



Sanjay Dutt And Maanayata...

मंदिर-मस्जिद विवादों पर अभी आदेश नहीं सुना सकती अदालतें

AGENCY NEW DELHI :

गुरुवार को देश में मंदिर-मस्जिद विवादों पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट में सुनवाई हुई। कोर्ट ने कहा कि अदालतें ऐसे मामलों में कोई ऑर्डर न दें और न ही सर्वे के आदेश जारी करें। सुप्रीम कोर्ट की 3 मمبر वाली बेंच प्लेसेज ऑफ वशिष्ठ एक्ट (विशेष प्रावधानों) 1991 की कुछ धाराओं की वैधता पर दाखिल याचिकाओं की सुनवाई कर रही थी। एक्ट के खिलाफ सीपीआई-एम, इंडियन मुस्लिम लीग, पनसीपी शरद पवार, राजद पमपी मनोज कुमार झा समेत 6 पार्टियों ने याचिका लगाई है। बेंच ने कहा, हम इस कानून के दायरे, उसकी शक्तियों और ढांचे को जांच रहे हैं। ऐसे में यही उचित होगा कि बाकी सभी अदालतें अपने हाथ रोक लें। सुनवाई के दौरान सीजेआई संजीव खन्ना ने कहा- हमारे सामने 2 मामले हैं, मथुरा की शाही इदगाह और वाराणसी की ज्ञानवापी मस्जिद। तभी अदालत को बताया गया कि देश में ऐसे 18 से ज्यादा मामले लंबित हैं।

सीजेआई संजीव खन्ना बोले- सुनवाई तक कोई नया मंदिर-मस्जिद विवाद दाखिल नहीं होगा

सर्वे का आदेश भी नहीं दे सकेंगे नीचे के कोर्ट, केंद्र सरकार से चार सप्ताह में मांगा गया हलफनामा

प्लेसेज ऑफ वशिष्ठ एक्ट 1991 की कुछ धाराओं की वैधता पर दाखिल याचिकाओं की सुनवाई



हमारे सामने 2 मामले हैं, मथुरा की शाही इदगाह और वाराणसी की ज्ञानवापी मस्जिद : सुप्रीम कोर्ट

जब तक जवाब नहीं दाखिल होगा हम सुनवाई नहीं कर सकते : कोर्ट

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने केंद्र सरकार से याचिकाओं पर 4 हफ्ते में अपना पक्ष रखने को कहा। सीजेआई संजीव खन्ना ने कहा- जब तक केंद्र जवाब नहीं दाखिल करता है, हम सुनवाई नहीं कर सकते। हमारे अगले आदेश तक ऐसा कोई नया केस दाखिल ना किया जाए। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने वशिष्ठ एक्ट पर सुनवाई करते हुए कहा, केंद्र के जवाब तक सुनवाई नहीं होगी। कोर्ट

ने केंद्र सरकार को हलफनामा दाखिल करने का निर्देश दिया है। साथ ही कहा कि जवाब की कॉपी सभी याचिकाकर्ता को दे। सीजेआई संजीव खन्ना, जस्टिस संजय कुमार और जस्टिस केवी विश्वनाथन की पीठ इस मामले में सुनवाई कर रही है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सुनवाई करते हुए कहा, आप भरे ऊपर छोट दीजिए। कोर्ट ने कहा, कई मामले यहां विचाराधीन हैं।

याचिका के पक्ष-विपक्ष में तर्क

हिंदू पक्ष : भाजपा नेता और एडवोकेट अश्विनी उपाध्याय, सुब्रह्मण्य स्वामी, कलावाचक देवकीशंकर ठाकुर, कश्मी की राजकुमारी कृष्ण प्रिया, धर्मगुरु स्वामी जितेंद्रनाथ सरस्वती, रिटायर्ड आर्मी ऑफिसर अनिल कंबोज, एडवोकेट चंद्रशेखर, रूद्र विक्रम सिंह, वाराणसी इन्क अलावा कुछ अन्य ने याचिका लगाई है। इन लोगों ने प्लेसेज ऑफ वशिष्ठ एक्ट-1991 को अस्वीकारिक घोषित करने की मांग की है।

मुस्लिम पक्ष : जमीयत उलमा-ए-हिंद, इंडियन मुस्लिम परसल लॉ बोर्ड, ज्ञानवापी मस्जिद का प्रबंधन करने वाली अंजुमन इस्लामिया मस्जिद कमेटी, राजद सांसद मनोज झा ने भी इस मामले में याचिका दायर की है। जमीयत का तर्क है कि एक्ट के खिलाफ याचिकाओं पर विचार करने से पूरे देश में मस्जिदों के खिलाफ मुकदमों की बाढ़ आ जाएगी।

क्या है वशिष्ठ एक्ट

1991 में कांग्रेस सरकार एक कानून लेकर आई थी, जिसे प्लेसेज ऑफ वशिष्ठ एक्ट कहा जाता है। इस एक्ट के अनुसार 15 अगस्त 1947 से पहले अस्तित्व में आए किसी भी धार्मिक स्थल को दूसरे धर्म के पूजा स्थल में नहीं बदला जा सकता है। इसमें सजा का भी प्रावधान था। उल्लंघन करने वाले को तीन साल जेल की सजा और जुमानों का प्रावधान है। इस एक्ट को हिंदू पक्ष ने संशोधित करने की मांग की है, जबकि मुस्लिम पक्ष ने संशोधन का विरोध किया है। प्लेसेज ऑफ वशिष्ठ एक्ट 1991 को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई के दौरान अधिवक्ता अश्विनी उपाध्याय ने कहा, अपोजिट पक्ष ने कहा है कि देशभर में एक 18 स्थान हैं, जहां पर संशोधन कराने का जो आदेश दिया गया है, उसे रोक दिया जाए। हमने इसका विरोध किया क्योंकि प्लेसेज ऑफ वशिष्ठ एक्ट 1991 धार्मिक चरित्र की बात करता है।

SHARE

सेंसेक्स : 81,289.96

निफ्टी : 24,548.70

SARAFI

सोना : 7,465

चांदी : 104.00

(नोट : सोना 22 केरट प्रति ग्राम)

विधानसभा के विशेष सत्र के आखिरी दिन दमदार अंदाज में बोले सीएम हेमंत सोरेन

अबुआ सरकार का श्वेत पत्र है अभिभाषण

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :

गुरुवार को विधानसभा के विशेष सत्र के चौथे और अंतिम दिन राज्यपाल के अभिभाषण पर सरकार की ओर से मुख्यमंत्री हेमंत सोरेन ने दमदार अंदाज में जवाब दिया। कहा कि यह अभिभाषण सदन में अब तक पढ़े गए सभी अभिभाषणों में सबसे छोटा और सबसे स्पष्ट एवं प्रभावशाली है। यह अभिभाषण अबुआ सरकार का श्वेत पत्र है। सरकार क्या करना चाहती है और राज्य को किस दिशा में ले जाना चाहती है, इससे साफ हो रहा है। सीएम ने कहा कि देश की तमाम बड़ी कंपनियों जैसे- सेल, बोकॉरो स्टील, एचईसी, सिंदरी खाद फेक्ट्री इसी राज्य में लगीं। इसके बाद भी समझ से परे है कि यहां के लोग भूमिहीन होने लगे, विस्थापित और बेरोजगार होने लगे।

जनता ने उड़ाए गए मजाक का दिया करारा जवाब

पलायन करने लगे। यह बहुत गंभीर विषय रहा है। हमने झारखंड राज्य के लिए लड़ाई लड़ी। तब देश में सामंती विचार के लोग राज्य आंदोलन के अग्रणी नेताओं पर कटाक्ष करते थे। कहते थे मांडी लोग राज्य ले जाएंगे। ये लोग हड्डिया दारू पीकर पेड़ के नीचे पड़ा रहेगा। लेकिन, ऐसा नहीं हुआ। हमने लंबी लड़ाई लड़ी और असंभव को संभव कर दिखाया।

सीएम से मिलीं आजसू नेत्री नीरू शांति भगत

इधर, आजसू नेत्री नीरू शांति भगत ने मुख्यमंत्री हेमंत सोरेन से मुलाकात की। इस मुलाकात के बाद नीरू शांति भगत के झामुमो में शामिल होने की चर्चा शुरू हो गई है। विधानसभा चुनाव में नीरू शांति भगत ने लोहरदगा से आजसू के टिकट पर चुनाव लड़ा था।

मुख्यमंत्री ने विपक्ष को लिया निशाने पर, अपनी सरकार की गिनाई उपलब्धियां

- राज्य के लिए हमने लंबी लड़ाई लड़ी और असंभव को कर दिया संभव
- 2019 में हमने राज्य के विकास की नींव डाली, अब बनानी है भव्य बिल्डिंग
- फेल हो गया महागठबंधन की सरकार को गिराने के लिए अपनाया गया हथकंडा
- साफ है हमारा लक्ष्य, हर वर्ग के सपने को करेंगे साकार
- विकास के लिए विपक्ष के साथियों से भी सीएम ने की सहयोग की अपील
- स्पेशल सेशन के अंतिम दिन विपक्ष ने सदन के बाहर किया प्रदर्शन

प्रोजेक्ट भवन से नहीं, गांव-पंचायत से चलेगी सरकार, 2019 के बाद से ही दिखने लगा था वास्तविक परिवर्तन



आंदोलन की उपज है झारखंड, स्वाभिमानी हैं यहां के लोग

सामंती विचार वाले लोग हमारे नेताओं पर करते थे कटाक्ष

खून से सींचा गया राज्य है झारखंड तत्परता-सजगता से करेंगे हर काम

सीएम ने कहा कि भाजपा कहती है कि अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी ने सरकार बनाई। ऐसा सही है। सरकार बनी, पर राज्य के लोगों को हक नहीं मिला। राज्य के आंदोलन में कितनों से जान गवाई। इस पीढ़ी को हम समझ सकते हैं। उन्होंने सवाल उठाते हुए कहा कि साल 2000 से 2019 तक इस राज्य को क्या मिला। उस समय (साल 2000 से 2019 तक) यहां हाथ में राशन कार्ड लेकर लोग भात-भात कर मर गए। किसानों ने आत्महत्या की। यह हाल भाजपा ने राज्य का कर डाला। साल 2019 में महागठबंधन की सरकार बनी। तब भी इन्होंने सरकार गिराने के लिए कौन से हथकंडे नहीं अपनाए। इनका हर हथकंडा फेल हो गया। हेमंत ने कहा कि अभिभाषण में सब कुछ साफ है। यह सरकार



प्रोजेक्ट बिल्डिंग से चलने वाली नहीं, गांव से चलने वाली सरकार है। हम जिस तत्परता से पहले काम किए, इस बार भी ऐसा ही करेंगे। जब तक गांव का विकास नहीं होगा, तब तक राज्य का विकास नहीं होगा। झारखंड संघर्ष की ऊपज है। खून से सींचा गया राज्य है झारखंड। हमारा लक्ष्य साफ है। हर वर्ग के सपने को पूरा करेंगे। कहा कि 2019 में हमने राज्य के

विकास की नींव डाली। अब बिल्डिंग बनाना है। मैं बोलने का इच्छुक नहीं, काम कर के दिखाना चाहता हूँ। राज्य अलग होने के बाद परिवर्तन दिखा है, तो साल 2019 के बाद ही दिखा है। सीएम ने कहा कि देश का पहला राज्य झारखंड है, जिसने मजदूरों के लिए कानून बनाया है। विकास के लिए विपक्ष के साथियों से भी सहयोग की अपेक्षा होगी।

कल्पना सोरेन बोलों झारखंड को समर्पित है अबुआ सरकार

राज्यपाल के अभिभाषण पर धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव के समर्थन में बोलते हुए झामुमो विधायक कल्पना सोरेन ने कहा कि यह अपने की सरकार है। अबुआ सरकार झारखंड को समर्पित है। अभिभाषण में इच्छाशक्ति है, जो खुशहाली देने वाली है। उन्होंने कहा कि एक-एक शब्द को धरातल पर उतारेंगे। जनदेश महागठबंधन को मिला है। क्रांतिकारी योजनाओं का सीधा काम मिलेगा। केंद्र की योजनाओं में राज्य के गरीब-गुराबों की चिंता नहीं है। किसानों का ऋण माफ किया गया है। झारखंड में झामुमो की अपनी पहचान रही है। ये राज्य झामुमो की उपज है। यह जनदेश आदिवासी-मूलवासियों ने दिया। मंत्री राधाकृष्ण किशोर ने जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन के वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 और 2021-22 का वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन सदन में रखा।

डेमोग्राफी का बदलना चिंता की बात

अंकगणित में भाजपा पीछे रही पर वोट में आगे : बाबूलाल

अभिभाषण पर अपनी राय रखने के दौरान भाजपा विधायक बाबूलाल मरांडी ने कहा कि भाजपा अंकगणित में पीछे रही, पर वोट में आगे रही। भाजपा के 37.37 फीसदी वोट मिले, जबकि कांग्रेस को 15.56 फीसदी ही वोट मिले। सत्ता पक्ष पर निशाना साधते हुए कहा कि वे जिन मुख्यमंत्रियों का नाम ले रहे हैं, उनका खोफ आज भी सत्ता पक्ष में दिखाई दे रहा है। उन्होंने वाईबासा के गुदरी का जिक्र करते हुए कहा कि आज लोग वहां जाने से कतरा रहे हैं। संदरा कर लोगों को मारा जा रहा है। कानून को जनता हाथ में ले रही है, पुलिस कोई काम की नहीं है। वहां जाकर देखा चाहिए। बाबूलाल ने कहा कि डेमोग्राफी का बदलना चिंता की बात है। सशाल परगना सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित है। झारखंड में एनआरसी करा दें तो पता चल जाएगा कि कौन कहां से आया है। उन्होंने कहा कि राज्यपाल के अभिभाषण में बहाली की चर्चा की गई है, लेकिन सीजेआईल



रिजल्ट का विरोध हो रहा है। इसकी सीबीआई से जांच कराए, दूध का दूध और पानी का पानी हो जाएगा। झारखंड की बुनियाद को बर्बाद किया जा रहा है। धान खरीद और मईयां योजना की चर्चा हो रही है। लेकिन, रांची डीसी ने सभी बीडीओ को पत्र जारी कर कहा है कि अयोग्य की पहचान कर पेसा वसुली की जाए। इससे पूरे राज्य की महिलाएं संशकित हैं। सरकार बालू की नीलामी नहीं कर पा रही है। बालू घाटों की नीलामी नहीं होने तक गृह निर्माण के लिए बालू फ्री किया जाए। बालू घाट लूटा जा रहा है। अबुआ आवास और प्रधानमंत्री आवास के लिए बालू नहीं मिल रहा।

कांग्रेस विधायक दल के नेता बने प्रदीप यादव

आखिरकार कांग्रेस का विधायक दल का नेता मिल गया है। पार्टी आलकमान ने प्रदीप यादव के नाम पर मुहर लगा दी है। जानकारी के अनुसार, इसकी सूचना स्पीकर को भी दे दी गई है। वहीं राजेश कच्छप को उपनेता बनाया गया है। कुमार जयमंगल को कांग्रेस विधायक दल का मुख्य सचिव बनाया गया है।

