



Sara Ali Khan Looks Chic In...

<b>SHARE</b>	
सेंसेक्स	: 82,365.77
निफ्टी	: 25,235.90

<b>SARAFI</b>	
सोना	: 6,875
चांदी	: 92.00

(नोट : सोना 22 केरट प्रति ग्राम)

## BRIEF NEWS

**मरम्मत के लिए जा रहा हेलीकॉप्टर केदारनाथ के पास गिरा**



**RUDRAPRAYAG :** भारतीय वायु सेना के एमआई-17 हेलीकॉप्टर से मरम्मत के लिए गौरव ले जाए जा रहे एक हेलीकॉप्टर को शनिवार सुबह केदारनाथ के पास पहाड़ियों में गिरा दिया गया। रुद्रप्रयाग के जिला पर्यटन अधिकारी राहुल चौबे ने बताया कि तकनीकी खराबी आने के बाद मरम्मत के लिए ले जाए जा रहे जिस हेलीकॉप्टर को पहाड़ियों में गिरा दिया गया, उसमें कोई सवार नहीं था, जिस कारण हादसे में कोई हताहत नहीं हुआ। चौबे के अनुसार, यह हेलीकॉप्टर 'क्रिस्टल एविशियन प्राइवेट लिमिटेड' का था और एक तकनीकी खराबी आने के कारण 24 मई को केदारनाथ में आपातकालीन स्थिति में उतरने के बाद से इसका इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा रहा था। हेलीकॉप्टर ने 24 मई को आपातकालीन की थी और उसमें सवार तीर्थयात्री समेत सभी सात लोग बच गए थे।

**अगले हफ्ते अमेरिका की यात्रा पर होंगे राहुल, करेंगे संवाद**

**NEW DELHI :** लोकसभा में नेता प्रतिपक्ष राहुल गांधी अगले सप्ताह अमेरिका के तीन दिवसीय दौरे पर होंगे जहां वह भारतीय मूल के लोगों, छात्रों, कारोबारियों, थिंक टैंक और स्थानीय नेताओं के साथ संवाद करेंगे। कांग्रेस की इकाई इंडियन ओवरसीज कांग्रेस के प्रमुख सैम पित्रोदा ने शनिवार को एक वीडियो जारी कर राहुल गांधी के अमेरिकी दौरे के बारे में जानकारी साझा की। पित्रोदा ने बताया कि राहुल गांधी आठ सितंबर को अमेरिका के इलास शहर में होंगे और 9 तथा 10 सितंबर को वाशिंगटन में रहेंगे। नेता प्रतिपक्ष बनने के बाद राहुल गांधी का यह पहला अमेरिका दौरा होगा।

**हरियाणा में गौरक्षकों ने प्रवासी व्यक्ति को पीट कर मार डाला**

**CHANDIGARH :** हरियाणा के चरखी दादरी जिले में गोमास खाने के संदेह पर गौरक्षक समूह ने एक प्रवासी व्यक्ति की कथित तौर पर पीट-पीटकर हत्या कर दी। इस मामले में पांच लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है। पुलिस सूत्रों ने शनिवार को यह जानकारी दी। पुलिस के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी के अनुसार, साबिर मलिक की 27 अगस्त को हत्या की गई थी। अधिकारी ने दर्ज मामले के आधार पर बताया कि पांच आरोपियों ने गोमास खाने के संदेह पर मलिक को प्लास्टिक की खाली बोतल से घेरे के बहाने एक दुकान पर डलाया और वहां उसकी पिटाई की। आरोपियों की पहचान अविषक, मोहित, रविंदर, कमलजीत और साहिल के रूप में हुई है।

**अध्ययन मूकपीय तरंगों की ध्वनि से हुआ नया खुलासा**

## पृथ्वी के अंतर्भाग में मौजूद है एक गोलाकार क्षेत्र

**CANBERRA (BHASHA) :** हमारे कदमों से लगभग 2,890 किलोमीटर नीचे तरल धातु का एक विशाल गोला है, जिसे हमारे ग्रह यानी पृथ्वी का अंतर्भाग कहा जाता है। मेरे जैसे वैज्ञानिकों ने भूकंप के कारण उठने वाली भूकंपीय तरंगों का इस्तेमाल एक तरह के 'अल्ट्रासाउंड' के तौर पर किया और यह 'देखा कि पृथ्वी के अंतर्भाग का आकार और ढांचा कैसा होता है।

इन तरंगों के अध्ययन का एक नया तरीका इस्तेमाल करते हुए मेरे साथी शियाओलिंग मा और मैं एक चौकाने वाली खोज की कि भूकंप रेखा के चारों ओर, पृथ्वी के अंतर्भाग का एक बड़ा गोलाकार क्षेत्र है। यह सैकड़ों

# सबके लिए रेल यात्रा आरामदायक बनाने को सरकार प्रतिबद्ध : मोदी देश को तीन और नए वंदे भारत एक्सप्रेस का मिला तोहफा

**NEW DELHI (BHASHA) :**

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने शनिवार को कहा कि रेलवे ने काफी समय से लंबित समस्याओं के समाधान में बड़ी प्रगति की है और यह क्रम तब तक नहीं रुकेगा, जब तक रेल समाज के सभी वर्गों के लिए आरामदायक यात्रा की गारंटी नहीं बन जाती। प्रधानमंत्री ने यह टिप्पणी तीन वंदे भारत एक्सप्रेस ट्रेन को डिजिटल माध्यम से हरी झंडी दिखाए जाने के कार्यक्रम के दौरान की। मोदी ने कहा कि राष्ट्र वंदे भारत रेलगाड़ियों के आधुनिकीकरण और विस्तार के साथ विकसित भारत के लक्ष्य की ओर बढ़ रहा है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने मेरठ को लखनऊ, मदुरै को बेंगलुरु और चेन्नई को नागरकोइल से जोड़ने वाली तीन नयी वंदे भारत ट्रेन को शनिवार को हरी झंडी दिखाई।

मोदी ने कहा, 'वर्षों से अपनी कड़ी मेहनत के जरिए रेलवे ने काफी समय से लंबित समस्याओं के समाधान में बड़ी प्रगति की है और नयी उम्मीदें एवं समाधान पेश किए हैं। हम तब तक नहीं रुकेगे जब तक भारतीय रेलवे सभी के लिए आरामदायक यात्रा की गारंटी नहीं बन जाती।' प्रधानमंत्री की यह टिप्पणी रेल दुर्घटनाओं की पृष्ठभूमि में आई है, जिसके कारण विपक्ष ने रेल सुरक्षा को लेकर सरकार पर सवाल उठाए हैं। मोदी ने कहा कि आधुनिक रेल अवसंरचना विकसित भारत के दृष्टिकोण का एक मजबूत स्तंभ है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस वर्ष के बजट में रेलवे को 2.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक आवंटित किए गए हैं और सरकार भारतीय रेलवे की पुरानी छवि को बदलने



कार्यक्रम में मौजूद रेलमंत्री तथा उत्तर प्रदेश की राज्यपाल व मुख्यमंत्री • पीटीआई

के लिए इसे उच्च तकनीक सेवाओं से जोड़ रही है। मोदी ने कहा कि 2047 तक भारत को विकसित बनाने के लक्ष्य को हासिल करने के लिए दक्षिणी राज्यों का तेजी से विकास महत्वपूर्ण है। उन्होंने कहा, 'दक्षिण भारत अपार प्रतिभा, संसाधनों और अवसरों की भूमि है।' मोदी ने कहा कि संपूर्ण दक्षिण भारत के साथ-साथ तमिलनाडु का विकास सरकार की प्राथमिकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि रेलवे की विकास यात्रा सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता का उदाहरण है।

## प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने महिला अपराध के मामलों में की त्वरित न्याय की वकालत



कार्यक्रम में मौजूद प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी व प्रधान न्यायाधीश डी वाई चंद्रचूड़

**NEW DELHI :** प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने महिलाओं के खिलाफ अपराध के मामलों में त्वरित न्याय की आवश्यकता पर जोर देते हुए शनिवार को कहा कि इससे महिलाओं में अपनी सुरक्षा को लेकर भरोसा बढ़ेगा। मोदी ने कहा कि न्यायपालिका को संविधान का संरक्षक माना जाता है और उच्चतम न्यायालय एवं न्यायपालिका ने इस जिम्मेदारी को बखूबी निभाया है। उन्होंने प्रधान न्यायाधीश डी वाई चंद्रचूड़ की उपस्थिति में जिला न्यायपालिका के राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन के उद्घाटन

सत्र को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि भारत के लोगों में उच्चतम न्यायालय या न्यायपालिका के प्रति कभी कोई अविश्वास नहीं दिखाया। प्रधानमंत्री ने आपातकाल लागू किए जाने को एक 'काला' दौर बताते हुए कहा कि न्यायपालिका ने मौलिक अधिकारों को बनाए रखने में अहम भूमिका निभाई। मोदी ने राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के मामलों पर कहा कि न्यायपालिका ने राष्ट्रीय हितों को सर्वोपरि रखते हुए राष्ट्रीय अखंडता की रक्षा की है। उन्होंने कहा कि महिलाओं के खिलाफ अत्याचार की निंदा की।

## आंध्र प्रदेश में बारिश से बढ़ी घटनाएं, सात की मौत

**AMRAWATI (BHASHA) :**

आंध्र प्रदेश में शनिवार को बारिश से संबंधित घटनाओं में सात लोगों की मौत हो गई, जिनमें से चार लोगों की मौत विजयवाड़ा में भूस्खलन के कारण हुई। अधिकारियों ने यह जानकारी दी। भूस्खलन से मौतें विजयवाड़ा के मोगलराजपुरम इलाके में हुईं, जब भारी बारिश के कारण बड़े-बड़े पत्थर मृतकों के घरों पर गिर गए। आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू ने भूस्खलन पीड़ितों के परिजनों को 5-5 लाख



रुपये की अनुग्रह राशि देने की घोषणा की। एक आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया है, विजयवाड़ा के मोगलराजपुरम में भूस्खलन हुआ, जिससे चार लोगों की मौत हो गई। नायडू ने मौतों पर दुःख व्यक्त किया। उन्होंने प्रत्येक मृतक के परिजनों को 5-5 लाख रुपये की अनुग्रह राशि देने की घोषणा की। मुख्यमंत्री ने अधिकारियों को

भूस्खलन की आशंका वाले स्थानों से लोगों को दूर स्थानांतरित करने का निर्देश दिया क्योंकि अगले दो से तीन दिनों में भारी बारिश होने का अनुमान है। गुंटूर जिले के पेदाकानानी गांव में, एक कार के उफनती धारा को पार करते समय बह जाने के कारण उसमें सवार एक शिक्षक और दो छात्रों की मौत हो गई, जो अपने घर लौट रहे थे। गुंटूर जिले के पुलिस अधीक्षक एस. सतीश ने 'पीटीआई-भाषा' को बताया, घटना अपराह्न 12:30 बजे के आसपास हुई।

## भारत में अगस्त में बारिश सामान्य से 16 प्रतिशत अधिक हुई : आईएमडी

**NEW DELHI :** भारत में अगस्त में सामान्य से लगभग 16 प्रतिशत अधिक वर्षा दर्ज की गई। वहीं, उत्तर-पश्चिम भारत में 253.9 मिमी बारिश दर्ज की गई, जो 2001 के बाद से अगस्त में दूसरी सबसे अधिक बारिश है। भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी) ने शनिवार को यह जानकारी दी। आईएमडी के महानिदेशक मृत्युंजय महापात्र ने डिजिटल माध्यम से संवाददाता सम्मेलन को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि देश में अगस्त में 287.1 मिमी बारिश दर्ज की गई।

## यूक्रेन के पूर्वी भाग में रूसी हमले में पांच लोगों की मौत

**MOSCOW :**

यूक्रेन के पूर्वी दोनेत्स्क क्षेत्र में रूस के सैनिकों के लगातार बढ़ते हमलों के बीच शनिवार को चासिव यार शहर में गोलाबारी में पांच लोग मारे गए। क्षेत्रीय गवर्नर व्लादिम फिलासखिन ने बताया कि हमला एक ऊंची इमारत और एक निजी घर पर हुआ। उन्होंने बताया कि मारे गए लोगों की आयु 24 से 38 वर्ष के बीच थी। उन्होंने शेष बचे लोगों से अग्रिम मोर्चे पर स्थित शहर को



खोड़ने का आग्रह किया। फिलासखिन ने सोशल मीडिया पर लिखा, 'चासिव यार में दो साल से ज्यादा समय से सामान्य जीवन

## चिकित्सकों ने जंतर-जंतर पर कहा कानून के बिना महिला डॉक्टर सुरक्षित नहीं

**NEW DELHI :** कोलकाता के आर जी कर चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय एवं अस्पताल में एक प्रशिक्षु महिला चिकित्सक के साथ कथित बलात्कार एवं हत्या की घटना के विरुद्ध प्रदर्शन के लिए राष्ट्रीय राजधानी के चिकित्सक शनिवार को जंतर-मंतर पर इकट्ठा हुए। चिकित्सकों ने कहा कि महिला स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों की सुरक्षा के लिए केंद्रीय कानून के बिना महिला चिकित्सक कार्यस्थल पर कभी सुरक्षित महसूस नहीं कर सकेंगी। प्रदर्शनकारी अपनी मांग पर कायम हैं।

## रुबिना ने जीता कांस्य, पैरालंपिक में भारत को मिला चौथा पदक

**FRANCE :** भारत की रुबिना फ्रांसिस ने शनिवार को यहां पैरिस पैरालंपिक में महिलाओं की एयर पिस्टल एसएच1 स्पर्धा के फाइनल में कांस्य पदक जीतकर देश को निशानेबाजी में चौथा पदक दिलाया। गुरु चौपियन और विश्व रिकार्ड धारी निशानेबाजों के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा करते हुए 25 वर्षीय रुबिना ने कुल 211.1 अंक हासिल कर आठ महिलाओं के फाइनल में तीसरा स्थान हासिल किया। उन्होंने क्वालीफिकेशन



