इस कोर्स में अध्ययन के दौरान सिर्फ भौतिकी या बायोलॉजिकल साइंस का ही नहीं बल्कि इकोलॉजी, भौतिकी, रसायन विज्ञान, बायोलॉजी और ज्योलॉजी का भी अध्ययन किया जाता है।

जिंदगी से जुड़ी फील्ड है एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस



पर्यावरण हमारी जिंदगी में अहम भूमिका निभाता है। चाहे बात खाने के अनाज की हो, रहने के लिए घर की हो, पहनने के लिए कपड़े की हो या फिर पानी, सूर्य की रोशनी, हवा की हो। सभी कुछ इसी पर्यावरण पर निर्भर करता है। इसलिए जब पर्यावरण को नुकसान पहुंचता है तो उसका कहीं न कहीं प्रभाव हमारे जीवन पर पड़ता है। औद्योगिक विकास की रफतार ने पर्यावरण को लौलने का काम किया है। यही कारण है कि सभी का ध्यान इस ओर गया है। ऐसे में, एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस से जुड़े लोगों की मांग काफी बढ़ गई है। मूल रूप से एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस ऊर्जा को बचाने, बायोडायवर्सिटी, क्लाइमेट चेंज, ग्राउंड वॉटर आदि के अध्ययन वाला विषय है। एकेडमिक तौर पर देखें तो एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस का दायरा काफी व्यापक है और इस कोर्स में अध्ययन के दौरान सिर्फ भौतिकी या बायोलॉजिकल साइंस का ही नहीं बल्कि इकोलॉजी, भौतिकी, रसायन विज्ञान, बायोलॉजी और ज्योलॉजी का भी अध्ययन किया जाता है।

एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस के अध्ययन की बात पहली बार 1977 में स्टॉकहोम में हुई कांफ्रेंस में सामने आई थी। औद्योगिक विकास की अंधी दौड़ में आज जिस तरह पर्यावरण को नुकसान पहुंच रहा है, वह किसी से अच्छा नहीं है। ग्लोबल वार्मिंग और जलवायु परिवर्तन से लेकर कस्ट्रक्शन, केमिकल, मैनुफैक्चरिंग और एनर्जी के फील्ड में करियर बना सकते हैं। इसके अलावा और भी कई फील्ड हैं जहां इससे संबंधित डिग्री हासिल करने वाले छात्र करियर को नई मजल तक पहुंचा सकते हैं।



एनवायरनमेंटल इंजीनियर्स

इस फील्ड से जुड़े लोग वास्तु मैनेजमेंट, लीन मैनुफैक्चरिंग, रिसाइक्लिंग, इमिशन कंट्रोल, इनवायरनमेंटल सस्टेनेबिलिटी और पब्लिक हेल्थ मामलों का अध्ययन करते हैं।

एनवायरनमेंटल लॉबिस्टर

ये सरकारी अधिकारियों, नेताओं और संबंधित स्वयंसेवी संस्थानों को पर्यावरण मामलों और नीतियों की जानकारी देते हैं।

एनवायरनमेंटल एजुकेटर

इससे जुड़े लोग एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस या फिर इससे संबंधित विषयों यानी इकोलॉजी या हाइड्रोलॉजी छात्रों को पढ़ाते हैं। इसके अलावा, एनवायरनमेंटल बायोलॉजिस्ट, एनवायरनमेंटल मॉडलर्स, एनवायरनमेंटल जर्नलिस्ट या पर्यावरण से संबंधित तकनीकियों की तरह भी कार्य कर सकते हैं।

वैतन - एनवायरनमेंटल साइंस में बैचलर डिग्री करने वाले छात्रों को आसानी से 15-30 हजार रुपये मासिक की नौकरी मिल जाती है। जिन्होंने इस विषय में पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट किया है, उन्हें कम से कम 35-50 हजार रुपये मासिक तौर पर तो मिलते हैं ही हैं। जो लोग पीएचडी करने के बाद बतौर साइंटिस्ट या कंसल्टेंट कार्य करते हैं, उनका वैतन शुरुआत में 50-75 हजार रुपये के बीच होता है।

संस्थान - अलीगढ़ मुस्लिम विश्वविद्यालय, अलीगढ़, यूपी दिल्ली कॉलेज ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग, दिल्ली डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ एनवायरनमेंटल बायोलॉजी, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली गुरु गोविंद सिंह इंद्रप्रस्थ विश्वविद्यालय, दिल्ली स्कूल ऑफ एनवायरनमेंटल साइंसेज, जेएनयू, नई दिल्ली पूर्वांचल विश्वविद्यालय, जौनपुर, यूपी चौधरी चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, भरत, यूपी गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय, हरिद्वार, यूपी बाबा साहेब भीमराव अंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय, आगरा, यूपी

हस्तनिर्मित कागज उद्योग

फलता-फूलता रोजगार

आवश्यक है। उम्र-सीमा 18 वर्ष से कम न हो।

संबंधित पाठ्यक्रम

इसमें मुख्यतः हैंडमेड पेपर में सर्टिफिकेट कोर्स (एक से दो सप्ताह), पेपर कंजरवेशन कोर्स (दो

जाती है। रिसाइक्लिंग में टेलर कटिंग, होजरी कटिंग तथा छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों के सहारे उच्चकोटि के उपयोगी पेपर तैयार किए जाते हैं।