मथुरा प्रसाद महतो बने झामुमो के मुख्य सचिव

झामुमो विधायक मथुरा प्रसाद महतो को झामुमो का मुख्य सचिव बनाया गया है। सदन में इसकी घोषणा की गई। वहीं वित्त मंत्री राधाकृष्ण किशोर से जिला खनिज फाउंडेशन के वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 और 2021-22 का वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन सदन में रखा।

संकट का संकेत जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण पोषक तत्वों में आई गिरावट

कठिन हो रहा चावल की गुणवत्ता को संतुलित रखना

AGENCY NEW DELHI :

हमारे जीवन के लिए जरूरी भोजन के पोषक तत्वों में कार्बोहाइड्रेट महत्वपूर्ण है। कार्बोहाइड्रेट को भोजन में संतुलित रूप से बनाए रखने के लिए चावल सबसे बड़ा स्रोत माना जाता है। शरीर को लगभग 400 ग्राम कार्बोहाइड्रेट की जरूरत प्रतिदिन होती है। इसकी प्राप्ति मूलतः चावल और आटे से होती है। बढ़ती जनसंख्या के हिसाब से देखा जाए तो आवश्यकता के अनुसार चावल के उत्पादन और पोषण के हिसाब से उसकी क्वालिटी को मॉनिटर करना आज के क्लाइमेट चेंज के नेचर की स्थिति में अत्यंत कठिन है। हाल के विशेष अध्ययन से यह जानकारी सामने आई है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन और बढ़ता तापमान पूर्वी एशिया में चावल की पैदावार व गुणवत्ता में गिरावट लाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रहे हैं। रात का तापमान चावल की गुणवत्ता में कमी का मुख्य कारण है। तापमान में गिरावट की बड़ी सीमा जापान में 12 और चीन में 18 डिग्री सेल्सियस पर शुरू होती है।

जियोफिजिकल रिसर्च लेटर्स में प्रकाशित शोध अध्ययन में सामने आई सच्चाई

35 वर्षों में एकत्र किए गए आंकड़ों के आधार पर किया गया विस्तृत विश्लेषण

- तापमान वृद्धि के समय अनाज में स्टार्च जमा होने की कम हो जाती है दर
- बाढ़ती गर्मी के कारण चीन और जापान जैसे देशों में गंभीर हो रही समस्या
- मविच्छ में खाद्य आपूर्ति, मानव पोषण और आर्थिक स्थिरता के लिए खतरा



आवश्यकता के हिसाब से उत्पादन की स्थिति भी लगातार हो रही कमजोर

अभी नहीं सूझ रहे कारगर उपाय

अध्ययन में यह भी पाया गया कि वर्ष 2020 और 2100 के बीच चीन के लिए 1.5 फीसदी की कमी की संभावना है। जैसे-जैसे मॉडल उत्सर्जन बढ़ता है, 2050 के बाद एचआरआर में और अधिक कमी आने का अनुमान है।

रांची के पूर्व डीसी छवि रंजन को झटका, कोर्ट ने नहीं दी जमानत

RANCHI : गुरुवार को सेना के कब्जे की भूमि वाली जमीन की अर्द्ध तरीके से खरीद-बिक्री से जुड़े लैड स्कैम केस के आरोपी रांची के पूर्व डीसी छवि रंजन को बेल देने से रांची पीएमएलए (प्रीवेन्शन आफ मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग एक्ट) की विशेष अदालत ने इनकार कर दिया। सोमवार को सभी पक्षों की ओर से सुनवाई पूरी होने के बाद कोर्ट ने बेल पर फैसला सुरक्षित रख लिया था। गुरुवार को कोर्ट ने अपना फैसला सुनाया। इस मामले में ईडी की ओर से विशेष लोक अभियोजक शिव कुमार उर्फ काका जी ने बहस की। ईडी ने इस संबंध में कांड संख्या 01/2023 दर्ज किया है। लैड स्कैम की अब तक की जांच में अमित अग्रवाल, दिलीप घोष, रांची के पूर्व उपायुक्त छवि रंजन, बड़ाईअं अंवल के राज्य उय निरीक्षक भानु प्रताप प्रसाद, कथित रैपट प्रदीप बाग्वी, जमीन कारोबारी अक्षर अली, इम्तियाज खान, तल्हा खान, फैजाब खान व मोहम्मद सदात को गिरफ्तार कर चुकी है।

एक वीडियो शेयर कर बताया मिशन का महत्व महिला सशक्तीकरण को बढ़ावा दे रहा जल जीवन मिशन : पीएम

AGENCY NEW DELHI :

गुरुवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा कि जल जीवन मिशन, विशेष रूप से हमारे ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में महिला सशक्तीकरण को बढ़ावा दे रहा है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म 'एक्स' पर एक वीडियो पोस्ट साझा करते हुए लिखा, यह एक अच्छा परिदृश्य है कि किस प्रकार से जल जीवन मिशन महिला सशक्तीकरण को विशेष रूप से हमारे ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में आगे बढ़ा रहा है। अपने घर में ही स्वच्छ जल की उपलब्धता होने से महिलाएं अब कोशल विकास और आत्मनिर्भरता पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर सकती हैं। उल्लेखनीय है कि



- 15 अगस्त 2019 को इस मिशन को प्रधानमंत्री ने किया था लॉन्च
- 15.19 करोड़ से अधिक घरों तक पहुंचा यह मिशन

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने 15 अगस्त 2019 को जल जीवन मिशन को शुरूआत की थी।

BRIEF NEWS

16.5 लीटर देसी शराब के साथ धंधेबाज गिरफ्तार

ARARIYA : फारबिसगंज थाना पुलिस ने गुप्त सूचना के आधार पर थाना क्षेत्र के घोड़ाघाट वार्ड संख्या 17 में छापेमारी कर 16.5 लीटर देसी शराब के साथ एक धंधेबाज को गिरफ्तार किया। गिरफ्तार शराब का धंधेबाज घोड़ाघाट के ही वार्ड संख्या 17 का रहने वाला 25 वर्षीय चावला बेसरा पिता घेना बेसरा है। जानकारी फारबिसगंज थानाध्यक्ष राघवेंद्र कुमार सिंह ने देने हुए बताया कि छापेमारी टीम में पुलिस अवर निरीक्षक अमरेंद्र कुमार सिंह, सिपाही श्याम नारायण यादव और रंजन कुमार शामिल थे। गिरफ्तार शराब के धंधेबाज को गुरुवार को न्यायिक हिरासत में जेल भेज दिया गया है।

पूरुणिया में पांच किलो से अधिक स्मैक बरामद

PURNIYA : पूरुणिया पुलिस को बड़ी सफलता मिली है। पुलिस ने बेल्तौरी स्थित एन एच-31 पर वाहन चैकिंग के दौरान एक स्विफ्ट कार से पांच किलो से अधिक स्मैक बरामद की है। स्मैक की कीमत अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में एक करोड़ से अधिक आंकी गयी है। यह जानकारी गुरुवार को पूरुणिया की पुलिस अधीक्षक कार्तिकेश शर्मा ने दी। एसपी ने बताया कि थानाध्यक्ष मुफस्सिल थाना सशस्त्र बल के साथ रात्रि गश्ती के दौरान बेल्तौरी स्थित उल्ल-31 के ओवर बीज पर थे। इसी समय मरमा के तरफ से एक स्विफ्ट कार आ रही थी, जो पुलिस बल को देखकर पहले धीमी हुई। फिर घुमाकर भागने का प्रयास करने लगी। जब उस कार के पास पुलिस बल जाने लगी तो उस कार से एक व्यक्ति निकल कर भागने का प्रयास किया, तब तक पुलिस बल पकड़ लिया।

आईटी, कपड़ा, लेंडर इंडस्ट्री में बड़ा निवेश लाने की तैयारी में बिहार सरकार

PATNA : विकास के लिहाज से पिछड़े राज्यों की सूची में आने वाले बिहार की सूरत अब दल रही है। राज्य में अनुकूल नीतियों और कारोबार सुगमता की वजह से निवेश का आकर्षक स्थल बन रहा है। अदाणी समूह से लेकर कोका-कोला तक ने यहां अरबों डॉलर के निवेश की घोषणाएं की हैं। निवेश के लिए और भी कंपनियां यहां आने वाली हैं। राज्य के उद्योग और पर्यटन मंत्री नीतीश मिश्रा बिहार को एक ऐसे राज्य में बदलने में लगे हैं, जो पूर्वी भारत में निवेशकों के लिए प्रवेश द्वार बन सकता है। उनका कहना है, बिहार की औद्योगिक क्षमता असीमित है। बिहार धारणा का शिकार रहा है। लेकिन अब यह बदल रहा है। आईटी, कपड़ा, फूड प्रोसेसिंग और चमड़ा उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने पर बिहार सरकार का विशेष फोकस है।

लापता किशोर का शव तालाब से बरामद

CHAMPARAN : जिले के जीतना थाना क्षेत्र के बनकटवा गांव से लापता एक 14 वर्षीय छात्र का शव घर से पांच सौ मीटर दूर तालाब से बरामद किया गया। सूचना पर मौके पर पहुंची पुलिस ने मृतक के शव को कब्जे में लेकर पोस्टमार्टम के लिए मोतिहारी भेज दिया है। मृतक किशोर की पहचान जितना थाना के बनकटवा गांव निवासी उमेश साह के 14 वर्षीय बेटे रंजन कुमार के रूप में हुई है। घटना के संबंध में मृतक के परिजनो ने बताया कि बुधवार की शाम करीब चार बजे रंजन घर से लापता हो गया।

मोतिहारी में बड़ी कार्रवाई, तस्करों से पुलिस कर रही पूछताछ सात करोड़ रुपये के ड्रग्स के साथ 5 तस्कर गिरफ्तार

AGENCY MOTIHARI :

बिहार में पूर्ण शराबबंदी लागू होने के बाद भी तस्कर अब सुखा नशा भी चोरी छिपे लोगों तक पहुंचा रहे हैं। इधर, मोतिहारी पुलिस ने एनबीसी के साथ संयुक्त अभियान चलाकर गुरुवार को ड्रग्स तस्करों के खिलाफ बड़ी कार्रवाई की है। पुलिस ने छत्तौरी और रामगढ़वा थाना क्षेत्र में छापेमारी कर पांच तस्करों को गिरफ्तार किया। जिसके पास से पुलिस ने सात करोड़ रुपये की ड्रग्स बरामद की है। पुलिस ने छत्तौरी थाना क्षेत्र से लगभग 2 किलोग्राम हेरोइन बरामद की है, जबकि रामगढ़वा से ब्राउन शुगर बनाने के लिए इस्तेमाल होने वाले रसायन बरामद किए गए हैं। बरामद ड्रग्स की अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कीमत लगभग 7 करोड़ रुपये बताई जा

सीतामढ़ी में एनआईए की रेड, अब्दुल अलीम से चली तीन घंटे तक पूछताछ

AGENCY SITAMARHI :

बिहार के सीतामढ़ी जिले में 12 दिसंबर दिन गुरुवार को एनआईए का एकेशन देखने को मिला है। मिली जानकारी के अनुसार एनआईए को आतंकी संगठन के सदस्य की तलाश है। मॉडिया रिपोर्ट्स के मुताबिक एनआईए की कार्रवाई के दौरान मोबाइल फोन भी जब्त किया गया है। यह छापेमारी सीतामढ़ी के बाजपट्टी गोद में अब्दुल अलीम के घर पर हुई है। जानकारी के अनुसार, अब्दुल अलीम नाम के एक शख्स से जोर टीम ने पूछताछ भी की है। टीम ने फॉरेंसिक जांच के लिए अब्दुल अलीम का मोबाइल फोन भी जब्त कर लिया है। करीब तीन घंटे तक एनआईए की पूछताछ चली है। इस मामले में डीएसपी अनंतु दत्ता ने बताया कि जांच चल रही है। बिना जांच के कुछ भी कहना संभव नहीं है। कुछ महत्वपूर्ण बिंदुओं पर

प्रयागराज महाकुंभ में जाएंगे नीतीश योगी आदित्यनाथ ने भेजा निमंत्रण

AGENCY PATNA :

उत्तर प्रदेश के प्रयागराज में दिव्य और भव्य महाकुंभ 2025 का आयोजन किया जाएगा। बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार को यूपी के सीएम योगी आदित्यनाथ ने न्योता भेजा है। बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार, डिप्टी सीएम सम्राट चौधरी, विजय सिन्हा सहित बिहार सरकार के अन्य मंत्रियों को भी महाकुंभ में शामिल होने के लिए न्योता भेजा गया है। मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार से उत्तर प्रदेश के दो मंत्रियों ने आज मुलाकात की। उत्तर प्रदेश के सूक्ष्म लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यम खादी एवं ग्रामीण उद्योग मंत्री राकेश सचान और राज्य मंत्री स्वतंत्र प्रभार दयाशंकर सिंह ने शिष्टाचार मुलाकात की है। इस दौरान योगी सरकार के मंत्रियों ने महाकुंभ में आने के लिए उन्हें निमंत्रण पत्र भी सौंपा। योगी सरकार में मंत्री दयाशंकर सिंह ने कहा है कि महाकुंभ के निमंत्रण को मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार ने स्वीकार किया है। उन्होंने कहा है कि वह महाकुंभ



पुलिस गिरफ्तार में तस्कर।

रही है। पुलिस को इस बात की सूचना मिली थी कि नेपाल से भारी मात्रा में नशीला पदार्थ लाया जा रहा है, जिसके बाद एसपी स्वर्ण प्रभात के आदेश पर मोतिहारी

पुलिस और नारकोटिक्स कंट्रोल ब्यूरो (उज्ज) की टीम ने कार्रवाई की। इस दौरान पुलिस ने छापेमारी कर पांच तस्करों को गिरफ्तार कर लिया। पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार तस्करों

मुख्यमंत्री उद्यमी योजना के चयनित 16 लाभुकों को मिला 32 लाख का चेक

ARARIYA : समाहरणालय स्थित परमान सभागार में डीएम अनिल कुमार के द्वारा गुरुवार को उद्योग विभाग द्वारा संचालित मुख्यमंत्री उद्यमी योजना अंतर्गत चयनित एवं प्रशिक्षित लाभुकों के बीच वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 के कुल 16 लाभुकों को 32 लाख रुपये, प्रथम किस्त के रूप में वितरण किया गया इसमें पांच लाभुकों को सैकतिक चेक एवं शेष को स्वीकृत पत्र प्रदान किया गया। बिहार लघु उद्यमी योजना अंतर्गत वैसे लाभुकों, जिसके द्वारा प्रथम किस्त का उपयोग कर लिया गया है, उन्हें द्वितीय किस्त के रूप में एक लाख रुपए प्रति लाभुक कुल पांच घंटे तक उससे पूछताछ की है। टीम ने उसके मोबाइल को जब्त कर लिया है। इसके साथ ही स्थानीय थाने को अलीम की गतिविधियों पर नजर रखने का भी निर्देश दिया गया है।