राउंड में सातवें स्थान पर रहते हुए फाइनल के लिए क्वालीफाई किया

था। ईरान की जावानमार्डी साहेब ने 236.8 के कुल स्कोर के साथ अपना लगातार तीसरा पैरालंपिक स्वर्ण पदक जीता जबकि विश्व रिकार्ड धारी तुर्की की ओजगान आवसेल ने 231.1 के साथ रजत पदक जीता। पैरिस पैरालंपिक में यह भारत का निशानेबाजी में चौथा और कुल मिलाकर पांचवां पदक था। वह पैरालंपिक पदक जीतने वाली भारत की पहली महिला पिस्टल निशानेबाज हैं।

## असम में मिला 1962 के भारत-चीन युद्ध के दौर का 'मोर्टर स्मोक बम'

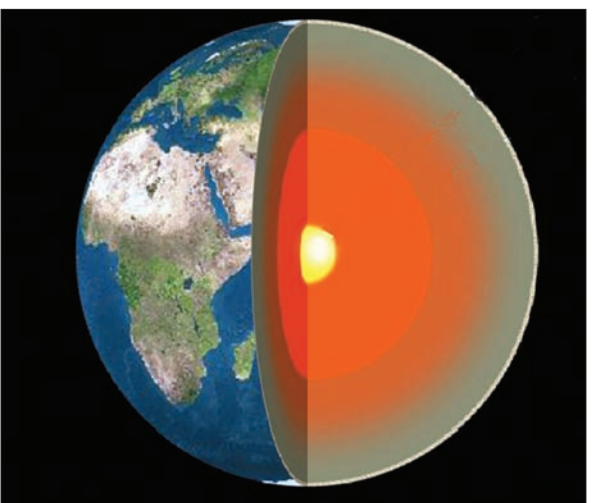
**ASSAM :** असम के सोनितपुर जिले में एक नदी क्षेत्र से 'मोर्टर स्मोक बम' बरामद किया गया है जो 1962 के भारत-चीन युद्ध के दौर का बताया जा रहा है। एक शीप पुलिस अधिकारी ने शनिवार को यह जानकारी दी। पुलिस अधिकारी ने बताया कि दैकियाजुली क्षेत्र में यह बम मिला जिसे सैन्यकर्मियों की मदद से सुरक्षित ढंग से नष्ट कर दिया गया। सोनितपुर के पुलिस अधीक्षक बरुण पुरकायस्थ ने बताया कि दो इंच लंबा विस्फोटक जौगापुर गांव में एक व्यक्ति को शूकवार शाम सेसा नदी में मछली पकड़ते समय मिला। उन्होंने कहा, यह इलाका मिशमारी थाना क्षेत्र में है। यह बम संभवतः चीन निर्मित है और 1962 के युद्ध का है। यह लड़ाई असम के पड़ोसी राज्य अरुणाचल प्रदेश में लड़ी गयी।

## हरियाणा विस चुनाव अब एक की बजाय पांच अक्टूबर को होगा

**NEW DELHI (BHASHA) :** निर्वाचन आयोग ने बिश्नोई समुदाय के सदस्यों पुराने त्योहार को ध्यान में रखते हुए शनिवार को हरियाणा विधानसभा चुनाव की तारीख एक अक्टूबर से बढ़ाकर पांच अक्टूबर कर दी। आयोग ने कहा कि जम्मू कश्मीर और हरियाणा विधानसभा चुनावों की मतगणना अब चार अक्टूबर के बजाय आठ अक्टूबर को होगी। निर्वाचन आयोग ने कहा कि यह निर्णय बिश्नोई समुदाय के मतदान के अधिकार और परंपराओं का सम्मान करने के लिए लिया गया है, जिसने अपने गुरु जम्भेश्वर की याद में 300-400 साल पुरानी परंपरा को बरकरार रखा है। आयोग को हरियाणा विधानसभा चुनाव की तारीख पुनर्निर्धारित करने के लिए ऑल इंडिया



बिश्नोई महासभा, बीकानेर (राजस्थान) के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष से एक अभिवेदन प्राप्त हुआ था। उन्होंने अभिवेदन में कहा था कि पंचायत, राजस्थान और हरियाणा के लोग गुरु जम्भेश्वर की याद में बीकानेर में होने वाले वार्षिक उत्सव के लिए राजस्थान में अपने पैतृक गांव मुकाम पहुंचते हैं। इस साल यह त्योहार दो अक्टूबर को है और सिरसा, फतेहाबाद और हिसार में रहने वाले हजारों बिश्नोई परिवार इस दिन राजस्थान की यात्रा करेंगे, जिससे वे अपने मताधिकार का इस्तेमाल करने से वंचित हो सकते थे।



किलोमीटर चौड़ा है जहां भूकंपीय तरंगें अंतर्भाग के शेष हिस्से की तुलना में दो प्रतिशत धीमी गति से यात्रा करती हैं। हमारा मानना है कि इस क्षेत्र में 'सिलिकॉन' और 'ऑक्सीजन' जैसे अधिक हल्के तत्व हैं। यह क्षेत्र पृथ्वी के अंतर्भाग में तरल धातु की अनेक तरंगों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हो सकता है, जिनसे पृथ्वी का चुंबकीय क्षेत्र बनता है। हमारे अध्ययन के निष्कर्ष 'साइंस

## यह भी जानें

- साइंस एडवांसेज नामक प्रतिष्ठित पत्रिका में प्रकाशित रिपोर्ट में किया गया दावा
- वैज्ञानिकों का अनुमान, संबंधित क्षेत्र में मौजूद हैं सिलिकॉन व ऑक्सीजन जैसे हल्के तत्व

जैसे अधिक हल्के तत्व हैं। यह क्षेत्र पृथ्वी के अंतर्भाग में तरल धातु की अनेक तरंगों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हो सकता है, जिनसे पृथ्वी का चुंबकीय क्षेत्र बनता है। हमारे अध्ययन के निष्कर्ष 'साइंस









## ईरी मॉथ : यह है दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा पतंगा

ब्राजील में पाए जाने वाले इस पतंग को दुनिया में सबसे बड़े कीट का दर्जा प्राप्त है। इसे ईरी मॉथ, ग्रेट ऑवलेट माथ, पोस्ट मॉथ, वाइट व्हिच, ग्रेट ग्रे विच जैसे विभिन्न नामों से जाना जाता है। पतंगों की दुनिया में इसके पंख सबसे लंबे होते हैं, जिनका आकार 30 सेंटीमीटर तक होता है। हालांकि हरव्यूलिस माथ और एटलस माथ के पंखों का क्षेत्रफल ज्यादा होता है।

### जीवन सिर्फ दो हफ्तों का

इसके पंखों पर बने विशिष्ट आकार के पैटर्न इसे ट्रॉपिकल जंगलों में पेड़ों के बीच छिपने में मदद करते हैं। यह इतना बड़ा पतंगा भी शिकारियों की नजर से बचा रहता है। इसके इसी छद्मस्वरूप के कारण इसे देखना बड़ा मुश्किल होता है। पंखों का रंग क्रीमी वाइट या

हल्का भूरा होता है, जिन पर कई बादामी और काली धारियां जिगजैग पैटर्न बनाती हैं। नर में ये पैटर्न ज्यादा स्पष्ट होते हैं। उनका जीवन काल एक-दो सप्ताह तक ही होता है।

### पेड़ों की पत्तियों पर देती है अंडे

इनकी मादाएं रबर के पेड़ और केसिया जैसे पेड़ों की पत्तियों पर अपने अंडे देती हैं, जिनसे निकलने वाले लार्वा इन्हीं की पत्तियों को खाकर बड़े होते हैं। ये युवा बन घूपा बनाते हैं। ये पतंगे ऊपर से लेकर मेक्सिको और कभी-कभी टेक्सास तक पहुंच जाते हैं।

### सांस्कृतिक मान्यताएं

दक्षिण अमेरिका की कई संस्कृतियों में यह मान्यता है कि यह पतंगे छिपी हुई अदृश्य दुनिया के संदेशवाहक हैं। वहां के लोगों का मानना है कि मृत लोगों की आत्माओं को ये अपने विशाल पंखों पर धारण करती है।



## रोमांच का दूसरा नाम मसाई मारा

रोमांच के शौकीनों के लिए मसाई मारा किसी स्वर्ग से कम नहीं है। सुबह सूरज की पहली किरणों के साथ अफ्रीका के कुछ सर्वाधिक खूबसूरत नजारे मसाई मारा में नजर आने लगते हैं। पर्यटन केन्या की आय का एक महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत है जिसके बाद फूलों, कॉफी तथा चाय के निर्यात से होने वाली आय है। दुकेन्या में पर्यटन उद्योग हाल के दिनों में एक बार फिर अपने पैरों पर खड़ा होने लगा है, जब 2008 में केन्या में मची उथल-पुथल तथा खून-खराबे ने यहां सफारी पर्यटन को भारी नुकसान पहुंचाया था।

पहली बार मसाई मारा आने वाले लोग इसके अनोखेपन से अभिभूत हुए बिना नहीं रह पाते हैं। करीब स्थित तंजानिया के सैरिंगेटी से बेशक मू (हिण्डू की प्रजाति के जानवर) के झुंड इन दिनों यहां नहीं पहुंच रहे हैं, फिर भी यह राष्ट्रीय उद्यान अनेक जानवरों की तस्वीरों से भरी किसी सुंदर पुस्तक जैसा प्रतीत होता है। जो लोग यहां करीब 30 साल पहले आ चुके हैं, वे याद कर सकते हैं कि तब यहां पहुंचने के लिए राजधानी नैरोबी से कार में 250 किलोमीटर का सफर तय करके पहुंचना पड़ता था परंतु अब सीधे हवाई जहाज में यहां पहुंचा जा सकता है।

पहले की तुलना में वे यहां कई अंतर देख सकते हैं। मसाई मारा तक जाने वाले रास्ते के दोनों तरफ अब बाड़ों में घिरे गेहूं के खेत तथा पालतु पशुओं के झुंड दिखाई देते हैं। अब यहां पहले की तुलना में जानवर भी कहीं कम हैं। केन्या में बढ़ती जनसंख्या का दबाव अब जंगलों तक पहुंच चुका है। 1980 से अब तक केन्या की जनसंख्या 150 प्रतिशत बढ़ कर 4 करोड़ 10 लाख तक पहुंच चुकी है। लोगों को रहने के लिए स्थान भी चाहिए और भोजन भी, जिसका विपरीत असर जंगलों और उनमें रहने वाले जीवों पर साफ नजर आता है। केन्या के जंगलों में खूब सारे जानवर हैं तो कुछ शिकारियों भी हैं परंतु अभी यहां जानवरों का शिकार नियंत्रण में है। वैसे भी मसाई लड़ाके (मूल निवासी या यहां रहने वाले आदिवासी) प्राचीन काल से भाले से शेर का शिकार करके अपनी मर्दानगी साबित करते आए हैं। केन्या की जैव विविधता पर नजर रखने वाले कुछ विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि मसाई मारा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में गैर-कानूनी रूप से चरने वाले पशुओं की संख्या में लगातार इजाफा हुआ है। 1977 से अब तक यह संख्या 10 गुणा बढ़ चुकी है। दूसरी तरफ वन्य जीवों की संख्या में दो-



तिहाई कमी आई है। इस संबंध में जारी पहले दीर्घकालीन अध्ययन के नतीजों पर कई लोगों ने आपत्ति भी जाहिर की है परंतु जानकारों का कहना है कि नतीजों में दिख रहे नकारात्मक रुझानों को नजरअंदाज नहीं किया जा सकता है और पिछले 35 सालों के दौरान सम्पूर्ण मसाई क्षेत्र में जंगली जानवरों की संख्या में 80 प्रतिशत तक कमी आई है। काफी सारा जंगली इलाका किसानों को पशु चराने तथा खेती के लिए सौंप दिया गया है। वे जंगल जिनमें मूल मसाई लोग

खेती किया करते थे तथा जो उनके संरक्षण में रहते थे, अब तेजी से काटे जा रहे हैं। केन्या के जंगलों के समक्ष इन चुनौतियों तथा चिंताओं के बावजूद भी मसाई मारा की यात्रा एक अविस्मरणीय अनुभव बन जाती है। जंगल में रात गुजारने के लिए अनेक बंदोबस्त हैं परंतु उनमें से अधिकतर काफी महंगे हैं। वहां लॉज तथा तम्बू भी मिल जाते हैं और वे भी विभिन्न तरह के। यहां पर्यटकों के लिए कई कैम्प लगे रहते हैं। ऐसे ही एक

मारा बुश कैम्प में हर तम्बू में एक काऊबेल लगाई गई है ताकि किसी जानवर के करीब आने पर अलार्म बज जाए क्योंकि इस कैम्प के चारों ओर कोई बाड़ नहीं लगी है। इससे पहले कि आप यहां किसी रेस्तरां या कैम्प फायर तक जाने के लिए निकलें, अपने साथ भाले से लैस किसी स्थानीय मसाई लड़ाके को ले जाना न भूलें।



## जमीन पर रेंग कर चलने वाली पर्च मछली

‘मछली जल की रानी है, जीवन उसका पानी है, हथ लगाओ डर जाएगी, बाहर निकालो मर जाएगी’ मछलियों के बारे में भले ही आपने बचपन से ही ये बातें सुनी हों अर्थात यह कहा जाता रहा है कि बिना जल के मछली के जीवन की कल्पना भी नहीं की जा सकती लेकिन ‘पर्च’ नामक मछली की एक प्रजाति ऐसी भी है, जो न सिर्फ पानी से बाहर भी 12 घंटे तक जीवित रह सकती है बल्कि जमीन पर रेंग कर चल भी सकती है। अन्य प्रकार की मछलियों को पक्षी भले ही न छोड़ें पर पर्च मछली को पक्षी नहीं खाते।

