



Sonakshi Sinha  
Call Husband...

फोटोन एक्सक्लूसिव... जनवरी से लेकर अक्टूबर 2024 तक छेड़खानी और दुष्कर्म के 1326 मामले आए सामने

# पुलिस के प्रयास नाकाम, हर दिन लूट रही चार की अस्मत

SUHAIB ANSARI @ RANCHI

झारखंड में बेटीयों की सुरक्षा के लिए पुलिस हर जरूरी कदम उठा रही है। इसके बावजूद महिलाओं की सुरक्षा चिंता का सबब बनी हुई है। सख्त कानून और पुलिस के नए-नए तरीकों के बावजूद बेटीयों को निशाना बनाने में बदमाश सफल साबित हो रहे हैं। आज हम बात कर रहे हैं राज्य में महिलाओं के साथ हो रहे दुष्कर्म पर। यहां हर दिन चार महिलाओं की अस्मत लूटी जा रही है। आंकड़ों के अनुसार, झारखंड में 10 महीनों में 1326 महिलाओं को हैवानों ने अपना शिकार बनाया। यह आंकड़े स्टेट क्राइम रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो (एससीआरबी) ने जारी किए हैं। यह डराने वाली स्थिति है। महिलाओं की सुरक्षा पर एक बड़ा सवाल है। आंकड़ों के अनुसार, झारखंड में जनवरी 2024 से लेकर अक्टूबर 2024 तक 1326 महिलाओं की अस्मत लूटी जा चुकी है। सबसे ज्यादा घटनाएं जून 2024 में हुईं। इस महीने 185 महिलाओं को टारगेट किया गया। जनवरी माह में 100 महिलाओं फिर दुष्कर्म के मामले सामने आए। हालांकि ये आंकड़े दुष्कर्म के साथ-साथ शादी का झंझा देकर यौन शोषण से भी जुड़े हैं।

ज्यादातर मामलों में आरोपियों को पुलिस कर लेती है अरेस्ट, ऐसे मामलों की लिस्ट बहुत लंबी, कई मामले दब गए

कई मामलों में लोक-लाज के डर से मौत को लगाया गया गले

- कड़ी कानूनी व्यवस्था के बावजूद नहीं रुक रही घटनाएं
- जून में सबसे ज्यादा दुष्कर्म के 185 मामले, जबकि जनवरी में 100
- समाज के भीतर भी सुरक्षा को लेकर बढ़ रही चिंता
- दुष्कर्म के साथ-साथ यौन शोषण से भी जुड़े हैं ये आंकड़े



कानूनी सख्ती के बाद भी असर नहीं

दुष्कर्म के मामले में सख्त कानून बनाए गए हैं। गिरफ्तारी, स्पीडी ट्रायल, कड़ी से कड़ी सजा के बावजूद झारखंड में हर दिन 4 महिला दुष्कर्म की शिकार हो रही हैं। ये सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार हैं। ऐसे घटनाओं की लिस्ट बहुत लंबी है। कई मामलों को लोक-लाज की वजह से दबा दिया जाता है। कई ऐसे मामले भी सामने आए हैं, जहां महिलाएं हादसे के बाद मौत को गले लगा लेती हैं। इधर, पुलिस भी इन हैवानों के खिलाफ सख्त एक्शन लेती है। आरोपियों को फौरन गिरफ्तार कर सलाखों के पीछे भेज देती है।

किस माह कितनी घटनाएं	
जनवरी	- 100
फरवरी	- 110
मार्च	- 128
अप्रैल	- 140
मई	- 131
जून	- 185
जुलाई	- 143
अगस्त	- 117
सितंबर	- 142
अक्टूबर	- 130
कुल	- 1326

45 दिनों के अंदर दाखिल करें चार्जशीट

पुलिस मुख्यालय ने सभी जिलों के एसएसपी व एसपी को यह निर्देश दिया है कि यौन शोषण व दुष्कर्म के मामले में 30 दिनों में जांच पूरी कराएं। इसके बाद केस के सुपरविजन के बाद 45 दिनों के अंदर कोर्ट में चार्जशीट दाखिल करने का आदेश है। फिर पुलिस मामले की स्पीडी ट्रायल के लिए अदालत से आग्रह करेगी, ताकि दोषियों को शीघ्र सजा मिल सके।

क्या है सजा का प्रावधान



भारतीय न्याय संहिता (बीएनएस) की धारा 70(1) कहती है कि अगर कोई 12 वर्ष से कम उम्र की बच्ची के साथ दुष्कर्म करता है, तो उसे उम्रकेद तक की सजा हो सकती है। इसमें फांसी की सजा का भी प्रावधान है। अगर किसी के साथ सामूहिक दुष्कर्म होता है, तो सभी दोषियों को उम्रकेद की सजा हो सकती है। अगर कोई बार-बार इस मामले में दोषी पाया जाता है, तो उसे कम से कम उम्रकेद की सजा होगी। अगर कोई व्यक्ति शादी, रोजगार या प्रमोशन का झूठा वादा करके यौन संबंध बनाता है, तो इसमें 10 साल तक की सजा का प्रावधान है। अगर कोई व्यक्ति अपनी पहचान छिपाकर विवाह करता है, तो उसे 10 साल की सजा का प्रावधान है। अगर दुष्कर्म के बाद पीड़ित की जान चली गई या वह कौमा जैसी स्थिति में चली जाती है, तो दोषी को कम से कम 20 साल की सजा होगी।

पेज 03 पर पढ़ें: कई जिलों में सामने आए चौकाने वाले मामले

SHARE	
संसेक्स	: 82,948.23
निफ्टी	: 25,377.55

SARAF	
सोना	: 6,795
चांदी	: 98.05

(नोट : सोना 22 कैरेट प्रति ग्राम)

## BRIEF NEWS

घोखाघड़ी मामले में ईडी ने आठ जगहों पर मारी रेड

**NEW DELHI :** गुरुवार प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ईडी) ने तमिलनाडु में 1000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की साइबर घोखाघड़ी से जुड़े मामले की जांच के सिलसिले में पश्चिम बंगाल में आठ जगहों पर छापेमारी की है। आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने बताया कि ईडी ने कोलकाता के पार्क स्ट्रीट, साव्द लेक और बागुइहाटी इलाकों में पांच जगहों और अन्त्य जिलों में तीन ठिकानों पर एक साथ छापेमारी की है, जो फिलहाल जारी है। अधिकारी सूत्रों ने कहा कि साव्द लेक इलाके में छापेमारी के दौरान ईडी के अधिकारियों ने पूछताछ के लिए एक व्यक्ति को हिरासत में लिया है।

इजरायली हमले में तीन बच्चों सहित 18 की मौत

**NEW DELHI :** गुरुवार को गाजा पट्टी पर इजरायली हमले में तीन बच्चे और हमला संचालित पुलिस बल के दो उच्चाधिकारियों समेत 18 लोग मारे गए। फलस्तीनी और अस्पताल के अधिकारियों ने यह जानकारी दी। इजरायल द्वारा मानवीय क्षेत्र घोषित किए गए मुवासी नाम के इलाके में लगाए गए एक तंबू पर हमला किया गया। इस इलाके में लगाए गए तंबुओं में हजारों विस्थापित लोग टंड और बरसात से बचने के लिये रह रहे हैं।

रुपया 9 पैसे फिसलकर 85.73 प्रति डॉलर पर पहुंचा

**MUMBAI :** गुरुवार को स्थानीय शेयर बाजारों में जोरदार उछाल के बीच आयातकों से डॉलर की मजबूत मांग आने और विदेशी कंपनियों की निकासी जारी रहने से रुपया डॉलर के मुकाबले नौ पैसे गिरकर 85.73 (अस्थायी) पर बंद हुआ। मुद्रा कारोबारियों ने कहा कि 2024 में अधिकांश मुद्राओं के मुकाबले डॉलर में तेजी रही थी और यह सिलसिला नए साल में भी जारी रहने की संभावना है।

समाधान की जरूरत : जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण पैदा हो रही अनेक जटिल समस्याएं

## जिंदगी बचाने में सोलर जियो इंजीनियरिंग की भूमिका अहम

AGENCY NEW DELHI :

उन्नति, प्रगति और विकास की दिशाएं हमारी आवश्यकताओं के हिसाब से चलती हैं। आज के ग्लोबल परिदृश्य में हम कदम विकास के रास्ते को प्रशस्त नहीं कर सकते हैं। अगर आवश्यकता आवश्यकता की जननी है, तो आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के लिए बिना सोचे-समझे किए गए कार्य अतिरिक्त समस्याओं भी पैदा करते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में विकास के कदमों के साथ उत्पन्न होने वाली समस्याओं के समाधान की कारगर रण्टि ही सब कुछ को संतुलित रख पाती है। आज के विकास की गति से जलवायु परिवर्तन के खतरे हमें चेता रहे हैं। जलवायु परिवर्तन संबंधी समस्याओं का निदान आवश्यक है। इसमें सोलर जियो इंजीनियरिंग की भूमिका अत्यंत अहम है। जलवायु परिवर्तन के खतरों को सोलर जियो इंजीनियरिंग से कम कर सकते हैं। इससे धरती को जलदी टंडा किया जा सकता है। यह तकनीक दुनिया के उत्सर्जन को सीमित करने और वातावरण से कार्बन को हटाने के प्रयासों को पूरी तरह से सफल बना सकती है।

विकास की दिशाओं को संतुलित बनाए रखने के लिए जलवायु की शुद्धता जरूरी कमजोर वायुमंडलीय ओजोन परत के कारण बढ़ती जा रही स्वास्थ्य समस्याएं

- बाढ़ते तापमान की वजह से हर साल करीब चार लाख लोगों की हो जाती है मौत
- गर्म होती जा रही धरती को ठंडा करने की प्रक्रिया का विशेषज्ञों ने किया अध्ययन
- नेशनल एकेडमी ऑफ साइंसेज में प्रकाशित की गई है विस्तृत जानकारी
- क्लाइमेट चेंज की वजह से देश के 51 जिलों में भीषण बाढ़ व 91 में सूखे का खतरा



बारिश में 10 फीसद का इजाफा

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, देश की 4,000 से अधिक तहसीलों में से लगभग 55 फीसदी में पिछले दशक यानी 2012-22 तक जलवायु आधार रेखा (1982-2011) की तुलना में मानसूनी बारिश में 10 फीसद की वृद्धि देखी गई है। इस वृद्धि का अधिकांश हिस्सा राजस्थान, गुजरात, मध्य महाराष्ट्र और तमिलनाडु के कुछ हिस्सों के पारंपरिक रूप से सूखे इलाकों में दर्ज हुआ है।

वैतन भुगतान व कंपनी के खराब व्यवहार की हेमंत को मिली थी जानकारी

- राज्य प्रवासी नियंत्रण कक्ष को त्वरित कार्रवाई करने का सीएम ने दिया था निर्देश
- नियोजकों पर हुई कार्रवाई, श्रमिकों का 39,77,743 बकाया कराया गया भुगतान
- शेप 9 श्रमिक आ चुके हैं भारत, आज रांची के बिरसा मुंडा एयरपोर्ट पर पहुंचेंगे
- 29 दिसंबर 2024 को झारखंड पहुंचे थे 11 श्रमिक



एयरपोर्ट पर श्रमिकों का स्वागत करते अधिकारी।

फोटोन न्यूज

जाने की जानकारी मुख्यमंत्री को प्राप्त हुई थी। इसके बाद मुख्यमंत्री ने राज्य प्रवासी नियंत्रण कक्ष को त्वरित कार्रवाई का निर्देश दिया था। राज्य प्रवासी नियंत्रण कक्ष ने त्वरित कार्रवाई करते हुए श्रमिकों और संबंधित कंपनी से संपर्क कर मामले का सत्यापन किया।

‘श्रमिक भाइयों को योजना से जोड़ें’

मुख्यमंत्री ने श्रमिकों की वापसी के बाद विभागीय सचिव को इन श्रमिकों का पारिवारिक विवरण संग्रह कर सरकार द्वारा संचालित योजनाओं से संबद्ध करने का निर्देश दिया है। इस निर्देश के उपरांत सभी संबंधित श्रम अधीक्षकों ने श्रमिकों का विवरण प्राप्त कर उन्हें योजनाओं का लाभ देने की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। किसी भी श्रमिक को बाहर जाकर काम करने की स्थिति नहीं आनी चाहिए।