से पूछताछ कर रही है। गिरफ्तार तस्करों में दो वैशाली जिले का रहने वाला है। गिरफ्तार तस्करों में रंजीत यादव, रूपेश यादव, सर्वेश यादव सहित अन्य शामिल है। बता दें कि बिहार में करीब 8 साल से पूर्ण शराबबंदी लागू है। इसके बाद भी लोगों तक असांनी से शराब पहुंचा दी जा रही है। इधर, इस कानून को कड़ाई से लागू कराने में पुलिस जुटी हुई है। लेकिन इसके बाद भी धंधेबाज अपनी आदतों से बाज नहीं आ रहे हैं। शराब के साथ-साथ अब सुखा नशा भी चोरी छिपे लोगों तक पहुंचा रहे हैं। लगातार नशीले पदार्थों और तस्करों के खिलाफ मोतिहारी पुलिस कार्रवाई करती आ रही है। पुलिस पूरे मामले की जांच में जुटी हुई है और तस्करों से पूछताछ कर रही है।

बेगूसराय में डीएम तुषार सिंगला को भीड़ ने बनाया बंधक, छुड़ाने के लिए पहुंची कई थानों की पुलिस

AGENCY BEGUSARAI :

बेगूसराय जिले से बड़ी खबर आ रही है, जहां पर उट तुषार सिंगला को भीड़ ने बंधक बना लिया। लोहियानगर गुमटी के नजदीक अवैध अतिक्रमण हटाने के विरोध में लोगों ने डीएम को बंधक बनाया था। सूचना मिलते ही डीएम को छुड़ाने के लिए आधा दर्जन से अधिक थाने की पुलिस मौके पर पहुंच गई। इसके बाद पूरा इलाका पुलिस छाबनी में बहल गया। इसके बाद मौके पर पहुंचे एसपी ने डीएम साहब को भीड़ से किसी तरह सुरक्षित निकाला। लोगों को कहना है कि यदि अतिक्रमण हटाना है तो फिर पहले उनके लिए वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की जाए। जानकारी के अनुसार रेलवे की ओर से लोहिया नगर गुमटी के पास बसे करीब 150 झोपपट्टी

अपराधियों ने घर से की लाखों रुपये के जेवरात और कैश की चोरी

NAWADA : नवादा जिले के कदिरगंज थाना क्षेत्र के माया बिगहा गांव स्थित एक घर में बेशकीमती सोने-चांदी के जेवरात और नगदी की चोरी अपराधियों ने कर ली। इस घटना की सूचना पड़ोसियों ने गृहस्वामी को गुरुवार को दी, जब उनके घर में सामन बिखरे पड़े देखे। खर दिखी पसवान के पुत्र नवीन कुमार पसवान का है। तीन कमरों में गोदरेज तोड़ कर चोरी की इस वारदात को अंजाम दिया गया। गृहस्वामी के मुताबिक चोरों ने 6 लाख 70 हजार रुपये के सोने-चांदी के गहने और 70 हजार रुपये नगद राशि की चोरी कर ली। घटनास्थल कदिरगंज थाना से चंद दूरी पर है। पॉइंट ने बताया कि वे घर पर नहीं थे और रोह मोड़ स्थित धर्मकांटा पर थे। पड़ोसियों की सूचना पर गुरुवार को जब वे लौटकर वापस घर आए तो देख कर तीन कमरों में गोदरेज को क्षतिग्रस्त कर दिया गया। बड़ी भाभी के चार लाख रुपये के सोने-चांदी के गहने और 70 हजार रुपये गायब थे। वहीं पत्नी का दो लाख रुपये के सोने-चांदी जेवरात भी गायब मिले।



वाले घरों को हटाने का नोटिस दिया गया था। जिसे हटाने के लिए गुरुवार की सुबह रेल पुलिस जेसीबी लेकर लोहिया नगर गुमटी के पास पहुंची थी। इस दौरान लोगों ने अतिक्रमण हटाने का विरोध कर रहे थे। तभी जिलाधिकारी रेलवे गुमटी के पास संग्रहालय में निरीक्षण करने पहुंचे थे। लोगों को जानकारी मिली कि

बिहार के हर घर पहुंचेंगी मुफ्त दवाइयां

मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार ने 109 औषधि वाहनों को किया रवाना



हरी झंडी दिखाकर रथ को रवाना करते सीएम नीतीश व अन्य।

बड़े स्तर पर शहरी एवं ग्रामीण लोगों को लाभ पहुंचेगा। इस अवसर पर मुख्यमंत्री स्वागत विकास आयुक्त सह स्वास्थ्य विभाग के अपर मुख्य सचिव प्रत्यय अमृत ने हरित पौधा भेंटकर किया। इन मुफ्त औषधि वाहनों को प्रथम एवं द्वितीय स्तर पर संचालित किया जाएगा। 38 जिला मुख्यालयों से प्रखंड मुख्यालय तक 38 मुफ्त औषधि वाहनों को प्रथम एवं द्वितीय स्तर पर संचालित किया जाएगा। पहले स्तर पर जिला औषधि केंद्र से स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों में दवाइयां पहुंचाई जाएंगी।

होकर संग्रहालय के अंदर चले गए। घटना की सूचना मिलते ही बेगूसराय जिले के आधा दर्जन थाना की पुलिस सहित बड़ी संख्या में पुलिस लाइन के पुलिसकर्मी डीएम को छुड़ाने के लिए पहुंचे थे। लोगों के आक्रोश को देखते हुए फिलहाल रेल पुलिस ने अतिक्रमण हटाने का काम स्थगित कर दिया। एसपी, डीएसपी, बीडीओ समेत कई बड़े अधिकारी लोगों को समझाने की कोशिश की। मौके पर एसडीओ राजीव कुमार, डीएसपी सुबोध कुमार, बीडीओ रविशंकर कुमार समेत पुलिस लाइन से पहुंची अतिरिक्त पुलिस बल ने काफी मशकत के बाद आक्रोशित भीड़ को हटाया। जिसके बाद डीएम के गाड़ी को वहां से निकाल कर रवाना किया गया।

मामा ने भांजी को लगाया 3 करोड़ का चूना आधार, पैन और फोटो लेकर किया बड़ा कांड

AGENCY MUZAFFARPUR :

बिहार के मुजफ्फरपुर में रिश्ते के मामा ने पैसों की लालच में भांजी को भी नहीं छोड़ा उसकी दुकान के जीएसटी नंबर का दुरुपयोग करके तीन करोड़ का चूना लगा दिया। पॉइंटाने साइबर थाने में मामा के खिलाफ लिखित शिकायत की है। आरोपी मारा अजय कुमार चौधरी दरभंगा डडार गोविंदपुर गांव का निवासी है। पॉइंट भांजी श्वेता मुजफ्फरपुर के बेनीबाद की निवासी है। पुलिस मामले की छानबीन कर रही है। इधर तीन करोड़ की जीएसटी बकाए की नोटिस से श्वेता के घर वाले चिंतित हैं। जानकारी के मुताबिक श्वेता बेनीबाद में ग्रामीण चौक पर एक छोटा कॉस्मेटिक दुकान चलाती है। उसी दुकान के नाम पर उसके रिश्ते के मामा अजय ने जीएसटी निबंधन कराया और उसके जीएसटी नंबर पर करोड़ों रुपये के अवैध कारोबार कर लिया। मामा ने उसे झांसा देते हुए कहा कि जीएसटी ले लोगी तो लोन आसानी से मिल जाएगा और व्यवसाय बढ़ाने में काफी सहायक होगा।



फोटो लेकर मामा ने उसकी दुकान के नाम पर जीएसटी नंबर ले लिया और अवैध कारोबार करने लगा। बिहार के मुजफ्फरपुर में रिश्ते के मामा ने पैसों की लालच में भांजी को भी नहीं छोड़ा उसकी दुकान के जीएसटी नंबर का दुरुपयोग करके तीन करोड़ का चूना लगा दिया। पॉइंटाने साइबर थाने में मामा के खिलाफ लिखित शिकायत की है। आरोपी मारा अजय कुमार चौधरी दरभंगा डडार गोविंदपुर गांव का निवासी है। पॉइंट भांजी श्वेता मुजफ्फरपुर के बेनीबाद की निवासी है। पुलिस मामले की छानबीन कर रही है। इधर तीन करोड़ की जीएसटी बकाए की नोटिस से श्वेता के घर वाले चिंतित हैं। जानकारी के मुताबिक श्वेता बेनीबाद में ग्रामीण चौक पर एक छोटा कॉस्मेटिक दुकान चलाती है। उसी दुकान के नाम पर उसके रिश्ते के मामा अजय ने

जीएसटी निबंधन कराया और उसके जीएसटी नंबर पर करोड़ों रुपये के अवैध कारोबार कर लिया। मामा ने उसे झांसा देते हुए कहा कि जीएसटी ले लोगी तो लोन आसानी से मिल जाएगा और व्यवसाय बढ़ाने में काफी सहायक होगा। श्वेता से आधार, पैन और फोटो लेकर मामा ने उसकी दुकान के नाम पर जीएसटी नंबर ले लिया और अवैध कारोबार करने लगा। इसके बाद पिछले दिनों जब जीएसटी के तीन करोड़ राजस्व वसूली के लिए जीएसटी के अधिकारी श्वेता झा के घर पर पहुंचे तो उसके तो होश ही उड़ गए। जीएसटी अधिकारी ने उसे बकाया जमा नहीं करने पर कानूनी कार्रवाई के बारे में बताया। इसके बाद श्वेता ने पूरे मामले की छानबीन शुरू कर दी। उसने अपने रिश्ते के मामा अजय चौधरी की धोखाधड़ी को लेकर साइबर थाने में शिकायत दर्ज कराई है। मामले में पुलिस को बताया कि कॉस्मेटिक दुकान चलाने के दौरान अजय ने कहा कि अपर जीएसटी नंबर ले लोगी तो बड़ा फायदा होगा।

खुशखबरी : सीएम नीतीश ने किया शिलान्यास, 18 साल तक के बच्चों का मुफ्त में होगा इलाज

पटना में बच्चों के कैंसर का बनेगा पहला अस्पताल

AGENCY PATNA :

भारत में कैंसर की बीमारी तेजी से फैल रही है। यह बीमारी क्या बूढ़े, क्या जवान और क्या बच्चे सभी को अपने चपेट में ले रही है। बड़े लोगों के लिए कैंसर का इलाज तो फिर भी मिल जाता है लेकिन बच्चों के लिए ऐसी कोई खास सुविधा नहीं है। वहीं, अब देश का पहला बच्चों के कैंसर का अस्पताल बिहार की राजधानी पटना में बनने जा रहा है। इस अस्पताल का निर्माण महावीर मंदिर न्यास फुलवारीशरीफ स्थित महावीर कैंसर संस्थान से एम्स पटना जैसे वाले रस्ते में होगा। इस अस्पताल का शिलान्यास गुरुवार को मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश



कुमार ने किया। यह अस्पताल महावीर कैंसर संस्थान की 26वीं वर्षगांठ के अवसर पर इसकी नींव रखी जा रही है। 100 बेड वाले

इस अस्पताल में कैंसर से पीड़ित 18 साल तक के बच्चों का मुफ्त इलाज किया जाएगा। महावीर मंदिर न्यास के सचिव आचार्य

2026 तक बनकर हो जाएगा तैयार

महावीर मंदिर न्यास के सचिव आचार्य किशोर कुणाल ने बताया कि यह अस्पताल 60000 वर्ग फुट में बनेगा, जो 7 तल्ले का होगा। इसके निर्माण में 25 करोड़ का खर्च किया जाएगा। इस अस्पताल का निर्माण करा रही है। वहीं, उन्होंने कहा कि अस्पताल 2026 में बनकर तैयार हो जाएगा।

किशोर कुणाल ने बताया कि यह अस्पताल बच्चों में होने वाले कैंसर के उपचार को समर्पित होगा यह देश का पहला ऐसा कैंसर अस्पताल होगा जहां सिर्फ बच्चों का इलाज किया जाएगा। अभी महावीर कैंसर संस्थान में कैंसर ग्रस्त बच्चों के उपचार के लिए अलग वार्ड है, लेकिन अक्सर

हजार से अधिक नए रोगी वृद्धि हो रहे हैं। हम लोग यह सोच रहे हैं कि बच्चों को अगर कैंसर होता है, तो उसके लिए अलग अस्पताल हो। यही सोच के साथ महावीर मंदिर न्यास इस अस्पताल का निर्माण करा रही है। वहीं, उन्होंने कहा कि अस्पताल 2026 में बनकर तैयार हो जाएगा।

बेड की कमी सामने आती है। इसे दूर करने के लिए 100 बेड वाले इस अस्पताल में कैंसर से पीड़ित 18 साल तक के बच्चों का मुफ्त इलाज किया जाएगा। पटना में बने महावीर कैंसर संस्थान का 12 दिसंबर 1998 को महावीर कैंसर संस्थान का उद्घाटन दलाई लामा ने किया था।

सहरसा में बनेगा राज्य का दूसरा ग्लास ब्रिज

SAHARSA : एक कालखंड में बिहार खराब सड़क, अपराध, लूट, अपहरण और भ्रष्टाचार के लिए सुर्खियों में रहता था। क्राइम की खबरें उत्तर प्रदेश के बाद सबसे ज्यादा बिहार से ही आती थी। जंगलराज की छवि से बिहार को उबरने में काफी वक्त लगा। लेकिन पिछले कुछ वर्षों में बिहार में गजब का डेवलपमेंट हुआ है। यहां विकास की बयार बह रही है। बिहार के पांच जिलों में मेट्रो का निर्माण होने वाला है। राजगीर में ग्लास ब्रिज बन चुका है। हर वर्ष हजारों की संख्या में लोग यहां परिवार और दोस्तों के साथ घूमने आते हैं। अब बिहार के डिप्टी सीएम सम्राट चौधरी ने बताया है कि राज्य में बेहद जल्द दूसरा ग्लास ब्रिज बनने जा रहा है।

ठेकेदार को अपराधियों ने गाड़ी रुकवा कर मारी 16 गोलियां

AGENCY MADHEPURA :

बिहार के मधेपुरा में बेखोफ अपराधियों ने एक ठेकेदार को गोलियों से छलनी कर दिया है। यह पूरा मामला मधेपुरा जिले के उदाकिशनगंज अनुमंडल के पुरैनी थाना क्षेत्र का है। जहां बीती रात अपराधियों ने ठेकेदार को गोलियों से भून डाला। मुक्त ठेकेदार की पहचान उदाकिशनगंज थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत लक्ष्मी पंचायत के वार्ड संख्या 9 निवासी 44 वर्षीय पवन कुमार राय के रूप में की गई है। इस दिल दहला देने वाले हत्याकांड से इलाके में सनसनी फैल गयी है। जानकारी के अनुसार, ठेकेदार पवन राय अपने एक अन्य सहचर की के साथ कार में सवार होकर घर लौट रहा था। इसी दौरान पुरैनी थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत करामा के पास



दो बाइक पर सवार 6 हथियार से लैस अपराधियों ने गाड़ी रुकवा दी। उसके बाद गाड़ी से ठेकेदार पवन कुमार राय को बाहर निकाला और आधाघंटा फायरिंग करना शुरू कर दिया। बताया जा रहा है कि, इस दौरान अपराधियों ने 17 राउंड गोली चलाई। जिसमें से 16 गोली ठेकेदार को लगी है।

The troubled state of India-Bangladesh ties

MONDAY'S talks in Dhaka between India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his Bangladeshi counterpart Mohammad Jashim Uddin had, as their background, the squally passage buffeting ties between the two countries since Sheikh Hasina's ouster as Bangladesh's Prime Minister on August 5. Going by reports, the talks may not have been a slugfest, but they left unresolved all contentious issues between Delhi and Dhaka, particularly that of the persecution of minorities in Bangladesh. While Misri flagged India's concern over it, Jashim Uddin said the reports were false and exaggerated and, in any case, it was Bangladesh's internal affair and India had no business to interfere.