कारण है पर्च में पाए जाने वाले

कांटे। आपको यह जानकर भी बड़ी हैरानी होगी कि इस मछली को सबसे पहले किसी जलस्रोत में नहीं बल्कि खजूर के एक पेड़ पर देखा गया था, यही वजह है कि इसे ‘आरोही’ मछली भी कहा जाता है। पूरे भारतीय प्रायद्वीप में पाई जाने वाली पर्च मछली ताजे पानी की मछली है जो हमेशा एक बेहतर घर की तलाश में रहती है। इसके शरीर में एक विशेष अंग होता है जिसके जरिए यह पानी के बाहर भी सांस ले पाती है। इसके गलफड़े अच्छी तरह विकसित नहीं होते। यही वजह है कि इसे सांस लेने के लिए बार-बार पानी की सतह पर आना पड़ता है। यदि पानी स्थिर हो जाए या फिर ज्यादा दूषित हो जाए तो यह पानी से बाहर आकर नए घर की तलाश शुरू कर देती है। पानी से बाहर यह करीब 12 घंटे तक जीवित रह सकती है, बशर्ते कि इसके गलफड़े तब तक गीले रहें। पानी से बाहर सांस लेने की अपनी अद्भुत क्षमता के कारण ही यह मछली वापस अपना रास्ता खोज लेती है।



## हवाओं का सबसे खतरनाक स्वरूप हरीकेन या टायफून

कि सी चैनल पर या मूवी तुमने भी हवाओं का एक स्पिन करता हुआ गोला तेजी से पेड़, कार, जानवरों सबको खाते हुए देखा होगा। इन्हें तुमने कई बार डिस्कवरी चैनल पर या किसी हॉलीवुड मूवी में भी देखा होगा। जमीन के साथ-साथ ये तूफानी बादलों की सतह से भी जुड़े हुए मालूम होते हैं। टॉरनेडो के अलावा इसे सायक्लोन या टिविस्ट भी कहा जाता है। ये सारी चीजों को टिविस्ट करता हुआ जो उड़ता है। दूर से देखो तो ऐसा लगता है मानो बादल से किसी ने एक बड़े से कपड़े को जमीन पर खड़े किसी हाथ में पकड़ा दिया हो और बादल और जमीन दोनों मिलकर उस कपड़े को निचोड़ रहे हों। वहीं सायक्लोन नाम का उपयोग मेटेरोलॉजी यानी मौसम विज्ञान में ज्यादा बड़े तूफान के मामले में किया जाता है। हिंदी में ये चक्रवात या बवंडर कहलाते हैं। यू टॉरनेडो नाम स्पेनिश शब्द ‘टोनाडा’ से बना है जिसका मतलब है ‘थंडरस्टॉर्म’। टॉरनेडो अलग-अलग साइज के हो सकते हैं पर इनका आकार तुम्हारी कैमेस्ट्री लेब में मौजूद फनल के जैसा होता है। जमीन की तरफ से संकरा और आसमान की ओर खुला हुआ। ये धूल का बड़ा सा गुबार होते हैं। सायक्लोन उन जगहों पर ज्यादा पैदा होते हैं जो जगहों इक्वेटोर से पास हैं और ध्रुवों की तरफ यानी इक्वेटोर से दूर जगहों पर ये कम पाए जाते हैं। हमारे देश में ये बंगाल की खाड़ी के पास

वाले इलाकों में ज्यादा दिखाई देते हैं। वैसे अंटार्कटिका के अलावा ये लगभग हर कॉन्टिनेंट में मिलते हैं। इनकी सबसे ज्यादा संख्या पाई जाती है अमेरिका के ‘टॉरनेडो ऐली’ रीजन में। वैसे उत्तरी अमेरिका में इनका होना बहुत आम है। इनके आने का पता लगाने के लिए ‘प्लस डॉलर राडार’ की मदद ली जाती है और इन्हें नापने के लिए कई तरह की फ्यूजिटा या टॉरो जैसी स्केल्स का उपयोग किया जाता है। सामान्यतः किसी एक तूफान से एक से ज्यादा टॉरनेडो भी पैदा हो सकते हैं। ऐसे में इन्हें टॉरनेडो फैमेली भी कहा जाता है। यही नहीं जिस जगह टॉरनेडो बन रहे हैं उस जगह के नेचर के हिसाब से इनका रंग भी अलग-अलग हो सकता है। जैसे पानी के ऊपर उठने वाले टॉरनेडो सफेद या नीले हो

सकते हैं तो कभी मिटटी पर उठने के कारण ये लाल रंग के भी हो सकते हैं। है यह भी चक्रवात या सायक्लोन का ही एक रूप लेकिन इसका रिजल्ट भारी बारिश और बाद वाले तूफान के रूप में दिखाई देता है। यानी ये पानी का खतरनाक रूप है। इन्हें भी तुमने कई हॉलीवुड मूवीज में देखा होगा। ये ट्रॉपिकल सायक्लोन कहलाते हैं जो कि मेक्सिको की खाड़ी, कैरेबियन सी, पूर्वी प्रशांत महासागर यानी ईस्टर्न पैसिफिक ओशियन तथा दक्षिणी अटलांटिक ओशियन जैसी जगहों पर जन्म लेते हैं। समुद्र की सतह पर मौजूद भाप से ये एनर्जी पाते हैं। इससे ही फिर भयानक बारिश वाले बादल आकार लेते हैं। इन्हें हरीकेन और टायफून के अलावा ट्रॉपिकल स्टॉर्म, ट्रॉपिकल डिप्रेशन आदि नामों से भी जाना

जाता है। खास बात यह कि जमीन पर आने के बाद ये कमजोर पड़ जाते हैं क्योंकि उस समय ये अपने एनर्जी के सोर्स से यानी समुद्र की सतह से अलग होने लगते हैं। इनके बनते समय हवा पानी की सतह से ऊपर उठने की बजाय पानी के भीतर जाकर गोल, घुमावदार रूप ले लेती है। इससे पानी पर एक खाली जगह बन जाती है जिसे ‘आई’ यानी आंख कहा जाता है। दुनियाभर में ये तूफान आमतौर पर गरमी के मौसम के विदा लेते समय पैदा होते हैं जब समुद्र की सतह का तापमान सबसे ज्यादा होता है और भाप तेजी से बनती है। हालांकि, इसके अलावा भी

अलग-अलग जगह इनका अलग सीजन हो सकता है। जमीन पर मौजूद डॉलर वेदर राडार के अलावा वेदर सैटेलाइट के जरिए भी इनके आने की सूचना मिल सकती है। इनका टायफून नाम अरबी भाषा के ‘तूफान’ शब्द से लिया गया है जिसे हिंदी और उर्दू में भी उपयोग में लाया जाता है। तूफान शब्द असल में ग्रीक माथथोलॉजी में तूफान के एक राक्षस ‘टायफोन’ से भी जुड़ता है। वहीं हरीकेन शब्द स्पेनिश भाषा से आया है और तूफानों के देवता ‘हुराकान’ को दर्शाता है। सबसे मजेदार बात यह है कि इन तूफानों की पहचान के लिए इनको बकायदा नाम दिए जाते हैं।





## Corporate dominance widening rich-poor gap

INDIAN economy has witnessed a meteoric rise of corporate companies over the decades. Although the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 reserved the commanding heights — steel, heavy industries, machine building sector, metallurgy, defence, etc. — in the public sector through the licensing system, private companies were able to grow in consumer goods and banking businesses.

The RK Hazari Committee and S Dutt Committee were set up in the 1960s to review and examine the working of the licensing system and suggest measures to improve its working. These committees found that companies belonging to large business houses violated and exploited the system; these firms were able to get licences in areas such as defence, reserved for the public sector. Also, private companies owned by large business houses were able to get licences in sectors reserved for small and medium companies. It was found that on the pretext of foreign collaboration in 70 items in the category of non-essential items, licences were given to companies of business houses. In view of the above, the Government of India enacted the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act in 1969. According to this Act, a monopoly company/business house owned assets of Rs 20 crore or above. Such a company or business house was not to be given licences for further expansion and setting up of new enterprises. This limit was raised to Rs 100 crore or above in 1985. This limit of assets and definition of a monopoly house became redundant with the abolition of the licensing system. In the wake of a foreign exchange crisis, a package of policy changes was introduced in 1991. This was called the new economic policy, marked by liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation. This was done to allow private corporate companies to expand their businesses and freely collaborate with foreign capital. This also reflected the growing clout of these companies in India. According to the National Account Statistics, the share of corporate companies in the GDP has risen to 40 per cent. A report by the World Inequality Lab at the Paris School of Economics, authored by Thomas Piketty and others, brings out that top 1 per cent of India's population possesses 40.1 per cent of the wealth. Consequently, the number of billionaires has risen from one in 1991 to 162 in 2022. The Forbes Global List of billionaires shows that the number of Indian billionaires has reached 200. On the other hand, 80 crore people out of 140 crore are dependent on the government for the supply of free ration. With their increasing grip on the economy, corporates have spread their businesses in various sectors. They control industrial production, distribution of products, fruits and vegetables, telecommunications, roads, airports, ports, TV channels and newspapers, etc. The character of these houses is oligopolistic. A few companies (three or four) control a major proportion of the business in a specific line. They collude to fix supply prices of the output or purchase prices of inputs from small business or agriculture. These firms pay low wages/salaries to workers and employees. Using market power, they charge higher prices as suppliers and pay low prices when acquiring inputs to earn high profits. These firms are major beneficiaries of loan waivers and huge subsidies given by the government in the name of incentives. They have penetrated the government through lateral entry at the joint secretary level and are major contributors of election funds to political parties. Thus, the clout of the corporate sector extends from economy to administration and politics. A nexus has emerged between the ruling party at the Centre and corporate firms. With the increase in the area of operation of big business, they have started setting the terms of discourse or the agenda for discussion in the country. One remembers how the mainstream media came out in support of the new economic policy in 1991 and later globalisation under the World Trade Organisation. It was one-sided uncritical support for the new economic regime, shifting from regulated capitalist development towards free and liberalised regime for corporates.

## Curb the menace of child molestation

TRYSTS AND TURNS: The proliferation of sex offenders in cities and towns across the country must be combated

TWO four-year-old girls were sexually abused by a sweeper in a privately run school in Badlapur, a small town in Thane district adjoining Mumbai city. He had been employed just days before the crime took place. He was reportedly the only male employee in the pre-primary section of the school.

On two consecutive days, he was sent by a teacher to take the two girls to the toilet. It turned out that no background check was conducted prior to his hiring. Police investigations into his antecedents revealed that the man was just 24 years old but had been married thrice in a short period of less than a year. He had discarded his first wife two or three days after marriage and the second one within 10 days. The third wife, who is presently with him, is in her fifth month of pregnancy.

Even if a proper background check had been done, it is doubtful if the man's proclivities would have been detected. But his act of changing his partners should have alerted the principal against taking him on in a school which had many girl children.

Sexual offences are being reported almost daily in the media. This particular case hit the headlines probably because the school was rumoured to be owned by someone connected to one of the ruling parties in Maharashtra. The Assembly elections are due in the state before the year ends. The Opposition perhaps felt that since a crime like this disturbed the peace of mind of parents and even common citizens, it would be a fit issue to create a ruckus that could affect voting patterns. A bandh was announced by the Opposition parties, but it had to be shelved after the Bombay High Court, hearing a public interest litigation, decided that such bandhs were illegal. A city-based NGO, Public Concern for Governance Trust (PCGT), set up 30 years ago by former Cabinet Secretary BG Deshmukh, former Medical Director of Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital Dr RK Anand and I, had moved the high court against this practice of political parties depriving workers of earning their living and forcing the closure of shops and offices. The PCGT won its case in the court. The two political parties then in the Opposition, the BJP and the Shiv Sena, were each fined Rs 20 lakh for the

mayhem caused by the bandh. More importantly, the bandh as a political weapon had been laid to rest, at least in the city of Mumbai. The hardship it caused to the homeless, who depend on eating houses for their daily meal, and little children, who depend on the arrival of the milk vans for their sustenance, was



highlighted in the court by a few affected citizens in sworn affidavits. In place of the projected bandh, parents of schoolgoing children, politicians and their followers taped their own mouths with black cloth and marched through the city streets demanding better security for schoolchildren.

Five years ago, a delegation of fathers of little boys going to private schools approached me with an offer of professional help, according to their individual expertise, to counter the menace of young children being molested in schools. The PCGT then tied up with another NGO working on the same issue, and approached the Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, who earmarked a DCP from the Crime Branch to liaise with us. We organised a number of seminars and meetings, including training workshops for principals of government and municipal schools, on the basis of the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act and how it could be effectively implemented.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 struck soon after our preliminaries were completed. The city police had started a 'Didi' programme in which a woman police

constable, specially selected, was assigned to each of the 91 police stations in the commissionerate to visit each school in the precinct every month, address the parent-teacher meetings and impress on the parents first, the teachers next and the senior students later the lurking possibility of molestation and ways and means to prevent it.

The steps to be taken in case sexual offenders from within the school or outside manage to break the law were also listed. The police presence at the parent-teacher meeting was meant to engender confidence in the minds of parents that attention was being paid by the school and the state to the security of their wards. The police, too, would not have an excuse for any delay in dealing with complaints made by the school authorities. The steep increase in incidents of child molestation in buses hired by schools to transport children, in classrooms or staff rooms and in lavatories by the non-teaching staff or senior students preying on juniors is a sign of a sickness that needs to be combated head-on.

There is an urgent need for case studies by top psychologists to list the root causes of the malaise and suggest possible remedies. That will help to draw the attention of parents and teachers to a danger that afflicts not only our country but most countries of the world. In some European countries, child pornography has become such a menace that special squads have been created in crime-fighting units to address the problem.