झारखंड केडर के तीन आईपीएस केंद्र में आईजी रैंक के पैनेल में हुए शामिल



**RANCHI :** झारखंड में पुलिस महकमा के लिए एक और खुशखबरी। 31 दिसंबर की देर रात जहां झारखंड केडर के 9 आईपीएस अफसरों को सरकार ने प्रमोशन दिया, वहीं अब 3 आईपीएस अधिकारियों को केंद्र में आईजी रैंक के पैनेल में शामिल किया गया है। तीनों अधिकारी झारखंड केडर के 2006 बैच के आईपीएस हैं। झारखंड केडर के जिन आईपीएस को केंद्र में आईजी रैंक में पैनेल किया गया है, उनमें ए विजय लक्ष्मी, आईजी टैनिंग, अनूप टी मैथ्यू और बोकारो के जोनल आईजी माइकल राज एस शामिल हैं। अभी अनूप टी मैथ्यू केन्द्रीय प्रतिनियुक्ति पर हैं। बता दें कि देशभर के कई राज्यों से 71 आईपीएस अधिकारियों को आईजी रैंक के लिए इपेनल किया गया है। गौरतलब है कि कि केंद्र सरकार की नियुक्ति समिति ने पूरे देश के आईपीएस अफसरों को आईजी रैंक व आईजी समानांतर पद पर इपेनल करने के लिए विचार किया था। यह मंथन 2006 बैच के आईपीएस अफसरों के लिए किया गया था। जिन सीनियर अधिकारियों को केन्द्रीय पैनेल में शामिल किया गया है उनका परफॉर्मेंस बेटर रहा है।

डी. गुकेश, हरमनप्रीत, मनु भाकर और प्रवीण को दिया जाएगा खेल रत्न पुरस्कार



AGENCY NEW DELHI :

गुरुवार को दो ओलिंपिक पदक जीतने वाली निशानेबाज मनु भाकर, शतरंज विश्व चैंपियन डी. गुकेश समेत चार खिलाड़ियों को इस साल देश के सर्वोच्च खेल सम्मान मेजर ध्यानचंद खेलरत्न पुरस्कार के लिए चुना गया है, जबकि अर्जुन पुरस्कार के लिए चुने गए 32 खिलाड़ियों में रिकॉर्ड 17 पैरा एथलीट हैं। खेलरत्न पुरस्कार पाने वालों में पुरुष हॉकी टीम के कप्तान हरमनप्रीत सिंह और पैरा एथलीट प्रवीण कुमार भी शामिल हैं। विजेताओं को 17 जनवरी 2025 को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू राष्ट्रपति भवन में एक विशेष कार्यक्रम में पुरस्कार प्रदान करेंगी।

- 32 खिलाड़ियों को मिलेगा अर्जुन पुरस्कार
- विजेताओं को 17 जनवरी को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू करेंगी पुरस्कृत

यह घोषणा उन खबरों के कुछ दिन बाद आई, जिनमें कहा गया था कि आवेदन नहीं करने के कारण पुरस्कार चरण समिति ने मनु के नाम की खेलरत्न के लिये अनुशंसा नहीं की है। बाद में मनु ने स्वीकार किया कि नामांकन भरते समय शायद उनसे ही चूक हुई थी। मसला सुलझे के बाद मनु को पुरस्कार मिलने को लेकर कोई शक नहीं था। पेरिस ओलिंपिक में ही हरमनप्रीत सिंह की कप्तानी में भारत ने लगातार दूसरे ओलिंपिक में पदक जीता। अठारह वर्ष के गुकेश सबसे युवा विश्व चैंपियन बने, जो पिछले साल शतरंज ओलिंपियाड में भारतीय टीम के ऐतिहासिक स्वर्ण पदक में भी सूत्रधार रहे थे।

झारखंड की हॉकी खिलाड़ी सलीमा को अर्जुन अवार्ड

**RANCHI :** झारखंड की सलीमा टेंटे को इस साल अर्जुन पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया जाएगा। वह राज्य की पहली महिला हॉकी खिलाड़ी बन गई हैं, जिन्हें यह प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कार मिला। इससे पहले झारखंड के ओलिंपियन रस. माइकल किंडी को अर्जुन पुरस्कार से नवाजा गया था। बता दें कि सलीमा टेंटे का संबंध बहुत प्रेरणादायक है। रिमडेगा जिले के बड़की छपर गांव की रहने वाली सलीमा कभी अपने परिवार के साथ कच्चे मकान में रह करती थीं। उनके पिता सुलझण टेंटे भी स्थानीय स्तर पर हॉकी खेलते थे। क्लब में सलीमा के पास हॉकी स्टिक नहीं थी। इसलिए उन्होंने बांस की छपट्टी से बनी स्टिक से हॉकी खेलना शुरू किया था। इस संबंध और मेहनत के साथ उन्होंने जिला, राज्य, देश और फिर विश्व स्तर पर अपनी पहचान बनाई। सलीमा टेंटे ने टोक्यो ओलिंपिक में भारतीय महिला हॉकी टीम का हिस्सा बनकर अपनी शानदार खेल का प्रदर्शन किया। इस दौरान सलीमा के घर में टीवी नहीं था, जिससे परिवार वाले अपनी बेटी का खेल देख नहीं पा रहे थे। लेकिन जब यह खबर प्रसारित हुई तो सरकार की पहल पर उनके घर में स्मार्ट टीवी और इन्वर्टर लगाया गया, ताकि परिवारवाले आराम से सलीमा का मैच देख सकें।



‘इंडिया’ गठबंधन में शामिल होने के लिए मिला खुला न्योता

लालू के ऑफर पर नीतीश ने दिया गोलमोल जवाब

AGENCY PATNA :

गुरुवार को बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार ने बृहस्पतिवार को राष्ट्रीय जनता दल (राजद) के अध्यक्ष लालू प्रसाद के विपक्षी गठबंधन ‘इंडिया’ में वापस आने के प्रस्ताव पर गोलमोल जवाब दिया। उन्होंने संवाददाताओं से कहा, क्या बोल रहे हैं। राजभवन में नए राज्यपाल के तौर पर आरिफ मोहम्मद खान के शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में शामिल हुए कुमार से जब लालू प्रसाद के नए प्रस्ताव के बारे में पूछा गया तो उन्होंने हाथ जोड़कर मुस्कुराते हुए बस इतना ही कहा, झक्या बोल रहे हैं। खान और उपमुख्यमंत्री सम्राट चौधरी के साथ खड़े कुमार से जब यह



पूछा गया कि क्या राज्य सरकार अपना कार्यकाल पूरा कर पाएगी, तो नवनियुक्त राज्यपाल ने हस्तक्षेप करते हुए कहा, इस तरह के सवाल पूछने का यह सही समय नहीं है। आज खुशी का दिन है। हमें सिर्फ अच्छी चीजों के बारे में बात करनी चाहिए। बता दें कि पिछले एक दशक के दौरान कुमार दो बार विपक्षी गठबंधन ‘इंडिया’ के घटक दल राजद के साथ गठबंधन कर चुके हैं।











समाचार सार

जयंती पर याद किए गए कवि बंकिम चंद्र महतो

**GHATSILA :** राज्य के प्रख्यात कवि व लेखक बंकिम चंद्र महतो की जयंती गुरुवार को मनाई गई। इस अवसर पर बंकिम साहित्य संरक्षण समिति, घाटशिला द्वारा आयोजित . समारोह की अध्यक्षता घाटशिला कॉलेज के पूर्व प्रोफेसर बादल चंद्र भक्त एवं संचालन महिंद्रा मोहन सहतो ने किया। इस मौके पर विधायक प्रतिनिधि

जगदीश भक्त ने कहा कि बंकिम बाबू ने बताया कि वे रांची विश्वविद्यालय के बांग्ला विभागाध्यक्ष भी रहे। चाकुलिया प्रखंड के पाथरचकड़ी गांव में 2 जनवरी 1938 को जन्मे बंकिम बाबू ने घाटशिला क्षेत्र को अपनी कर्मभूमि बनाई। इस अवसर पर लेखक निखार अमीन ने शिलालेख नामक उनकी किताब का विमोचन किया। कार्यक्रम में सपन कुमार महतो, ओम प्रकाश सिंह. रवींद्रनाथ कर, जयदेव महतो, मौसमी सरकार, निवेदिता महतो, सुवेंदु महतो आदि ने भी अपने विचार रखे।

लक्ष्मण गिलुआ क्रिकेट क्लब विजेता

**CHAIBASA :** पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिला क्रिकेट संघ के तत्वावधान में चल रही 9वीं अशोक कुमार जैन जिला नॉकआउट क्रिकेट प्रतियोगिता में



गुरुवार को चक्रधरपुर का लक्ष्मण गिलुआ क्रिकेट क्लब विजेता बना। उसने प्रताप क्रिकेट क्लब चाईबासा को एक आसान मुकाबले में छह विकेट से हरा दिया। अब 11 जनवरी को प्री-क्वार्टर फाइनल में इसका मुकाबला लासन क्लब चाईबासा से होगा। चाईबासा के बिरसा मुंडा क्रिकेट स्टेडियम मैदान पर खेले गए आज के मैच में टॉस लक्ष्मण गिलुआ क्रिकेट क्लब ने जीता तथा विपक्षी टीम को पहले बल्लेबाजी का न्यता दिया।

जेम्को गुरुद्वारा से निकली प्रभातफेरी

**JAMSHEDPUR :** श्री गुरु गोविंद सिंह साहब का प्रकाश उत्सव 6



जनवरी को मनाया जाएगा। इसी उपलक्ष्य में गुरुवार को जेम्को गुरुद्वारा से प्रभातफेरी निकली, जो खालसा कॉलोनी पहुंची। वहां शबद-कीर्तन हुआ। प्रभातफेरी में संगत सोई-सोई देवे जो मांगे

ठाकुर अपने... से पूरा माहौल भक्तिमय हो गया। प्रभातफेरी में गुरुद्वारा साहिब के सेक्रेटरी सरदूल सिंह, मनजीत सिंह, करनदीप सिंह, जसबीर सिंह, बलविंदर सिंह, गुरुमुख सिंह, हरजीत सिंह आदि शामिल थे।

मकर संक्रांति पर होगा स्वर्णरेखा नदी का पूजन

**JAMSHEDPUR :** स्वर्णरेखा क्षेत्र विकास ट्रस्ट की बैठक गुरुवार को



बिष्टपुर स्थित कार्यालय में हुई। इसमें स्वर्णरेखा महोत्सव को लेकर विस्तृत चर्चा की गयी। तय हुआ कि प्रत्येक वर्ष की भांति 14 जनवरी को नदी पूजन कर स्वर्णरेखा महोत्सव मनाया जाएगा। सोनारी स्थित दोमुहानी नदी घाट पर प्रातः 10.30 बजे और सीतारामडेरा के पांडेय घाट पर दोपहर 11.30 बजे पूजन किया जाएगा। इसी दिन शाम को बिष्टपुर स्थित मिलानी हॉल में गोष्ठी होगी, जिसमें विधायक सरयू राय के साथ कई पर्यावरणविद् और पर्यावरण प्रेमी शामिल होंगे। बैठक में ट्स्ट्री अशोक गोयल व आशुतोष राय, मुकुल मिश्रा, सुबोध श्रीवास्तव, राघवेंद्र प्रताप सिंह आदि मौजूद थे।

चाईबासा से 100 किसान दिल्ली रवाना

**CHAKRADHARPUR :** पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के उद्यान विभाग की ओर से एक्सपोजर विजिट सह ट्रेनिंग के लिए 100 किसान गुरुवार को



दिल्ली रवाना हुए। उद्यान मित्र सह टीम लीडर रीता सुरिन के नेतृत्व में किसानों की टीम दिल्ली, हरियाणा और शिमला में कृषि से संबंधित प्रशिक्षण लेंगे। वहां के किसानों से अनुभव प्राप्त करेंगे। दिल्ली जाने वाले किसानों में विनोद दिगी, आरती देवी, संजु महतो, पदमो देवी, प्रतिभा देवी, जलमुनि देवी, सुकंती महतो, दुर्गोधन महतो, सुचिता देवी आदि भी शामिल हैं।

पीरु, मिथुन व समरेश बने विधायक प्रतिनिधि

**CHAKRADHARPUR :** चक्रधरपुर विधानसभा क्षेत्र के विधायक सुखराम उरांव ने चक्रधरपुर नगर परिषद क्षेत्र के लिए समरेश उर्फ गुड्डू



सिंह, चक्रधरपुर प्रखंड के लिए पीरू हेंब्रम तथा बंदागांव प्रखंड के लिए मिथुन गागराई को विधायक प्रतिनिधि बनाया है। विधायक प्रतिनिधि बनाए जाने पर तीनों को झामुमो नेता रामलाल मुंडा, दिनेश जेना, प्रदीप महतो, मुखिया श्याम मुंडा तथा मोहम्मद रमीज ने बधाई दी। विधायक ने पीरू हेंब्रम को चक्रधरपुर का विधानसभा स्तरीय प्रतिनिधि भी बनाया है। विधायक की अनुपस्थिति में पीरू ही जिला स्तरीय बैठकों तथा जनहित से जुड़े मामलों में अधिकारियों से समन्वय स्थापित करेंगे।