Mutual expressions of goodwill and a resolve to carry the ties forward, doubtless, followed. Nevertheless, expectations of India-Bangladesh relations soaring amicably hereafter, are a chimera. Animosity towards India is a defining element of the interim government's ethos. Consider two incidents. In Agartala, Tripura, on December 2, supporters of the Hindu Sangharsh Samiti, protesting against the arrest of the Somlito Sanatan Jagaran Jot's spokesperson, Chinmoy Krishna Das, and atrocities on minorities in Bangladesh, attacked the premises of Bangladesh's Assistant High Commission, damaging property and burning Bangladesh's flag. On that day itself, India suspended three police officers for failing to fend off the demonstrators and arrested seven of the latter. It has since bolstered security around the mission. Besides announcing the deployment of additional security details at Bangladesh's High Commission in New Delhi and other diplomatic missions in the country, India's Ministry of External Affairs deeply regretted the incident. It affirmed that "diplomatic and consular properties should not be targeted under any circumstances." Notwithstanding all this, Bangladesh's foreign ministry, in a strongly-worded statement issued on December 2 itself, reminded India that it was the host country's responsibility to "protect diplomatic missions from any form of intrusion or damage." It called upon India "to take immediate action" to thoroughly investigate the incident and "prevent any further acts of violence against the diplomatic missions of Bangladesh in India, including the safety and security of the diplomats and the non-diplomatic members of staff and members of their families." The statement further affirmed that the "accounts received" had "conclusively attested" that the protesters were allowed to enter the premises in "a pre-planned manner."

Among other steps, it summoned the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, to its foreign office and served him with a formal protest, suspended all visa and consular services at the Agartala Assistant High Commission, and recalled its acting Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata and the Assistant High Commissioner in Tripura, for consultations.

Bangladesh has reason to protest against what happened in Agartala and Kolkata. In the latter, demonstrators protesting against Chinmoy Krishna Das' arrest, set Bangladesh's national flag and Muhammad Yunus' effigy aflame on November 28, 2024. Dhaka's response, however, suggested an attempt to dramatise the incidents and stoke anti-India sentiments at home.

The second incident mentioned above occurred on August 5, 2024, when, in the aftermath of Sheikh Hasina's exit, a violent mob in Dhaka attacked and vandalised the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) — the hub of India's cultural activity in Bangladesh — setting some sections of it on fire.

With the security personnel fleeing, the mob ransacked the premises from the evening of August 5 to August 6, looting books — the library had 21,000 of them — computers and even stationery. With mobs ruling the streets, the High Commission gathered all its officials, staff and their families within its premises and contacted Bangladesh's army for protection. The latter sent troops, but made it clear that it would not fire on any mob.

Syrian crisis and risks for India

India must mobilise friendly Arab states to prevent a destructive dynamic taking hold

ANY political turmoil and violence in the Gulf and West Asia directly and significantly impact India's security interests. One, the welfare and safety of nine million Indians living and working in this swathe of territory on our western flank are a huge preoccupation. Two, this region is critical to India's energy security as it supplies a significant part of our oil and gas requirements. Three, of late, the Gulf countries have become major economic and commercial partners, with rising trade and investment flows. And, four, India has become much more deeply engaged with Israel, which is now a significant defence and technology partner and this adds a complex dimension to our West Asia policy. Both on Syria and Iran, Indian interests may be at odds with Israel. India has maintained a friendly relationship with the Assad (both Hafez and Bashar) regime in Damascus over the past six decades. Iran is the most proximate power to India in the Gulf region and lies on the western flank of Pakistan, a perennial adversary. It impinges directly on India's maritime security. It provides access to Central Asia through the Chabahar port and the "northern corridor" of rail and roads connecting Afghanistan and beyond. The longstanding and deep civilisational ties which bind India and Iran are important in themselves.

If, encouraged by the serious weakening of Iran by the decimation of Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and now the fall of Assad in Syria, Israel and the US launch an attack to cripple Iran's nuclear and oil facilities, as some are loudly advocating both in Tel Aviv and Washington, the entire western flank of India is likely to go up in flames. All vital interests of India listed above will be damaged severely and over the long term. The Arab states are also deeply worried about the risks of such a war. They may have been wary of Iran, but not to the extent of risking a regional war. On this critical issue, their interests should be closely aligned with India's. Should India be prepared to confront Israel and the US to safeguard its interests? Should it mobilise friendly Arab states to prevent a destructive and dangerous dynamic taking hold? It should. The events in Syria

leave several questions unanswered. Assad would have known that the fall of Aleppo would leave Damascus dangerously exposed. This was probably the most fiercely fought-over city when Assad began to regain the territory lost in the initial phase of the civil war post 2012. And yet, Aleppo fell to the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) militant group, led by Mohammad al-Jolani, after half-hearted resistance from the Syrian military. From Aleppo to Damascus, there were virtually no Syrian military forces to deter the advancing rebel army, which literally walked into Damascus unopposed. There was time for Assad and his family to take a flight out to

of territory, supported by the US. Turkey controls the adjacent area as a buffer and has reportedly backed the HTS and associated militant groups in carrying out the operations against the Assad regime. The HTS is proscribed as a terrorist organisation and the US has a bounty of \$10 million on head of its leader Jolani. Will that be pursued or quietly dropped? Was this a deal put together behind the scenes by the key stakeholders, including the US, Russia, Turkey and, perhaps, even Iran? With Hezbollah neutralised, the Iranians would have been reluctant to enter the fray themselves. The Turks may have seen a chance to expand their presence and influence in Syria not only to begin the repatriation of the large Syrian refugee population in Turkey, but also, most importantly, to keep a check on the activities of the Kurds who are considered a major security threat to Turkey.

This would suggest that the likelihood of Syria emerging as an independent, sovereign state with control over all the territories within its formal borders is minimal. It will continue to be the playground of proxies that it has been for several decades now, though the nature of play may be different. The HTS has criticised Iran, declaring that Syria would no longer be a playground for Iranian ambitions. But there have also been video clips of HTS fighters declaring their intent to advance into Gaza and to occupy Jerusalem. If the HTS leadership reverts to a pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel posture, Israel would not hesitate to use coercive military measures against it.

Israel has already carried out air raids against suspected missile and chemical weapon storage sites within Syria. It is an irony of history that the only two secular and plural countries in the West Asian region — Iraq and Syria — were destabilised and subverted by the US and its allies. They proved to be an anachronism in the western strategy of sowing sectarian divisions and creating a so-called "Sunni crescent" to isolate Shia Iran after the Islamic revolution there in 1980. They may have been ruled by autocratic leaders, but their societies accommodated diverse ethnic and religious communities. A plural India shared a sense of affinity with them. One should learn a lesson from our western neighbourhood. Succumbing to sectarian impulses can unravel nations, even those that have long histories of embracing diversity.



Russia, while his Prime Minister stayed behind to announce that he would stay in office to help with the "transition" of power. Jolani announced that there would not be any reprisals against those who had worked in Assad's government and that only the intelligence agencies which had oppressed and tortured Syrian people would be brought to justice. These are reassuring words. The Iranians evacuated from Damascus in advance of the advancing rebels, making no attempt to fight along with Syrian soldiers. The Russians, too, kept a low profile and were assured that their naval base in Tartus on the Mediterranean coast and military facilities and personnel in the Latakia province would not be targeted.

There is no word about the 900 US military personnel who are based in the area controlled by the Syrian Kurds, who have maintained an autonomous swathe

Thawing the frost

India, Bangladesh seek common ground

THE meeting between the foreign secretaries of India and Bangladesh in Dhaka on Monday marks a cautious attempt to mend ties strained since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's government. The political upheaval in Bangladesh and the ensuing asylum provided to Hasina by India cast a shadow over bilateral relations. This shift, compounded by rising tensions over minority harassment and diplomatic incidents, underscores the complexities of managing a relationship deeply rooted in shared history and mutual interests. The discussions in Dhaka focused on contentious issues, such as attacks on minorities, including Hindus, and the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das on sedition charges. While New Delhi raised concerns over the safety of minorities, Dhaka argued that these incidents stem from political, not religious, factors. Such narratives reveal the challenges of bridging divergent perspectives, particularly when public sentiment and political optics are



involved. Interim leader Muhammad Yunus' administration has emphasised the need for a pragmatic relationship with India, balancing dignity with

cooperation. His call to "forget transient matters" highlights the urgency to de-escalate tensions and prioritise long-term goals, such as trade and border management. India's insistence on protecting minority rights, coupled with Bangladesh's call for equity, underscores the need for nuanced diplomacy that respects each nation's sensitivities.

India, with its strategic commitment to a stable South Asia, must tread carefully. Overplaying its hand in domestic Bangladeshi politics risks alienating the current regime, potentially eroding trust. Meanwhile, Dhaka must recognise that India's concerns about minority safety and political stability are not merely rhetorical but reflect broader regional stability imperatives. This diplomatic reset is a crucial opportunity. By focusing on shared interests and maintaining open communication, the two neighbours can ensure that their relationship remains resilient amid political turbulence.

Loneliness and lack of self-worth can also be killing

A majority of those who ask for medically assisted suicide do not mention pain as the reason for their choice as often as they do loneliness and neglect.

LONELINESS and a feeling of neglect can lead to a loss of dignity. This is not physical pain, but can also drive those who are incurably sick to opt for a quick, early death. This option does not exist in most countries, but the British Parliament recently allowed the terminally ill the right to medically assisted suicide. The focus was more on physical pain, not as much on mental trauma.

No description of bodily agony, the sheer torture, that many terminally ill patients go through can capture their actual misery. This aspect was covered in depth and profundity in the many passionate accounts by several British MPs. Emotional as they were, the aspect of loneliness and neglect did not receive adequate notice in the emotionally charged debate. Undoubtedly, to witness somebody enduring such physical pain is impossibly wrenching. British Parliamentarians conveyed that grim sentiment very effectively. In this context it is interesting to note that a majority of those who asked for medically assisted suicide, did not mention pain as the reason for their choice as often as they did loneliness and neglect.

For this kind of psychological anguish there is no medical relief. That maybe why it did not receive as much attention in the British Parliament. For physical pain there are morphine tablets and fentanyl patches. When these are administered by palliative care specialists, they can vastly improve the quality of life for the terminally ill and bring about a peaceful closure. Oregon was the first state in the US where medically assisted suicide was

allowed. There have been a few surveys of those who have taken the lethal dose, under medical supervision, and their results are interesting. In one such study, of 367 patients, inadequate pain control was mentioned by 34.3 per cent, but loss of dignity was the reason why as many as 63.8 per cent wanted to die. There are several attendant factors that together contribute to the loss of dignity and they don't directly refer to pain. In the 2022 Oregon survey 89% most frequently reported end of life concern was the "decreasing ability to participate in activities that made life enjoyable." In the US, pain has not been the leading motivation for people to seek medically aided death.

The freedom to die is the ultimate democratic right, so said the majority in the British House of Commons late last month. In this case, those for and against, voted across party lines, according to their conscience. Though medically assisted suicide for terminally ill patients has now been accepted by Parliamentarians in the UK, there are still hurdles before it becomes a law. The supporters of the Bill emphasised the horrific pain that some terminally ill patients, particularly those with cancer, have to go through in their final stages. First-hand accounts of caring after loved ones suffering such misery were what swung the majority to vote for the Bill. The debates were heart wrenching and there were hardly any absentees, or empty benches, in the House.

Those opposing the right to die argued primarily that this was a slippery slope which would make the

marginal even more vulnerable. Older people, with little ability to actively intervene, and the socially deprived, could easily be persuaded by relatives and interested parties to opt for assisted suicide. The tipping factor, in such cases, could be medical expenses. Though there have been several surveys of what terminally ill patients really want, the full picture, somehow, did not quite get the coverage it deserved in the British Parliament. It is also true that



matters like loneliness, inability to enjoy pleasures of life, loss of control over bodily functions, do not convey the pathos of the terminally ill as vividly as unbearable pain does. Pain is the main reason why Canada, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Spain and Austria have already

allowed medically assisted suicide for the terminally ill. USA, the richest country in the world, ranks a low 43rd out of 81 countries, in the quality of care given to end of life patients. Poor countries fall behind, but not all rich nations are that caring either. This support for end of life medically assisted suicide has societal connotations too. Britain was on top in the various surveys conducted on services to the terminally ill, but funding cuts to its public health sector, over years, made it difficult for it to retain its premier position. This may be why, after rejecting assisted suicide for long, the UK's lawmakers finally passed it.

Loss of dignity does not really concern medical professionals. According to Erik Finklestein, Director of the well-known, Lien Centre of Palliative Care, a doctor's focus is too much on trying to keep people alive and not enough on helping people die gracefully." Needless tests and futile clinical procedures, add to a patient's physical and financial stress, all to no avail.

In urban settings today, loneliness is not uncommon for circumstances have changed. Ties with family and friends are not as intense, and cannot be. If medically assisted suicide is ever legalized in India, the stress again will be on pain and, of course, expenses, especially for cancer patients. But the neglect that the terminally ill often experience, can be devastating too.

PF withdrawals via ATMs likely from 2025. How will it work

NEW DELHI. Starting January 2025, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) subscribers may be able to withdraw their provident fund (PF) savings directly from ATMs. Labour Secretary Sumita Dawra told news agency ANI that the Labour and Employment Ministry is upgrading its IT systems to streamline PF withdrawals and improve service delivery.

According to Dawra, the IT infrastructure of EPFO will be on par with banking systems once the IT 2.1 upgrade goes live next year. This will enable claimants, beneficiaries, and insured individuals to access their PF funds with minimal human intervention. "We are enhancing our IT system to simplify claim settlements. PF withdrawals through ATMs will soon be a reality," Dawra stated.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

The improved system will include a dedicated PF withdrawal card, similar to a bank ATM card. However, withdrawals will be capped at 50% of the total PF balance. Dawra highlighted that claim processing has already become faster, with unnecessary procedures eliminated as part of the IT overhaul. The government also reaffirmed its commitment to improving social security, including extending benefits to gig and platform workers under the Code on Social Security, 2020.

While a timeline for implementing these benefits wasn't specified, efforts are reportedly in advanced stages. Currently, EPFO has over 70 million active contributors. Withdrawal rules remain unchanged: employees cannot withdraw PF while employed.

If unemployed for one month, they can withdraw 75% of their balance, and after two months, the entire amount becomes accessible.

The initiative is part of the government's broader push to improve ease of living and ensure social welfare for India's vast workforce, which includes over 64 crore economically active individuals.