The steady proliferation of sex offenders in many cities and even towns in our country needs immediate attention and involvement of the state. In Mumbai, NGOs involved in helping the authorities combat the menace are many. The current government at the Centre distrusts civil society bodies working to address such secular issues. Corporate funding has been discontinued to such NGOs and diverted to the PM Cares Fund.

The government would be well advised not to frown on such NGOs whose only motive is to better the quality of life of ordinary citizens. To dump every NGO in one basket is a strange way of going about the business of governance.

## Industrial fillip

Punjab should make the most of Rajpura project

THE Centre's nod to set up an industrial smart city in Rajpura presents a now-or-never opportunity to Punjab to establish itself as a major destination for investors. Fiscal mismanagement by successive state governments has led to the double whammy of high indebtedness and low investment, stifling the state's potential for economic growth. The fact that Rajpura has been chosen as one of the 12 sites for projects on the Golden Quadrilateral, which connects the country's major industrial, agricultural and cultural hubs, shows that the border state is very much part of the Centre's scheme of things.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's recent visit to Mumbai, where he met several industry leaders, was an attempt to showcase Punjab as an investor-friendly state. In 2022, the state was listed among the 'top achievers' in ease of doing business, rubbing shoulders with Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka,



Telangana and Tamil Nadu, according to the Business Reforms Action Plan report of the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The vastly improved performance on this count indicates that Punjab can provide a conducive environment to attract big-ticket investments.

For that, it is vital to cut red tape and minimise disruptions. Domestic as well as foreign investors prefer to pump their money into states where hassle-free, uninterrupted industrial activity can be conducted. Around 1,100 acres have been acquired and fenced for the Rajpura project. This is a welcome development, in stark contrast to the land acquisition hitches that have led to the termination of some national highway projects in the state. With India-Pakistan relations remaining in deep freeze, Punjab continues to suffer on the trade front, besides battling the drug menace, unemployment and the exodus of its youth to foreign lands. Hopefully, the industrial smart city, where world-class infrastructure will be created, will help the state make an economic turnaround and incentivise its young people to stay on and work here.

## India has its bases covered ahead of Lanka's presidential poll

Sri Lankan leaders know that when the chips were down, India provided \$4-bn aid to bail the island nation out.

INDIA is keeping a close eye on the developments in the run-up to the September 21 presidential election in Sri Lanka, where public protests had led to the exit of then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2022 at a time of severe economic distress. However, Sri Lanka had not dissolved its Parliament and allowed the political system to operate. This led to a consensus on former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, whose United National Party (UNP) had fallen on hard times. He was elected President by Parliament and has seen through the rest of Gotabaya's term. Ranil is a candidate again, but this time, his Puluwan Sri Lanka front has got 34 parties backing him, including leaders who, though from other parties, are a part of his government.

Ranil has stated that there is unfinished business with regard to Sri Lanka's economic distress. He has maintained good relations with India, China and the West for debt relief and management plans.

The main party in Parliament, the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) of the Rajapaksa, which backed Ranil for the presidency during the crisis, decided not to support him further. It has pitched for Namal Rajapaksa, son of Mahinda Rajapaksa, as their candidate. If Namal fails to perform well, the SLPP would face challenges in the parliamentary elections, likely to be held within a year. Sajith Premadasa founded the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) after splitting from the UNP in 2020 and it has been the main Opposition front in Parliament. He marshalled his political resources to be seen as a viable candidate. He has formed an alliance with 27 small parties and mobilised public support against the government. A potent challenger is Anura Kumara Dissanayake of the National People's Power (NPP), which is the political wing of the radical Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP). The JVP, after its hostile

activity till 1989, has become a political party and works overground. It was the mainstay of Aragalaya (the struggle), the 2022 agitation. The people's angst and frustration led to Mahinda's resignation as Prime Minister; subsequently, Gotabaya quit as President. Despite having only three MPs, the NPP worked assiduously to harness public anger.

According to a pre-poll survey, Anura is leading with 43 per cent of the votes. Ranil (27 per cent) is ahead of Sajith (22 per cent). Namal has only 3 per cent support. In recent weeks, 10 per cent of the undecided voters seem to have moved in Ranil's direction, giving his campaign a fillip. However, poll analysts in Colombo say the contest is between Anura and Sajith. In the Sri Lankan system, there are three preferences for voters. A candidate must get 50 per cent plus of the first-preference votes to be elected President. If no candidate gets that, the second and third-preference votes of candidates, besides the top two, will be counted. Analysts say that it is these second and third-preference votes which are likely to determine whether the second-placed candidate can upstage Anura, who is the leading choice on first-preference votes. Should India be worried about the outcome of this election? The turmoil in Bangladesh months after January's General Election, which was won by now-ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, is a cause for concern. India seems to have played its cards better in Sri Lanka. During his June visit to Sri Lanka, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar met leaders of all hues, including Sajith and Anura. Anura made the first-ever visit by a JVP leader to India at the

government's invitation in February. He met the National Security Adviser, the EAM and others while visiting Delhi, Thiruvananthapuram and Ahmedabad. He acknowledged India's role in helping Sri Lanka during an economic crisis two years ago. Anura said he did not follow the JVP's old policy of being anti-India and would like to work



with everybody possible. Sajith, whose father Ranasinghe Premadasa was an anti-India UNP leader, has modulated his stance. Though invited to India, he decided not to come this year, possibly under astrological advice not to travel overseas before the election get over. In his meeting with Jaishankar in Colombo, Sajith acknowledged that India's timely assistance was of great sustenance to

Sri Lanka, and that Delhi was a valuable friend. Ranil has been a friend to India since long. He attended PM Modi's swearing-in in June and discussed various matters with the Indian leadership. India has got its bases covered with all major parties in Sri Lanka and is not taking sides in this contest whose result is not easy to predict. India would have laid out its preferences to all the parties, in line with the Neighbourhood First policy, supporting economic activity and seeking a level playing field for Indian economic interests and no threats to Indian security.

Sri Lankan leaders know that when the chips were down, India provided \$4-billion aid to bail the island nation out, and then participated in a debt rescheduling exercise when China did neither. Yet, China will always remain important to Sri Lanka for investment in its projects, and to balance India out. Hence, Chinese naval ships will not be prohibited from visiting Sri Lanka, but they will be advised not to carry out surveillance or anti-India activity, like it was done in the case of a research vessel two years ago. India would have to live with this and do more, possibly with Japan, trilaterally, to build economic relationships to balance China out in Sri Lanka. India's private sector investments in Sri Lanka and development cooperation projects are highly regarded, giving India the reputation of a good neighbour. If this election can pass off without attracting nationalist voters' sentiment targeting India, Delhi would have indeed learned a new lesson and implemented it.

## APSEZ acquires 80% stake in Astro for \$185 million in all-cash deal

**NEW DELHI:** Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire 80% stake in Astro, in an all-cash deal for \$185 million, implying an enterprise value (EV) of \$235 million and EV/FY25E earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) at 4.4 times. The transaction is expected to be value accretive from the first year itself, said APSEZ on Friday.

Incorporated in 2009, Astro is an offshore support vessel (OSV) operator in the Middle East, India, Far East Asia and Africa. Astro owns a fleet of 26 OSVs comprising anchor handling tugs (AHTs), flat top barges, multipurpose support vessels (MPSVs) and workboats and provides vessel management and complementary services. During the year ending April 30, 2024, Astro posted \$95 million revenue and \$41 million EBITDA. As of April 30, 2024, Astro was net cash positive.

"Astro's acquisition is part of our road map to become one of the world's largest marine operators. Astro will add 26 OSVs to current fleet of 142 tugs and dredgers,



taking total to 168. The acquisition will give us access to roster of Tier-1 customers, consolidating footprint across Arabian Gulf, Indian subcontinent and Far East Asia," said Ashwani Gupta, director & CEO, APSEZ.

Astro has a roster of Tier-1 customers including NMDC, McDermott, COOEC, Larsen & Toubro and Saipem. As per APSEZ, Astro leverages an efficient mix of medium to long-term contracts with customers, which allows it to maintain high fleet utilisation and benefit from increasing charter rates, driven by limited supply of OSV fleet globally.

## Bengaluru houses 35% of BFSI global capability centres

**BENGALURU.** Bengaluru secures the top spot as the premier destination for Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) Global Capability Centres (GCCs), as it houses 35% of all BFSI GCCs.

The city also houses a thriving talent ecosystem, where 26% of active job seekers bring the in-demand skills that fuel industry innovation, talent solutions provider Careernet said in a report. Bengaluru is followed by Pune with 15%, Hyderabad with 14% and Chennai with 12% of the active talent pool with in-demand skills in the sector. As per the report, Hyderabad is gaining popularity as the go-to preferred destination for companies looking to set up new centres or expand their operations in India. Moreover, Hyderabad is increasingly becoming the second most preferred city, after Bengaluru, for BFSI professionals looking to relocate. Neelabh Shukla, chief business officer, Careernet, said, "With a vast pool of skilled professionals, India offers GCCs the ideal ecosystem to drive growth, innovation, and transformation."

## Sebi amends rules to regulate influencers

**NEW DELHI.** Markets watchdog Sebi has amended norms in a bid to regulate unregistered financial influencers or finfluencers amid growing concerns about potential risk associated with such unregistered persons. In three separate notifications, the regulator has restricted associations between its regulated entities and unregistered individuals. This came after the board of Sebi approved a proposal in this regard last month.

As per the notifications, the persons regulated by Sebi and the agents of such persons will not have any association like any transaction involving money, referral of a client, interaction of information technology systems with any other person who, directly or indirectly, provides advice, recommendation or makes explicit claim of return.

"No person regulated by the Board (Sebi) or the agent of such a person shall have any direct or indirect association, with another person who provides advice or any recommendation, directly or indirectly, in respect of or related to a security or securities, unless the person is registered with or otherwise permitted by the Board to provide such advice or recommendation; or makes any claim, of returns or performance expressly or impliedly, in respect of or related to a security or securities, unless the person has been permitted by the Board to make such a claim," the regulator said. By requiring finfluencers to register with Sebi and adhere to specific guidelines, the regulator is setting a standard for accountability and expertise in the sector, market experts said. The move would ensure that mutual fund houses, research analysts, registered investment advisors and stock brokers do not partner with finfluencers. On the other hand, a small window has been provided for investor education from such partnership. This is subject to a condition that these finfluencers do not provide any recommendation or claim any return or performance. This came amid growing concern over the potential risks associated with unregulated finfluencers who might offer biased or misleading advice. They usually work on a commission-based model. Finfluencers have significantly impacted their followers' financial decisions in the last few years and thus Sebi's regulatory framework can make them accountable and responsible for the advice they provide.

To give this effect, Sebi has amended norms governing depository participants, intermediaries and Securities Contracts.

# UK's Aviva found guilty in \$26 million fake invoice scandal in India: Report

**Mumbai** Non-food bank credit registered a growth of 15.1 per cent to Rs 162.92 lakh crore as of July 2024 as compared with 14.7 per cent a year ago, according to the Reserve Bank of India's latest data.

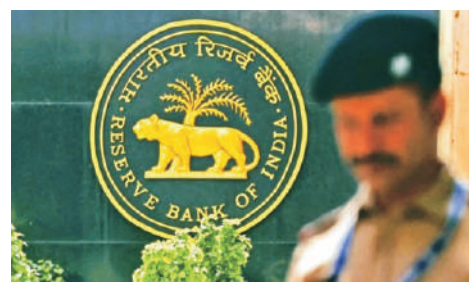
However, deposit growth of banks lagged behind at 11.3 per cent at Rs 213.28 lakh crore, RBI data shows. With deposits growth slowing down, banks are racing to mobilise funds through special deposit schemes and other innovative plans to meet the credit demand in the system. Many banks have reported a decline in deposits during the quarter ended June 2024 as customers are now looking at alternative avenues like the capital markets to park their funds at better returns. Credit to agriculture and allied activities remained robust registering a growth of 18.1 per cent at Rs 21.55 lakh crore in July 2024, compared with 16.7 per cent a year ago, RBI said. Credit growth to industry strengthened significantly at 10.2 per cent to Rs 37.05 lakh crore in July 2024 compared with 4.6 per cent in July 2023. Among major industries, credit to chemicals and

chemical products, food processing, petroleum, coal products and nuclear fuels and infrastructure recorded a higher growth in July 2024 as compared to their growth a year ago, while credit to basic metal and metal product and textiles moderated, the RBI said. The central bank said credit growth to medium industries rose to 17.2 per cent to Rs 3.17 lakh crore and large industry by 8.5 per cent to Rs 26.74 lakh crore.

Festive offer Credit growth to services sector moderated to 15.4 per cent in July 2024 from 19.7 per cent a year ago, primarily driven down by relatively lower credit growth in non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and trade segments. Credit growth in commercial real estate, tourism, hotels and restaurants and computer software accelerated during July 2024, the RBI said. However, personal loans growth was lower at 17.8 per cent to Rs 51.39 lakh crore in July 2024 as compared to 18.4 per cent a year ago, largely due to moderation in growth recorded in other personal loans and vehicle loans.

However, credit growth to housing, the largest constituent of the segment, accelerated.

According to the RBI, growth in credit card outstanding declined to 22 per cent to Rs



2.75 lakh crore from 32.4 per cent a year ago. As per ICRA's assessment, the recent regulatory actions like urging banks to reduce their credit-to-deposit (CD) ratio, increasing risk weights towards high growing loan segments, and the proposal to review the LCR framework, all point to the need to align credit growth with deposit growth while focusing on

growing retail deposits. The non-food bank credit (NFBC) growth may slow down to Rs 19.0-20.5 lakh crore (11.6-12.5 per cent YoY) in FY2025 from Rs 22.3 lakh crore (16.3 per cent) in FY2024. Incremental deposit growth is expected to moderate to Rs 19.4-20.0 lakh crore (9.5-9.8 per cent YoY) in FY2025 from Rs. 23.2 lakh crore (12.9 per cent YoY) in FY2024. With credit growth outpacing deposit growth, the CD ratio reached an all-time high of 78.0 per cent (80.2 per cent including impact of HDFC merger) as of March 2024 in the last five years. Thereafter, following the regulatory nudge to banks to moderate their CD ratio, there has been a slight dip to 77.1 per cent as of June 2024 with incremental CD ratio declining to 60 per cent in Q1 FY2025, ICRA said. Banks are expected to witness a moderation their credit growth targets in the run-up to the proposed implementation of revised LCR norms from April 1, 2025, resulting in an improvement (decline) in the CD ratio and increase in liquidity buffers.