खर्च एवं सुविधा

हस्तनिर्मित कागज उद्योग का यूनिट लगाने में कम से कम 40-70 हजार रुपये की लागत आती है। प्रारंभ में यह जरूरी है कि यूनिट छोटी ही लगाई जाए। बाद में सफल होने तथा डिमांड अधिक होने पर यूनिट की क्षमता इच्छानुसार बढ़ा सकते हैं। इस रोजगार के लिए ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय ने किसी भी व्यक्ति को प्रोजेक्ट के क्रियान्वयन के लिए अधिकतम 25 लाख रुपये तक के ऋण का प्रबंध किया है। इसके साथ ही महिलाओं, अनुसूचित जातियों, जनजातियों और पिछड़े वर्ग के विकलांगों को दिए गए कर्ज में 30 फीसदी की सब्सिडी मिलती है।



भारत में हस्तनिर्मित कागज उद्योग का इतिहास बहुत पुराना है। मुगल काल से इसके प्रमाण मिलते हैं। यह उद्योग भारत के सामाजिक परिवर्तन में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। इसमें सबसे खास बात यह है कि यह उद्योग अपशिष्ट पदार्थ को रिसाइक्लिंग प्रणाली द्वारा उच्चकोटि के कागज में तब्दील कर देता है। इसके अलावा, इसमें कम खर्च में अधिक लोगों को रोजगार दिया जाता है। असम, मणिपुर, अरुणाचल प्रदेश एवं नगालैंड जैसे राज्यों में हस्तनिर्मित कागज के उद्योग खूब फल फूल रहा है। जबकि भारत के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लगभग 10-15 हजार लोग इस व्यवसाय से जुड़े हुए हैं।

शैक्षिक योग्यता की दरकार

इस रोजगार को प्रारंभ करने से पहले यदि आप प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं तो आपको दसवीं की परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण होना बहुत जरूरी है। प्रशिक्षण के पश्चात आप विशेष योग्यता से लैस हो जाएंगे, बल्कि रोजगार से संबंधित बारीकियां भी आपको मालूम हो सकेंगी। यदि आपके पास इस व्यवसाय से संबंधित जानकारी पहले से ही मौजूद है तो पांचवीं की डिग्री भी महत्वपूर्ण है यानी आपको सिर्फ साक्षर होना

माह), इंटरप्रिनोरशिप कोर्स (दो माह) तथा हैंडमेड पेपर में एडवांस कोर्स (एक वर्ष) आदि शामिल हैं।

फीस एवं प्रशिक्षण अवधि

यदि आप प्रशिक्षण खादी ग्राम उद्योग कमीशन (केवीआईसी) से प्राप्त करते हैं तो आपको सिर्फ 200 रुपये मामूली फीस में प्रशिक्षण मिल सकता है। जबकि प्रशिक्षण अवधि 2-3 हफ्तों की होती है। इस दौरान प्रशिक्षु को अपशिष्ट पदार्थों को रिसाइकिल कर आकर्षक कागज में परिवर्तित करने की कला सिखा दी

प्रशिक्षण दिलाने वाले संस्थान

ऐसे कई संस्थान हैं जो अपने यहां से हस्तनिर्मित कागज से जुड़ा प्रशिक्षण दिताते हैं-

- खादी एवं ग्रामोद्योग आयोग (गांधी दर्शन), राजघाट, नई दिल्ली-110002 (संस्थान का पूरे भारत में कई जगह प्रशिक्षण केंद्र मौजूद)
- डॉ राजेन्द्र प्रसाद मल्टी डिस्सीप्लिनरी ट्रेनिंग सेंटर, खादी एवं विलेज इंटरटीज कमीशन, शेखपुरा, पटना-14
- कुमारपा नेशनल हैंडमेड पेपर इंस्टीट्यूट, सांगानेर, राजस्थान-302022

टूरिज्म गाइड, मेहनती युवाओं के लिए बढ़िया करियर ऑप्शन

पर्यटन आज सांस्कृतिक पहचान पुख्ता करने के साथ रेवेन्यू अर्जित करने का भी जरिया बन रहा है। ऐसे में स्थानीय सरकारें देश में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने की पुरजोर कोशिश कर रही हैं। भारतीय गांवों की सैर विदेशी पर्यटकों के लिए किसी रोमांच से कम नहीं है। यहां के घर, बच्चों के खेल, महिलाओं का ओढ़ना-पहनना, खेत-खलिहान, दैनिक गतिविधियां, अर्थव्यवस्था आदि उन्हें इतने आकर्षित करते हैं कि पर्यटक महीनों यहां डेरा डाले रहते हैं।

टूरिस्ट गाइड का कार्य किसी भी देश की सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं से पर्यटकों को अवगत कराने में टूरिस्ट गाइड की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण होती है। टूरिस्ट गाइड पर्यटकों के साथ रहकर उन्हें जाने-अनजाने और

अनछुप पहलुओं से वाकिफ कराते हैं। यही वो कारण है जिसके चलते आज टूरिस्ट गाइड एक आकर्षक करियर विकल्प के तौर पर अपनी जगह बना चुका है। संबंधित देश के टूरिस्ट गाइड राज्य क्षेत्र की भौगोलिक जानकारी के साथ-साथ सांस्कृतिक, ऐतिहासिक पर्यटन संबंधी जानकारी रखने के साथ ट्रेवल एजेंसी और बड़े-बड़े होटलों की जानकारी रखते हैं। देश में टूरिस्ट गाइड के लिए भारतीय पर्यटन और ट्रेवल विभाग से टूरिस्ट गाइड का लाइसेंस लेना होता है। लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने के लिए परीक्षा उत्तीर्ण करनी पड़ती है।