Indian Share Market Opens Higher Ahead Of CPI Data

Mumbai. The Indian stock market opened higher on Thursday ahead of the consumer price index (CPI) data. In the early trade, selling was seen in Nifty's auto and PSU bank sectors. At around 9:30 am, Sensex was trading at 81,633.07 after gaining 106.93 points or 0.13 per cent, while the Nifty was trading at 24,658.25 after rising 16.45 points or 0.07 per cent. The market trend remained positive. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), 1,124 stocks were trading in green, while 1,065 stocks were in red. According to market experts, "The range-bound consolidation construct of the market is set to continue. The bull run in the US is continuing unabated with Nasdaq setting a new record and closing above 20,000 yesterday." "The 'Magnificent Seven' stocks continue their resilience and uptrend despite elevated valuations. The strength of the mother market, which indicates that the global market rally is intact, is a support for other markets, too," they added. Nifty Bank was up 65.80 points or 0.12 per cent at 53,457.15. Nifty Midcap 100 index was trading at 59,381.40 after rising 88.45 points or 0.15 per cent. Nifty Smallcap 100 index was at 19,704.60 after gaining 47.25 points or 0.24 per cent. In the Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, TCS, Infosys, M&M, HCL Tech, Axis Bank and SBI were the top gainers. Titan, Tata Motors, Asian Paints, L&T, Tata Steel and Bajaj Finance were the top losers.

In the Asian markets, except Jakarta, the markets of Hong Kong, Bangkok, China, Seoul and Japan were trading in green. In US stock markets the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite ended 0.82 per cent and 1.77 per cent higher, respectively. The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended 0.22 per cent down on the previous trading day.

Multiple powertrains to co-exist in market: Toyota



NEW DELHI. Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said on Wednesday that multiple powertrains and fuel options will continue to exist in the passenger vehicle (EV) market even as other carmakers in India have taken an aggressive electrification policy. TKM said the national goal is to cut down carbon emissions and fuel imports and studies have shown hybrids are playing a key role in this. "Global perspective, clearly the trend is toward sustainable mobility and many cleaner technologies.

Globally, last year hybrids sales grew by 33% and EVs sales grew by 31-32%. In the Indian context, there is a huge space out there that needs to be addressed. 95% of the market continues to be fossil fuel based - petrol or diesel," said Toyota Kirloskar executive VP, Vikram Gulati.

He added, "Going forward, we feel that many technologies, whether electric or biofuel, are going to be relevant in our pursuit of green mobility and decarbonisation." Gulati called for an inclusive approach that extends tax incentives beyond fully electric vehicles. Gulati's approach towards multiple powertrains comes as rival carmakers like M&M and Tata Motors are expanding their EV line-up. In the months to come, Hyundai is expected to unveil the electric version of its Creta SUV as well. TKM on Wednesday launched new Camry hybrid EV at a price tag of Rs 48 lakh. It is equipped with advanced 5th-gen hybrid technology, improved fuel efficiency of 25 km/l.

Google's willow to usher in a new tech order

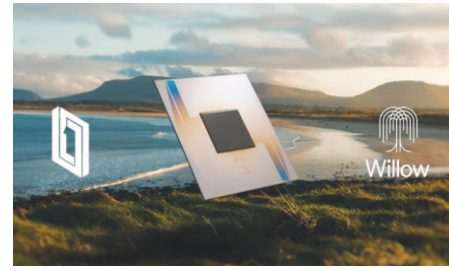
Prof. Debabrata Das, Director of IIT-Bangalore says, 'Willow' is a remarkable discovery that has the potential to revolutionize various fields, from health to weather, banking, businesses, security, defence, and more—besides creating employment opportunities

BENGALURU. Will Google's monumental tech revolution—the next-gen quantum computing chip, Willow—bring about civilizational change, or will it usher in a paradigm shift in services and applications across critical areas? On December 9, the tech giant announced Willow, a next-generation quantum computing chip that "performed a computation in under five minutes, which would take one of today's fastest

supercomputers 10²⁵ years—or 10 septillion years (10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 years)," said Google. Willow was fabricated in Google's new state-of-the-art facility in Santa Barbara, USA.

"The most remarkable result achieved by the Google Quantum AI team is in the challenging area of quantum error correction. They have demonstrated that errors decrease exponentially as the number of qubits increases, thus underlining the real possibility of scalable quantum computers," said Prof. Bhanu Das, Director of the Centre for Quantum Engineering, Research, and Education (TCG CREST) in Kolkata and Professor Emeritus at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan. "Willow is a remarkable discovery that has the potential to revolutionize various fields—from health to weather, banking, businesses, security, defence, and more—besides creating employment opportunities," said Prof. Debabrata Das, Director of the International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIIT-B), speaking to TNIE.

"Research and innovation are meant to improve performance and reduce latency



in computing. Willow will be a game-changer in the health sector by enabling accurate and fast decoding of genes and viruses, which will lead to precise diagnoses and treatments. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it took four to five months to decode the virus. With a quantum computing chip like Willow, virus and gene decoding will likely become much faster and more accurate. Medicines and vaccines could then be specifically tailored to the virus," explained Prof. Das.

He added that weather monitoring and modeling systems, which currently lack 100% accuracy, could also greatly benefit. "With climate change being a pressing reality, we need better, faster, and more accurate systems for monitoring and

preparedness," he emphasised. Das countered apprehensions around 'Willow' and future of fast paced technology and said, "technology has helped society grow manifolds. In the early 90's, there were apprehensions in the banking sector regarding computers; that people will lose their jobs. Today, technology has digitised the banking sector and made it universal and seamless," he added.

Das further said that quantum computing, when combined with artificial intelligence (AI), would yield groundbreaking advancements. "It will revolutionize critical applications in security, defense, agriculture, businesses, energy, and more," he remarked.

On concerns about energy usage in quantum computing, Das explained, "Performance in computing depends on latency, energy consumption, and heat dissipation. Quantum computing significantly reduces latency for large and complex computations, enabling faster processing with less energy."

However, Das acknowledged the need for further research into quantum security as the world transitions from electronic to quantum-based security systems.

Explained: Why Delta Corp shares fell after rising sharply in previous session

NEW DELHI. Delta Corp's share price was down by 2.94% to Rs 124 on December 12, 2024 (at the time of writing), following an 8% surge the previous day. This decline in share price can be attributed to profit bookings by investors. On December 11, the gaming-focused company's stock reached an intraday high of Rs 131.40, rising from its opening price of Rs 122.35. The surge in share prices came after Chief Economic Advisor, V Anantha Nageswaran's remarks at the Confederation of Indian Industries' (CII) Global Economic Policy Forum 2024 in New Delhi on December 11.

CEA ADVOCATES BALANCED REGULATION

Speaking at the event, Nageswaran mentioned the importance of fostering innovation in emerging sectors like cryptocurrencies and online gaming. "Regulators should not stand in the way

of innovation — whether it's crypto or online gaming," he said. He also highlighted the need for regulatory bodies to exercise caution regarding their untested powers and called for greater accountability and transparency in their operations. The CEA's remarks sparked interest, particularly in the online gaming and cryptocurrency industries, as they underscored the potential for growth without unnecessary regulatory hurdles. His balanced approach suggests a willingness to support innovative sectors while remaining mindful of their social costs and benefits.

BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Nageswaran's comments come at a crucial moment for the cryptocurrency market. Bitcoin recently surpassed the \$100,000 mark, signalling growing global acceptance. Countries like El

Salvador have embraced cryptocurrencies, with reserves exceeding \$600 million, while Canada's Vancouver is considering allowing cryptocurrency payments for taxes and other services. In the event, the CEA raised the question of how regulators can balance fostering groundbreaking innovations with addressing societal concerns in areas such as cryptocurrencies, Bitcoin, and online gaming. He emphasised the importance of applying the same principles of transparency and accountability to regulators as are applied to the industries they oversee.

Meanwhile, Delta Corp's net revenue from operations for FY 2023-24 declined by 4.06% to Rs 925.30 crore, compared to Rs 964.47 crore in FY 2022-23, primarily due to the GST impact on its offline and online skill gaming businesses.

Rekha Jhunjhunwala-backed Inventurus Knowledge IPO opens: Should you invest

NEW DELHI. The initial public offering of Inventurus Knowledge Solutions Limited opened for bidding on Thursday aiming to raise Rs 2,497.92 crore entirely through an offer for sale of 1.88 crore shares. Rekha Jhunjhunwala-backed IPO has a price band of Rs 1265-1329 per share and will close for bidding on December 16, 2024. Investors need to bid for a minimum of one lot which has 11 shares in it. Retail investors would need to shell out an amount of Rs 14,619 for a single lot. The



minimum investment required for small non-institutional investors (sNII) is 14 lots, equivalent to 154 shares, costing Rs 2,04,666. For big non-institutional investors (bNII), the minimum investment is 69 lots, or 759 shares, amounting to Rs 10,08,711. Inventurus Knowledge Solutions Limited secured Rs 1,120.18 crore from 61 anchor investors at a price of Rs 1,329 per share.

Of the 8,428,730 equity shares allocated to anchor investors, 2,809,577 shares—33.33% of the total anchor allocation—were distributed to 12 domestic mutual funds through 23 schemes.

SHOULD YOU SUBSCRIBE?

"Investors should also look at IPO offers which come with 100% OFS i.e. Rs.2498 cr issue which is an area of concern for new investors. As it is backed by over 15 years of experience and long-standing client relationships, IKS is well-positioned to capitalise on the growing demand for integrated healthcare solutions. Hence, looking at all attributes we recommend investors to "SUBSCRIBE" the Inventurus Knowledge Solutions Ltd IPO for long term perspective," said Rajan Shinde, Research Analyst, Mehta Equities Ltd. At the upper price band of Rs.1329, IKS is available at a P/E of 54.6x (on FY25 Annualised), which appears fairly priced. Considering its asset light and scalable model with high margin operations, diversified product offerings, significant expansion potential post acquiring Aquity Holdings, we recommend Sub-scribe rating to the issue on a medium to long term basis," said an IPO report from Geojit.

Bitcoin crosses \$100K again: What drove the fresh rally

On December 12, Bitcoin surpassed \$100,000, bolstered by US inflation data and rate cut speculation, leading to a surge in altcoins and the overall crypto market.

MARKET MOMENTUM BACKED BY INFLATION DATA

The November Consumer Price index reported a 0.3% monthly rise and a



2.7% annual increase, aligning with forecasts and fuelling hopes for rate cuts at the Fed's December meeting next week. Avinash Shekhar, Co-Founder & CEO of Pi42, stated that Bitcoin demonstrated bullish momentum by climbing back above \$100,000, regaining its stance following macroeconomic data and hinting at rate reductions from the Fed. Rebounded back from the \$94,000 and support at 20-day EMA, the retest

signals a presence of bullish trends in the market. He expressed optimism that BTC might target \$112,000 and could go up another level to hit \$125,000. Resistance at \$104,088 could keep volatility in check in the shorter term as the market can see consolidations.

ALTCOINS AND CRYPTO MARKET ON THE RISE

The global cryptocurrency market cap increased by 5.89% to \$3.66 trillion, with Bitcoin commanding a 54.7% market share, according to CoinMarketCap. Major altcoins mirrored Bitcoin's rally, with Ethereum rising 6.77%, XRP gaining 3.94%, Solana climbing 4.95%, and Cardano surging by an impressive 14.11% over the last 24 hours, as of the time of writing. Meme coins also benefited, with Dogecoin increasing by nearly 6% and Shiba Inu soaring by almost 9% since the past day. This broad-based crypto rally underscores the impact of macroeconomic factors, particularly inflation data, on market sentiment as traders anticipate the Federal Reserve's upcoming policy decisions.

EPFO Pension Alert! Will Govt Increase Minimum Pension Amount EPF Scheme Check What FinMin Said

Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State for Finance, stated that the Ministry of Labour and Employment has received representations from stakeholders, including trade unions, requesting an increase in the minimum pension amount under the EPS.

New Delhi. Employee unions have long advocated for increasing the minimum pension amount under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995, with representations from employees and other stakeholders.

Regarding an increase in the pension amount, Member of Parliament Asaduddin Owaisi raised questions in the Lok Sabha about any proposal to increase the minimum pension amount under EPS, 1995. He asked about any pensioner representations under EPS, 1995,



requesting an increase in the minimum pension amount and seeking details of the proposed proposal. Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State for Finance, stated that the Ministry of Labour and Employment has received representations from stakeholders, including trade unions, requesting an increase in the minimum pension amount under the EPS. Owaisi inquired about the government's assessment of representations to increase

EPS pensions, based on the observation by the Standing Committee on Labour, Textile and Skill Development's 30th report, and its findings.

In his reply, the minister said, "the EPS, 1995 is a 'Defined Contribution-Defined Benefit' Social Security Scheme. The corpus of the Employees' Pension Fund is made up of (i) contribution by the employer @ 8.33 per cent of wages; and (ii) contribution from Central

Government through budgetary support @ 1.16 per cent of wages up to an amount of Rs 15,000/- per month. All benefits under the scheme are paid out of such accumulations. The fund is valued annually as mandated under paragraph 32 of the EPS, 1995 and as per the valuation of the fund as on 31.03.2019, there is an actuarial deficit." The parliamentarian inquired about the government's intentions to allocate funds for an increase in pension under the EPS, 1995, and if so, the reasons behind this decision. The Minister replied, "Government, for the first time, in the year 2014, provided a minimum pension of Rs 1000 per month to the pensioners under the EPS, 1995 by providing budgetary support, which was in addition to the budgetary support of 1.16 per cent of wages provided annually towards EPS to Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)."

Minimum pension of Rs 1,000 under EPS95 The central government announced a minimum pension of Rs 1,000 per month for pensioners under EPS, 1995 in September 2014. However, the labour ministry proposed doubling the pension to Rs 2,000 per month under EPS-95, but it was not approved.

"Tortured Day And Night": When Delhi Saw Case Similar To Techie's Suicide

New Delhi. As the suicide of a Bengaluru techie due to alleged harassment by his estranged wife and her family sparked a massive outcry, a similar case of torture and intimidation had taken place in Delhi, where a man died by suicide reportedly after he was falsely implicated in rape and dowry cases in 2017.

A written complaint addressed to then Sarita Vihar Police Station in-charge and a suicide note purportedly written by Arvind Bharti claimed his wife, Richa, wrongly accused him and his family of various acts, and harassed them with false cases even after their divorce. Arvind Bharti, a resident of Yamuna Vihar, said he was "blackmailed and tortured day and night" by Richa, and that she was solely responsible for his death. He also said he had little hope from the police in the matter. Has seen copies of the written police complaint and the purported suicide note, both of which are written in Hindi. While the complaint letter was written a day before Bharti's death, it is not clear when it was submitted to the police.

Bharti, who worked as a physiotherapist before he joined a computer firm, died by suicide on December 15, 2017. Richa was arrested following his death and later granted bail. The trial in the case is underway.