कुशवाहा समाज 19 को कराएगा सामूहिक विवाह

**JAMSHEDPUR :** कुशवाहा संघ, जमशेदपुर की ओर से 19 जनवरी को एग्रीको स्थित ट्रांसपोर्ट मैदान में सामूहिक विवाह का आयोजन किया जाएगा। इसके साथ ही संघ का वनभोज व पारिवारिक मिलन समारोह भी होगा। संघ ने इसकी घोषणा गुरुवार को कार्यकारिणी समिति की बैठक में लिया। बैठक की अध्यक्षता अध्यक्ष शिव कुमार भक्त ने की, जिसमें सचिव रामकुमार सिंह सहित सभी सदस्य उपस्थित थे।

11 से शुरू होगा प्रखंड स्तरीय दिव्यांगता शिविर

**JAMSHEDPUR :** उपायुक्त के निर्देशानुसार पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले में 11 जनवरी से प्रखंड स्तरीय दिव्यांगता शिविर शुरू होगा, जो 27 फरवरी तक चलेगा। इसे लेकर सिविल सर्जन को विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सकों की प्रतिनियुक्ति करने का निर्देश दिया गया है। सिविल सर्जन ने बताया कि सभी शिविर में अस्थि रोग, ईनटी, मनोरोग, नेत्र रोग, ऑडियोलॉजिस्ट, कर्तौनिकल साइकोलॉजिस्ट आदि प्रतिनियुक्त किए जाएंगे।

चौकादार भर्ती के लिए 7-9 तक शारीरिक परीक्षा

**JAMSHEDPUR :** चौकीदार सीधी भर्ती लिखित परीक्षा में सफल अभ्यर्थियों का औपबोधिक परीक्षाफल एवं अंतिम उत्तर कुंजी जिला की वेबसाइट [www.jamshedpur.nic.in](http://www.jamshedpur.nic.in) पर प्रकाशित कर दिया गया है। लिखित परीक्षा में सफल अभ्यर्थियों के लिए शारीरिक माप एवं जांच के लिए पुलिस लाइन गोलमुरी में प्रातः 7 बजे से निम्नवत तिथि निर्धारित है। 7 जनवरी को परीक्षाफल सूची पृष्ठ संख्या 1 से 2 तक में अंकित रोल नंबर, 8 जनवरी को पृष्ठ सं. 3 से 4 तक और 9 जनवरी को पृष्ठ संख्या 5 से 6 तक में अंकित रोल नंबर वाले अभ्यर्थी शामिल होंगे।

# सोनारी में युवक की गोली मारकर हत्या

## ऑटो खड़ा कर मैदान में बैठा था, तभी अपराधियों ने कर दी फायरिंग

**PHOTON NEWS JSR:**

सोनारी में गुरुवार को दिनदहाड़े युवक की गोली मारकर हत्या कर दी गई। बताया जाता है कि यह घटना कारमेल जुनियर कॉलेज के पीछे स्थित मैदान में हुई। वह ऑटो खड़ा करके मैदान में बैठा ही था कि उसी दौरान कुछ अपराधियों ने वहां पहुंचकर फायरिंग शुरू कर दी। मृतक की पहचान सूरज प्रमाणिक के रूप में हुई है। फायरिंग होते देख सूरज ने भागने की कोशिश की थी, लेकिन अपराधियों ने उसे दोड़ाकर गोली मार दी।

गोली लगने से सूरज की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई। घटना के बाद से इलाके में दहशत का माहौल है। जहां यह घटना हुई, वहां कारमेल स्कूल, दयानंद स्कूल, मिथिला स्कूल और बाल विहार मूक-बधिर स्कूल भी है। इस घटना ने स्थानीय लोगों के साथ-साथ स्कूल प्रबंधन में भी डर और असुरक्षा का माहौल पैदा कर दिया है।



सूरज प्रमाणिक की फाइल फोटो

**पुरानी दुश्मनी बनी मौत की वजह :** लोगों ने कहा कि सूरज प्रमाणिक करीब 10 साल पहले सोनारी से परसुडीह चला गया था। इसके पीछे सोनारी में चल रहा गैंगवार था। हाल ही में उसने सोनारी आना-जाना शुरू किया था। आशंका है कि उसकी हत्या पुरानी दुश्मनी के चलते ही की गई है।

सोनारी स्थित बाल विहार धोबी बस्ती निवासी सूरज प्रमाणिक की हत्या के मामले में नए तथ्य सामने आ रहे हैं। कुछ महीने पहले सूरज का मनोज जायसवाल उर्फ मनोज पगली और कल्लू के साथ गंभीर विवाद हुआ था। इस विवाद में मनोज और कल्लू ने सूरज की आंख फोड़ दी थी। इसके बाद सूरज ने किसी तरह अपना इलाज कराया और हाल ही में वह अपने पिता द्वारा दिया गया ऑटो चला रहा था। परिवार के अनुसार, सूरज की हत्या पुरानी रंजिश का नतीजा है। आंख फोड़ने की घटना के बाद सूरज ने मनोज और कल्लू के साथ मारपीट की थी, जिससे उनका आपसी विवाद और बढ़ गया। परिजनों ने सूरज की हत्या का आरोप सीधे मनोज पगली और कल्लू पर लगाया है। गुरुवार की सुबह 9 बजे सूरज अपने परसुडीह स्थित आवास से निकला और सोनारी पहुंचा। सूरज पिछले कुछ महीनों से परसुडीह में ही रह रहा था। मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए सिटी एसपी कुमार शिवाशीष खुद एमजीएम अस्पताल पहुंचे और परिवार से बातचीत की। पुलिस हर पहलू की जांच कर रही है और जल्द ही यह साफ हो जाएगा कि हत्या के पीछे कौन से विवाद जिम्मेदार थे।

## पिकअप वैन की चपेट में आकर युवक की मौत

**CHAIBASA :** पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के मंझारी थाना क्षेत्र में पिकअप वैन की चपेट में आकर एक युवक की मौत हो गई। जानकारी के अनुसार, मंझारी थाना अंतर्गत कटभारी पेदरगढ़िया निवासी 35 दीपक हैब्रम गुरुवार को बाइक से खजुरिया स्थित अपने ससुराल आया था। ससुराल के पास सड़क के किनारे बाइक खड़ी कर मोबाइल देख रहा था। उसी दौरान एक तेज रफतार वाहन ने टक्कर मार दी, जिससे वह गंभीर रूप से जखमी हो गया। उसे सदर अस्पताल लाया गया, जांच चिकित्सकों ने मृत घोषित कर दिया। पुलिस ने शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए चाईबासा सदर अस्पताल भेज दिया। पुलिस वाहन की तलाश कर रही है।

## सरकारी स्कूल के बच्चों को कराया जाएगा एक्सपोजर विजिट

**JAMSHEDPUR :** पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के सरकारी स्कूलों में अध्ययनरत 11वीं कक्षा के बच्चों को शहर की कंपनियों व संस्थाओं में एक्सपोजर विजिट कराया जाएगा। इसे लेकर समाहरणालय सभागार में गुरुवार को उपायुक्त अनन्य मित्तल की अध्यक्षता में विद्वित कंपनियों व संस्थाओं के प्रतिनिधि के साथ बैठक हुई। उपायुक्त ने बताया कि जिले में कुल 135 हाई स्कूल में से पहले फेज में 15 स्कूलों को विद्वित किया गया है। इन 15 स्कूल में से सिर्फ 11वीं कक्षा के 30-30 बच्चों का विभिन्न कंपनियों एवं संस्थाओं का शैक्षणिक भ्रमण 8 जनवरी से शुरू होगा। बैठक में पहले फेज के लिए चिन्हित 15 स्कूलों के प्राचार्य भी उपस्थित थे। उन्होंने सभी प्राचार्य से 11वीं कक्षा के बच्चों के बीच आंतरिक प्रतियोगिता कराते हुए 30 बच्चों के चुनाव का निर्देश दिया। बच्चों के एक्सपोजर विजिट को लेकर डबो डेनिश टूल रूम, आदित्यपुर, टाटा मोटर्स, ट्राइबल कन्वर्टर सेंटर, टाटा स्टील जूनीअकल पौड, जे.एन टाटा वोकेशनल ट्रेनिंग इंस्टिट्यूट, जेआरडी टाटा स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स, एन टी टी.एफ आदि शामिल हैं।

# 20 दिनों से कचरा डंपिंग यार्ड बना मानगो, बदबू से जीना हुआ मुहाल

**PHOTON NEWS JSR:** मानगो में कचरे की समस्या दिन-ब-दिन भयावह रूप लेती जा रही है। स्थिति ऐसी हो गई है कि अब लोगों का जीना मुहाल हो रहा है। बदबू से महामारी फैलने तक का खतरा सता रहा है।

पूर्व भाजपा नेता विकास सिंह ने समस्या का समाधान नहीं होता देख अब मानगो को कचरामुक्त बनाने के लिए आमरण अनशन करने की चेतावनी दी है। विकास सिंह ने प्रेस को जारी बयान में कहा है कि आजादी के बाद पहली बार मानगो में लगभग 20 दिनों से ऐसी स्थिति बनी है। पूरा मानगो कचरा डंपिंग यार्ड जैसा दिख रहा है। सभी चौक-चौराहे सहित मोहल्ले गंदगी से बजबजा रहे हैं। कोई भी जनप्रतिनिधि इसकी सुध नहीं ले रहा है। जनप्रतिनिधि

## अधिवक्ताओं ने प्रधान व सत्र न्यायाधीश को दी नववर्ष की बधाई



**CHAIBASA :** झारखंड स्टेट कार्डसिल के सदस्य वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता अनिल कुमार महतो के नेतृत्व में गुरुवार को अधिवक्ताओं ने प्रधान जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश मो. शाकिर को नववर्ष की शुभकामना दी। प्रधान न्यायाधीश ने भी अधिवक्ताओं को नववर्ष की बधाई दी। इस अवसर पर जिला बार एसोसिएशन के महासचिव फादर अगस्तीन कुल्लू, वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता अंकुर चौधरी, रमेश चौबे, सरकारी वकील पवन शर्मा आदि मौजूद थे।



अस्पताल में इलाजत घायल

फोटोन न्यूज

## बाइक से गिरकर दो युवक घायल

**GHATSILA :** गालुडीह थाना क्षेत्र के खड़ियाकॉलोनी गांव के समीप एनएच-18 पर गुरुवार की शाम बैल को बचाने के क्रम में बाइक से गिरकर दो युवक गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए। दोनों युवक को हाईवे पैट्रोल वाहन से अनुमंडल अस्पताल घाटशिला पहुंचाया गया। चिकित्सक डॉ. आरएन टुडू ने बताया कि प्रवीण महतो के कान और मुंह पर गंभीर चोट लगी है। दूसरे युवक गुरुपदो महतो की बायाँ आंख और बायें पैर में गंभीर चोट लगी है। गुरुपदो महतो ने बताया कि वह अपने जीजा प्रवीण महतो के घर गुर्मा गांव से अपने घर पायरागुड्डा जा रहा था। इसी क्रम में खड़िया कॉलोनी के पास तेजी से एक बैल सड़क पर आ गया। उसे बचाने के दौरान दोनों सड़क पर गिर गए। घटना की जानकारी परिजनों को दी गई है।



मानगो में मेन रोड के किनारे जमा कचरा

फोटोन न्यूज

अपनी नेतागिरी जीवित रखने के लिए सोशल मीडिया और समाचार में बने रहने के लिए केवल पत्राचार कर रहे हैं और बड़े अधिकारी से मिलने की बात कह रहे हैं, लेकिन परिणाम शून्य है। विकास सिंह ने कहा कि जहां जनप्रतिनिधियों का आवास है, वहां प्लावर शो लग रहा है और जहां मतदाता रहते हैं वहां कचरे का ढेर लगा है। विकास सिंह ने कहा कि लोग ज्ञापन देकर थक चुके हैं। यही स्थिति रही तो वे 7 जनवरी को उपायुक्त कार्यालय के सामने आमरण अनशन शुरू करेंगे। यह अनशन तब तक चलेगा, जब तक कचरा का उठाव शुरू नहीं होगा।

# शहीद पोदो हो के नाम से जाना जाएगा गदड़ा चौक

**JAMSHEDPUR :** गोविंदपुर स्थित गदड़ा चौक का नाम वीर शहीद पोदो हो के नाम पर रखा गया है। नामकरण हातु मुंडा सुकलाल हैब्रम की अध्यक्षता में संपन्न किया गया। दिउरी चैतन पुरती ने शिलापट को हो समुदाय की परंपरा के अनुसार किया गया, जिसमें शिलापट पर देसाउली, नगे एरा व बिंदी ऐरा की पूजा-अर्चना (बोंगा) की गई। विदित हो कि पोदो हो या पोदो सरदार स्वतंत्रता सेनानी थे, जिन्होंने 1837 में हो आदिवासियों के साथ मिलकर ब्रिटिश सरकार के विरुद्ध विद्रोह किया था। वे ब्रिटिश शासन के खिलाफ वर्तमान पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले की सेरेंगसिया घाटी युद्ध के नायक थे। राजाबासा में जन्मे पोदो हो के नेतृत्व में 8 नवंबर, 1837 में अंग्रेजी फौज को अपने साथियों के सहयोग से