कोर्स और क्वालिफिकेशन - देश के अलग-अलग संस्थान टूरिज्म ट्रेवल एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन एंड मैनेजमेंट में शॉर्ट टर्म डिप्लोमा कोर्स संचालित करते हैं, जिसमें इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ ट्रेवल एंड टूरिज्म (आईआईटीएम) सबसे खास है, तो वहीं संबंधित राज्य व केंद्र सरकारों के पर्यटन विभाग भी टूरिस्ट गाइड ट्रेनिंग कोर्स आयोजित करते हैं। जिन्हें पास करने पर आपको सर्टीफाइड गाइड का लाइसेंस मिलता है। टूरिज्म

के क्षेत्र में करियर बनाने के इच्छुक युवाओं के लिए जरूरी है कि वे इस क्षेत्र में औपचारिक शिक्षा भी ग्रहण करें। देश में विभिन्न संस्थान एवं विश्वविद्यालय टूरिज्म में डिप्लोमा, बैचलर डिग्री एवं मास्टर डिग्री प्रदान करते हैं। डिप्लोमा कोर्स की अवधि अमूमन एक वर्ष होती है, जिसे ग्रेजुएशन के बाद किया जा सकता है। आईसीसीआर इस क्षेत्र में जूनियर फेलोशिप भी प्रदान करता है।

करियर ऑप्शन - स्थानीय पर्यटन उद्योग, राष्ट्रीय पर्यटन उद्योग, होटल इंडस्ट्री, ट्रेवल एजेंसी, एविएशन, कार्गो ऑपरेशन, हॉस्पिटैलिटी आदि में टूरिस्ट गाइड के लिए अवसर बाट जोड़ रहे हैं। टूरिज्म उद्योग के विस्तार से टूरिस्ट गाइड का स्कोप बढ़ा है। मेहनती, कुशल और ईमानदार युवा चाहें तो भारत की संपन्न विरासत से अपने लिए समृद्ध भविष्य की राह खोज सकते हैं। भारत सरकार भी अब ग्रामीण पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कदम उठा रही है। पर्यटन मंत्रालय के अनुसार पिछले वर्ष देश भर में 66 लाख विदेशी सैलानी आए, जिनसे करीब 17.75 अरब डॉलर की कमाई हुई। मंत्रालय ने प्रत्येक वर्ष इसकी संख्या में 12 फीसदी बढ़ोतरी का लक्ष्य रखा है ताकि वर्ष 2016 तक पर्यटन से विदेशी मुद्रा की कमाई दोगुनी की जा सके। रिकवर्ड युवाओं के लिए इस फील्ड में संभावनाओं के असीमित द्वार हैं।

आप करियर के उस मुकाम पर खड़े हैं, जहां सोचते हैं कि अगले दस सालों में आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं? क्या कभी इस बात का भी अफसोस होता है कि आपने पढ़ाई के दौरान अलग-अलग विषयों का चुनाव वयों नहीं किया, ताकि कुछ और पढ़ने या किसी दूसरी दिशा में करियर बनाने के बारे में सोच पाते? यदि इन प्रश्नों का उत्तर हाँ है तो यह समय है अपने पास मौजूद विकल्पों पर गंभीरता से विचार करने का। खुद की रिस्कल में निवेश करके अपने आप को आगे बढ़ाने का, री-स्किलिंग का।

क्या है रिस्कल में इजाफा करना?

शब्दकोश में री-स्किलिंग का अर्थ होगा, वह प्रशिक्षण और अनुभव, जिसके जरिए नई और बेहतर रिस्कल की जानकारी मिलती है। करियर में किसी उम्मीदवार में नई रिस्कल हासिल करने, सीखने और खुद को बदलने की क्षमता और इच्छा का होना बेहद अहम गुण माना जाता है। यह दूरदर्शिता होना कि करियर को आगे ले जाने के लिए किन रिस्कल की जरूरत होगी और उस दिशा में कदम बढ़ाना किसी उम्मीदवार के करियर को आगे ले जाने में मदद करता है। आईआईएम-बंगलुरु में चाइनीज बिजनेस लैंग्वेज कोर्स पढ़ाने वाले प्रो. एस स्वामीनाथन कहते हैं, 'अपनी रिस्कल में इजाफा करने का अर्थ सक्रिय होकर केवल नई रिस्कल सीखना भर नहीं है। यह नौकरी से ब्रेक लेकर उच्च शिक्षा की ओर कदम बढ़ाना भी हो सकता है। उदाहरण के लिए कई आईआईएम केंद्रों में मंडारिन एक लोकप्रिय लैंग्वेज कोर्स बन कर उभरा है। वर्तमान में भारत-चीन एक-दूसरे से व्यापारिक रिश्तों को नकार नहीं सकते। विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान हासिल करने के लिए इस दिशा में कदम बढ़ाना जरूरी भी होगा। ऐसे में चाइनीज बिजनेस कोर्स की मदद से विद्यार्थी दोनों देशों में बन रहे आर्थिक समीकरणों में अपनी सकारात्मक भूमिका निभा सकते हैं।' कॉलेज के दौरान लिए गए विषय निश्चित तौर पर परसदीवा जाँब हासिल में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं, पर ऐसे भी मामले मिलते हैं, जहाँ लोग संयोगवश दूसरे क्षेत्रों में करियर बना बैठते हैं या फिर अपने करियर के दौरान ऐसे फंस जाते हैं, जहाँ उनके लिए समझना मुश्किल हो जाता है कि