Complaint Letter To Police

In his six-page letter to Sarita Vihar Police, Bharti explained how his wife pushed him to take the extreme step. He said he and Richa had a love marriage in 2008 but her behaviour towards him and his family changed drastically after that. "She used to register false police complaints, due to which we stayed together only for a few days. She later filed a false dowry case against me. I was discharged in the case by a Delhi court in 2013," Bharti said. He said the couple eventually parted ways in 2016 but the alleged harassment still did not stop. Richa often followed Bharti to his office and his coaching institute to insult him and her actions also cost him his job, he claimed. Bharti also alleged that his former wife once lodged a false case of rape against him. "The police physically and mentally tortured me and refused to register my complaint (against her). A compromise was reached and they sent me to Richa's house where her family stripped me and locked me in a room. I was neither given any water to drink nor food to eat," he said. Bharti said Richa filed a fresh rape case against him when his brother,



Vipin, arrived with the police to rescue him days later. Bharti alleged Richa often pressured him with her demands for money. "... I cannot even complain to anyone because I know that another false case will be filed against me," he said. He said on one occasion, Richa told him, "You haven't been able to do anything to me. Even the police and the Human Rights (Commission) have not accepted your and your father's complaint".

No Faith In Police

Bharti alleged it was easy for Richa to blackmail and threaten him since her false complaints were always registered. He alleged that, on one occasion, Richa

forcibly took away his bag with his office laptop, wallet, his bike documents, money and a company's invoice with a cheque of ₹ 32 lakh. "I am listening to Richa for one last time and killing myself. Otherwise, I shall die this way everyday," he added.

Suicide Note

In the four-page note, Bharti said he was writing his "last letter" and urged his family to not mourn his death. He provided details of the items that were reportedly forcibly taken away by Richa, and of money that he owed to some of his friends. He also urged his family to move on with their lives. "God will punish her (Richa)," he said. He continued: "I used to suffer day and night and I knew I would have to take this extreme step one day or the other... I am very tired and I cannot suffer for another second. Please do not take action against Richa... I will no longer be alive and your life might also get spoiled."

'Miss Him Even Today'

Arvind's mother said she misses her son. "I do not hang Arvind's photo on the wall because I miss him even today. His former wife was arrested and later released on bail. The matter is still in court," she said.

SC grants bail to two in Waqf Board money laundering case

Noting that the trial is not likely to commence soon as even charges have not been framed, the apex court, in its order, granted him bail.

NEW DELHI. The Supreme Court on Wednesday in its order granted bail to two men arrested in connection with the Delhi Waqf Board money laundering case.

While granting bail to accused -- Zeshan Haider and Daud Nasir, a two-judge bench of the apex court, led by Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih observed that the duo were in jail since their arrest on November 11, 2023, in the case and even the charges had not been framed against them yet. During the hearing, the apex court also made it clear that if the hearing of the complaint is delayed due to any act or omission on part of the appellants, it will be open for the



Delhi records season's coldest morning as minimum temperature drops to 4.5°C

New Delhi. Residents shivered as Delhi recorded the season's coldest morning on Thursday, December 12, as the minimum temperature dropped to as low as 4.5 degrees Celsius, the weather department said. The Safdarjung weather station recorded the minimum temperature at 4.5 degrees Celsius at 8:30 am, which was four notches below normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). A drop of 0.4 degrees Celsius in the 24-hour average temperature was recorded on the second consecutive day of cold wave on Thursday as school children and office-goers



found it very hard to fight off the chill. People could be seen sitting around bonfires to keep themselves warm amid the biting cold.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature recorded by the Palam weather station stood at 6 degrees Celsius at 8:30 am, which was three degrees below normal. The Palam station saw a -0.2 degrees shift in the 24-hour average temperature.

On Wednesday, Delhi's minimum temperature was recorded at 4.9 degrees Celsius, the previous coldest this season, dropping 5 degrees below normal for the first time this winter season. The significant dip comes just days after the Met Department had predicted a sharp dip in temperature by Thursday in the national capital due to a cold wave which is also expected to affect the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

According to the IMD, a cold wave in the plains is declared when the minimum temperature dips to 4 degrees or below, and also when it drops between 4.5-6.4 degrees from the normal.

Sadhguru On Parliament Disruptions And Attack On Big Businesses

New Delhi. Amid Congress protests in Parliament over the Adani issue, spiritual leader Sadhguru has said wealth creators and job providers of the country should not become the "subject of political rhetoric" and that it is important for Indian business to thrive. Sadhguru has said it was "disheartening" to observe disruptions in Parliament.

"It is disheartening to observe disruptions in the Indian Parliament, particularly when we aspire to be a beacon of democracy for the world. The wealth creators and job providers of India should not become subject of political rhetoric... If there are discrepancies, that can be handled within the framework of law, but should not become political football. Most important that Indian businesses must thrive. It's the only way Bharat will become Bhavya Bharat," he said in a post on X.

The Winter Session of Parliament, which started on November 25, has seen little business due to repeated adjournments. The session is likely to end around December 20 before the year-end holidays.

When the session started, Congress MPs demanded a discussion on the US Department of Justice indictment against the directors of Adani Green. This led to differences within the Opposition ranks because Congress allies like Trinamool Congress wanted the House to function and raise issues such as price rise, Manipur unrest and unemployment. The Adani Group has maintained that Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and senior executive Vneet Jaain are clear of bribery charges. Gautam Adani has said this is not a challenge the group has faced for the first time and stressed that "every attack makes us stronger". Other issues that have halted business in the two Houses include the Opposition's no-confidence motion against Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and the ruling BJP's allegations that the Congress worked with US billionaire George Soros to destabilise the country. The main Opposition has denied the charge.

Anti-Terror Agency Raids 19 Locations Across J&K, Assam, 3 Other States

New Delhi. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted searches at 19 locations across five states as part of its ongoing investigation into a case linked to the radicalization of individuals associated with the proscribed terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammed.

The raids were underway since early morning at the hideouts of suspects in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat. The operation focuses on the dissemination of terrorist propaganda and efforts to counter extremist activities. The move comes two months after the anti-terror agency conducted searches at multiple locations in five states and arrested one person namely Sheikh Sultn Salah Uddin Ayubi alias

Ayubi. Ayubi was taken into custody after searches at 26 locations in the states of Assam, Maharashtra, Uttar



Pradesh, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir. The accused was arrested on account of his incriminatory role in the conspiracy case (RC-13/2024/NIA/DLI).

Following the operation, several other suspects were rounded up for

questioning. During the searches then, the NIA teams seized several incriminating documents, electronic devices, pamphlets and magazines.

The fresh searches conducted this morning were arranged after the agency found lead after questioning the arrested person and examination of evidence against the suspects whose premises were searched in October this year. The NIA then said that the suspects were engaged in radicalising individuals associated with JeM, and were engaged in disseminating terrorist-related propaganda and radicalising and recruiting youth into the Jamaat outfit inspired by JeM.

"These suspects were involved in motivating youth into committing violent terror attacks across India," the NIA has said.

Emerges From Inside Bus During Mumbai Crash That Killed 7

Visuals from the street show the bus mowing down pedestrians, followed by people cornering the bus driver.

New Delhi. Chilling visuals emerged showing rash driving by a BEST bus driver, moments before he crashed the vehicle into pedestrians and vehicles on Monday in Mumbai's Kurla, killing seven people and injuring 42 others.

Cameras inside the bus showed passengers struggling to maintain balance by tightly holding poles and grabbing handles, while others rose from their seats to fathom what was happening on the streets as the bus moved forward. The bus then came to a halt and people jumped out of the emergency exit. The last to leave was bus driver Sanjay More, who picked two backpacks before jumping out of the bus. Meanwhile, visuals from the street show the bus mowing down pedestrians, followed by people cornering the bus driver.

CCTV footage from inside the bus suggested "the entire horror unfolded within a span of 52 to 55 seconds," an official told PTI. The e-



bus covered a distance of 400 to 450 meters since it dashed the first vehicle and finally crashed into the compound wall of a housing society on S G Barve Road while heading to Sakinaka from Kurla station, the RTO officials said. A quick intervention by police and a local lawyer saved More's life, who

was assaulted by an angry mob. Ashif Hussain, 30, a resident of the area near the accident site on SG Barve Road, said he intervened and urged people to not assault the driver. "I took a few blows in the process, but with the help of the police, we managed to get the driver to safety," he told PTI. He said the bus conductor hid himself in a nearby dentist's clinic to escape the mob's fury.

More, later arrested and booked for culpable homicide, told Mumbai Police during interrogation that before taking the e-bus on road, he was drove the bus thrice during training rounds by the contractor in a single day. The BEST standard operating procedure requires a driver to undergo refresher training for six weeks. According to police sources, accused Sanjay More has a lot of experience in driving a bus, but he did not have experience in driving an e-bus, which is automatic.

Supriya Sule, Kanimozhi praise Railways for improved cleanliness at stations

In response, the Railways Ministry said the "kind words" of the two Opposition leaders "inspired us to strive for excellence".

NEW DELHI. NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule and DMK MP Kanimozhi praised the Indian Railways for improved cleanliness and maintenance at train stations across the nation. In response, the Railways Ministry said the "kind words" of the two Opposition leaders

"inspired us to strive for excellence". During a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Sule on Wednesday said, "The Railways Ministry is doing good work in Maharashtra. I would like to compliment the Ministry's team for improving the cleanliness at a lot of stations in the state." But she also raised the issue of reducing stoppages at Daund, Nira, Jejuri train stations in her Baramati constituency.

"Earlier, 80 trains stopped at Daund, but now only 40 stop. The Railways Ministry says that reducing stoppages is to increase efficiency. But due to this, the area is not benefitting economically. I urge the Ministry to look for an alternative solution to increase efficiency," she added.

Also addressing the discussion, Kanimozhi complimented Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and added that not only stations, but



trains have also become cleaner." In response, the Railways Ministry thanked the two MPs, saying their "kind words have inspired us to strive for excellence".

LOK SABHA PASSES RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

On Wednesday, the Lok Sabha passed the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, by a voice vote. The Bill which seeks to enhance the functioning and independence of the Railway Board was

introduced in the Lok Sabha during the previous Parliament session. As part of a plan to improve railway operations, it also includes provisions to appoint an independent regulator that will oversee matters like fare determination and ensure the competitiveness of the Railways.

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stressed the need to significantly enhance the capacity of the country's railway system. "Ours is a country of 1.40 crore people which is a rapidly growing economy. There is a need to significantly enhance railway's capacity. There has been a lack of investment in railways for over 50-60 years. When PM Modi took over in 2014, the railways budget which used to be around Rs 25,000-30,000 crore, was increased to Rs 2.52 lakh crore," he said. "Railway tracks up to 31,000 km have been added since then, including 5,300 km within the last year, which is more than Switzerland's entire railway coverage."

NEWS BOX

US Brothers Charged In Luxury Real Estate Sex-Trafficking Scheme

New York, United States. Three brothers were charged by US authorities with sex trafficking on Wednesday, in a lurid case that alleges they used their high-profile connections in the luxury real estate world to assault women for years.

Oren and Tal Alexander are the founders of real estate firm Official, which has offices in Miami and New York. Alon Alexander -- Oren's twin -- worked at the family's private security firm, according to US media. The brothers are alleged to have used "deception, fraud and coercion" -- including the promise of luxury travel accommodation -- to engage in sex trafficking as well as drugging, sexually assaulting and raping dozens of women. They used "their wealth and prominent positions in real estate to create and facilitate opportunities" to do so, the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York said in a statement. The assaults date from at least 2010 to at least 2021, prosecutors said. Just two years ago, Tal, 38, and Oren, 37, were the subject of a New York Times profile detailing their successful ventures as real-estate high rollers, including the sale of a 24,000-square foot (2,230 square meter) Manhattan penthouse for \$234 million.

Tal Alexander flaunted a "no days off" lifestyle of constantly showing glamorous residences to wealthy clients. Prosecutors painted a grim picture of all three brothers luring women to events and parties, then drugging them with cocaine, mushrooms and GHB, and assaulting them. The Alexanders and those in their circle used "social media, dating applications, in-person encounters... and party promoters who would recruit women for these events," prosecutors said.

Susan Necheles, an attorney for Oren Alexander, said in a statement that her client was innocent and "the evidence will show that neither he nor his brothers ever committed a crime." Alon, 37, Oren and Tal are charged with engaging in sex trafficking conspiracy and sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion, which both carry a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Plane Crashes Into Vehicles On Texas Highway, Splits In Half; 4 Injured

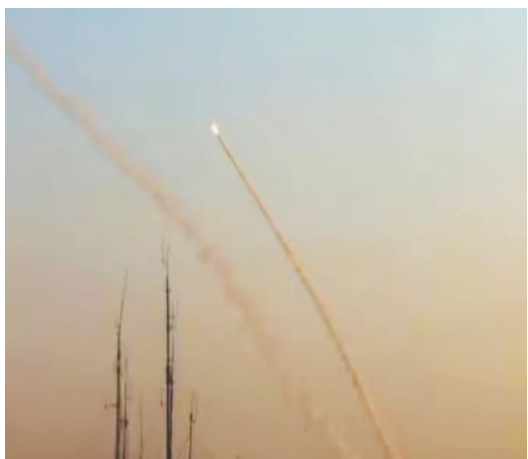
Texas, US. At least four people were injured after a small plane landed on a South Texas highway on Wednesday before crashing into three cars. After the crash, the twin-engine propeller plane split in two, leaving debris scattered across the busy roadway, the authorities said. The aircraft crashed on the State Highway Loop 463, in Victoria City of South Texas at around 3 pm, according to a report by NBC. Four people injured in the crash were taken to the hospitals, of them, three had non-life-threatening wounds. The fourth person was taken to another facility for a higher level of care, police said.

Addressing reporters, Deputy Police Chief Eline Moya of the Victoria Police Department said, "We are glad that it wasn't worse than what it is. This is not something we see every day." But we are glad that people seem to be OK, and they are getting checked out," she added. The moments before the crash and the devastation that followed were captured on camera by observers on the roadway. The footage, which is being widely shared on social media, shows the aircraft flying very low before landing on a street. The video then shows the plane splintered in two near the highway overpass, with debris scattered across the road. The plane, a twin-engine Piper PA-31, was carrying just the pilot at the time of the crash, according to a report by Fox News Digital.

The Victoria Police Department and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have begun their investigation into the crash. Per a FlightAware report, the aircraft took off from the Victoria Regional Airport around 9:52 am and was airborne for around five hours before the crash.

Russia Says Ukraine Used US Missiles To Attack Military Base in Rostov, Vows Response

world. Ukrainian forces launched a missile strike with Western high-precision weapons on the Taganrog military airfield in Russia's Rostov region, the Russian Defence Ministry said Wednesday. Six US-made ATACMS ballistic missiles were used, the ministry noted, adding that two of them were shot down and the rest were deflected by Russian electronic warfare systems, Xinhua news agency reported. Falling missile fragments caused casualties among the personnel, the ministry said. "This attack by Western long-range weapons will not go unanswered, and appropriate measures will be taken," it added. In a major shift of policy on the



Ukraine crisis, the US in November authorised Ukraine to use US long-range missiles to strike targets inside Russia's territory. Russia has repeatedly called it an escalation of tension around the conflict.