शिलापट की पूजा करते पाहलन

हराया। 18 दिसंबर 1837 को पोदो हो, देवी हो, बोड़ो हो, बुड़ई हो, नारा हो, पंडुवा हो, भुगनी हो समेत अन्य पकड़ लिए गए थे। 1जनवरी 1838 को पोदो हो, बुड़ई हो तथा नारा हो को जगन्नाथपुर में बरगद के पेड़ पर फांसी दी गई थी। अगले दिन 2 जनवरी, 1838 को बोड़ो हो तथा पंडुवा हो को सेरेंगसिया घाटी में फांसी दी गई। वहीं 79 हो वीर लड़ाकों को विभिन्न आरोपों में जेल भेज दिया गया।

## झारखंड स्पोर्टिंग क्लब की टीम बनी विजेता



**CHAKRADHARPUR :** चक्रधरपुर प्रखंड के बाईपी पंचायत के हिजोया गांव में गोल्डन स्टार क्लब द्वारा दो दिवसीय प्रतियोगिता का समापन गुरुवार को हुआ। फाइनल मुकाबला झारखंड स्पोर्टिंग क्लब हिजोया बनाम राष्ट्र चापट इंचाकुटी के बीच खेला गया। इसमें झारखंड स्पोर्टिंग क्लब की टीम विजेता बनी। कमेटी द्वारा विजेता टीम को 40 हजार तथा उपविजेता टीम को 20 हजार रुपये नकद पुरस्कार दिया गया। समापन समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि झामुमो नेता सह गुरुजी आशीर्वाद योजना के अध्यक्ष सन्नी उरांव, विधायक प्रतिनिधि पीरू हैब्रम, मुखिया पिंकी जोंको तथा झामुमो नेता प्रदीप महतो उपस्थित थे।

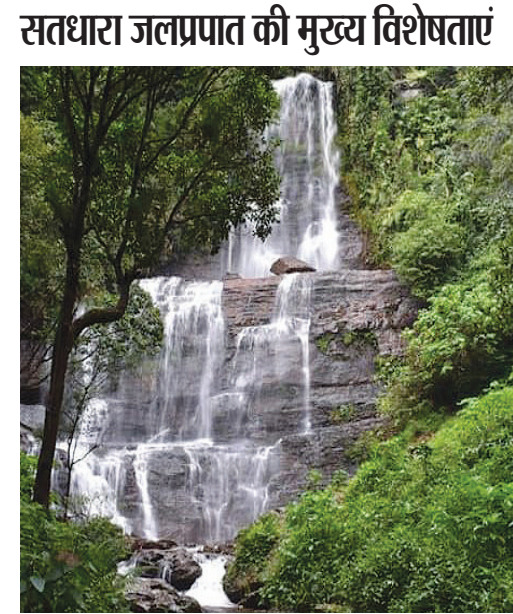
वहीं आयोजन को सफल बनाने में अधिककर् अग्रवाल गोलुडी, मंटू अग्रवाल, अजय भालोटिया, लिपू शर्मा, सुरेश कार्वेटिया, उमेश खीरवाल, सन्नी संधी, बजरंगलाल अग्रवाल, निर्मल पटवारी, अंजु चेतानी, कविता अग्रवाल, ऊषा चौधरी आदि सक्रिय रहें।





सतधारा झरना या फाल्स हिमाचल प्रदेश की चंबा घाटी में स्थित है, जो बर्फ से ढके पहाड़ों और ताजे देवदार के पेड़ों के शानदार दृश्यों से घिरा हुआ है। ‘सतधारा’ का मतलब होता है सात झरने, इस झरने का नाम सातधारा सात खूबसूरत झरनों के जल के एक साथ मिलने की वजह से रखा गया है। इन झरनों का पानी समुद्र से 2036 मीटर ऊपर एक बिंदु पर मिलता है। यह जगह उन लोगों के लिए एक खास है, जो शहर की भीड़-भाड़ वाली जिंदगी से दूर जाकर शांति का अनुभव करना चाहते हैं। सतधारा फाल्स अपने औषधीय गुणों की वजह से भी जानी जाती है, क्योंकि यहां के पानी में अभ्रक पाया जाता है, जिसमें त्वचा के रोग ठीक करने के गुण होते हैं।

अगर आप डलहौजी के पास घूमने की अच्छी जगह तलाश रहे हैं तो सतधारा फाल्स आपके लिए एक अच्छी जगह है। इसे स्थानीय भाषा में ‘गंडक’ के नाम से जाना जाता है। यहां का पानी साफ क्रिस्टल और निर्मल है। राजसी सतधारा झरने का पानी की बूंदे जब चट्टानों पर टकराकर उछलती हैं तो पर्यटकों को बेहद आनंदित करती हैं। यहां पानी से गीली हुई मिट्टी की खुशबू हवा को ताजा कर देती है। सतधारा जलप्रपात को चारों ओर का दृश्य अपनी भव्यता के साथ दर्शकों को बेहद प्रभावित करता है। अगर आप सतधारा फाल्स घूमने के अलावा इसके पर्यटन स्थलों की सैर भी करना चाहते हैं तो इस आर्टिकल को पूरा जरूर पढ़ें, इसमें हमने सतधारा फाल्स जाने के बारे में और इसके पास के पर्यटन स्थलों के बारे में पूरी जानकारी दी है।



सतधारा जलप्रपात का अपना अलग औषधीय मूल्य है। स्प्रिंग्स में तत्व माइका तत्व पाया जाता है, जिसमें ऐसे औषधीय गुण होते हैं, जो संभावित रूप से कई बीमारियों का इलाज कर सकता है। यह चकाचौंध वाला झरने पंचपुला के रास्ते में स्थित है, जो डलहौजी में घूमने के लिए एक और बहुत ही लोकप्रिय जगह है। सतधारा झरने से सूर्यास्त का दृश्य बस शानदार दिखाई देता है, पर्यटकों को देखने में ऐसा लगता है कि एक पीली आग की नारंगी गेंद घूमती है और धीरे-धीरे पहाड़ियों के पीछे छुप जाती है।



# डलहौजी के प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थल

## भीड़-भाड़ वाली जिंदगी से दूर जाकर सतधारा फाल्स में लीजिए शांति का अनुभव

- ### सतधारा फाल्स घूमने के लिए टिप्स
- जब आप झरने के क्षेत्र में प्रवेश कर सकते हैं और इसमें चारों ओर छींट आपके कपड़ों को गीला कर सकते हैं, इसलिए अतिरिक्त कपड़े ले जाना न भूलें।
  - फ़ॉल्स से सूर्यास्त देखने के लिए वहां उपस्थित रहने की कोशिश करें।
  - ऐसे जूते पहनें जो आपको अच्छी पकड़ और आराम दें, क्योंकि चट्टानों में काई से फिसलन होती है।
  - अपने साथ कैमरा ले जाना न भूलें।

### सतधारा फाल्स के आसपास के प्रमुख पर्यटन और आकर्षण स्थल

सतधारा फाल्स डलहौजी का एक प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थल है, जो शहर से 5 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित है। अगर आप इस फाल्स के अलावा डलहौजी के प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थलों की सैर करना चाहते हैं तो यहां दी गई जानकारी को जरूर पढ़ें।

### बकरोटा हिल्स

बकरोटा हिल्स जिसे अपर बकरोटा के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, यह डलहौजी का सबसे ऊंचा इलाका है और यह बकरोटा वॉक नाम की एक सड़क का सर्किल है, जो खजियार की ओर जाती है। भले ही इस जगह पर पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करने के लिए बहुत कुछ नहीं है, लेकिन यहां टहलना और चारों तरफ के आकर्षक दृश्यों को देखना पर्यटकों की आंखों को बेहद आनंद देता है। आपको बता दें कि यह क्षेत्र चारों तरफ से देवदार के पेड़ों और हरी-भरी पहाड़ियों से घिरा हुआ है।

### सच पास

सच दर्रा पीर पंजाल पर्वत श्रृंखला के ऊपर 4500 मीटर की ऊंचाई से होकर जाता है और डलहौजी को चंबा और पांगी घाटियों से जोड़ता है। आपको बता दें कि डलहौजी से 150 किमी की दूरी पर यह मार्ग उत्तर भारत में पार करने के लिए सबसे कठिन मार्गों में से एक है, जो लोग एडवेंचर पसंद करते हैं तो अक्सर सच पास (जब यह खुला होता है) का दौरा करते हैं और यहां से बाइक या कार चलाने का रोमांचक अनुभव लेते हैं। अगर आप इस मार्ग से यात्रा करें तो जोखिम न लें और अपने साथ एक अनुभवी ड्राइवर लेकर जाएं। यह चंबा या पांगी घाटी तक पहुंचने के लिए लोगों का पसंदीदा रास्ता है और डलहौजी से ट्रैकिंग के लिए एक प्रसिद्ध बिंदु है।

### सुभाष बावली

सुभाष बावली डलहौजी में गांधी चौक से 1 किमी दूर स्थित एक ऐसी जगह है, जिसका नाम प्रसिद्ध स्वतंत्रता सेनानी सुभाष चंद्र बोस के नाम पर रखा गया। सुभाष बावली एक ओर अपने खूबसूरत प्राकृतिक दृश्यों, दूर-दूर तक फैले बर्फ के पहाड़ों दृश्यों और सुंदरता के लिए जाना जाता है। सुभाष बावली वो जगह है, जहां पर सुभाष चंद्र बोस 1937 में स्वास्थ्य की खराबी के चलते आए थे और वो इस जगह पर 7 महीने तक रहे थे। इस जगह पर रहकर वे बिलकुल ठीक हो गए थे। आपको बता दें कि यहां पर एक खूबसूरत झरना भी है, जो हिमनदी धारा में बहता है।

### डैनकुंड पीक

डैनकुंड पीक जिसे सिगिंग हिल के नाम से भी जाना जाता है, जो डलहौजी में समुद्र तल से 2755 मीटर की ऊंचाई पर स्थित है। आपको बता दें कि यह डलहौजी में सबसे ऊंचा स्थान होने के कारण यहां से घाटियाँ और पहाड़ों के अदभुत दृश्यों को देखा जा सकता है। प्रकृति प्रेमियों के लिए शांत जगह स्वर्ग के सामान है। डलहौजी क्षेत्र में स्थित डैनकुंड सचमुच देखने लायक जगह है, जो अपनी खूबसूरत बर्फ से ढकी चोटियों और हरे-भरे वातावरण के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। डैनकुंड पीक हर साल भारी संख्या में देश भर से पर्यटकों को अपनी तरफ आकर्षित करती है।

### गंजी पहाड़ी

गंजी पहाड़ी पटानकोट रोड पर डलहौजी शहर से 5 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित एक सुंदर पहाड़ी है। इस पहाड़ का नाम गंजी पहाड़ी इसकी खास विशेषता से लिया गया था, क्योंकि इस पहाड़ी

पर वनस्पतियों की पूर्ण अनुपस्थिति है। गंजी का मतलब होता है गंजापन। डलहौजी के पास स्थित होने की वजह से यह पहाड़ी एक पसंदीदा पिकनिक स्थल है। सर्दियों के दौरान यह इलाका मोटी बर्फ से ढक जाता है, जो मनोरम दृश्य प्रस्तुत करता है।

### चामुंडा देवी मंदिर

चामुंडा देवी मंदिर देवी काली को समर्पित एक महत्वपूर्ण धार्मिक केंद्र है। इस मंदिर के बारे में कहा जाता है कि यहां पर देवी अंबिका ने मुंडा और चंदा नाम के राक्षसों का वध किया था। इस मंदिर में देवी को एक लाल कपड़े में लपेटकर रखा जाता है, यहां आने वाले पर्यटकों को देवी की मूर्ति को छूने नहीं दिया जाता। इस क्षेत्र में पर्यटकों को कई सुंदर दृश्य भी देखने को मिलते हैं।

### रॉक गार्डन

रॉक गार्डन डलहौजी में एक सुंदर उद्यान और एक लोकप्रिय पिकनिक स्थल है। इस पार्क में पर्यटक आराम करने के अलावा, इस क्षेत्र में उपलब्ध कई साहसिक खेलों का भी मजा ले सकते हैं, जिनमें जिप लाइनिंग आदि शामिल हैं।

### खाज्जिअर

खाज्जिअर डलहौजी के पास स्थित एक छोटा सा शहर है जिसको ‘मिनी स्विटजरलैंड’ या ‘भारत का स्विटजरलैंड’ के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। इस स्थान की खूबसूरती हर किसी को अपनी ओर आकर्षित करती है। 6,500 फीट की ऊंचाई पर स्थित खाज्जिअर अपनी प्राकृतिक सुंदरता की वजह से डलहौजी के पास घूमने की सबसे अच्छी जगहों में से एक है। इस जगह होने वाले साहसिक खेल जोरबिंग, ट्रैकिंग पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करते हैं।