अब वे किस ओर कदम बढ़ाएँ। दो से तीन वर्ष नौकरी कर चुकने वाले विशेषज्ञता प्राप्त उम्मीदवार और बड़े अधिकारी भी यह मानते हैं कि बदलावों से गुरेज करना और अपनी रिस्कल को बढ़ाने का प्रयास न करना एक स्तर पर आकर उम्मीदवार की प्रगति को बाधित कर देता है। जिस तेजी से कार्यस्थल और उनकी नीतियां बदल रही हैं, यह पहले से भी जरूरी हो गया है कि उम्मीदवार खुद को उपयोगी बनाने की दिशा में कदम बढ़ाएँ। थोलॉस ग्लोबल इंस्टीट्यूट में एमडी अंकिता वशिष्ठ के अनुसार, 'जाँब मार्केट में खुद को रोजगार योग्य और उपयोगी बनाए रखना एक बड़ी चुनौती है। वर्कलेस पर बढ़ती विविधता और निरत बदलती तकनीक ने कर्मचारियों पर नई तकनीक और कार्य प्रणाली को सीखने का दबाव बनाया है। उदाहरण के लिए, यदि कोई नई तकनीक मसलन बिग डाटा और एनालिटिक्स में करियर बनाना चाहता है तो उसके लिए स्टैटिस्टिक्स में क्रैश कोर्स करना फायदेमंद हो सकता है। एक परंपरागत मार्केटिंग व्यक्ति के लिए डिजिटल मार्केटिंग में अनुभव बढ़ाना लाभप्रद रहेगा। इसी तरह अन्य उम्मीदवार खुद को किसी ऑनलाइन कोर्स या डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम से भी जोड़ सकते हैं।' ग्लोबल रिक्लूटमेंट फर्म केली सर्विसेज के हालिया अध्ययन के अनुसार विश्व परिदृश्य की तुलना में एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में बड़े स्तर पर कर्मचारी तेजी से उभरते बाजार में अपनी रिस्कल में इजाफा करने की इच्छा जता रहे हैं। 69% भारतीय कर्मचारी अपने बढ़ने के लिए उच्च शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण हासिल करने के बारे में गंभीरता से सोच रहे हैं। यह संख्या यूरोप और अमेरिका की तुलना में अधिक है। पहले बैंकों में नौकरी में उन्हीं लोगों

को रखा जाता था, जो पहले बैंक में नौकरी करते रहे हैं। इसी तरह एफएमसीसी कंपनियां भी इसी क्षेत्र के अनुभव को वरीयता देती थीं। पर वह समय बीत गया है। आज कंपनियां विविध क्षेत्रों में विशेषज्ञता रखने वालों को रखना पसंद करती हैं। यानी गतिशील बाजार में खुद को रोजगार योग्य बनाने व उच्च पदों को कुशलता से संभालने के लिए प्रशिक्षण हासिल करने की जरूरत होगी ही।

रोचक तथ्य - 57 प्रतिशत प्रतिभागियों ने अपने वर्तमान नियोक्ता के पास ही पदोन्नति को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपनी रिस्कल में इजाफा करने की इच्छा जतायी। वहीं 47 प्रतिशत के अनुसार वे दूसरी कंपनी में जाने के लिए अपनी रिस्कल में इजाफा करना पसंद करेंगे। 70 प्रतिशत के अनुसार सबसे महत्वपूर्ण और उपयोगी रिस्कल नौकरी करते हुए हासिल की जा सकती है। उसके बाद 58 प्रतिशत ने शिक्षा और प्रशिक्षण को जरूरी बताया है। 26 प्रतिशत के अनुसार सेमिनार और वेबिनार से भी नई रिस्कल सीखने में मदद मिलती है। 42 प्रतिशत के अनुसार वे किसी नए कार्यक्षेत्र में जाने के लिए अपनी रिस्कल में इजाफा करना पसंद करेंगे। इन सब में गणित, इंजीनियरिंग और आईटी कर्मियों ने खुद को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए री-स्किलिंग को अन्य की अपेक्षा अधिक महत्व दिया है। 31 देशों से लगभग 1 लाख 20 हजार कर्मियों ने इस सर्वे में भाग लिया। अमेरिका में उम्मीदवारों ने प्रमोशन हासिल करने के लिए प्रशिक्षण हासिल करने की जरूरत जतायी। वहीं कुछ देशों में कर्मियों ने प्रमोशन पाने और नए नियोक्ता के यहाँ नौकरी पाने के लिए री-स्किलिंग को जरूरी बताया।



NEWS BOX

Haven't played a perfect game so far, hopefully on March 9: Gambhir

DUBAI. Not the one to be easily pleased, India head coach Gautam Gambhir said his team is still searching for that "perfect game" despite entering the Champions Trophy final with an all-win record and he is hopeful that it would come in the summit clash on Sunday.

India trounced Australia by four wickets in the first semifinal here on Tuesday, with senior batter Virat Kohli making a well-paced 84.