New Syria PM says rights of all religious groups will be 'guaranteed' under rebel-led regime

DAMASCUS. Syria's new prime minister said the Islamist-led alliance that ousted president Bashar al-Assad will guarantee the rights of all religious groups and called on the millions who fled the war to return home. Assad fled Syria after a lightning offensive spearheaded by the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group and its allies, which brought to a spectacular end five decades of brutal rule by his clan.

Syrians across the country and around the world erupted in celebration, after enduring a stifling era during which anyone suspected of dissent could be thrown into jail or killed. With Assad's overthrow plunging Syria into the unknown, its new rulers have sought to assure members of the country's religious minorities that they will not repress them. They have also pledged justice for the victims of Assad's iron-fisted rule, with HTS leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani vowing on Wednesday that officials involved in torturing detainees will not be pardoned. Half a million people have been detained since the start of the war, with about 100,000 dying either under torture or due to poor detention conditions, according

to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor.

"We will not pardon those involved in torturing detainees," said Jolani, now using his real name Ahmed al-Sharaa, urging "countries to hand over any of those criminals who may have fled so they can be brought to justice."

In the corridors of Damascus's main hospitals, thousands of families gathered to try to find the bodies of loved ones captured years ago by the authorities. "Where are our children?" women cried out as they grasped at the walls, desperate for closure after their years-long ordeal. Starting to feel safe

Sunni Muslim HTS is rooted in Syria's branch of Al-Qaeda and is proscribed as a terrorist organisation by many Western governments, though it has sought to moderate its rhetoric. "Precisely because we are Islamic, we will guarantee the rights of all people and all sects in Syria," said Mohammad al-Bashir, whom the rebels appointed as the transitional head of government. Asked whether Syria's new constitution would be Islamic, he told Italian daily Corriere della Sera that "we



will clarify all these details during the constituent process." Bashir, whose appointment was announced Tuesday, is tasked with heading the multi-ethnic, multi-confessional country until March 1. After decades of rule by the Assads, members of the minority Alawite offshoot of Shiite Islam, Syrians now face the enormous challenge of charting a new course as they emerge from nearly 14 years of war. In Aleppo, Syria's second city and the first major one captured by the rebels in their offensive, shopkeeper Ramadan Dali, 70, said that "we are starting to feel safe." Juman Khilaly, 40, said that "there is

still a lot of uncertainty" over even the most basic aspects of life, like school for her 10-year-old child and soaring prices. "Everything is so expensive," she said. In the Assads' home village Qardaha, the tomb of the former leader's father was set alight, AFP footage showed, with rebel fighters in fatigues and young men watching it burn.

Smooth transition'

The war has killed more than 500,000 people and forced half the population to flee their homes, with six million of them seeking refuge abroad. In his interview with Corriere della Sera, which was published on Wednesday, Bashir called on Syrians abroad to return to their homeland.

"Syria is now a free country that has earned its pride and dignity. Come back," he said.

Syria's main international airport in Damascus, closed since the rebels overran the capital, will reopen "in the next few days", its director Anis Fallouh told AFP.

Bashir said Syria's new rulers would be willing to work with anyone so long as they did not defend Assad.

Australia To Force Meta And Google To Pay For News Shared On Platforms

Sydney, Australia. Australia will force Meta and Google to pay for news shared on their platforms under a new scheme unveiled Thursday, threatening to tax them if they refuse to strike deals with local media. Traditional media companies the world over are in a battle for survival as precious advertising dollars are hoovered up online. Australia wants big tech companies to compensate local publishers for sharing news links that drive traffic to their platforms, an idea they have balked at in the past.

"It is important that digital platforms play their part. They need to support access



to quality journalism that informs and strengthens our democracy," Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said. Social media platforms with Australian revenue of more than

US\$160 million a year will be taxed a still-to-be-decided figure earmarked to pay for news.

But they can avoid paying the tax if they voluntarily enter into commercial agreements with Australian media companies. It is the latest salvo in Australia's efforts to reign in the tech giants.

Australia last month voted for new laws that will ban under-16s from social media. It has also mooted slapping fines on companies that fail to stamp out offensive content and the spread of disinformation.

William, Kate Preparing To Be King And Queen "Sooner Than Expected": Report



world. Prince William and Kate Middleton are reportedly accelerating their preparations to assume their future roles as king and queen, as the royal family navigates a year marked by King Charles' health concerns and evolving responsibilities. The Prince and Princess of Wales have also been through a challenging time, particularly after Middleton, 42, underwent treatment for cancer earlier this year. Following her diagnosis during a scheduled abdominal surgery in January, she spent much of the year focusing on recovery, while Prince William scaled back his public engagements to prioritise family time.

With the princess now cancer-free, the couple has gradually resumed their public duties. According to royal

biographer Sally Bedell Smith, this also meant stepping up preparations for William's eventual ascension to the throne. "Although the King is carrying out his duties with typical determination, he has had to accept limitations during his cancer treatment. As a result, William has been taking on more responsibilities, and he and Kate have been preparing for their future roles sooner than they would have expected," Bedell Smith shared with People Magazine. King Charles III has also been a huge concern for the royal family and it has led to adjustments in his commitments. These circumstances have prompted his eldest son to represent the monarchy at key events. William made a solo appearance at the reopening of Notre Dame Cathedral in

Prince William and Kate Middleton are reportedly preparing for their future roles as king and queen earlier than expected.

Paris on December 7. "They are next in line for the biggest job of their lives, and of course, Kate's health has taken priority, but it's also allowed everyone to take a step back and figure out what's important right now," People quoted a royal family insider as saying.

Royal insiders have indicated that formal succession plans have been in development since Charles' coronation in May 2023. These plans reportedly gained urgency earlier this year due to the king's health. "It is something the institution is always mindful of," a palace source said, adding, "It is an institutional preparedness."

The increased focus on William and Kate's future roles has reshaped the dynamics within the royal family, according to a report in the New York Post. Insiders suggest the relationship between the Prince of Wales and his father has evolved, particularly as William has assumed more prominent responsibilities.

US, China officials to hold economic talks ahead of Trump's return and looming tariff war

WASHINGTON. Economic officials in outgoing US President Joe Biden's administration are set to meet their Chinese counterparts this week for talks, in a final effort to strengthen ties before Donald Trump's White House return. The talks come as Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen stressed in an interview on Wednesday the need for "ongoing communications at all levels" to avoid needless worsening in relations between the world's two biggest economies.

Economic and trade tensions between Washington and Beijing have continued to flare during Biden's time in office. But temperatures could rise further under Trump, who has threatened sweeping tariff increases on Chinese goods ahead of his presidency, most recently over concerns surrounding the flow of illegal fentanyl into the United States. "It's critical to have open channels of communication," Yellen told Bloomberg Television, warning that Trump's universal tariffs proposal would likely trigger retaliation. For now, US



officials are seeking to reinforce communication channels on economic issues. On Thursday, Treasury Under Secretary for International Affairs Jay Shambaugh is due to meet Chinese Vice Minister of Finance Liao Min for an economic working group meeting on the sidelines of Group of 20 talks in South Africa, said the Treasury Department. "The United States and China are the two largest economies on the globe, and the American people expect that we should be able to communicate directly with Chinese officials on both areas where we agree and especially on areas where we don't," said Shambaugh. Treasury officials are expected to raise issues of concern like recent Chinese export restrictions on certain key minerals, a department spokesperson said. They will also discuss China's macroeconomic imbalances and excess industrial capacity, which they believe recent policy stimulus efforts by Chinese lawmakers have not fully addressed. Treasury officials and representatives from other agencies will travel to the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing as well, for a financial working group meeting taking place Sunday and Monday. "This upcoming meeting will continue our work to strengthen efforts to preserve financial stability and counter illicit finance threats like fraud and drug and human trafficking."

Wounds reopen as sectarian clashes flare in Pakistan's border region

PARACHINAR. Once again, Ali Ghulam receives mourners at his home -- his brother and nephew killed 40 years apart in the same sectarian conflict that was reignited this year in northwest Pakistan, claiming 200 lives since July alone.

Thousands of residents are stranded without food and medicine in parts of remote Kurram district, which borders Afghanistan, as the government struggles to end clashes between Sunni and Shiite Muslims stemming from decades-old tensions over farmland. "Our generations yearn for peace," 72-year-old Ghulam told AFP at his home in Parachinar, the main town and a Shiite bastion of the restive district. The latest flare-up of violence has "reopened wounds" he said, recalling how his brother was killed in an attack in 1987 that also wounded another three of his brothers. Kurram, known as the "Parrot's Beak" for its protrusion into neighbouring Afghanistan, is bounded by dizzyingly high mountains, the northern flank of which includes the Tora Bora caves where

Al Qaeda founder and 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden once hid. Pakistan's northwestern border districts have long been a haven for various militant groups, with militants and weapons able to flow largely unchecked in and out of Afghanistan. "I have never experienced peace in my life and have no hope my coming generations will live free of fear," Ghulam said. Tribal and family feuds are common in Pakistan. But they can be particularly protracted and violent in the mountainous tribal northwest, where communities live by traditional codes of honour and revenge. The latest round of violence in Kurram erupted in May and intensified in July, when gunmen opened fire on a council of elders attempting to settle the latest round of disagreements over land. Various truces announced since then have held for only weeks or days at a time.

More than 300 shops and over 200 homes in Sunni areas have been destroyed, often by fire, and hundreds of families have fled.



Bin Laden, Tehran and the Taliban Pakistan is a Sunni-majority country with Shiites making up 10 to 15 percent of the population, or at least 25 million people.

Members of the two sects have periodically clashed in Kurram, where Shiites are particularly vulnerable as they must pass through Sunni-majority neighbourhoods to access essential services. Kurram's location on the frontier of Pakistan and Afghanistan put it at the heart of the religious and political upheavals of the last five decades. In 1979, Shiites led a revolution in Iran and later that year the Soviet Union

invaded Afghanistan, prompting Sunni hardliners there to rise up against them.

Pakistan's military ruler Zia-ul-Haq aligned with them, funneling thousands of Sunni militants into Afghanistan through Kurram.

"It became a hub for arms supply to Afghanistan, including landmines, mortar shells, and weapons of all kinds. Every household in Kurram had a stockpile of weapons," Malik Attaullah Khan, a local tribal elder told AFP. Khan, who signed a 2007 agreement aimed at bringing peace to Kurram, criticised the government for failing to "fulfil in its responsibility" in enforcing land settlements. The ethnic Pashtun heartland was merged into the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in 2018, but the Pakistani state maintains limited control in the merged districts. In rural areas of Pakistan, villages often bypass the formal justice system and men-only "jirgas" or councils made up of respected village elders resolve disputes, sometimes in the form of fines or land reallocation.

NEWS BOX

Did Yashasvi Jaiswal's 'too slow' remark lead to Starc revival Ponting reacts

New Delhi. Ricky Ponting feels that Yashasvi Jaiswal's cheeky remark during the Perth Test could have led to Mitchell Starc's revival during the second match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Adelaide. During the first match of the series, Jaiswal scored a brilliant 161 in the second innings which set up India's win. During the knock, there was a moment when the young opener would have an exchange with Starc. Jaiswal said that the Aussie pacer was 'too slow' and Starc would respond with a smile. However, in the Adelaide Test, the pacer would have his revenge as he dismissed Jaiswal for a golden duck with the first ball of the match and ended up registering his best career figures of 6 for 48 in the first innings. Speaking on the recent episode of the ICC review, Ponting suggested that the exchange with the Indian opener could have given extra motivation for Starc. "He's actually a pretty level-headed guy, Mitchell Starc. He doesn't get flustered too much, even you see when he's bowling now," Ponting said. "And if one of the batters does happen to say something, he generally responds with a little smile on his face. "But I think that smile on his face might be just a bit of a cover for the fire that's burning inside. Look, he



bowled beautifully in Adelaide didn't he." Ponting hails Starc's adaptability. Ponting also praised Starc for changing his bowling style in recent times to prolong his career. The former Aussie skipper claimed that Starc isn't slowing down, and it is just the way he is bowling at the moment. "He certainly deserves high praise. I mean, he's probably in the last couple of years been better than he's ever been," Ponting noted. "And the reason that I say that is I think he's a more consistent bowler now than he's ever been before, yet his pace is still about the same as it always was. I mean, he could bowl over 150km/h probably a few years ago and he's in absolute prime now. He's sort of operating in the mid-140s, but his consistency, the way he's starting spells is really good now as well. "I was really impressed by how he started his first spell in Perth and then the way he started his first spell in Adelaide was obviously unbelievably good. So his pink-ball record speaks for itself and I think talking to some of the players as well, I think the reason why his pink ball record is so good is I think the pink ball actually performs very similar to the white ball.

Decisive footwork, off-stump discipline: Inside Virat Kohli's Brisbane nets session

New Delhi. Virat Kohli seems to be all set for the Brisbane Test as the star batter engaged in an intense and focused nets session on Thursday, December 12. Kohli, who had scored a hundred in the Perth Test, would struggle in the Adelaide loss. The star batter's weakness outside off-stump was exploited by the Aussie bowlers as he was dismissed for 7 and 11 in the second Test.

Kohli had decided to work on this just after the pink-ball Test, as was seen during the nets session in Adelaide on December 10. The Indian team would engage in their first training session in the city on Thursday and the focus was primarily on Kohli. The Indian star would lead the huddle and deliver a passionate and energetic pep talk to his teammates before the start of the training session. The Indian star seemed very



energetic and started off with some warmup exercises. He would follow it up with some fielding drills, which included slip catching. Kohli would then spend one and half hours in the nets in Brisbane. Kohli was very focused during the time he spent in the nets and similar to the one in Adelaide, the star batter was leaving a lot of deliveries outside off. There was also a lot of backfoot play involved during the session, which saw Kohli bring out some cut shots and pulls.

Kohli would spend a lot of time with the throwdown specialists before facing the best of the Indian bowlers. The star batter focused the last half an hour on what he wanted specifically out of the session. Kohli would play a lot of backfoot punches and cover drives as well to conclude his long net session.

Kohli's record in Brisbane

Kohli has played just one match in Brisbane so far in his Test career. This was during the 2014 series and the star batter could only manage 20 runs across both innings. The Indian team will be expected to have one more practice session on December 13 before the match gets underway.

Champions League: Barcelona edge past Dortmund, Manchester City beaten again

➤ Ferran Torres was the hero for FC Barcelona as they edged past Borussia Dortmund in a 5-goal thriller on Wednesday, December 11 in the UEFA Champions League. Manchester City's poor run continued as they were beaten by Juventus in Turin.



New Delhi. In a thrilling UEFA Champions League match on Wednesday, December 11, FC Barcelona secured a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Borussia Dortmund. The win was largely thanks to substitute Ferran Torres, who scored twice, including the decisive 85th-minute winner. The match saw a dramatic five-goal second half, with Torres making a significant impact after coming on in the 71st minute. His goals helped Barcelona move to 15 points, placing

them in second place with two games remaining in the league phase. Borussia Dortmund, despite their efforts, were unable to overcome the deficit for a third time. Serhou Guirassy scored both of Dortmund's goals, but Torres's second goal, set up by a pass from Lamine Yamal, sealed the victory for Barcelona. This result dropped Dortmund to ninth place in the standings with 12 points, while the top eight teams will qualify automatically for the round of 16.