## Forex Update: India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Surge Over \$7 Billion to Touch Record \$681.6 Billion

**Gold reserves increased \$893 million to \$60.997 billion during the week ended August 23, according to the latest RBI data.**

**New Delhi** India's forex reserves surged \$7.023 billion to touch a new high of \$681.688 billion in the week ended August 23, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The overall reserves had jumped \$4.546 billion to \$674.664 billion in the previous reporting week.

The previous all-time high for the overall reserves was recorded at \$674.919 billion as of August 2. During the week ended August 23, gold reserves increased \$893 million to \$60.997 billion, according to the latest RBI data.



For the week ended August 23, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$5.983 billion to \$597.552 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. The special drawing rights (SDRs) increased \$118 million to \$18.459 billion. India's reserve position with the IMF was up by \$30 million to

\$4.68 billion in the reporting week, according to the latest data. "The record all-time high level of India's forex will create external sector resilience. With the support of strategic policy initiatives and a diligent monetary policy stance, the forex has reached a record all-time high of over \$681 billion (as of August 23, 2024), amidst global economic headwinds and deepening geopolitical uncertainties," Sanjeev Agrawal, president of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said. This will boost India's economy on a faster development trajectory, strengthening its position internationally, drawing in foreign investments, and promoting domestic trade and industry, he said.

"Moving ahead, the country's substantial foreign exchange reserves will provide the RBI greater flexibility in monetary policy and currency management," said Agrawal.

## Fiscal deficit touches 17.2% of annual target as of end-July

**NEW DELHI.** The country's fiscal deficit reached 17.2% of the annual target as of the end of July in the current fiscal year (FY25), according to data published by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Friday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit amounted to Rs 2,76,945 crore. In comparison, during the same period in FY24, the deficit was much higher, accounting for 33.9% of the Budget Estimates (BE). In the Union Budget for 2024, the government set a target to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.9% of the gross domestic product (GDP) for FY25. This is a decrease from the fiscal deficit of 5.6% of GDP recorded in 2023-24. In monetary terms, the government aims to limit the total fiscal deficit to Rs 16,13,312 crore for the current fiscal year (2024-25). As per the data, the net tax revenue was Rs 7.15 lakh crore, or 27.7 per cent of the BE for the current fiscal.

During the first four months leading up to July, the central government's total expenditure amounted to Rs 13 lakh crore, which represents 27% of the



Budget Estimates (BE). This is a decrease from the 30.7% of BE recorded in the same period last year.

Out of the total expenditure, Rs 10,39,091 crore was allocated to the revenue account, while Rs 2,61,260 crore was designated for the capital account. According to Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist with ICRA, "The outlook for revenue receipts seems fairly favourable, while there may be a miss on capex and disinvestment targets. Nevertheless, expenditure savings typically accumulated by ministries every year are likely to provide additional cushion to offset shortfall from other heads, if needed.

Govt targets fiscal deficit to 4.9% of GDP for FY25. In the Union Budget for 2024, the government set a target to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.9% of GDP for FY25. This is a decrease from the fiscal deficit of 5.6% of GDP recorded in FY24. In monetary terms, the government aims to limit total fiscal deficit to Rs 16,13,312 crore for FY25.

## Latest GDP numbers cast a cloud over the great Indian growth story

**What's upsetting is the fact that all the other moving parts of the economy, taken together, couldn't make up for the decline in the gold vein of government spending.**

**NEW DELHI.** India's growth fairy seems to have lost a bit of its roar. During the first quarter of the current fiscal, real GDP grew by 6.7%, as against 7.8% in Q4, FY24 and 8.2% a year ago. The continuing decline in agriculture, private consumption along with a slowdown in government expenditure landed a sidwinder punch on the growth rate, which hit below 7%.

The estimate is within the consensus expectations that stretched a wide range of 6%-7.1%, but the slowdown in economic activity raises doubts if India can see another banner year, especially after FY24's growth momentum, which seemed unstoppable, like the march of time. Analysts had forewarned about the likely decline in growth citing lower government expenditure amid the 2024

election season. But what's upsetting is the fact that all the other moving parts of the economy, taken together, couldn't make up for the decline in the gold vein of government spending. In other words, private consumption, investments and agricultural sector that were expected to ginger up and aid growth, are yet to commit themselves fully.

According to the data released by the National Statistics Office on Friday, real Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 6.8% in Q1, FY25 as against 8.3% in Q1 of the previous financial year, led by the growth in secondary sector that turned in 8.4% growth over last year. In absolute numbers, real GDP at constant prices is estimated at Rs 43.64 lakh crore during Q1, compared to Rs 40.91 lakh crore a year before, registering a 6.7% growth rate. Real GVA in Q1 is estimated at Rs 40.73 lakh crore as against Rs 38.12 lakh crore last year, showing a growth of 6.8%. On the supply side, if both primary and tertiary sector saw a slowdown, Q1 headline number got the gentlest of encouragement from the secondary sector. Primary sector comprising agriculture and mining and quarrying registered a pale growth of 2.7% in Q1, as against 4.2% last year. Within this,

growth in agriculture and allied services sector, which is enduring a sober fate, crawled to a dismal 2% compared to 3.7% registered a year before. Mining and quarrying, on the other hand, saw a



flat growth of 7.2% compared to 7% last year. The primary sector is like the breath of life itself and needs to do better. It holds the keys for both food inflation, as well as, private consumption -- the two other components that are troubling households. Tertiary sector, like the primary sector, witnessed a slowdown registering 7.2% growth rate during Q1 compared to 10.7% registered last year. Two of three sub-components namely trade, hotels, and other services and financial, real estate and professional

services saw a significant decline in economic activity during the quarter gone by. However, public administration, defence and other services posted a growth rate at 9.5% in Q1 compared to the previous year's 8.3%, but the marginal increase wasn't significant enough to make up for the decline in trade and financial services sectors. It's the secondary sector that did the heavy lifting during Q1, having turned in a growth rate of 8.4% as against 5.9% last year. All the three sub-components namely manufacturing, electricity, and other utility services and construction clocked in higher growth rates over last year at 8.4%, 10.4% and 10.5% respectively. On the expenditure side, private consumption, the largest component accounting for over 56% of the GDP, needs lots of improvisatory energy. During Q1, it grew by 9.8% as against the previous year's 8.2%, but has much potential. Government final consumption expenditure, which has been playing to the whistle, finally took a break, thanks to the elections. It saw a de-growth of declined to 0.2% y-o-y at Rs 4.14 lakh crore. Gross fixed capital formation, an indicator of investment activity, increased by 7.5% in Q1.



# No discrepancies in EVM-VVPAT data matched so far: Poll panel

After the Lok Sabha elections, applications seeking checking of results and matching and confirmation of data were received from only eight out of 543 constituencies. Out of these eight, four have been checked so far and all have proved correct.

**New Delhi:** Doubts and questions raised on the accuracy of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) by certain political parties have been put to rest for the time being as the data of four Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) checked so far have been found to be correct, officials said on Friday. After the Lok Sabha elections, applications seeking checking of results and matching and confirmation of data were received from only eight out of 543 constituencies. Out of these eight, four have been checked so far. These applications were related to matching of data from 92 polling booths in six states. In the Assembly elections, three applications related to 26 polling stations of two states were received. According to a Supreme Court verdict, the two closest rivals who lost in the general election can

get the data verified by getting the data of EVMs and VVPATs matched after paying a fixed amount of fee. If the complaint is found to be correct, meaning if there is any discrepancy found in terms of the data, the fee will be refunded and appropriate action will be taken. If the complaint is found to be false, the fee will be confiscated. According to Election Commission officials, an investigation on two out of eight Check and Verification i.e. C and V applications, remained pending because the defeated candidates who challenged the results had filed an election petition in court. In two of the cases, the C and V process was stopped because the complaining candidates did not show up. However, four C and V processes were completed, and no irregularities were



found in any of them. As a significant step towards transparency in the democratic process, the Election Commission has provisioned that candidates who suspect irregularities in voting, those who are unsatisfied with the voting and counting, can choose any EVM of any polling station for examination, whose data and VVPAT

slips can be matched. The chief poll body received complaints and applications for EVM-VVPAT re-matching from eight candidates since the results of the Lok Sabha elections were declared on June 4. In these, losing candidates expressed apprehensions of irregularities or tampering with the machine, data, counting, matching and microchip, among others.

## EVM-VVPAT DATA MATCHING SOP

The Election Commission has issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and announced to provide this facility to the candidates who finish as runner-up and second runner-up in elections. As per the rules, five per cent of the total number of EVM-VVPAT sets in any constituency are matched randomly. Within this number,

candidates can request for investigation by paying an appropriate fee, stating the booth of their specific choice and the serial number of the EVM. According to poll panel officials, for the memory verification of EVM and VVPAT during the recent Lok Sabha elections, Rs 40,000 per machine and 18 per cent of Goods and Services Tax (GST) has to be deposited in advance. The team of technical experts of the commission then verify the data in front of everyone.

## SUPREME COURT RULING ON EVM-VVPAT DATA MATCHING

As the decision of the Supreme Court bench of Justice Sanjeev Khanna and Justice Dipankar Dutta on April 26 states, it is necessary to apply for verification within seven days of the counting of votes.

## Helicopter being airlifted by Air Force chopper crashes in Kedarnath

**New Delhi:** A faulty helicopter, which was being brought for repair by the Indian Air Force, crashed in Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on Saturday. The helicopter was being taken to Gauchar airstrip in Uttarakhand with the help of the Indian Air Force's MI 17 helicopter. However, the MI 17 helicopter lost its balance after a while due to the weight of the other helicopter, following which the pilot dropped the helicopter near an open space in the valley.



Rudraprayag Tourism Rahul Chaubey said that the damaged helicopter had suffered a technical fault during landing earlier this year on May 24. The helicopter had made an emergency landing just 100 metres before the helipad in May and all passengers onboard had escaped unhurt. The faulty helicopter was being taken for repair to the Gauchar Airstrip by the MI 17 helicopter at around 7 am on Saturday, Chaubey said. However, the Air Force helicopter couldn't handle the balance of the faulty helicopter, following which the pilot dropped it near the Tharu camp in Kedarnath.

## In a first, Jharkhand appoints transgender as community health officer

**Amir Mahato, who completed her nursing training in Jharkhand's Sambalpur village, was among the 365 candidates appointed under the National Health Mission. Her appointment letter was given by Chief Minister Hemant Soren.**

**Ranchi.** In a historic first, the Jharkhand government has appointed a transgender from West Singhbhum district as a community health officer. Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday handed over the appointment letter to Amir Mahato, who was visibly pleased. Mahato, who completed her nursing training in Sambalpur village, was among the 365 candidates appointed under the National Health Mission. Mahato said her mother had wanted her to become a nurse, but she could not pursue her profession due to financial constraints at home.

My mother's dream has come true. I have no complaints



to God. I am really happy and never thought I would be appointed as a community health officer in Jharkhand. I thank the Chief Minister for taking such an initiative," she said. With Mahato's appointment, Jharkhand became one of the few states after Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal to have a provision to appoint transgenders in government departments. In September last year, the Jharkhand Cabinet cleared the approval to reserve seats for transgenders. The state government has envisaged a reservation under the OBC quota in educational institutions and government appointments for the third gender.

## Kashmir-based Chinar Corps to get new commander after Assembly polls

**New Delhi:** Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava was appointed as the new commander of the Kashmir Valley-based Chinar Corps, effective October 15. Lt Gen Srivastava, a veteran of counter-terrorist operations, will succeed Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, who will move to the Army Headquarters as the next Director General of Military Operations (DGMO). The change in command will take place two weeks after Assembly elections wrap up in Jammu and Kashmir.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Lt Gen Srivastava has extensive experience in combat operations, particularly in regions with high levels of insurgency, such as Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and



the Northeast.

The senior Army officer has extensive experience in the Kashmir Valley, having served multiple tenures there. Prior to moving to the Army Headquarters, he was commanding a Rashtriya Rifles Force in the Valley. During this time, he oversaw the planning and execution of numerous operations aimed at combating

militant activity. Lt Gen Ghai will continue to be in charge of the Corps' security operations in the Kashmir valley and the Line of Control until the handover. Lt Gen Ghai has been cleared to take over as the new DGMO, succeeding Lt Gen Pratik Sharma. Several officers have already been posted to new positions, including the 3 Corps in Dimapur and the new Army War College Commandant, as part of the recent postings announced on July 22. Jammu and Kashmir is going to the polls after a 10-year gap. The three-phase Assembly election will begin on September 18 and conclude on October 1, with results to be announced on October 4.

## Gujarat man kills mother, posts photo on social media: 'Sorry mom, I kill you'

**New Delhi:** A 21-year-old man was arrested in Gujarat's Rajkot for allegedly murdering his mother and later posting a picture with her dead body on Instagram, officials said. The incident came to light when a local resident informed police about the incident and officials arrived at the scene to see the accused, Nilesh Gosai, sitting next to his mother's body in Bhagatsinhji Garden on University Road in Rajkot.

Nilesh confessed to the murder during questioning, revealing that he initially tried to attack his mother with a knife. When Jyotiben managed to wrest the knife away, Nilesh resorted to strangling her with a blanket. After committing the crime, he posted a photo of his mother on Instagram with a caption, "Sorry mom I kill you, I miss

you, Om shanti (sic)." In another post, he wrote, "I'm kill my mom, loss my life, sorry mom, om shanti, Miss you mom (sic)". After initial investigation,



it was revealed that Jyotiben had been struggling with severe mental illness for years, leading to frequent arguments and physical altercations with her son.