"See, in international sport, you want to keep improving. You don't say that you've ticked all the boxes. We still haven't played a perfect game. I will never be satisfied with the performances," Gambhir said in the post-match press conference. Gambhir hoped that India can produce that "perfect game" in the Champions Trophy title clash on March 9.

"We still have one more game to go. Hopefully, we can play a perfect game. We want to keep improving, we want to be ruthless on the cricket field but absolutely humble off the field as well," he added. India have taken some bold calls such as playing four spinners, promoting Axar Patel to No. 5 and pushing down KL Rahul to No. 6 to suit the



team's needs.

It may look illogical from the outside but for Gambhir they were minor pieces in the grand plans of keeping the players "out of the comfort zone" to extract the best out of them.

"I think cricket is all about being out of your comfort zone, and that is how you grow. If everyone is in their comfort zone, then there is stagnation. So, I believe, and you've seen the results. I know you guys will keep going back to 3-1 in Australia. But everyone in the dressing room is staying out of the comfort zone be it the coaching staff, be it the players and hopefully we continue to do what is important for Indian cricket," he said.

At some stage in the near future, Gambhir will have to sit down with some senior players to study about their future plans.

But for now, the former Indian opener is focussing on the Champions Trophy final without losing sight of that important and impending discussion. "I'm someone who tries to stay, as much as I can, in the present and at the moment, all I can say is that the entire focus is going to be on the game which is on the 9th. And then obviously there's a long-term vision, there's a long-term plan as well but at the moment, it's only the 9th but after the 9th we can sit down and plan," he said.

India will win Champions Trophy, regardless of who they face in the final: Sreesanth

New Delhi. India's unbeaten run in the ongoing Champions Trophy has taken them within a win of lifting the trophy, as Rohit Sharma & Co defeated Australia by four wickets in the first semifinal on Tuesday in Dubai.

The dominant nature of India's run has convinced former fast bowler S Sreesanth that they will win the title irrespective of whether they play South Africa or New Zealand in the final on March 9.

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India's opponents will be decided on Wednesday at the end of the second semifinal between the Proteas and the BlackCaps. "Doesn't matter who the opponents are in the final, India are going to win," Sreesanth said while talking to



PTI. "There is so much positive energy. They are playing some wonderful cricket. The way Virat Kohli anchors the chase, the way Shreyas Iyer has stepped up -- let's just keep our fingers crossed." Kohli led India's chase of 26 against Australia with a knock of 84 that won him the 'Man of the Match' award. Before this, Kohli scored an unbeaten century in India's win over Pakistan during the group stage of the tournament, where India also defeated Bangladesh and New Zealand.

"Let's be humble in our process. That's what Mahi bhai (MS Dhoni) used to say -- one of the best captains I've played with," said Sreesanth, who was part of India's 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup-winning teams. "Even Sourav Ganguly used to say the same. Dada always used to say, let's be humble and trust the process. That's exactly what the Indian team is doing... Gautam (Gambhir) bhai is doing a great job," Sreesanth added.

Trying to get my rhythm; more responsibility on me: Shami

Shami said his workload is heavier without Bumrah steaming in at the other end, but he is trying to give more than 100 per cent to the role.

DUBAI. Mohammed Shami conceded that operating as India's lone front-line pacer after coming back from a lengthy injury layoff has been a heavy "responsibility" but said he is trying to regain his "rhythm" to suit the team's needs in the ongoing Champions Trophy. Throughout the ICC showpiece here, Shami has shared the new ball duties with either Harshit Rana or Hardik Pandya because of the injury-forced absence of Jasprit Bumrah. Rana is still learning the ropes, while Pandya is an all-rounder and delivering 10 overs in an ODI is not precisely his territory. Shami has so far picked eight wickets in the tournament. "I am trying to get my rhythm back and contribute more for the team. It is a responsibility when there are no

two proper fast bowlers and I have to shoulder more responsibility," Shami said in a mixed zone interaction after India's semifinal victory over Australia here on Tuesday night.

Shami said his workload is heavier without Bumrah steaming in at the other end, but he is trying to give more than 100 per cent to the role. "There is a load when you are the one main fast bowler and the other is an all-rounder. You have to pick wickets and lead from the front. I have become used to this load and am trying my best to make it easy for others and give more than 100 per cent," he said. Shami was sidelined for over a year with an ankle injury that he picked during the 2023 ODI World Cup.

The veteran said he is now ready to shoulder the responsibility of bowling long spells.

"The trust debate ends when you get selected in the team. I don't think that one should worry about his fitness too much. We just need to put in the effort and see how your body takes it. After all, we are labourers. I am now ready to bowl long spells. Short spells

are anyways easy - six or 12 balls - and in limited-overs cricket it doesn't matter whether it's 10 or six overs," he noted.



The 34-year-old has bowled his full quota of 10 overs against Bangladesh and Australia, while he bowled just eight and four overs against Pakistan and New Zealand, respectively in the earlier matches, primarily because spinners bowled nearly 35 overs in those games.

Being at one venue helped me. Shami said it is an advantage for him that all of India's Champions Trophy matches are

being played in Dubai. "It has definitely helped us because we know the conditions and the behaviour of the pitch.

It is a plus point that you are playing all the matches at one venue. The main thing is to gauge the conditions and know how the pitch behaves because you are playing at one venue and you can get to know it well," he said.

Shami's brilliant, says Gambhir

Head coach Gautam Gambhir too praised Shami for the way he returned from the injury and delivered for the team.