### पंचपुला

पंचपुला हर देवदार के पेड़ों के आवरण से घिरा एक झरना है, जो डलहौजी के प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थलों में से एक है। पंचपुला वो जगह है, जहां पर पांच धाराएं एक साथ आती हैं। पंचपुला की मुख्य धारा डलहौजी के आसपास विभिन्न जगहों में पानी की पूर्ति करती है। यह जगह ट्रैकिंग और खूबसूरत दृश्यों की वजह से जानी जाती है। पंचपुला के पास एक महान क्रांतिकारी सरदार अजीत सिंह (शहीद भगत सिंह के चाचा) की याद में एक समाधि बनाई गई है, जहां उन्होंने अंतिम सांस ली थी। मानसून के मौसम में इस जगह के प्राचीन पानी का सबसे अच्छा आनंद लिया जाता है, जब पानी गिरता तो यहां का वातावरण पर्यटकों को आनंदित करता है।

### डलहौजी जाने के लिए यह है सबसे अच्छा समय

डलहौजी अपनी आदर्श जलवायु की वजह से एक ऐसी जगह है, जहां आप पूरे वर्ष भर घूम सकते हैं। हालांकि, डलहौजी जाने का सबसे अच्छा समय मार्च-जून के बीच का होता है। मार्च और अप्रैल के महीनों में यहां पर बर्फ पिघलना शुरू हो जाती है और जब सूरज की किरणें बर्फ से ढके पहाड़ों और चरागाहों से टकराती है, तब इस जगह की चमक देखने लायक होती है। इस समय यहां का मौसम बहुत सुहावना रहता है आप मार्च और अप्रैल में ठंड का अनुभव कर सकते हैं और जून के महीने में यहां का तापमान थोड़ा बढ़ने लगता है। गर्मियों के महीनों में भी डलहौजी का मौसम काफी अच्छा होता है, जिसकी वजह से यह प्रकृति प्रेमियों के लिए स्वर्ग के सामान है। मानसून भी यहां का मौसम सुहावना है, क्योंकि मध्यम वर्षा से आपकी योजनाओं में कोई रुकावट नहीं आती। डलहौजी में सर्दियां साहसिक गतिविधियों के लिए सही है।

**हवाई जहाज से सतधारा फाल्स ऐसे पहुंचें:** हवाई जहाज से डलहौजी पहुंचने कांगड़ा में गगल हवाई अड्डा इसका सबसे निकटतम घरेलू हवाई अड्डा है। यह हवाई अड्डा शहर से 13 किमी दूर है और यहां से डलहौजी हिल स्टेशन तक पहुंचने के लिए टैक्सी आसानी से उपलब्ध है। इसके अलावा आप अन्य हवाई अड्डे चंडीगढ़ (255 किमी), अमृतसर (208 किमी) और जम्मू (200 किमी) के लिए भी उड़ान ले सकते हैं।

**रेलगाड़ी से सतधारा फाल्स ऐसे पहुंचें:** डलहौजी का सबसे निकटतम रेल स्टेशन पटानकोट है, जो इस पहाड़ी शहर से 80 किमी दूर स्थित है और भारत के विभिन्न शहरों, जैसे दिल्ली, मुंबई और अमृतसर से कई ट्रेनों के माध्यम से अच्छी तरह से जुड़ा हुआ है। पटानकोट रेलवे स्टेशन से डलहौजी पहुंचने के लिए आपको बाहर से टैक्सियां मिल जाएंगी।

**सड़क मार्ग से सतधारा फाल्स ऐसे पहुंचें:** डलहौजी सड़क मार्ग की मदद से आसपास के प्रमुख शहरों और जगहों से जुड़ा हुआ है। राज्य बस सेवा और लक्जरी कोच डलहौजी को आसपास की सभी प्रमुख जगहों और शहरों से जोड़ते हैं। दिल्ली से डलहौजी के लिए रात भर लक्जरी बसें भी उपलब्ध हैं। इस मार्ग पर टैक्सी और निजी वाहन भी मिल जाते हैं।

### रेणुका झील का इतिहास

रेणुका झील कैसे बनी और इसकी धार्मिक महत्व के पीछे कई मशहूर दंत कथाएं प्रचलित हैं। एक कहानी के अनुसार कहा जाता है कि बहुत समय पहले यहां राजा रेणु रहा करते थे। उनकी दो सुंदर पुत्रियां थीं, जिनमें से एक नैनुका तथा दूसरी पुत्री रेणुका थी। एक बार राजा ने दोनों पुत्रियों से प्रश्न किया कि वो किसका दिया खाती हैं, जिसके जवाब में नैनुका ने कहा कि वह अपने पिता का दिया खाती हैं। जबकि रेणुका ने जवाब दिया कि वह भगवान का दिया और अपने नसीब का खाती हूं। रेणुका के जवाब से राजा अप्रसन्न हो गए और उन्होंने रेणुका को सबक सिखाने का निर्णय लिया। कुछ समय बाद राजा ने बड़ी पुत्री नैनुका का विवाह बड़ी धूम-धाम से एक पराक्रमी राजा सहस्त्रबाहु से कर दिया और छोटी पुत्री रेणुका को सबक सिखाने रेणुका का विवाह एक सीधे साधे तपस्वी ऋषि जमदग्नि से कर दिया। हालांकि रेणुका राजसी ढाढ-बाट में पली बढ़ी थी। फिर भी उसने ऋषि जमदग्नि को अपना पति स्वीकार किया और तन मन से उसकी सेवा करने लगी। एक दिन राजा सहस्त्रबाहु की दृष्टि रेणुका पर पड़ी तो वह उसे देखता ही रह गया। वास्तव में रेणुका का रूप लावण्य उसके हृदय में उतर गया था। उसने उसी समय रेणुका को अपनी रानी बनाने का फैसला किया और रेणुका को पाने की युक्ति सोचने लगा। अपने षड़यंत्र के तहत एक दिन वह चुपचाप ऋषि जमदग्नि के आश्रम पहुंचा और ध्यानमग्न जमदग्नि को उसने अपने बाण से मार डाला। उसके बाद वह रेणुका का चीरहरण करने उसकी तरफ बढ़ा। रेणुका सहस्त्रबाहु के अपवित्र इरादों को भांप गई और भागकर नीचे तलहटी में जा पहुंची। सहस्त्रबाहु रेणुका का पीछा करता हुआ, उसके पीछे दौड़ा। इससे पहले वह रेणुका को पकड़ पाता। एकाएक धरती फटी और देखते ही देखते रेणुका उसमें समा गई। रेणुका के धरा में समाते ही पानी की धाराएं फूट पड़ी और देखते ही देखते उस स्थान ने एक झील का रूप धारण कर लिया। तभी से यह झील रेणुका झील के नाम से प्रसिद्ध हो गई।

### रेणुका झील कैसे पहुंचें



**हवाई मार्ग**  
मुब्बार हटटी यहां का सबसे नजदीकी हवाई अड्डा है, जो यहां से 40 किमी की दूरी पर स्थित है। यहां से टैक्सी द्वारा जाया जा सकता है।

**रेल मार्ग**  
यहां का सबसे नजदीकी रेलवे स्टेशन कालका है, जो लगभग 110 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। यहां से आप बस या टैक्सी के द्वारा जा सकते हैं।

**सड़क मार्ग**  
यह स्थल सड़क मार्ग से जुड़ा है।

रेणुका झील हिमाचल प्रदेश के नाहन से लगभग 40 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित है। रेणुका झील की समुद्र तल से ऊंचाई लगभग 2200 फीट है। यह एक अत्यंत रमणीक झील है, जो लगभग तीन किलोमीटर लंबी तथा आधा किलोमीटर चौड़ी एक अदभुत झील है। इस झील का आकार एक लेटी हुई स्त्री की देह के समान है। जो इसे अदभुत एवं अनोखा बनाता है।

इस झील के चारों ओर हरियाली एवं इसके पानी मे अटखेलियां करती मछलियां पर्यटकों को अपनी ओर आकर्षित करती हैं। इस झील की गणना एक पावन तीर्थ स्थल के रूप में भी की जाती है। हर वर्ष पारवली के लगभग दस दिन बाद यहां एक विशाल मेले का आयोजन किया जाता है, जिसमें हजारों श्रद्धालु भाग लेते हैं। झील के किनारे मां रेणुका और परशुराम का प्रसिद्ध मंदिर है तथा एक छोटा सा चिडियाघर है, जो पर्यटकों को काफी पसंद आता है। झील में मनोरंजन के लिए बोटिंग करने की सुविधा उपलब्ध है, जिसमें बैठकर सैलानी झील के चारों ओर की प्राकृतिक सुंदरता के दर्शन कर सकते हैं, रेणुका झील का स्त्री रूपी आकार देखने के लिए यहां से आठ किलोमीटर ऊपर जामु चोटी पर जाना पड़ता है। जहां से रेणुका झील का आकार लेटी हुई स्त्री की देह के समान दिखाई पड़ता है।









## Self-punishment politics in Tamil Nadu

AS a form of political practice, the threat or act of self-punishment has a long and dubious tradition in Tamil Nadu. No political leader has self-immolated or threatened to do so yet, but there was this minister in Jayalalithaa’s Cabinet, a karate champion, who tied himself to a cross and reportedly had nails hammered into his palm for a few minutes to demonstrate his loyalty to her. Others in her Cabinet are known to have carried pots of burning coals. A woman minister, wearing a skirt of neem leaves, rolled on the ground in the precincts of a temple.Entertaining as all this is, it’s not clear if such acts ever impressed the intended audience.So, when K Annamalai, president of the Tamil Nadu unit of the BJP, decided to whip himself in protest against the sexual assault of a student at Anna University, sure enough, social media audiences brought out the popcorn (salted only) for the meme fest that followed. But no words of sympathy or fellow feeling came from the divided house that the Tamil Nadu BJP is. One rival within suggested that it would have been more appropriate for Annamalai to have been given a few lashes by party leaders in Delhi. No words of support whatsoever came from the high command.As it seeks to make a dent in Tamil Nadu’s Dravidian armour, the BJP has tried various ploys. The charge of atheism and “anti-Sanatan” tops the list. But, as the last parliamentary elections showed, that failed to win a single seat for the BJP, with the DMK sweeping up all 39 seats. Even Annamalai, despite the build-up he got from national television channels, could not win the Coimbatore seatFor sure, the party got its highest ever vote share of 11.38 per cent. But this was also the first time it had contested more than half the seats in the state, in alliance with the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) and a breakaway group of the AIADMK. With the PMK leadership’s father-son troubles coming to the fore in a very public way, the future of this caste-based party’s alliance with Hindutva is uncertain.Simply put, nothing, including the search for the right alliance partners, has worked for the BJP in Tamil Nadu.The AIADMK has held back steadfastly. Elections are still months away—due only in May 2026. But the word is that AIADMK boss Edappadi Palaniswami has already made a preliminary approach to actor Vijay, the latest entrant on the block and a megastar with a fan following that does not have to be paid to attend public rallies. Some within the BJP believe that it was a mistake not to weaponise the ‘rettai illai’ or two leaves symbol against the AIADMK after it was frozen in 2017 in the wake of post-Jayalalithaa splits in the party.Some wonder why the threat or promise of the famed BJP ‘washing machine’ has not yet been deployed in this state.Trying to turn the Anna University rape case into a political storm, Kolkata style, was a gamble.The alleged rape of a student of Anna University in Chennai took place on December 24 when the woman was in the company of a male college mate in a secluded corner of the campus. The alleged rapist was known to the local police as a “history-sheeter”, but he seems to have had a free pass into the prestigious institution. He threatened the male companion into leaving the place and proceeded to assault the woman, videoed his crime and threatened her with blackmail.If the security measures at the university were found wanting, the police did not cover themselves in glory either. The First Information Report was uploaded and made accessible to the public, with the victim’s name, her address and contact details. The manner in which the FIR is worded questions the training of the police personnel at the all-woman police station where the woman made the complaint. Shocking as this is, let’s face it. Tamil Nadu is not a state with a high incidence of crimes against women. And, the BJP, which rules states like Uttarakhand and Haryana where the incidence of such crimes far outstrips the national rate, can hardly point a finger.Even BJP insiders here say they have no answer when they are asked why the PM has not visited Manipur yet.

## Why a better understanding of First Amendment is needed

The Nehru-led government, in place from 1947-52, faced constitutional roadblocks as the judiciary intervened in crucial cases.

PRIME minister Narendra Modi opened the discussion in the Lok Sabha on 75 years of the Constitution on December 14, 2024, by criticising India’s first PM Jawaharlal Nehru for bringing the first constitutional amendment even before the first Lok Sabha was elected.Modi said: “This country didn’t have an elected government from 1947 to 1952. A temporary system, a selected government was in place. Elections were not held. An interim government was in place until the elections. Before 1952, the Rajya Sabha was also not formed. There were no elections in states as well.”