On the day of the incident, a heated argument between Nilesh and Jyotiben escalated into violence. Jyotiben's marriage had ended approximately 20 years ago, and since then, she and Nilesh had lived together, with minimal contact with her other children. She was undergoing treatment for mental health issues, but had stopped taking her medication a month prior to the incident, exacerbating her condition, an official said. Notably, Jyotiben's ex-husband and her other children refused to claim her body or take responsibility, forcing the police to file a complaint and arrange her final rites. Nilesh is currently in police custody and further investigation into the matter is underway.

## Joined BJP after coming to know I was being 'snooped on': Champai Soren

**Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren, who joined the BJP with his son, accused the Hemant Soren-led government of keeping track of his movements, and called it a "shameful act".**

**Ranchi.** Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren, who joined the BJP on Friday, asserted that he had never imagined being put under surveillance and said his decision to join the saffron party became firm after knowing his movements were being tracked. The former Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader, who was once close to Chief Minister Hemant Soren's father and party

chief Shibu Soren, chided the state government for its "shameful act" of tracking his movements. "I had never imagined that I was being tracked and followed by the special branch for espionage. It is really a matter of investigation. My decision to join BJP grew firm after I came to know that my movements are being tracked," he alleged.

"It's a shameful act that the JMM attempted to track and follow my movement," he claimed. Champai Soren's spying claims came after Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma accused the JMM-led coalition of keeping the former under surveillance for the past six months.

Sarma, who is the BJP co-in charge for Assembly elections in Jharkhand, said the people would give a befitting reply in the upcoming polls due in the state later this year. While lashing out at the Hemant Soren-led government, Champai Soren said, "I felt insulted in the JMM. I had thought of calling it a day, but supporters

motivated me to stay in mainstream politics. After considering all the situations, I decided to join the BJP."

He accused the JMM and Congress of not



thinking about the welfare of tribals and asserted that only the BJP could guide the tribals towards a brighter future. "That's why I have joined BJP with an open heart. We will build a new Jharkhand by staying here with the BJP," Champai Soren said. Champai Soren, along with his son Babulal, crossed over to the BJP at a ceremony attended by Union Minister Shivraj Singh

Chouhan, Sarma, senior party leaders Laxmikant Bajpai, Arjun Munda and state party chief Babulal Marandi in Ranchi.

Champai Soren's joining is seen as a significant boost for the BJP's efforts to strengthen its connection with the Scheduled Tribes (STs), a strong support base of the JMM. Earlier, Sarma announced that Champai Soren would be joining the BJP on August 30 (Friday), after the latter met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi.

On February 2, Champai Soren was appointed Chief Minister, following Hemant Soren's resignation and subsequent arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case. He resigned from the post on July 3, clearing the way for Hemant Soren to resume office on July 4 after being granted bail. In a letter to Shibu Soren on Wednesday, Champai Soren resigned from JMM and said he was compelled to quit after being "aggrieved by the present style of functioning of the JMM and its policies".

## Odisha, Andhra brace for heavy rain as low-pressure area forms in Bay of Bengal

**New Delhi:** A new low-pressure area has formed in the Northwest Bay of Bengal and is expected to intensify into a deep depression, bringing rain to several areas of Odisha and coastal Andhra Pradesh, the India Meteorological Department said.

The well marked low pressure area over westcentral and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh and South Odisha persisted and lay over the same region," the IMD's update on Saturday morning said. The low-pressure area is likely to move further west-northwestwards towards the north Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts and intensify into a depression over the west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours, the weather agency said.

Some areas in Odisha are expected to receive heavy to very heavy rain, while light to moderate rain will affect most areas of the state on Saturday and Sunday. Similar weather conditions are likely in coastal Andhra Pradesh, according to the IMD. The wind speed is also set to intensify, and the sea condition is likely to be rough, the officials said, warning fishermen against venturing into the sea along and off the south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts on Saturday.

## SITUATION IMPROVES IN GUJARAT

With Cyclone Asna, which formed over the coast of Kutch in Gujarat earlier in the day, moving further into the Arabian Sea towards Oman, the weather conditions are set to improve in Gujarat, though many areas remain inundated. The cyclone left the Gujarat coast without causing any major impact on the region. It is likely to continue moving nearly west-northwestwards over the northeast Arabian Sea, away from the Indian coast, during the next 24 hours and then west-southwestwards subsequently, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the ground situation in his Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency on Friday following a spell of heavy rain. He gave necessary instructions to the administration as several parts of Ahmedabad continued to be submerged in knee-deep water.

## News box

## Doctor charged in 'Friends' star Matthew Perry's death 'incredibly remorseful'

**World.** One of two doctors who are amongst the five people charged in the ketamine overdose death of "Friends" star Matthew Perry was barred by a federal judge on Friday from practising medicine and through his lawyer afterward expressed remorse.

Dr. Mark Chavez appeared in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles for a brief arraignment on a single felony count of conspiracy to illegally distribute ketamine and was permitted to remain free on \$50,000 bond. Chavez has previously signed an agreement with federal prosecutors to enter a guilty plea, which defence lawyer Matt Binninger told reporters his client would do at a later proceeding to be scheduled within a few weeks. No plea was entered on Friday. As part of the bond conditions set by Magistrate Judge Jean Rosenbluth, Chavez also surrendered his passport and was ordered not to practice medicine. He had agreed to surrender his medical licence at a separate administrative hearing earlier this week, according to a spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office. "My client is accepting responsibility. He's doing everything in his power to cooperate, to help in this situation, and he's incredibly remorseful," Binninger said outside the courthouse. The lawyer added that Chavez's regret stemmed not from Perry's celebrity but from the fact that "someone who was trying to seek treatment died."

## You could almost hear the river crying 'I am free': Tribes celebrate as dams fall in US river, freeing salmon trapped for a century

**World.** Workers on Wednesday dismantled the final dams on a crucial section of the Klamath River, US. This action cleared the way for salmon to swim freely for the first time in a century. The removal is part of the largest dam removal project in US history.

Yurok tribal member and attorney, Amy Bowers Cordalis, had tears in her eyes as she witnessed the return of the river: "It was surreal. It was so emotional. I felt so hopeful and so satisfied that we have restored this river," she said. "And looking at it you could almost hear the river crying, 'I am free, I am free'," as reported by the Associated Press.

Cordalis is engaged in a battle for the removal of Klamath dams since 2002 when she witnessed thousands of salmon die in the river due to a bacterial outbreak caused by low and warm temperatures. As the river flows freely once more, how quickly the salmon will return to their historical habitats remains uncertain. Early reports suggest that salmon have already begun their journey upstream. Michael Belchik, senior water policy analyst for the Yurok Tribe, said, "I think we're going to have some early successes. I'm pretty confident we'll see some fish going above the dam. If not this year, then for sure next year."

This demolition is set to be completed in the coming month and is part of a nationwide movement to restore rivers to their natural flows and revive ecosystems. According to the advocacy group American Rivers, more than 2,000 dams have been removed in the US in the last 25 years. Crews used excavators to dismantle rock dams that had been diverting water upstream of the nearly removed Iron Gate and Copco No 1 dams. This restoration happened just in time for the king salmon to start their spawning season.

## BLA terror attacks may delay launch of China-backed airport in Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD.** The start of operations at a Chinese-funded airport in Pakistan's Balochistan has been pushed back for a security review after last week's attacks by separatists in the area, govt and aviation sources said. More than 70 people were killed in the attacks, where militants seeking the region's secession have been targeting govt forces and projects being developed as part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The \$200-million airport



in Gwadar, a joint venture between Pakistan, Oman and China, is close to completion. The initial plan was for PM Shehbaz Sharif to inaugurate it on Aug 14 alongside Chinese officials, but that was called off after an ethnic Baloch rights group started a sit-in protest, the officials said. Following the attacks, two officials at CAA and two others in the provincial govt said the start of flights would be delayed as authorities review security in the region.

Pakistan's military, meanwhile, said it had killed five insurgents and wounded three others in intelligence-based operations launched in the province in response to the attacks. "Operations will continue until all perpetrators, facilitators and abettors are brought to justice," the army said.

# Wells Fargo employee death tragedy: How did body go unnoticed for 4 days of ignored odors

**World.** In a tragic and unsettling case, Wells Fargo employee Denise Prudhomme, 60, was found dead at the company's Tempe office on August 20, four days after her last recorded scan into work. Authorities and colleagues are grappling with the disturbing details of the discovery, raising questions about the conditions at the office.

Prudhomme had scanned into the Wells Fargo corporate office near Priest Drive and Washington Street at 7 am on August 16, according to reports. The body was discovered only when security personnel, responding to reports of an unresponsive individual, checked the building. The Tempe Police Criminal Investigations Bureau confirmed that there were no signs of foul play. An anonymous worker shared their shock and was reported by 12News as saying, "It's really heartbreaking and I'm thinking, 'What if I were just sitting there?' No one would check on me?" Another employee expressed their distress over the incident, revealing that several people had noticed a foul odor but passed it



off as faulty plumbing. The cubicle where Prudhomme was found was reportedly located on the third floor, away from the main aisle. This isolation

may have contributed to the delayed discovery of her body. "To hear she's been sitting at the desk like that would make me feel sick," the employee said, highlighting

concerns about the lack of immediate action.

Despite Wells Fargo's statement expressing deep sadness and offering support through Employee Assistance Consulting services, some employees feel the bank has not been transparent enough about the incident. "I just feel like they aren't being transparent with us," one worker lamented. "Somebody needs to acknowledge this."

The Tempe Police Department and the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office are working together to determine the cause of Prudhomme's death. The investigation is ongoing, but preliminary findings indicate no signs of criminal activity. Wells Fargo has assured the public that they are fully cooperating with the investigation and have addressed the situation internally. The company's statement to 12News emphasized their commitment to supporting affected employees and ensuring the building was thoroughly cleaned.

## US woman found dead in cubicle 4 days after checking into building for work

**World.** Four days after last scanning in for work, a 60-year-old office worker in Arizona was found dead in a cubicle at her workplace, having never left the building during that time, authorities said. Denise Prudhomme, who worked at a Wells Fargo corporate office, was found dead in a third-floor cubicle on Tuesday, August 20, Tempe police said. She had last scanned into the building on Friday, August 16, at 7 am, police said. There was no indication she scanned out of the building after that. Prudhomme



worked in an underpopulated area of the building. Her cause of death has not been determined, but police said the preliminary investigation found no

obvious signs of foul play. The investigation is continuing. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of our colleague, Denise Prudhomme," Wells Fargo said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with her family and loved ones, and we are in contact to ensure they are well-supported during this difficult time. We are committed to the safety and wellness of our workforce." Counsellors have been made available to support employees, the company said. Police responded after on-site security called about an employee they believed to be dead. Prudhomme was pronounced dead at 4:55 pm on August 20, police said.

## Brazil's Supreme Court judge orders suspension of X amid feud with Elon Musk

**Sao Paulo/Brasilia.** A Brazilian Supreme Court justice ordered on Friday the "immediate suspension" of social media platform X in the country, after a court-imposed deadline expired for the company to identify a legal representative in Brazil. The move is the latest chapter in an ongoing feud between Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes and Elon Musk, which also included the freezing of the satellite internet provider Starlink's financial accounts in Brazil. In the decision, Moraes ordered the full and immediate suspension of X in the country until all related court orders on X were complied with, including the payment of

finances amounting to 18.5 million reais (around Rs 27.66 crore) and the nomination of a legal representative in Brazil. Moraes ordered telecommunications regulator Anatel to implement the suspension order, and to confirm to the court within 24 hours that it had carried it out. In a bid to avoid the use of virtual private networks (VPNs) to circumvent the blockage, Moraes said that individuals or companies who tried to keep access to the social network that way could be fined up to 50,000 reais (around Rs 7.47 lakh) a day. X said late on Thursday that it expected Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes to order a shutdown "soon", after a court-imposed

deadline expired for the company to identify a legal representative in Brazil. Earlier this year, Moraes ordered X to block certain accounts implicated in probes of so-called digital militias accused of spreading distorted news and hate. Musk, denouncing the order as censorship, responded by closing the platform's offices in Brazil. X, formerly known as Twitter, said at the time that its services would still be available in Brazil. Amid the underlying feud over X, Brazil's Supreme Court also blocked the local bank accounts of the Starlink satellite internet firm, which is 40 per cent owned by Musk, leading the company on Friday to ask the court to suspend that decision.

## China reasserts its claims in regional disputes, pushes rivals' limits

**Beijing.** China's campaign of confrontation, from remote reefs in Southeast Asia to Taiwan and far-flung Japanese islands, is designed to wear down regional rivals competing with it for contested territories, analysts say. Beijing in recent years has asserted its claims in the long-running disputes far more boldly as its military strength has grown.

The escalating actions -- over islands in the East China Sea claimed by Japan, the self-ruled territory of Taiwan and the South China Sea -- have also come as Beijing's rivals have drawn closer to the United States. China believes its strong-arm tactics are paying dividends," Duan Dang, a Vietnam-based maritime security analyst, told AFP. China has in recent months deployed military and coast guard vessels in a bid to eject the Philippines from a trio of strategically important reefs and islands in the South China Sea. "The number of fronts where an accident could spiral suddenly is very real," Dylan Loh, an assistant professor at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University, told AFP. The latest flashpoint is Sabina Shoal, just 140 kilometres (86 miles) west of the Philippine island of Palawan and roughly 1,200 kilometres from China's nearest major landmass, the island of Hainan. On Monday, Beijing said it took "control measures" against two Philippine Coast Guard ships that "illegally" entered the waters near Sabina Shoal.