"He's brilliant. He's a world-class performer. He's phenomenal. The hunger he brings on the table, the way he trains, the way he practices, the amount of bowling he does in practice sessions. He prepares himself really well. That's why you see all those results," Gambhir said. Gambhir said

versatility makes Shami a dangerous customer across formats. "I think that he's a phenomenal bowler, be it in red ball cricket or in 50-over format. And he's shown that, making a comeback after one and a half years. These are not easy conditions as a fast bowler. But still he bowled those tough overs as well. So, I have no doubt that he's going to continue doing the same thing for a long time for Indian cricket," Gambhir added.

Familiar surrounds for New Zealand for Champions Trophy semifinal against South Africa

New Zealand will be wary of South Africa's first-choice bowling unit as Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen didn't play in the tri-series but can trouble batters on any pitch.

LAHORE. After going through all the tangled scheduling, New Zealand returns to its recent favorite venue in Pakistan when it takes on South Africa in the second semifinal of the Champions Trophy in Lahore on Wednesday. The complex scheduling of the tournament, especially at the tail end of the group stage, saw both South Africa and Australia flying out to Dubai in the knowledge that one team would have to return to Pakistan once the semifinal matchups were confirmed after India played its last group game against New Zealand on Sunday. The exhausting itinerary was because the Indian government refused permission for its team to travel to Pakistan due to political reasons.

This left the ICC, the Pakistan Cricket Board and the Board of Control for Cricket in India with no other option but to go for a hybrid model and organize all of India's matches in Dubai, including the semifinal and March 9 final if it qualifies.

India trumped New Zealand by 44 runs, which



meant Australia stayed in Dubai for Tuesday's semifinal against India. South Africa returned to Pakistan with Heinrich Klaasen admitting the short trip to Dubai was "not ideal". "We knew that there was a big possibility that we might have to fly up and down," Klaasen said. "It's not ideal for

the bodies, but at least we had some time to get out and walk around and get loose and just had some nice steak, to be fair."

"We knew it's going to happen and it's part of the scheduling so two teams had to do it, and unfortunately, we were one of them."

New Zealand and India were the only two teams in the eight-team tournament which played all their three group matches as rain washed out two games in Rawalpindi, while Australia's final group game against Afghanistan also ended without a result when heavy rain left the outfield too soggy during Australia's run chase.

Familiar surrounds

It's now almost a month since New Zealand arrived in Pakistan and they have happy memories of Gaddafi Stadium where it beat both South Africa and Pakistan in a tri-nation series ahead of the Champions Trophy.

New Zealand is quite familiar with the slow nature of the wickets in Lahore, which might not turn as much as the wickets in Dubai, with Glenn Phillips and Kane Williamson both notching centuries in two high-scoring games during that warm-up series.

Young Gunners fire rampant Arsenal into Champions League box seat against PSV

EINDHOVEN. Arsenal's talented teenage duo Myles Lewis-Skelly and Ethan Nwaneri combined on Tuesday to help the Gunners to an imperious 7-1 Champions League last-16 first leg advantage over a shambolic PSV Eindhoven. The Premier League side were on a different level to the struggling Dutch champions, who were condemned to their worst-ever defeat in European football.

"The standard was way too high for us tonight," admitted PSV's French defender Olivier Boscagli. "They were way better in every situation... every time they got into our box, they scored." "No chance. Outplayed. Bad," said PSV coach Peter Bosz, summing up his team's performance. Arsenal dominated from the outset. Declan Rice's powerful shot into the PSV net on 11 minutes was chalked off for a narrow offside, but it was a taste of what was to come. Against the run of play, PSV should have taken the lead after a quarter of an hour but Ismael Saibari somehow contrived to hit the bar from close range with goalkeeper



David Raya already beaten. Arsenal made the hosts pay for their profligacy two minutes later. Rice was afforded far too much space in the PSV box, allowing him to chip a cross to the far post, gratefully headed home by Arsenal's own flying Dutchman, Jurrien Timber. The visitors doubled their lead shortly afterwards following more generous Dutch defending. Lewis-Skelly, the 18-year-old English defender, found himself in acres of space in a dangerous area, squaring to fellow teenager Nwaneri, who

smashed the cross into the top corner. PSV's shambolic defending turned to embarrassment as Arsenal made it three after just over half an hour played. The defence squandered four chances to make an easy clearance, the ball eventually falling to makeshift striker Mikel Merino, who rolled past Walter Benitez. The shellshocked fans in the Philips Stadion received a glimmer of hope however just before half-time, PSV winning a penalty after Thomas Partey needlessly wrapped his arms around striker Luuk de Jong's head. Netherlands international winger Noa Lang made no mistake from the spot, smashing the ball into the top corner, giving Raya no chance. It was a lifeline for the Dutch champions, who went into half-time 3-1 down after a breathless first 45 minutes. Lewis-Skelly meanwhile had been substituted, arguably fortunate to escape a second yellow card after a clumsy challenge on Richard Ledezma.



match. "Now is a great opportunity for people to start preparing for the 2027 World Cup so it feels like the right time to make way," he said. The veteran of 170 ODIs said Test cricket remains a priority and he is looking forward to the World Test Championship Final in June.

"I feel I still have a lot to contribute on that stage," he said. "Now is a great opportunity for people to start preparing for the 2027 World Cup, so it feels like the right time to make way," he added. Smith leaves behind a stellar ODI legacy built over a period of more than 15 years, since making his debut as a leg-spinning all-rounder against the West Indies in 2010. Over the years, he transformed into one of Australia's most dependable batters, accumulating 5,800 runs at an average of 43.28, including 12 centuries and 35 half-centuries. He also chipped in with 28 wickets at 34.67.