The Prime Minister is partially right. The first amendment of the Constitution was passed by the provisional parliament before the first General Election was held.PRIME minister Narendra Modi opened the discussion in the Lok Sabha on 75 years of the Constitution on December 14, 2024, by criticising India’s first PM Jawaharlal Nehru for bringing the first constitutional amendment even before the first Lok Sabha was elected.Modi said: “This country didn’t have an elected government from 1947 to 1952. A temporary system, a selected government was in place. Elections were not held. An interim government was in place until the elections. Before 1952, the Rajya Sabha was also not formed. There were no elections in states as well.”

The Prime Minister is partially right. The first amendment of the Constitution was passed by the provisional parliament before the first General Election was held.On September 10, 1949, amendments to draft Article 24 (Article 31) were discussed. Nehru moved the amendment stating that the possession of private property was given the protection of ‘authority of law’. Any ‘compulsory’ acquisition of property for public purposes must have ‘compensation’—a specified amount—or the principles on which and the manner in which the compensation is to be determined have to be built into the law authorising acquisition. He was absolutely clear that “there is no question of any expropriation without compensation so far as this Constitution is concerned”.These conditions would be applied both to the Union and state governments. He did not see any conflict between “individual right to property and the community’s interest in that property or the community’s right”.He explained that the amendment he moved reassures acquisition and maintenance of private property, but he appeared to foresee the need for acquisition of small



or big chunks of private property for community purposes.In his view, the rights, the interests and welfare of the community override the individual rights.He asserted the authority of Parliament, not of the judiciary, to fix the principles to be laid down for a fair payment of compensation: “Parliament fixes either the compensation itself or the principles governing that compensation and they should not be challenged except for one reason, where it is thought that there has been a gross abuse of the law, where in fact there has been a fraud on the Constitution. Naturally the judiciary comes in to see that any Parliament representing the entire community of the nation will certainly not commit a fraud on its own Constitution and will be very much concerned with doing justice to the individual as well as the community.” (CAD, Book No. 4, Vol. IX, p. 1195).Thus, a large part of the letter and substance of Nehru’s draft for Article 24 was incorporated in the Constitution as Article 31, guaranteeing private property to the citizens of India.

Speaking strongly for abolishing the zamindari system, Nehru stated: “It has been ... the old policy of the ... Congress ... that the zamindari institution

in India ... must be abolished. So far as we are concerned ... shall give effect to that pledge naturally completely ... and no change is going to come in our way.... Within limits no judge and no Supreme Court can make itself a third chamber. No Supreme Court and no judiciary can stand in Judgement over the sovereign will of the Parliament representing the will of the entire community.” (p. 1197).Thus, during the course of the presentation of the amendment that led to the finalisation of Article 31, the stage was set for the First Amendment. Both the content and substance of the arguments presented by Nehru made it clear that community interest within the boundaries of ‘fair compensation’ will prevail.Another important reason for the First Amendment was to ‘qualify’ the freedom of speech and expression as the executive orders for banning the Cross Roads, that Romesh Thappar edited, were shot down. As the Nehru government had taken exception to the Organiser, a publication of the RSS, that had been publishing articles against Pakistan that were communal in nature and were affecting the community relations in the country, it came under pressure regarding the Cross Roads, too.

## Looking ahead

Farmers, Centre must find common ground

AS the dawn of 2025 brings hopes for change, Punjab’s farmers must reflect on their strategies and open the door for constructive dialogue with the Centre. The year gone by, marked by relentless protests and the steadfast hunger strike of Jagjit Singh Dallewal for over a month now, has highlighted the farmers’ demands—some just and deserving, but others simply blackmail. However, the frequent bandhs and road and rail blocks have also significantly disrupted public life, testing the patience of the very people whose support they depend upon. The peasants’ commitment to their cause is undeniable. The success of the latest Punjab bandh on Monday underscored solidarity within the state, but at a steep cost—railway cancellations, road closures and economic disruptions. Such methods risk alienating broader public sympathy. Prolonged stalemates only exacerbate frustrations on all sides, delaying solutions that could address genuine grievances.



The Centre, too, must adopt a more empathetic approach, shedding bureaucratic inertia. Invitations for talks should not be viewed as concessions but as avenues to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. The Supreme Court’s

involvement has spotlighted the urgency of resolving these issues, but judicial mandates alone cannot heal the growing rift between the state and its agrarian backbone. Punjab’s dominant agrarian economy forms the backbone of the nation’s food security. However, its farmers remain mired in challenges like diminishing returns, rising debts and an overdependence on wheat and paddy as also land degradation and desertification. Collaborations with policy experts, agricultural economists and political stakeholders could pave the way for innovative solutions, whether in agro-industrial integration or financial safeguards for the peasants. The new year must signal an end to hardened positions. By embracing dialogue and pragmatism, Punjab’s cultivators and the Centre can together lay the groundwork for lasting agricultural prosperity and societal harmony.

## Time ripe for bold economic reforms

The average income of the middle class more than tripled in the 10 years that Manmohan Singh was PM. This was the golden period for the professional & managerial class in India.

THE new year has arrived with many challenges on the economic horizon. The one that looms most darkly is the geopolitical turmoil prevailing in several parts of the world. Another one is the inauguration of Donald Trump as US President and the multifarious concerns over policy changes by the global economic superpower. These will have a broad international impact, but there will also be outcomes for India.On the domestic front, all eyes will be on the new head of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Sanjay Malhotra, and his approach to inflation and growth. And as the Modi government prepares to present the second Budget of its third term, it will have to deepen reforms in order to slash the regulatory cholesterol that is clogging the route to higher economic growth.

The way forward must be viewed in the sombre context of the passing of several luminaries critically involved in the country’s economic development. The most significant loss has been that of the architect of the 1991 economic reforms, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The late Osamu Suzuki, long-time chairman of Japan’s Suzuki Motor Company, took a bet on the over-regulated Indian economy in the mid-1980s. The gamble not only paid off for the company, but it also became the catalyst for the development of an automobile industry which now accounts for over 40 per cent of the manufacturing sector.For the domestic industry, the biggest blow came in October when corporate titan Ratan Tata breathed his last. The unlikely, soft-spoken successor to the flamboyant JRD ended up galvanising and expanding the house of Tatas to make it the largest conglomerate in the country.

These giants in the economic and business arena contributed to the current status of India as the fastest-growing major economy in the world. Yet, as one looks ahead, there are worries that this pace may

not be maintained in 2025. From 8.2 per cent growth in 2023-24, the current fiscal’s figure is likely to be lower. The second quarter—July to September—recorded a seven-month low of 4.5 per cent. Though there are expectations of a pickup in the third quarter along with reports of reviving consumption, the economy continues to face headwinds. The most worrying of these is the prospect of an escalation in geopolitical tensions. The Ukraine-Russia war proceeds relentlessly and the downing of an Azerbaijani airline indicates that these hostilities will continue to have ramifications for the rest of the world.As for the Gaza conflict, it has not had widespread economic repercussions so far, but has the potential to create even more havoc. So far, the hostilities have extended to Lebanon and Iran, though in a limited manner. In case the latter becomes embroiled in a wider way, it would have a direct impact on energy prices and availability. Attacks on Iran’s oil and gas production or storage facilities are bound to have a bearing on international prices. Currently, oil markets are in the grip of bearish trends and prices of the benchmark Brent crude are hovering around \$72-74 per barrel. But this situation could alter dramatically if the conflict widens to neighbouring West Asian countries that are oil producers. This could lead to a spike in oil prices, which would, in turn, have an immediate fallout here in terms of pushing up the oil import bill, while simultaneously raising inflationary pressures.

Another concern is the impact of tariff barriers sought to be imposed by the incoming Trump administration. Though the actual contours of his new trade policy are yet to be unveiled, he has



declared that reciprocity would be a major element in formulating tariff proposals. While his greatest ire has been reserved for China and there have even been threats of levying up to 60 per cent import duties, he has also been sharply critical of India’s high tariff barriers. For this country, it means that the creeping increase in import duties over the past two years may have to be halted or even reversed as otherwise Indian goods may end up being uncompetitive in the lucrative American market. The worries on this score are justified as Trump has described India as “a very big abuser of tariffs” and stressed that such taxes will invite reciprocity.On the plus side, the easing of protectionist tendencies is only for the good. On the negative side, it is not yet known whether the new Trump administration will enable Indian goods to have an edge in the US market vis-a-vis other

next big policy push of the government will be outlined in the upcoming Budget. This might be a coalition government, but major constituents like the Telugu Desam Party have been in favour of reforms. It would thus be the right time to step up the pace of cutting down regulations and procedures at the Central and state levels. The complexity of rules related to labour and land use are major hurdles for foreign and domestic investors. A new wave of reforms in this direction is needed to give a push to investments in all segments of the economy.

The 2025-26 Budget should be used as a launch pad for such measures. These should be viewed in the backdrop of the growing recognition that without bold policies, it will not be possible to raise growth to the level of 8-9 per cent. One can only hope the new year ushers in such fresh initiatives.



## Explained: Why Bajaj Finance share price gained 4% in early trade

**NEW DELHI.** Bajaj Finance shares surged 4% in early trading on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), hitting an intraday high of Rs 7,199. At 11:05 am, Bajaj Finance was the top gainer on the Sensex, up 3.74% to Rs 7,195. The rally in Bajaj Finance shares comes after global brokerage Citi maintained a bullish outlook, reportedly reiterating a ‘Buy’ rating with a target price of Rs 8,150. Citi also placed the stock on a ‘90-day catalyst watch,’ citing positive expectations for the company’s Q3 performance. In its report, Citi highlighted marginal improvement in credit costs, projecting them to rise slightly to 2.2-2.25% in Q3. It also forecast a 6% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) and 7% year-on-year (YoY) growth in assets under management (AUM), driven by strong performance across mortgages, sales financing, securities lending, and new businesses.

Additionally, net interest margins (NIMs) are expected to improve by 3-5 basis points.

Bajaj Finance’s recent financial performance has been robust. In Q2, its net profit rose 13% YoY and 2.8% QoQ to Rs 4,013 crore, while AUM grew by 28.8% YoY to Rs 3,73,924 crore. Its net interest income (NII) climbed 28% YoY to Rs 14,987 crore.

It may be noted that Bajaj Finance shares have gained over 8% in the past month. However, it delivered slightly negative returns over the past year. Analysts remain optimistic about the company’s long-term prospects, highlighting sustainable earnings growth and strong franchise longevity.

## New Year 2025: Food delivery platforms see record number of orders; biryani tops the list

**BENGALURU.** From biryani to cakes and pizza, New Year Eve witnessed record-breaking orders for top quick commerce platforms. For Swiggy, food delivery orders surged across cities and biryani remained the country’s favourite, with a chicken biryani delivered in 164 seconds in Nellore. Cakes were favourite too, with 2,96,711 orders delivered this NYE. Rohit Kapoor, CEO, Swiggy Food Marketplace, said they witnessed celebrations like never before and that delivery partners collectively travelled 65,19,841 kilometers. Kapoor also said Kochi out ordered Lucknow this NYE. In Delhi, a user saved Rs 41,142 through Swiggy Dineout.

Zomato-backed Blinkit said Bengaluru has tipped the most with a total of Rs 1,79,735 in tips. Blinkit CEO Albinder Dhindsa said the biggest party order was placed from Kolkata and it was worth Rs 64,988.

On New Year’s Eve, Swiggy co-founder Phani Kishan too shared live updates on X, highlighting the top picks on quick commerce- from the most expensive order in Goa to the highest ice cubes per minute, to the fastest delivery of tonic water in just 4 minutes. One in every 8 orders was for a cold drink, with cola soft drinks up by 394%, and clear soft drinks soared by 941% on the platform.

The Swiggy co-founder also shared milestones for Swiggy Instamart, which hit its highest-ever orders on December 31, 2024- double the previous New Year’s Eve sales.

BigBasket CEO Hari Menon said the platform witnessed a surge in demand for home baking, cards, and party games, apart from frozen veg snacks (240%) and ice cubes (1,290%).

Meanwhile, comedian Kunal Kamra asked Blinkit CEO to reveal wages of delivery partners. He asked Dhindsa on X, “Can you also enlighten us with data on the average wages you paid your delivery partners in 2024.”

## GST collection growth slows down in December to 7.3%

**NEW DELHI.** The growth in monthly GST collection slowed down further in December, with gross revenue during the month registering a growth of 7.3% to Rs 1.77 lakh crore. In November, the gross revenue had increased by 8.5% to Rs 1.85 lakh crore. the current financial year, the gross monthly GST revenue grew at a double-digit rate only in three out of nine months. uring December, gross revenue from domestic transactions grew at 8.4% to Rs 1.32 lakh crore while those from imports grew at 3.9% to Rs 44,268 crore. Year-to-date, the gross revenue has increased by 9.1% to Rs 16.33 lakh crore. et GST collection (net of refunds) grew at an even slower pace of 3.3% to Rs 1.54 lakh crore in December. This is the slowest growth in net monthly GST revenue in the current financial year. In November, the net collection had grown at 11.1% to Rs 1.63 lakh crore. Refunds during December grew at 45.3%.