Manila countered that Chinese vessels had stopped Philippine ships from resupplying their own coast guard vessels in the area -- slamming Beijing as the "biggest disruptor" to regional peace.

'Push the envelope'

China has for years sought to expand its power in the South China Sea, brushing aside an international ruling that its claim to most of the waterway has no legal basis. It has built artificial islands armed with missile systems and runways for fighter jets, and deployed vessels that the Philippines says harass its ships and block its fishers.

In 2012, Beijing seized control of Scarborough Shoal, another contested area close to the Philippines.

## Russia strikes residential building, playground in Ukraine's Kharkiv, 7 dead

Ukraine's President

**Volodymyr Zelenskyy said a 14-year-old girl was amongst the dead. Ihor Terekhov, the city's mayor, had earlier said on Telegram that one child was killed in the playground.**

**World.** A Russian guided bomb attack on Ukraine's northeastern city of Kharkiv hit a residential building and a playground on Friday, killing seven people and injuring at least 77 more, local authorities said. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said a 14-year-old girl was amongst the dead. Ihor Terekhov, the city's

mayor, had earlier said on Telegram that one child was killed in the playground. The 12-storey apartment block caught fire as a result of the strike, the mayor said. The death toll from the attack climbed to seven when a woman's body was recovered from the rubble, he added in a later statement. About 20 of the injured were in severe condition, regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said. One end of the block was engulfed in black smoke, with many of the upper floors in flames. Several cars parked outside were gutted by fire. Emergency services and rescue volunteers rushed to carry survivors out of the building. The body of one of the victims lay under a carpet on the ground outside, surrounded by police.

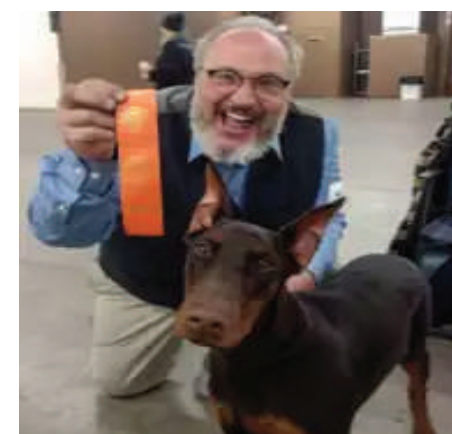
Residents of all ages, some of them covered in blood, sat stunned on benches and walls outside as medics attended to their



injuries. Kharkiv has been the focus of heavy Russian bombing throughout the war, although there has been a drop in intensity in recent weeks, possibly related to a shock incursion launched by Ukrainian forces into Russia's Kursk region. Ukrainian authorities said that Friday's attack involved five aerial guided bombs launched from planes in Russia's Belgorod region, also known as

## US dog breeder Paul Peavey's murder: Suspect Sergio Ferrer arrested, puppies still missing

**World.** In a case that has captivated local and national interest in the US, the murder of Paul Peavey, a renowned Colorado dog breeder, has taken a chilling turn. Peavey, 57, was found dead on August 21 at the bottom of a hill on his 110-acre Idaho Springs property, his body covered by debris. The discovery was made by friend Bruce Boynton, who had grown concerned after Peavey failed to answer his phone. "I'm the one that went up to the property and realized things were awry to the point where the puppies were gone, the house was tossed, anything of value missing," Boynton recounted, revealing the disturbing scene, reported the Washington Post. The home was in disarray, with Peavey's gun, metal detector equipment, and jewelry missing. The door to the shed where Peavey kept his Dobermans was open, and a few adult dogs were found wandering outside. As per the reports, the Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office has since arrested Sergio Ferrer, 36, on charges of murder and aggravated



robbery. Ferrer was initially detained on an unrelated warrant from Nebraska but was identified as a person of interest in Peavey's death. Authorities are now focusing on the missing puppies as a crucial piece of the puzzle. "Locating Peavey's unaccounted-for puppies may also help solve his



homicide," the sheriff's office said. Peavey, known for his business Elite European Dobermans, bred high-quality Dobermans and was an active community member. His dedication to his dogs was evident, with each puppy trained to be both a trusted companion and a skilled guardian. "That

was his life," Boynton said. "I mean, that's what kept him going, was those dogs," quoted the Washington Post. The missing puppies, all microchipped, may have been sold through social media since August 20. The sheriff's office is urging anyone who has recently purchased a Doberman puppy to check for a microchip and report any findings. Boynton's frustration with the investigation's initial handling led him to organize a search party. His group quickly located Peavey's body, prompting an apology from Sheriff Matthew Harris for the mishandling of the initial welfare check. "I felt a lot of sadness and a lot of anger," Boynton said. As the search for Peavey's stolen puppies continues, the case has drawn significant attention, highlighting the intersection of grief, crime, and the deep bond between a breeder and his beloved dogs. The investigation into Ferrer's alleged involvement remains ongoing as authorities piece together the mystery surrounding Peavey's tragic death.

## NEWS BOX

## US Open: Bopanna into men's and mixed doubles pre-quarters, Bhambri advances

India's Rohan Bopanna advanced to the pre-quarter finals in both men's and mixed doubles events of the US Open



**New Delhi.** India's Rohan Bopanna made progress in both men's and mixed doubles event of the US Open on Saturday, August 31. The 44-year-old competing alongside Indonesia's Aldila Sutjiadi beat Demi Schuurs and Tim Pütz in a tight first round match by 7-6 (7), 7-6 (5).

Both pairs put on an excellent exhibition of tennis fighting tooth and nail for the victory forcing both games into a tie-breaker. However, it was Bopanna and Sutjiadi who prevailed over the German-Dutch duo to progress to the pre-quarters where they will face the pair of John Peers and Katerina Siniaková. Bopanna also had a field day even in the men's doubles event as he, along with Matthew Ebden, edged past the pair of Roberto Carballés Baena and Federico Coria comfortably in the second-round match. The second-seeded duo beat the Spanish-Argentinean duo by 6-2, 6-4 to seal their spot in the pre-quarters. They will be up against the Argentinean pair of Maximo Gonzalez and Andrés Molteni in the next game.

## N Sriram Balaji crashes out

Meanwhile, another Indian, Yuki Bhambri, also progressed ahead at Flushing Meadows with a second round victory along with Albano Olivetti. The duo beat Austin Krajicek and Jean-Julien Rojer by 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 to progress to the third round.

However, N. Sriram Balaji failed to move ahead in the competition losing in the second round along with his Argentine partner Guido Andreozzi. The duo lost to Michael Venus and Neal Skupski in straight sets by 6(4)-7, 4-6 to bring their journey to an end. Earlier, Balaji and Andreozzi had started their journey by beating the Kiwi-Mexican pair of Marcus Daniell and Miguel Reyes-Varela in the first round.

## US Open: Frances Tiafoe solves Ben Shelton puzzle, Grigor Dimitrov marches on

**New Delhi.** It deserved to be on primetime, but it played out to be a Friday matinee blockbuster. Local boys Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe threw punches at each other over five sets in an epic third-round match in front of a packed Arthur Ashe Stadium at the US Open on Friday, August 30. It was Tiafoe, the 20th seed, who prevailed in a slugfest that lasted four hours and three minutes. There was only respect between the two at the end as Tiafoe and Shelton took a moment to embrace each other at the net after the marathon contest. Frances Tiafoe came from behind to win 4-6, 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-3 against his big-serving fellow American opponent to book his place in the fourth round where he is likely to face Novak Djokovic, the defending champion.

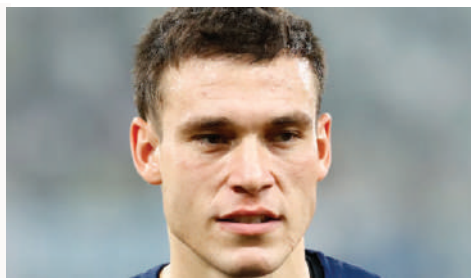
Tiafoe's win marked a significant revenge against Shelton, who had defeated him in the quarterfinals of the US Open last year. The electric atmosphere at the stadium was palpable as the two players engaged in a high-intensity battle, with both showcasing exceptional shot-making and athleticism. "Ben is an incredible player man. He's an incredible player. He really is. He goes for all kinds of shots. He's got no care in the world. It's really annoying," Tiafoe said, perfectly summing up his emotions during an on-court interview.

"He has for a great serve. He has great mercy out here. He's really talented. He comes up with great shots. So can I. It gives highlight after highlight. I really hope you guys enjoyed the show. It was a battle," he added. Despite Shelton's powerful serve, which included 23 aces, Tiafoe managed to carve out 21 break points, converting five of them to take control of the match. The turning point came in the fifth set, where Tiafoe notched the only break of serve to take a decisive 3-1 lead. This momentum shift ultimately sealed Shelton's fate, as Tiafoe went on to win the set and the match.

Tiafoe's performance was marked by his relentless approach to the net, where he executed volleys with precision, winning 35 out of 48 points when he advanced. His ability to redirect Shelton's powerful groundstrokes to his advantage and his more comfortable day on serve also contributed significantly to his victory. Tiafoe's resilience and determination shone through. After failing to convert break points in consecutive return games in the second set, he bounced back to clinch the only break of the set. Similarly, when Shelton took a 6/0 lead in the third set tie-break, Tiafoe responded with five straight points, recapturing some of the momentum.

## Manchester United sign Manuel Ugarte from Paris Saint Germain

Manchester United completed signed Paris Saint Germain and Uruguay mid fielder Manuel Ugarte for an initial fee of £42m. Ugarte made 37 appearances for PSG across all tournaments and also helped them to their 12th Ligue 1 title.



along with his initial fee of £42m taking his overall earnings to £50.5m.

Reacting on his transfer, Ugarte said that he was delighted to be a part of Manchester United calling it an ambitious club. He also stated that he's eagerly looking forward to playing in front of United fans at Old Trafford. "It is an incredible feeling to join a club of this magnitude; one that is admired all around the world. Manchester United is an ambitious club and I am an ambitious player. I know how incredible United fans are and I cannot wait to experience Old Trafford," Ugarte was quoted as saying by BBC. Further speaking ahead, Ugarte vowed to fight to win trophies for the club and elevate its level.

We will fight to win trophies: Ugarte "I'm someone who is so determined to

succeed; I will sacrifice and give everything for my team-mates. Together we will fight to win trophies and reach the level where this club needs to be," he added. United had Ugarte on their target throughout the transfer window and are delighted with the signing of mid-fielder. Sporting director Dan Ashworth hailed Ugarte as one of best ball winning midfielders mentioning

his stellar record both at the club and international level.

"He is among the very best ball-winning midfielders in the world and has an excellent record at both club and international level. His qualities, experience and passion will be a great complement to our strong group of midfielders," said Ashworth.

## Azam Khan falls on ground after being hit by bouncer on neck in CPL 2024

**NEW DELHI.** Pakistan's wicket-keeper batter Azam Khan is taking part in the Caribbean Premier League 2024. However, he is not having the best of times in the T20 league so far. The batter who has not contributed many runs for Guyana Amazon Warriors in the league, was involved in a bizarre dismissal on Friday. Azam arrived at the crease as the No. 5 batter for the Warriors in their match against Antigua and Barbuda Falcons. He managed to score only five runs in the last seven balls. After initial struggle, he tried to bring the momentum

back by hitting a four against Shamar Springer.

However, the bowlers responded with a bouncer on the very next delivery. Azam tried to pull the delivery towards the leg-side but missed the contact with ball altogether. Rather the ball struck him straight on his neck and he couldn't maintain his balance and collapsed on the ground. As the bouncer castled him at the crease, his bat also hit the stumps, which put an end to his innings. Azam fell on the ground while holding his neck as the other team checked upon him.

## Chennai all set to witness supercars vroom in F4 and IRL night street racing

**Chennai.** Chennai is all set to witness the Night Street racing from 31st August to 1st September in F4 and Indian Racing League. Two types of cars which will compete in the races were displayed on Marina beach next to 'Namma Chennai' sign to encourage the public who are going to witness the race for the first time in the City. For Formula 4, Mygale F4 Gen 2 cars with Alpine 13 litre, turbo engines reaching a speed of 210 kmph and for Indian Racing League, Wol Thunder GB08 with Aprilia RSVS 1.0 engine with a top speed of 240 kmph are set to be used. 18-year-old Ruhaan Alva, competing in the race said that he has been racing since he was seven years old. "I drove street track in Hyderabad and it was real fun and I'm expecting the same here. Racing circuits are



purpose-built just for racing but streets are particularly modified streets for an event and to choose between the two is a tough question", stated Rehaan Alva. 31-year-old Gabriella Jilkova from the Czech Republic started racing at the age of five with Karting and technically matured to race the current car, while in Europe she was driving GT

cars. "It's my third year competing in the Indian Racing League. I like India, it's different to Europe and I like to explore and I'm always happy to come back here. You can't compare racing in a circuit to driving in a street. If you are into cars, you will love the acceleration, downforce, braking and G force which is normally between 2 or 3," stated Gabriella.

## Chetan excited to race on street circuit

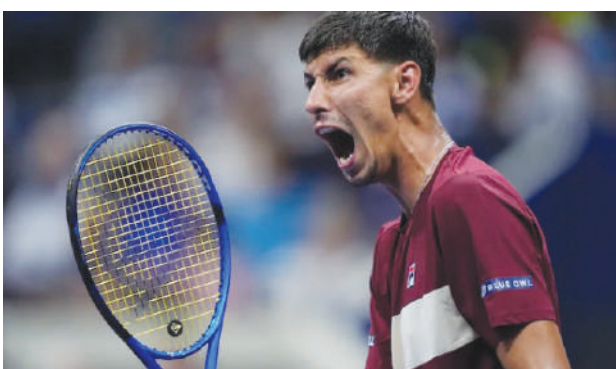
Chetan, from Chennai stated that competing in his home circuit said it was a wonderful feeling. "I've been racing for 18 years but never have I ever raced in a street circuit. I've seen night race in Bahrain and it is going to be challenging", stated Chetan. Being a paraplegic as both his legs were amputated in a very early age due to deformity.