Prague Masters: Praggnanandhaa draws with Shankland

With three more rounds to come, Praggnanandhaa holds the edge over Aravindh as he is set to play the next two games with white pieces.

PRAGUE. Grandmasters R Praggnanandhaa and Aravindh Chithambaram continued to remain in joint lead after drawing their sixth-round games in the Prague Masters Chess tournament here. Praggnanandhaa was held to a draw by Sam Shankland of the United States, while Aravindh split the point with Quang Leim Le of Vietnam to be on four points out of a possible six, on a day when all the games were drawn for the first time in the tournament. Praggnanandhaa and Aravindh continued to be followed by top seed Wei Yi of China, Anish Giri of Holland, Vincent Keymer of Germany and Quang Leim, all of whom are on three points apiece.

Another half-point behind are the Czech duo of Nguyen Thai Dai Van and David Navara,

Gurel Ediz of Turkey and Shankland.

With three more rounds to come, Praggnanandhaa holds the edge over Aravindh as he is set to play the next two games with white pieces. Aravindh, on the other hand, has only one game with white left. The seventh round will be crucial for Praggnanandhaa as he takes on Wei Yi, while Aravindh will meet Anish, who has drawn all his games so far. Praggnanandhaa was under pressure for some time in the middle game against his American opponent, who played white. The opening featured a regular Italian game and Shankland threw open the position with a knight sacrifice on the king side. Soon after, Praggnanandhaa had to part with one of his rooks for a minor piece, and what resulted was a very complex position.

Navigating between better and equal thereon, the Indian allowed Shankland to go for a forced repetition and the game was drawn after 43 moves. Playing white, Aravindh faced the Queen's gambit declined -- one of the most classical setup for decades now --, and had his forces around the centre right from the word go. However, as the game progressed, Quang Leim remained



impregnable, and by the 19th move itself the players had exchanged as many as three minor pieces and two pawns. The pawn structure took a small turn when Aravindh decided to part with his last bishop for a knight but black had nothing to worry about. The players soon arrived at a rook-and-pawns endgame where the draw was a just result

after 32 moves. In the Challengers section, the fortunes of Divya Deshmukh did not change as she suffered another defeat and was pushed to the sole last spot among 10 players. Vaclav Finel defeated Divya in a rook-and-minor-piece endgame leaving the Indian on 1.5 points.

Jonas Buhl Bjerre of Denmark regained the joint lead by beating Marc Andria Maurizzi of France. The Dane shares the top spot with Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan.

Results (Round 6): Sam Shankland (USA, 2.5) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 4); Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind, 4) drew with Quang Leim Le (Vie, 3); Wei Yi (Chn, 3) drew with Gurel Ediz (Tur, 2.5); Nguyen Thai Dai Van (Cze, 2.5) drew with David Navara (Cze, 2.5); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 3).

Challengers: Finel Vaclav (Cze, 2.5) beat Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 1.5); Ivan Salgado Lopez (Esp, 3.5) drew with Richard Stalmach (Cze, 2.5); Stamatis Kourkoulous-Arditis (Gre, 2.5) drew with Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 4.5); Jonas Buhl Bjerre (Den, 4.5) beat Marc Andria Maurizzi (Fra, 3); Nemejc Jychym (Cze, 2) lost to Ma Qun (Chn, 3.5).

Tara Sutaria's

Mom Shares Strong Note After Aadar Jain's 'Time Pass' Comment: 'He Shouldn't Be Saying It'

Before marrying Alekha, Aadar Jain was dating Tara Sutaria. However, the two called it quits in 2023.



Aadar Jain recently shocked everyone when he told his now-wife, Alekha Advani, during one of their pre-wedding festivities, that his previous relationships were only a "time pass". While Aadar's former girlfriend, Tara Sutaria maintained her silence and did not react to the comment, her mother now has seemingly taken a dig at the member of the Kapoor family. Recently, Tara's mother, Tina Sutaria, took to her Instagram stories and shared a note which read, "If your boyfriend/husband ever says anything disrespectful to you, tell him to write it down on a piece of paper, get in his car, drive and deliver it to his mother, or simply hand it to his daughter. If he can't say it to his mother or doesn't want another man to one day say it to his daughter, he shouldn't be saying it to you (sic)."

While Tara's mother did not tag anyone, the timing of her post must be questioned.

What Did Aadar Jain Say About His Past Relationships?

In a video from Aadar Jain's mehendi ceremony that went viral on social media, the groom was heard saying, "I have always loved her and I have always wanted to be with her. So she sent me on this long journey of 20 years through time-pass. It was worth the wait because I get to marry this beautiful, beautiful woman, who looks like a dream. I love you, and it was worth the wait. It's a secret, I have always loved her. I have done time pass for four years of my life. But now I'm with you, baby."

The statement left many disappointed, with netizens slamming Aadar for seemingly calling his previous relationship "timepass." "Shameless. Disrespecting another girl is not cool," one of the users wrote. "Oh my God!!! Such men!!! Time pass for four years?!!? Is he implying his previous relationship?!!? Why hurt someone else's sentiments?" added another. "Such a cr*p guy... I don't know the story, but what kind of person talks like this on his special day? Hollow," a third comment read.