India’s recent GST collections have slowed down slightly, which is typical after the holiday season, says Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner, EY India, adding that it is well in line with expectations as we have been witnessing slight decrease in consumer spending over the past few months. In the first nine months of FY25, the net goods and services tax collection stood at Rs 14.5 lakh crore. Of that, Rs 2.8 lakh crore has been collected under Central GST, Rs 3.5 lakh crore has been collected under State GST, and Rs 7.08 lakh crore has been collected under the Integrated GST. Net Cess collection in the April-December period was Rs 1.1 lakh crore. Most large states showed low single-digit growth rate during the month. GST collection in UP and MP grew at 1% and Bihar at 2%. Gujarat revenue grew at 4% and West Bengal at 5%. Karnataka registered a growth of 7%, Rajasthan 8% and Maharashtra grew at 9%. However, Tamil Nadu at 11% and Telangana at 10% bucked the trend, and posted double-digit growth. Collections in Andhra Pradesh contracted by 6% during the month.



# Economy slowdown seasonal, need private capex: SBI chief

**MUMBAI.** C S Setty, who took over as SBI chairman in August 28, is positioning the country’s largest bank as an entity focused on delivering quality service to customers by preparing the state-owned lender to harness technology. While upbeat on the economy, Setty tells TOI that the Budget should focus on pushing private sector capex. Also read: Economy to grow at 6.5-6.8% in FY25, predicts Deloitte

Excerpts: How would you position SBI, given that private banks are achieving scale? BI is a 218-year-old institution, but we constantly reinvent ourselves to stay relevant. We began with rural financing, which remains a mainstay, but we have also expanded into corporate and retail banking. This showcases SBI’s agility in adapting and readjusting to market dynamics. Over the last decade, we have embraced technology and digitalisation. Despite our extensive physical presence, we are now the largest digital bank in

India. How do you plan to improve these channels? We are adding another SBI to ourselves every six years. Managing this scale requires more than just increasing headcount - it calls for a blend of manpower and technology. We are strengthening all our channels, including ‘feet on the street’. A large number of employees are dedicated to home and auto loan procurement. In addition, we are actively recruiting; we will hire 13,000 clerical staff. In the previous quarter, did you notice any slowdown? What is the outlook for the next quarter? Any slowdown we observed is seasonal, not structural. Govt spending was subdued in the last two quarters, but we anticipate resilience in the economy. Our house view is for approximately 6.5% growth.

A recent finmin report mentioned RBI’s macro-prudential regulations



contributed to the slowdown. What’s SBI’s view on these segments? The segments impacted by RBI’s measures have slowed down. However, SBI benefits from being a diversified bank. If one segment slows, we pivot to others. Sectors like MSME, and agriculture are performing well and remain vital to the economy. What’s your Budget wishlist? The Budget should focus on spurring economic activity and boosting private capital expenditure. Shortening the

tenure of tax-free deposits would be helpful as long-term capital gains is available on shorter-term investments.

There’s exuberance in the home loan market. Has this made you cautious? Around 99% of our home loan borrowers are first-time homebuyers rather than speculative investors. This is reflected in our strong asset quality. We didn’t see significant defaults, even during Covid. The market remains predominantly owner-occupied, with vast untapped potential.

**Do you have visibility on gold loan use?** Gold loans are primarily used for short-term cash management by small businesses and SME customers, though some are for consumption purposes. We also have a significant agri-gold loan portfolio, which is very low-risk. We maintain visibility over how these loans are used and repaid, ensuring moderate loan-to-value ratios.

## Damaged Or Lost Your Aadhaar Here's How To Retrieve Duplicate Online

You can easily request for a new Aadhar card with the UIDAI’s online services from the comfort of your home.



New Delhi: The Aadhaar card, a 12-digit unique identification number issued by the Government of India has become an essential document for every citizen. It plays a crucial role in daily life, whether for personal identification, address proof or accessing government services. However, with its growing use, losing access to this important ID could lead to several inconveniences which would affect vital government-related tasks. Here’s a guide to help you navigate what to do if you lose your Aadhaar card. However, If your

Aadhaar card is lost or damaged, there’s no need to worry – getting a duplicate is quick and hassle-free. You can easily request for a new Aadhar card with the UIDAI’s online services from the comfort of your home. Just follow these easy steps to get started:- Click on ‘My Aadhaar’: Find asnd click the ‘My Aadhaar’ tab on the homepage. - Select ‘Order Aadhaar Reprint’: Under ‘My Aadhaar,’ choose ‘Order Aadhaar Reprint’ from the list of options. - Enter Aadhaar Number or Virtual ID:

Provide your 12-digit Aadhaar number or 16-digit Virtual ID, along with the security code displayed on the screen. - Request OTP: After entering your details, an OTP (One-Time Password) will be sent to your registered mobile number. Enter it to continue. - Verify Details and Make Payment: After OTP verification, review your details. If everything looks good, proceed to pay the reprint charges, which may vary.- Receive Confirmation and SRN: Once payment is successful, you’ll receive a confirmation along with a Service Request Number (SRN). Use the SRN to track your request. - Download e-Aadhaar: While waiting for the physical card, you can download your e-Aadhaar from the UIDAI website. It’s equally valid for use.

## Indian Stock Market Opens Flat, Nifty Above 23,700

**New Delhi.** The domestic benchmark indices opened flat on Thursday as selling was seen in the PSU bank, pharma, FMCG, realty, media, energy and metal sectors on Nifty. At around 9.31 am, Sensex was trading at 78,573.16 after rising 65.75 points or 0.08 per cent, while Nifty was trading at 23,766.05 after rising 23.15 points or 0.10 per cent. The market trend remained positive. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), 1,366 stocks were trading in green, while 529 stocks were in red. According to market experts, Q3 corporate earnings are unlikely to register a rebound which means that investors have to focus on segments which will buck the slowdown. Nifty Bank was up 21 points or 0.04 per cent at 51,081.60. Nifty Midcap 100 index was trading at 57,471.35 after rising 20.45 points or 0.04 per cent. Nifty Smallcap 100 index was at 18,961.95 after rising 2.15 points

or 0.01 per cent. On the sectoral front, buying was seen in the Auto, IT, financial service and private bank sectors on Nifty. In the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank,



Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement, Maruti Suzuki, M&M, Infosys, Zomato, IndusInd Bank and ICICI Bank were the top gainers. Whereas, NTPC, HDFC Bank, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, ITC and Tech Mahindra were top losers. The Dow Jones declined 0.07 per cent to

close at 42,544.22. The S&P 500 declined 0.43 per cent to 5,881.60 and the Nasdaq declined 0.90 per cent to close at 19,310.79 in the last trading session. In the Asian markets, Jakarta was trading in green while Hong Kong, China, Bangkok and Seoul were trading in red. According to experts, FIIs are likely to continue with their selling strategy since the dollar remains strong and the US bond yields are attractive enough for FIIs to ignore emerging markets in the near-term. "While domestic institutional investor (DII) buying can support the market at lower levels, that is not sufficient to take the market higher. For higher market levels we will have to wait for indications of growth and earnings recovery," they noted. FIIs sold equities worth Rs 1,782.71 crore on January 1, while domestic institutional investors bought equities worth Rs 1,690.37 crore on the same day.

Shares of SJVN Limited dropped by over 2% in early trading on Thursday, hitting a day’s low of Rs 108.30. The stock opened the day at Rs 111.45 after closing at Rs 110.90 in the previous session. At the time of writing, SJVN was trading at Rs 108.80, down 1.89%. The company’s market capitalisation stood at Rs 42,795.47 crore. SJVN shares have been volatile. The stock touched its 52-week high of Rs 170.45 on 5 February 2024 but has seen a downward trend since. It reached its 52-week low of Rs 88.85 on 10 January 2024. In the past month, the stock has declined by 4.44%, and over the last six months, it has fallen by 17%.

On Wednesday, shares of SJVN rose sharply by 8% in early trade after the company announced a new project in Bihar. This rally was driven by positive market sentiment following the announcement.



The company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bihar government for the development of the Hathidah Durgawati Pumped Storage Project (PSP). This 1,000 MW project is valued at Rs 5,663 crore and is expected to boost SJVN’s growth prospects.

The agreement involves the development of the 1,000 MW Hathidah Durgawati Pumped Storage Project (PSP) in Bihar. This project will operate with a levelised tariff of Rs 9.39 per kWh, calculated at February 2024 prices, with a pumping energy rate of Rs 3 per kWh. The pumped storage facility, which will be built on the Durgawati River in Kaimur district, is designed to provide a peak energy output of 6.325 million units (MU) per day and an annual peak energy generation of 2,308.65 MU.

SJVN is actively developing around 12,000 MW of energy storage projects across various Indian states, including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, and Bihar. These initiatives align with the company’s vision of becoming a key player in India’s clean energy transition

# High rates, declining finance impacting exporters' competitiveness: CII

Budhia suggested the government extend the interest equalisation scheme, which ended on December 31, 2024, for three years for all manufacturing exporters

**New Delhi** Indian exporters are grappling with significant liquidity challenges due to high interest rates and a decline in export finance, which are undermining their competitiveness, according to Sanjay Budhia, Chairman of the CII National Committee on EXIM. To address these issues, he said, the government and banks must work together to provide effective solutions. Budhia suggested the government extend the interest equalisation scheme, which ended on December 31, 2024, for three years for all manufacturing exporters, including MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises). The longer period extension of the scheme would be a

crucial step, as its limited extension leaves Indian manufacturers at a disadvantage, he added. "Exporters are indeed facing significant challenges on the liquidity front, with high interest rates and declining export finance impacting their competitiveness," he told PTI. MSME exporters, who form the backbone of India’s export ecosystem, would benefit greatly from increasing the interest subsidy for pre- and post-shipment credit from 3 per cent to 5 per cent, particularly in key sectors such as leather, engineering, apparel, and gems and jewellery. Apex exporters body Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) too has demanded that the government extend the scheme for five years in the forthcoming Budget, which is scheduled to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1. Further, he said that expanding Letter of Credit facilities for large overseas projects could provide much-needed support to exporters. "Banks and financial institutions should work towards broadening the coverage under export credit guarantee programmes," Budhia, who is also MD of PATTON Group, said.

He noted that the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) currently provides 90 per cent insurance cover for exporters with a credit limit of up to Rs 50 crore. "This coverage could be extended to Rs 100 crore, and more banks could be brought into the fold to ensure better



access to credit, he said. According to FIEO, there is a decline of 5 per cent in export credit between March 2022 (Rs 2,27,452 crore) and March 2024 (Rs 2,17,406 crore). Export credit under PSL (priority sector lending) on July 1, 2022, was Rs 19,861 crore and it declined to Rs 11,721 crore on June 28 this year, which is a dip of over 40 per cent, FIEO

has said. Budhi also asked the government to streamline the implementation of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme by transferring benefits directly to exporters’ bank accounts, rather than through credit scrips, as it can reduce administrative delays and enhance efficiency. "Government should validate the RoDTEP scheme for 3 years to provide long-term visibility to exporters to secure business," he said, adding that easy access to affordable credit remains crucial. When asked about the impact of US President-elect Donald Trump’s threat to impose reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods, Budhia said it could provide both challenges and opportunities for domestic exporters. While such measures could disrupt specific trade flows, they also offer a unique chance for India to position itself strategically in the global supply chain, he said, adding that these reciprocal tariffs could lead to higher costs for Indian goods in the US market, particularly in price-sensitive sectors such as engineering, textiles, garments, and automotive components.



# NRI charged Rs 10,000 for wheelchair at station, porter's licence cancelled

➤After the incident came to light, the Railways initiated an inquiry and cancelled his licence. The porter was also asked to return 90 per cent of the amount to the passenger.

New Delhi. The licence of a porter at Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station was cancelled after he charged an exorbitant amount of Rs 10,000 from an NRI passenger for wheelchair services and carrying his luggage to the platform. After the incident came to light, the Railways initiated an inquiry and cancelled his licence. The porter was also asked to return 90 per cent of the amount to the passenger. Northern Railways said its Delhi division had withdrawn the porter's badge. The Railways further stated that it had a "zero-tolerance policy" for such incidents, and it considered passenger interests paramount. Payel, the daughter of the NRI passenger, filed a complaint with the Railways after learning that wheelchair assistance service was free at stations. The incident took place on December 28. The porter was identified after checking CCTV footage and was made to return Rs 9,000 to the passenger. Expressing shock and disbelief over the incident, the divisional railway manager said the Railways was committed to providing a safe and convenient journey for its passengers. Saying that such incidents tarnish the image of



- Porter asked to return 90% of the amount to passenger
- Porter identified via CCTV during probe
- The porter's badge was also taken away by the railway authorities

the Railways and erode the trust of passengers, he assured that strict action would be taken against those found guilty. The railway administration further appealed to all passengers to immediately contact the helpline number 139 if they face any kind of problems.