Manchester City's woes continue In other Champions League matches,

Juventus dealt a significant blow to Manchester City's hopes by winning 2-0. Dusan Vlahovic and Weston McKennie scored the goals for Juventus, with Vlahovic's header in the 53rd minute and McKennie's volley in the 75th minute securing the victory. The breakthrough for Juventus came when Vlahovic scored with a close-range header. Kenan Yildiz delivered the ball to the back post, and Vlahovic's header barely crossed the line, confirmed by goal-line technology. Despite City's increased pressure and attempts to equalise, Juventus capitalised on the counter-attack.

In the 75th minute, McKennie scored with a spectacular volley from Timothy Weah's cross, doubling Juventus' lead against the run of play. Manchester City had several scoring opportunities, most notably a missed chance by Erling Haaland in the first half. Another chance saw Ilkay Gundogan unleash a powerful long-range strike that Di Gregorio managed to push wide. With this result, Juventus moved to 11 points in the Champions League group phase, levelling them with Atalanta and just two points shy of the top eight position. Meanwhile, Manchester City plummeted to 22nd place, just one point above the bottom 12 places, which would result in elimination from the competition. City face daunting matches against Paris Saint-Germain and Club Brugge in their remaining group stage fixtures. Meanwhile, Arsenal took a significant step towards the Champions League knockout stage with a 3-0 win over AS Monaco. Bukayo Saka scored twice, with his first goal coming in the 34th minute from a Gabriel Jesus cross, and his second in the 78th minute. Substitute Kai Havertz added a third goal to seal the victory for Arsenal, moving them up to third place in the standings. AC Milan and Atlético Madrid also secured wins over Red Star Belgrade and Slovan Bratislava respectively.

Told Naveen that we are there to support you after spat with Kohli: Sanjiv Goenka

➤ Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) owner Sanjiv Goenka recently revealed that he extended support to Naveen-ul-Haq after his verbal spat with Virat Kohli during the IPL 2023.



New Delhi. Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) owner Sanjiv Goenka recently opened up on the Virat Kohli-Naveen ul Haq verbal spat during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023. Notably, Kohli and Naveen had a heated exchange during Match 43 of the tournament between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and LSG in Lucknow. Following the incident, Kohli also had an altercation with the LSG mentor Gautam Gambhir at the end of the game. In the aftermath of the incident, the trio were

finned heavily by the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India). Recently, LSG owner Sanjiv Goenka opened up on the incident and revealed that he had extended his support to Naveen after the incident.

"That situation took place during a game. So I will not comment on whether it was right or wrong. It is easy to be judgmental but it is not for us to judge. I just told Naveen that if you need any support or you are feeling insecure, we are there to support you," Goenka said on

the TRS Podcast. Further speaking ahead, Goenka also mentioned how he motivated the Afghanistan seamer to give a strong reply with his performance.

Kohli and Naveen sorted out their differences during World Cup

"But it is not about showing that you have the spirit to fight. If I was in your position, I would have said - You said this to me. Now I will bowl in such a manner that I will take all of your team's wickets," he added.

After the big controversy, Naveen and Kohli sorted out their differences during the ODI World Cup 2023 match between India and Afghanistan in Delhi. The Afghanistan bowler was welcomed with 'Kohli-Kohli!' chants when he walked out to bat and also during his bowling spells. However, Kohli asked the crowd to not go after the youngster and gave him a warm hug to bring the controversy to an end.

AUS vs IND: How India batters trained in Brisbane ahead of 3rd Test

➤ Team India engaged in intense practice in their first session in Brisbane as batters spent a long time in the nets. Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah was also seen bowling full throttle, shutting down any concerns on his fitness.



New Delhi. The Indian batters were seen engaging in a long practice session after their disappointing show in Adelaide. Notably, the entire squad arrived in Brisbane on Wednesday, December 11 and had their first nets session. After the loss in the second Test, the focus has been on the Indian batters who failed to continue their good show from the second innings in Perth and could only score 180 and 175 in the two innings

respectively. Hence, the batters seemed determined to put their bad performances behind them and worked on their weaknesses. Star batter Virat Kohli showed great discipline in leaving the balls outside off stump and was decisive in his footwork. India skipper Rohit Sharma started by facing the spinners and then faced an intense spell from Navdeep Saini, Yash Dayal and left-arm throw-downs with a special focus on leaving deliveries outside the off stump.

Border Gavaskar Trophy: Full Coverage KL Rahul, who's been promoted to open in the ongoing series, was also seen having a long chat with head coach Gautam Gambhir. Ace speedster Jasprit Bumrah shut down talks on

his fitness by bowling full throttle. Opening batter Yashasvi Jaiswal was also seen rolling his arm over as he bowled to Akash Deep. On the other hand, fast bowler Mohammed Siraj looked determined to work on his line and length and give good support to Bumrah in the upcoming Test.

India eager to bounce back in Brisbane

The players also engaged in catching drills as Virat Kohli, Sarfaraz Khan and KL Rahul among others, honed their skills. India will be eager to once again take a lead in the series in the upcoming Test, which could well decide which way the series heads. After a thumping 295-run victory in the first Test in Perth, the Rohit Sharma-led side was completely blown away in Adelaide against the pink ball as Australia hammered them by ten wickets. Hence, it's extremely crucial for the visitors to get a much-needed win under their belt in Brisbane and put the hosts under pressure once again. They will take inspiration from their last triumph at the venue during the 2020-21 tour when they ended.



to attack him from the first ball; you need to make a fixed plan to exploit his weakness, and then you can get him out," said Kaif in a video shared on his social media handles. Head's marvellous form since 2021

Head has transformed his career ever since the 2021-22 Ashes in Australia where he scored a blistering 152 (148) in the first Test in Brisbane. Since 2021, the southpaw has scored 2260 runs from 32 matches (53 innings) at an average of 45.20 and a strike rate of 79.68 with six hundreds and ten fifties to his name. Head has scored 955 runs from 12 Tests (21 innings) against India at an average of 47.75 which includes a scintillating 163 (174) in the WTC final 2023. The 30-year-old became a thorn in India's flesh in the ODI World Cup 2023 final as well with his game-changing knock of 137 (120). Hence, India desperately need to find a way to keep Head quiet for the rest of the series as he's looked the only batter to trouble them so far in the first two matches.

Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood signed as BBL supplementary players

➤ Australia's pace trio of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood have been signed as supplementary players for the upcoming season of the Big Bash League. Cummins will be joining the Sydney Thunder and Starc and Hazlewood will be heading back to the Sixers.

New Delhi. Australia's pace trio Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood have all been signed as supplementary players for the upcoming Big Bash League season 14. While Cummins will be a part of the Sydney Thunder side, Starc and Hazlewood will represent their crosstown rivals, the Sixers for the upcoming season. Both franchises would go on to confirm the signings on Thursday, December 12. Given that the trio will be busy with their international

commitments, it is expected that they will not be taking a part a lot in the upcoming season. However, the trio are expected to be a part of the off-field side of things whenever their schedule permits. Cummins had been a part of the Thunder from the fifth to the ninth season, which was his last one in the competition. Starc and Hazlewood have been with the Sixers from the very start and won the inaugural BBL title with the team, alongside Cummins as well.

What Cummins said about the move Cummins claimed that he was really proud to be a part of the Thunder. The Australia captain said that the current squad is shaping up to be a special one. As a Western Sydney guy at heart, I'm really proud to be a part of the team this summer. While international duties mean I can't be around as much as I'd



like, I'm excited to have a voice and fully back the guys throughout the season. "It's fantastic to have talent like Sam Billings back. I first played with him in Penrith, so our Western Sydney connection runs deep. He's a great addition to the squad."

Having Davey Warner locked in for a full season is huge for us. It's great to see the balance in the team, with so many leaders stepping up alongside the talented youth coming through. "This squad is shaping up to be something special, and it's set to be an unreal season of Big Bash cricket. A big thank you to our fans - I can't wait to see you out at a game during the season," said Cummins. The Sixers will start their BBL 14 campaign against the Melbourne Renegades on December 16, while the Thunder will face the Adelaide Strikers a day later. Cummins, Starc and Hazlewood are all currently involved in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India.



Fashion Lovers

Natasa Stankovic

Is Stepping Up As A Style Icon

Shraddha Kapoor, known for her humble attitude and strong acting skills is currently attending the ongoing Red Sea International Film Festival 2024 in Saudi Arabia. Amidst this, she engaged in a candid conversation where she revealed some exciting details about her upcoming projects. In an interview with Pinkvilla, Shraddha Kapoor opened up about her upcoming projects. The actress was asked if she would be a part of Varun Dhawan's Bhediya 2. For context, in a pre-credit scene of her last film, Stree 2, Bhaskar (played by Dhawan) asks another character in the movie, Jana (played by Abhishek Banerjee) to set him up with Stree (played by Shraddha). Although Jana declines, Bhaskar continues to plead with him. This made the audience curious whether Shraddha would be part of Bhediya 2.



Shraddha said, "Only time will tell if any more cameos of mine come up in any of the other Maddock films. I don't know yet." The actress also mentioned that she will soon announce her upcoming projects. She said, "Very soon, I will share the films that I will be doing, which I will be shooting for next year."

In the same conversation, Shraddha was also asked about her opinion of Kiran Rao's directorial Laapataa Ladies being India's entry for the Oscars 2025. Talking about the same, the actress, heaped praises on the film and admitted that she loved it. She said, "It's so amazing to see that good films are getting their due and appreciation." The social drama also stars Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Ravi Kishan, and Sparsh Shrivastav, among others, in key roles.

She further expressed, "I feel any film that gets its due and recognition is a great feeling, and it only sets a standard. It only inspires more people to be true to the craft," adding, "People will know that acha thik hai, my focus should be on doing good work or making good films, and that's it. If I do that, people will be watching." Meanwhile, Shraddha's last film Stree 2 became the highest-grossing film of all time after collecting nearly Rs 580 crore at the box office.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's Sister-In-Law Shares Another Cryptic Note: 'I Respect My Value'



Amid the ongoing speculations around the rift between Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan, the actress' sister-in-law Shrima Rai continues to dominate headlines. Reason? Reddit users pointed out that Shrima, married to Aishwarya's brother, Aditya Rai, never posts about the actress or her niece, Aaradhya Bachchan on social media, hinting at their strained relationship. Days after setting the record straight about the speculations, Shrima has now added a new post on her Instagram stories. The post featured a cryptic note about respect, love and goodness of life.

The note read, "I respect my value and honor my worth. I will never settle for anything less than I deserve. I am deserving of love, respect and all the goodness life has to offer."

A subsequent paragraph read, "I am always in a state of growth. All of the things that I am currently experiencing are taking me to the next level of my life. By respecting myself, I naturally attract experiences and relationships that reflect my true value and uplift my spirit. Nothing is impossible when I am rooted in love."

Earlier this month, Shrima Rai, a popular beauty influencer, also broke her silence on the controversy surrounding her relationship with Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. Responding to a user who mentioned that she was unaware of her connection with the actress, Shrima shared that she doesn't post about the actress or her niece Aaradhya for a reason, writing "I want people to see me for me."

Before this, Shrima Rai hogged the limelight for sharing the picture of the flowers sent by Abhishek Bachchan's sister Shweta Bachchan and her husband Nikhil Nanda. As Shrima thanked the couple for their beautiful gesture through a post on Instagram, viewers online started criticising her for sharing the photo amid Aishwarya and Abhishek's divorce rumours. Later, she dropped an elaborate note on the photo-sharing application to slam the trolls. Clarifying, she shared that the flowers were sent for her birthday on November 21 and added that she never tried to "open any business with anyone's name".

Gauri Khan Redefines Evening Wear In Black Slit Dress And Denim Jacket

Gauri Khan was captured attending former Miss India and beauty brand owner Queenie Singh's birthday party in Mumbai.



Renowned interior designer and Shah Rukh Khan's wife Gauri Khan never misses out on an opportunity to impress fans with her fine sartorial choices. Whether it is an award ceremony or a casual outing in the city, the businesswoman's sense of style is always spot on. Gauri was recently captured attending former Miss India and beauty brand owner Queenie Singh's birthday party in Mumbai. As always, the star wife set fashion goals with her chic ensemble.

Several pictures and videos of Gauri Khan surfaced on social media. In a video, she could be seen posing for the shutterbugs outside a restaurant in Mumbai. The clip featured Gauri looking effortlessly glamorous in a stylish long black slit dress. The evening number displayed an attractive blue and silver buckle holding the dress together. For an additional appeal, she paired the dress with a blue denim jacket.

On the glam front, Gauri went with minimal accessories letting her outfit shine. She chose silver dangles that complemented her dress. Her makeup reflected a subtle glow, perfect for the evening. It included contoured cheeks, smokey eyes and pink lipstick to seal the look.

Soon after the video appeared on social media, fans took to the comments section to praise her look. A user noted, 'Gorgeous' while another mentioned that she looked 'Very Cute'. Many other fans dropped heart and fire emojis.

Apart from being a significant partner at Red Chillies Entertainment, the production house of Shah Rukh Khan, Gauri Khan is the owner of her interior design firm Gauri Khan Designs (GKD). Her usual clients include high-profile personalities such as Mukesh Ambani, Karan Johar, and Roberto Cavalli, among others.

Sanjay Dutt And Maanayata Dutt

Are The Coolest Couple And We Have Solid Proof



Sanjay Dutt and Maanayata Dutt are among the most popular Bollywood couples. The duo has been married for 16 years and are proud parents to twin kids, a son named Shahraan Dutt and a daughter Iqra Dutt whom they welcomed in October 2010. The couple often share insights from their personal and professional lives on social media and their recent video is a true testament to their loving and unbreakable bond.

The Khalanayak actor along with his wife shared a joint post on Instagram which depicted Sanjay having a conversation with Maanayata over a call. As the actor picks up the phone, Maanayata could be seen asking him, "Kab aa rahein hain aap (when are you coming back?)," to which the Munna Bhai MBBS actor replied, "Jaldi bas kaam khatam ho jaaye (Soon after completing the work)." She continued "Wrap ho gaya?", Sanjay responds, "Bas wrap hi to kar raha hun (Just wrapping up)."

As the clip moves forward, the 46-year-old is seen asking about the type of role will be performing on screen. To which he responds, "Zabardast. Is saal mere 7 se 8 behtareen roles aane waale hain (Amazing, I have 7 to 8 excellent roles coming this year.)" "Uff! Kitna kaam krenge aap (Oh God! How much work will you do)," says Maanayata, to which the actor replies, "Dubai aake bataata hun (Will tell you after I come to Dubai)."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Sanjay Dutt was last seen in the Telugu action drama film Double iSmart in a negative role. Helmed by Puri Jagannadh, the film also featured Ram Pathineni, Kavya Thapar and Sayaji Shinde in lead roles.

He will be next seen in a Punjabi film titled Sheran Di Kaum Punjabi which also stars Punjabi actor and singer Gippy Grewal in the lead role. Apart from that, he also has a Pan-India release KD: The Devil, a comedy entertainer Housefull 5, an untitled project with Ranveer Singh and Akshaye Khanna, and the action thriller Baaghi 4 in his kitty.



“The couple, married for 16 years, are proud parents to twins, a son named Shahraan and daughter a Iqra.”