## Who is Alexei Popyrin 25-year-old Australian dumps out Novak Djokovic in US Open

**New Delhi.** Alexei Popyrin clinched the biggest win of his career when he stunned defending champion Novak Djokovic in four sets at the US Open on Friday. The 25-year-old Australian made it to the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the first time in his career. Popyrin said was not able to believe what he had done over three hours at the Arthur Ashe Stadium, halting Djokovic's bid to win his first major of the year. In a thrilling match that lasted 3 hours and 18 minutes, Popyrin secured a 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 victory. Remarkably, Popyrin is the first Australian in 18 years to defeat Djokovic at a Grand Slam. Alexei Popyrin is an Australian tennis player whose career has been marked by impressive performances and steady progress through the ranks. Born on August 5, 1999, in Sydney to Russian parents, Popyrin's diverse cultural background is reflected in his ability to speak three languages: English, Russian, and Spanish. His journey in tennis began at a young age, and he quickly made a name for himself by peaking at No. 2 in the junior rankings. A major milestone in his early career was winning the 2017 Roland Garros boys' singles title, a victory that hinted at his potential on the professional circuit.

That moment for Alexei Popyrin [pic.twitter.com/DbAMvn4rGJ](https://pic.twitter.com/DbAMvn4rGJ) — US Open Tennis (@usopen) August 31, 2024

Popyrin's career so far Popyrin's professional career has been a story of gradual ascent. He won his first ATP title at the Singapore Open in 2021, followed by a second title at the 2023 Croatia Open, where he defeated three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka in the final. His success continued in 2024, when he claimed his third title at the Canadian Open in Montreal, a Masters 1000 event. Ranked



No. 62 at the time, Popyrin stunned the tennis world by defeating several top-20 players, including three who were ranked in the top 10. His victory over fifth seed Andrey Rublev in the final was a testament to his growing confidence and ability to compete with the best.

Popyrin vs Djokovic Popyrin's match-up against Novak Djokovic

has become a recurring theme in 2024. The two have faced each other in three Grand Slam events this year, barring Roland Garros, with each encounter showcasing Popyrin's potential to challenge the elite player. Their first meeting was at the Australian Open 2024, where Popyrin managed to take a set from the 24-time Grand Slam champion and had several chances to win another. Although he eventually lost the match, his performance was a clear indication of his ability to push even the greatest players to their limits.

Their second encounter came at Wimbledon 2024, where Popyrin again proved to be a tough opponent for Djokovic. He won the opening set and put up a strong fight before the Serb eventually took the match in four sets. However, it was their third meeting at the US Open that marked a significant milestone in Popyrin's career. "Third time lucky I guess, obviously we had some battles at Australian Open, at Wimbledon, I had chances to win those matches but couldn't take it. This match was a little bit different I was able to take my chances when I had them and yeah played some good tennis," said Popyrin said after the game.



handed batter didn't have a memorable time in the league scoring just 82 runs from seven innings at an average of 11.71 and a strike rate of 113.88.

His highest score of the tournament came against Gulbarga Mystics where he scored 33 (24) with the help of four fours and a six. Meanwhile, apart from him, Uttar Pradesh's Mohamed Amaan will be seen leading the One-Day squad in the upcoming series while Soham Patwardhan will be seen leading the team in the four-day matches. Notably, India U-19 will take on Australia U-19 in three 50-over games on September 21, 23 and 26 in Puducherry followed by two four-day matches in Chennai beginning from September 30.

## Gus Atkinson on 'surreal' achievement of century at Lord's: 'Hasn't sunk in yet'

Gus Atkinson scored maiden Test hundred at Lord's

Atkinson became 6th player with a century and 10-fer at Lord's

Atkinson scored 118 (115) smashing 14 fours and four sixes

**New Delhi.** England fast bowler Gus Atkinson said that he never thought that he would get his name on the Lord's honours board as a batter after scoring his maiden Test hundred on Day 2 of the second Test against Sri Lanka. Notably, Atkinson played a magnificent innings of 118 (115) with the help of 14 fours and four sixes to help England reach a good score of 427 in the first innings. Coming in to bat at number 8,

Atkinson got involved in a crucial 92-run stand for the seventh wicket with Joe Root and later added 85 runs for the ninth wicket with Matthew Potts (21) to bring England in a commanding position. Reacting to his maiden Test hundred at the home of cricket, Atkinson called the entire experience surreal and said that he never thought about having his name in the honorary list. "It was very surreal, I don't think it has sunk in yet. To be out there and score a 100 - I didn't ever think I would be on the Lord's honours board for batting, so a pretty cool day. My dad, brother and sister were here - it's my brother's birthday so it was a nice treat for him - then a few mates as well," said Atkinson after the Day's play. Further speaking ahead, Atkinson revealed that he was under pressure after a chat with his



teammates but relished the achievement with a smile on Day 2. Atkinson's entry in elite club I went for dinner with Zak [Crawley] and [Harry Brook] last night and they were saying 'Oh yeah, it took me five Tests to get a hundred' and stuff, so there was a bit of pressure on there. It is hard not to smile in that situation. I don't think I cracked

a smile when I was walking off but it was hard not to," he added. Following his century, Atkinson got his name in the elite list as he became just the sixth player to score a hundred and take a ten-wicket haul at Lord's. Earlier, he got his career off to a remarkable start picking a 12-wicket haul on debut against West Indies in July. He now has his name in all three honours board at the historic venue namely players with five wicket haul, ten wicket haul and a century. The 26-year-old took just four innings to complete the feat, becoming the fastest player to do so. Meanwhile, England finished Day 2 on top of the game as they bundled out Sri Lanka for 196 to take a massive 231-run lead in the first innings. They finished the day on 25/1 after seven overs with Ben Duckett (15\*).

# Sara Ali Khan



## Looks Chic In Athleisure, Smiles At Paps As She Steps Out From Gym, Video Goes Viral

Sara Ali Khan is a fitness lover and never misses it. She is often seen exiting the gym and sharing her pilates session workout. Today, Sara was once again snapped in the city. She was seen coming out of the gym in a chic athleisure. The video has gone viral. In the video, shared by Snehzala, we can see Sara wearing a green colour shorts and a white top. She completed the look with a multi-colour sling bag. While heading towards her car, Sara smiled at Paps. She even posed for them. The actress recently shared a photo with her co-star Aditya Roy Kapur and director Anurag Basu, which has undoubtedly increased the excitement among fans. Moreover, Aditya reshared the picture on his Instagram handle. The latest post shows the duo with their Metro In Dino director, Anurag Basu. The trio was spotted making faces and wearing goofy expressions as they



posed for a selfie. The silly photograph appears to have been taken in a clinic set up. Another picture showed the trio posing with other crew members as well. The actors also made a collaborative post with the goofy selfie and wrote, "Metro In Dino Madness mein hum Teeno."

"Metro In Dino is a sequel to 2007's Life In A Metro. The film, directed by Anurag Basu, will also star Pankaj Tripathi, Neena Gupta, Konkona Sensharma, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Ali Fazal and others in leading parts. The film was originally intended to be released in September, but it was postponed to April earlier this year. It will now be released on November 29 in theatres.

In a conversation with Karan Johar on his popular show, Koffee With Karan, Sara Ali Khan talked about her equation with Kareena Kapoor Khan. When the host joked about whether Saif Ali Khan had ever asked her to address Kareena as her 'Chhoti Maa,' the Kedarnath actor said, "I think Kareena would have a nervous breakdown if I was to call her chhoti maa." The actor further added that Kareena would be like, "What? No!" Talking about the same, the Murder Mubarak actor Sara said, "I used to be like, 'What should I call her? Kareena? Auntie?'" Then, her father, Saif Ali Khan, told her, "You don't want to call her auntie!" Laughing at her chatter with her father, Sara Ali Khan concluded by saying that she calls her 'K' or 'Kareena.'

## Did Justin Bieber and Hailey's Friend Accidentally Reveal Baby Jack's Real Birthdate?



Justin and Hailey Bieber recently delighted fans by announcing the arrival of their newborn son, though they kept his exact birth date under wraps. However, their close friend, British model Adwoa Aboah, may have unintentionally revealed the date. Justin officially introduced their son, Jack Blue Bieber, on August 24, sharing a photo of his tiny foot on Instagram. On August 28, Adwoa posted heartwarming photos of her baby daughter, Shy Trinity Afua Wheatley, born on August 23, alongside her husband, American skateboarder Daniel Wheatley. When Hailey left an enthusiastic comment on Adwoa's post, her response, "A day apart," led fans to speculate that Jack might have been born on August 22. As of now, neither Justin nor Hailey has confirmed their son's exact birth date.

According to Mirror US, Justin and Hailey Bieber's choice of name for their son, Jack Blue Bieber, holds special significance for the couple. The name "Blue" is particularly meaningful, as it is also the middle name of Justin's father, Jeremy Bieber. This name choice continues a long-standing Bieber family tradition of using the initials "JB." Justin's half-siblings, Jazmyn and Jaxon, also share this pattern, making it a cherished family custom. Interestingly, the only exception in the family is Jeremy's youngest daughter, Bay Lynn, whose name does not follow this tradition.

After welcoming the son, a source close to the new parents told People, "They're both overjoyed. The baby is such a miracle. He's adorable and doing well. Hailey's doing well, too. The pregnancy was something that they very much wished and prayed for. The day they found out that Hailey was pregnant was the best ever for Justin. He was over the moon with excitement. It was a big celebration for them. Justin's already a great dad."

## Pyaar Ka Punchnama Actress Ishita Raj 'LOVES' Hardik Pandya, Says 'It Is Fun To...'



Kartik Aaryan's Pyaar Ka Punchnama actress Ishita Raj has said that she 'loves' Hardik Pandya. In a recent interview, Ishita was asked about the cricketer when she admitted having a crush on him and shared that she is really fond of Pandya. "He is a great cricket all-rounder. It is fun to watch him bat. I love him, he is really one of my favourite cricketers," she told Filmigyan. Interestingly, this comes at a time when Hardik is rumoured to be dating singer Jasmin Walia. Speculations regarding their dating life began last month after eagle-eyed followers noticed that the two shared photos on Instagram by the same pool, with the scenic Greek landscape in the background.

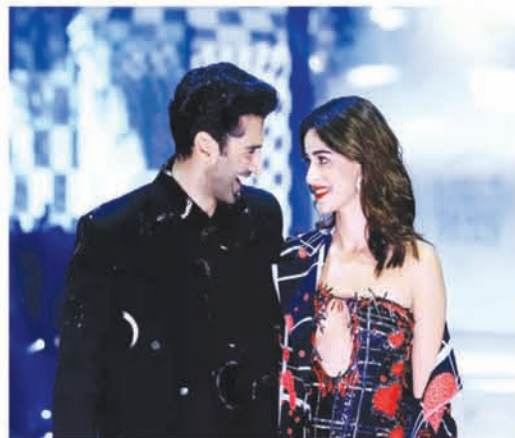
Jasmin posted a sultry picture of herself in a blue bikini, covered with a breezy blue shirt, stylishly posed by a pool with the stunning Mykonos scenery behind her. Her look was completed with a wide-brimmed straw hat and oversized sunglasses, adding to the chic vacation vibes. On the other hand, Hardik shared a video of himself walking around the same pool, dressed in a casual yet fashionable outfit consisting of cream-colored pants, a patterned shirt, and sunglasses. The matching backgrounds in their posts sparked a wave of curiosity among fans. Hardik Pandya was previously married to Natasa Stankovic. The two, who tied the knot in May 2020 and renewed their wedding vows according to the Hindu and Christian rituals in February 2023, confirmed their separation in July 2024. They issued a joint statement and mentioned that it was a "tough decision" for both of them and added that they w

"After 4 years of being together, Hardik and I have decided to mutually part ways. We tried our best together and gave it our all, and we believe this is in the best interest for the both of us.

# Ananya Panday

## Aditya Roy Kapur Have Eyes Only For Each Other, Rumoured Exes Surprise Fans

Ananya Panday and Aditya Roy Kapur were rumoured to be dating for two years until they reportedly broke up in June this year. Ananya Panday's rumoured relationship with Aditya Roy Kapur has often hit headlines. Now, a brand collaboration video has been released, nearly two months after their breakup, in which the actors can't take their eyes off each other. Ananya and Aditya shot for this eyewear brand a little while before they broke up. Several video campaigns were released after the alleged breakup. However, the release of this video, nearly two months later, has surprised fans. In the video, Ananya Panday could be seen smiling brightly as Aditya Roy Kapur looked at her lovingly. Ananya also shared the video on her Instagram Story.



One person wrote, "How can this possible...babu mushay it's Bollywood." Another added, "Omg, I don't know how this will happen but I want to see them together." Another commented, "Hope they are together." One fan asked, "Are they together again?" Another wrote, "This is so weird."

While the duo never confirmed their relationship, their public appearances and several confessions during interviews were proof enough for fans. It started after Ananya appeared on Koffee With Karan 7 last year. The actress was talking about relationships when Karan Johar dropped a hint that she and Aditya could be together. After that, Ananya and Aditya enjoyed a romantic getaway in

Europe. Previously, Ananya and Aditya attended an Arctic Monkeys concert together in Madrid. Aditya and Ananya reportedly dated for almost two years. In June, the latter took the internet by storm with her cryptic post. The post hinted that they'd broken up. "If it is truly meant for you, it will come back to you. It will leave only for the sake of teaching you the lessons you could only learn on your own. If it is truly meant for you, it will return even if you've pushed it away, even if you're in denial, even if you assume something so beautiful could never be truly yours - because if it's truly meant for you, it is never not a piece of you. It is never not intricately tied into the depths of your soul," read the quote shared by Ananya on her handle. She captioned it as "Monday Manifesting" alongside a thank you, an evil eye, and a blue butterfly emoji.