Bhumi Pednekar

Celebrates 10 Years Of Dum Laga Ke Haisha, Pens A Note As She Watches Film In Theatre

Bhumi Pednekar made her acting debut with Dum Laga Ke Haisha co-starring Ayushmann Khurrana. The film was loved by the audience. Well, the romantic comedy-drama has completed 10 years and on this special milestone, the actress has written a long note. She has also shared that she watched the film with her family in theatres. Taking to her Instagram stories, Bhumi shared scenes and wrote, "#10 Years To Dum LagaKeHaisha AYUSHMANN KHURRANA 10 years ago, I watched Dum laga ke Haisha for the 1st time. Full of nerves, an emotional mess cause I couldn't believe I was in a film. I was there watching my childhood dream come alive. And 10 years later, I watched it all over again in a theatre with people I love and those that love the film and my heart was is so full that little girl that dreamt of being a leang la hubhumpednekar, of knowing how, had done it. I couldn't have asked for a better way to enter the films. My dearest @ayushmannk. Thank you for being the best co actor/friend. You are so so special as Prem. Couldn't have done it without you."

She also shared a video in which she is seen interacting with fans in theatres. Bhumi wrote, "A big thank you to everyone that came yesterday and relived this beautiful film. It was so special. The laughs, the cries and just the

joy of seeing movie that moves everyone so deeply is beyond words can explain. Thank you aap mere back bone ho." In the film, Ayushmann plays a disgruntled high-school dropout who reluctantly marries an educated but overweight girl. Initially hesitant about their marriage, he gradually falls in love with her after



they participate in a race. Made on a budget of Rs 14 crore, the film was a hit, earning Rs 113 crore at the box office. On the work front, Bhumi is currently seen in Mere Husband Ki Biwi with Arjun Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh. The film has been doing well at the box office.



Katrina Kaif Is All Smiles As She Enjoys In A Pool, Fans Call Vicky Kaushal 'Lucky'



Katrina Kaif took to her Instagram handle on Thursday morning to share a series of pictures from her recent vacation. In the first photo, the actress was all smiles as she spent some time in a swimming pool. Another picture featured Katrina in a black cap and a brown jacket with snow-clad mountains in the background. She also shared scenic photographs from her hotel. Needless to say, Katrina looked prettiest in these new photos. While her pictures impressed everyone, fans also rushed to the comments section to call Vicky Kaushal, her actor-husband, luckiest. "Vicky Kaushal is Luckiest Person on Planet" one of the fans wrote. "Literally a treat for the eyes" added another. "Oh so gorgeous" a third comment read. Check it out here:

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal are one of the most adorable and loved Bollywood actors. They have been married for three years now. Recently, Vicky opened up about how Katrina supported him while he was shooting for Chhaava. The actor mentioned that he needed emotional space while working on the Laxman Utekar directorial and added that Katrina helped him by understanding the same.

"There were intense scenes, sometimes there were action scenes. So, once you are home after 12 hours of shooting, you just fall on the bed. Whatever time was there for personal life, it was little. Katrina being from the same industry, she understands that when intense parts like these are there, then some space is required. So, she was very kind, sweet and patient. I don't bring the characters home but I used to get a bit quiet because the mind is in that zone, it keeps on going what I did today and what I will do tomorrow. Otherwise, there was not much difference. Everything was pretty normal," Vicky said. Meanwhile, on the work front, Katrina Kaif will soon be seen in Jee Le Zaaara with Alia Bhatt and Priyanka Chopra. However, there is no update on the film's shoot schedule as of now.

Amitabh Bachchan Asked For THIS To Capture His Emotions During Baghban Climax: 'Mere Andar Bhara Hua Hai'



Salim-Javed, the famous screenwriting duo behind hits like Deewaar and Sholay in the 1970s, are respected icons in Indian cinema. Although they split and never worked together again, many may not know that they contributed to Ravi Chopra's Baghban. The film's story was written by B.R. Chopra, with dialogues by Achala Nagar, but Javed Akhtar wrote the emotional climax where Amitabh Bachchan's character delivers a heartfelt speech. Salim Khan wrote the dialogues for Salman Khan's character. In a recent interview with Pinkvilla, Renu Chopra, Ravi Chopra's wife, shared these details. between Salim



and Javed. Renu remembered that the climax scene, where Amitabh's character receives an award and speaks about giving everything to his children, was 11 pages long. After reading it, Amitabh asked Ravi for three days to prepare for the shoot at a hotel. He told the director to use as many cameras as needed because he knew he couldn't capture the emotions again. They set up three cameras and began filming. Renu recalled Amitabh saying, "Mere andar bhara hua hai (It's all inside me, bursting to come out.)"

In the same interview, Renu Chopra, shed light on the challenges they encountered while making and distributing the film. Renu revealed that finding a distributor for Baghban was no easy feat, as most dismissed the project as "old-fashioned." "The film struggled during its first four days in theaters. Ravi even questioned why he made it. But everything changed on the following Tuesday, and the film picked up momentum," she recalled.

Skepticism about the project wasn't limited to distributors. Legendary filmmaker BR Chopra, Ravi's father, was also doubtful. The original story, penned by BR Chopra two decades earlier, was reworked by Dr. Achala Nagar. "Ravi's father discouraged him from making Baghban, saying it was outdated. Many believed films like Avtaar and Zindagi had already explored similar themes. But Ravi saw it differently—not as a social drama but as a love story between an elderly couple," Renu explained.