## Delhi court grants bail to man in illegal arms case

NEW DELHI. A Delhi court has granted bail to a man accused of possessing illegal firearms, raising concerns over the possibility that the weapons may have been planted. The case involved Ajay, a.k.a "Totla," who was booked under the Arms Act by the Delhi Police Crime Branch. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) Medha Arya, while hearing Ajay's bail plea, highlighted discrepancies in the timeline presented by the police. In an order dated December 24, the court referred to the argument made by Ajay's counsel, alleging that the recovery of illegal arms was fabricated. The FIR noted that the investigating officer (IO) received information to apprehend Ajay around 11 p.m. on December 11. However, records showed that Ajay had already been detained by 10:41 p.m. the same day. The court pointed out that this inconsistency had been brought to duty magistrate's notice earlier, who had directed the station house officer to submit a detailed report.

## SC pulls up Punjab officials for creating false impression on breaking Dallewal's fast

NEW DELHI. The Supreme Court on Thursday pulled up the Punjab government and said its officials and some farmer leaders are creating a false impression in media that attempts are being made to break farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal's fast. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan said it needs to clarify that court has never directed to break Dallewal's protest but is only concerned with his health and wants medical aid to be provided to him urgently. Justice Surya Kant said the court does not want to say much but it appears that Punjab government officials and some farmer leaders are making irresponsible statements in media to further complicate the situation on the ground. "We need to check the bonafide of some farmer leaders towards Dallewal," the bench observed. Punjab Advocate General Gurinder Singh denied any such attempt to complicate the situation and said efforts are being made to persuade Dallewal to take medical aid without breaking his fast. The bench said since the chief secretary and the Director General of Police (DGP) of Punjab are appearing virtually in the matter, hopefully the court's message will go down the line. It asked both officials to file their affidavit indicating compliance with the December 20 order in which the court has directed the Punjab government to shift Dallewal to the nearby medical facilities created by the state. The apex court listed the matter for further hearing on January 6. The top court also issued notice to the Centre on a fresh petition filed on behalf of Dallewal seeking direction to the Union government to comply with the promises, including a legal guarantee of minimum support.

## Girls, in school uniform, exchange blows over 'liking same boy' in UP

New Delhi. Two girls in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district got into a violent altercation on a busy road after reportedly discovering that they both liked the same boy in their school. A video of the incident went viral on social media on Wednesday, January 1, where the two girls, in school uniform, can be seen punching, kicking, and pulling each other by the hair on a road as their friends tried to pacify the situation. According to the police, the incident happened in the Sarai area under the Singhwali Police Station area on Tuesday after the girls were returning from their school.



Speaking about the incident, the SHO of Singhwali Police Station said that a probe has been launched into the incident based on the video. However, no formal complaint has been received from any side, the official said. "We are probing the incident. Action will be taken based on the complaint," the police official said while speaking on the incident.

Earlier in a similar incident, two women clashed in Maharashtra's Paithan district over a boy in public. After the incident, the girls were taken to a police station and were released after counselling.

## BJP, Congress in nexus to raze jhuggis: AAP

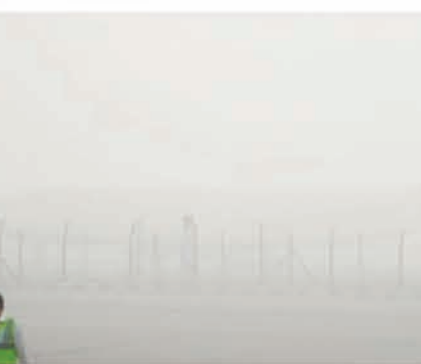
NEW DELHI. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Malviya Nagar MLA Somnath Bharti on Wednesday accused the BJP and the Congress of jointly orchestrating the demolition of 'jhuggis' (slum dwellings) in Indira Camp, Malviya Nagar. "Today, I present a glaring example of the current state of affairs in Delhi. Since the introduction of the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana and the Sanjeevani Yojana, both the Congress and BJP have been thrown into utter chaos. Our senior leaders have rightly dubbed the BJP as the 'Bharatiya Jhootha Party.' Whatever semblance of composure these parties had was completely shattered with the announcement of the Pujari-Granthi Samman Yojana," Bharti said. "On Tuesday, in my constituency's Indira Camp, a telling incident occurred that exposes the true face of the BJP. The party had previously launched the 'Jhuggi Prawas Yojana,' claiming they would live among jhuggi residents to understand their struggles. But, as we predicted, it was all a façade. Yesterday, the BJP arrived in Indira Camp, initially pretending to show sympathy before sending bulldozers to demolish homes," the AAP MLA said. He further alleged that when MCD officials arrived to demolish the homes, neither he nor his local councillor were informed in advance. "What was more surprising was the presence of the Congress's local candidate at the demolition site. How did he know about it? Upon investigation, it became clear that Congress and BJP were working together in this action. The demolition was carried out by MCD officials, with full knowledge and support from Congress," Bharti added. In response, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor criticised Bharti, claiming the MLA had lost his political relevance. Kapoor reminded that Bharti had been the candidate for the AAP-Congress alliance in the recent Lok Sabha elections from the New Delhi constituency, making his current allegations against Congress contradictory. Kapoor also asserted that several key AAP leaders, including Bharti, Satyendar Jain, Manish Sisodia, and Arvind Kejriwal, were facing an inevitable defeat in the upcoming assembly elections. He accused them of avoiding discussions on development and governance, instead attempting to distract the public with such controversies.

## Dense fog engulfs Delhi amid cold, reduced visibility may affect flight ops

As a result of the reduced visibility, authorities at the Delhi airport said that flight operations were likely to get affected.

New Delhi. Dense fog engulfed parts of Delhi on Thursday as the temperature dipped to 7.6 degrees Celsius. As a result of the reduced visibility, authorities at the Delhi airport said that flight operations were likely to get affected. The runway visibility is between 200 to 500 meters, while the general visibility at the IGI airport dropped to zero at 6 am. Operations to land flights in low visibility conditions are currently underway, Delhi airport further said. Operations of flights that are not equipped to land in low visibility conditions are more likely to get affected. According to FlightRadar24, at least 80 flights have been delayed, with the average delay being 13 minutes. As many as five flights have been cancelled so far. The minimum temperature for today was

recorded at 7.6 degrees Celsius at 8.30 am from Safdarjung, according to IMD. Earlier, India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued a yellow



alert for several places in Delhi for moderate fog and at isolated places for dense fog. The maximum and minimum

temperatures forecasted for today are 17 degrees Celsius and 8 degrees Celsius respectively. On New Year's, Delhi residents woke up to the third consecutive day of cold conditions with the mercury dipping to 7.4 degrees while the maximum temperature remained at 15 degrees Celsius, four notches below normal. The IMD has predicted improved visibility and marginally warmer weather from January 3, providing some relief to Delhi residents from biting cold and dense fog. A cold day is when the maximum temperature is anywhere between 4.5 degrees Celsius to 6.5 degrees Celsius below normal.

## DDA to survey sites on Yamuna floodplains for ropeways

➤The direction came after the L-G recently chaired a meeting to explore alternative modes of non-polluting public transport. These cable cars would carry passengers across the Yamuna river.

NEW DELHI. Lieutenant governor (L-G) VK Saxena on Wednesday directed Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to undertake a surveying process on Yamuna floodplains to identify sites for the installation of cableways. The direction came after the L-G recently chaired a meeting to explore alternative modes of non-polluting public transport. These cable cars would carry passengers across the Yamuna river. "This project once it takes off, will operate during fixed timings from morning to night in cable cars with a capacity of about 50 passengers each, across the Yamuna," said a statement. DDA, which is the owner of the floodplains, will select sites in the



vicinity of metro stations on either bank of the river, where installations would come up without encroachment or concretisation of the floodplain. The L-G, while issuing directions, asked the officers to ensure that the sites are selected which are nearer to metro/DTC nodes, at a walkable distance. This, he emphasised,

will encourage people to walk even during their busy schedules. It may be noted that even in sites like Baansera and Asita developed by DDA on Yamuna floodplains, the parking sites are located far from the main park areas, so as to ensure that people walk in the greens and ensure physical fitness too. These cableways are aimed at ensuring that people can take an alternate, non-polluting mode of transport across the river rather than crossing it on buses, autos and private vehicles that invariably add to air pollution. It would also ensure less traffic on roads and bridges. Apart from this, it would also provide additional routes closer to the place of residence/work to people, ensuring that people do not have to take long circuitous routes. This will automatically lead to lesser traffic, lesser pollution and saving of travel time.

# Territorial Army launches task force for Gomti river rejuvenation

Named Ganga Task Force (GTF), the battalion will take on responsibilities such as pollution monitoring, patrolling of riverbanks and ghats, public awareness campaigns, and riverbank stabilisation efforts for the rejuvenation of the Gomti River.

New Delhi. The Territorial Army on Wednesday established a new task force dedicated to the rejuvenation and protection of the Gomti River. According to a statement by the Territorial Army, the company, named Ganga Task Force (GTF) battalion, will provide a boost towards environmental preservation and sustainable development. Comprising primarily ex-servicemen, the Ganga Task Force will take on responsibilities such as pollution monitoring, patrolling of riverbanks and ghats, public awareness campaigns, and riverbank stabilisation efforts. The formal raising ceremony took place on Wednesday, January 1, at Lucknow Cantonment. The ceremony was marked by a symbolic flag handover by Brigadier Chinmay Madhwal,



Commander of Territorial Army group S, Commanding Officer of the GTF. The ceremony saw the participation of

people from both military and civilian sectors, including Professor Dr Venkatesh Dutta from Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University. Professor Dutta, during the ceremony, provided historical context and insights into the challenges faced by the Gomti River. He also expressed confidence in the task force's potential to bring about a swift and meaningful rejuvenation of the Gomti River. The new company has been established under the aegis of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, with orders issued by the Ministry of Defence in September 2024. This initiative not only aims to revitalise the Gomti River but also underscores the Indian Army's continued contribution to nation-building and environmental sustainability.



NEWS BOX

Videos Show How US Army Veteran Ran Through Crowd With Truck, Killing 15

**New Orleans, US.** Security camera footage has emerged of suspected terrorist Shamsud-Din Jabbar plowing his pickup truck down a packed Bourbon Street in New Orleans on New Year's Day. The attack killed at least 15 people and injured 35 others. Police described Jabbar as a "terrorist," while the FBI said "an ISIS flag was located in the vehicle," using another name for the Islamic State armed group. Videos circulating on social media show Jabbar's white pickup truck with an ISIS flag inching through Canal Street traffic before taking a sharp turn down Bourbon Street. n another video, the white Ford pickup truck can be seen speeding through the crowded French Quarter on New Year's Day as partygoers scrambled around to save their lives. At least fifteen people were killed and dozens of others were injured after US Army veteran Jabbar swerved around makeshift barriers and barreled into revellers in New Orleans' crowded French Quarter on New Year's Day. Officials said they were searching for accomplices but gave few details.

US President Joe Biden, describing the attack as "despicable," said that hours before Jabbar had posted videos online "indicating that he was inspired by ISIS." Officials said a manhunt was underway, with FBI agent Alethea Duncan warning that authorities "do not believe that Jabbar was solely responsible."

"We're hunting some bad people down," Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry said. An FBI spokesman told AFP that 15 people had been killed, citing the New Orleans coroner's office.

Moldova's 'First Dog' Goes Missing On New Year's Eve, Found A Day Later

**Chisinau.** Moldovan President Maia Sandu's dog, notorious for biting the Austrian president, was safely home in the official residence on Wednesday after going missing on New Year's Eve. Codrut, which means small forest in Moldova's official language of Romanian, bolted during fireworks. Capital residents rallied, posting sightings of the golden-haired pet on social media, and he was brought home hours later. Our good friend Codrut had an unpleasant experience," presidential press secretary Igor Zaharov wrote on social media. "He is safe at home." The mixed breed canine, who is missing a leg, was adopted by Sandu in 2023 after he was hit by a car. Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen suffered a minor hand wound when Codrut bit him during a November 2023 state visit. odrut is not the only presidential dog with a biting problem. US President Joe Biden successively banished two German Shepherd pets from the White House due to biting.

US Treasury's Sanctions Office Hacked By Chinese Government: Report

**Washington DC.** Chinese government hackers breached the U.S. Treasury office that administers economic sanctions, the Washington Post reported on Wednesday, identifying targets of a cyberattack Treasury disclosed earlier this week. Citing unnamed U.S. officials, the Washington Post said hackers compromised the Office of Foreign Assets Control and the Office of Financial Research and also targeted the office of U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen. The department earlier this week disclosed in a letter to lawmakers that hackers stole unclassified documents in a "major incident." It did not specify which users or departments were affected. Asked about the paper's report, Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, said the "irrational" U.S. claim was "without any factual basis" and represented "smear attacks" against Beijing.



The statement said China "combats all forms of cyberattacks" and did not directly address the Washington Post's reporting on specific targets. The Treasury Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the newspaper report. The Washington Post quoted its sources as saying that a top area of interest for the Chinese government would be Chinese entities that the U.S. government may be considering designating for financial sanctions. The Treasury letter earlier this week said hackers compromised third-party cybersecurity service provider BeyondTrust. Chinese firms, individuals and entities have been a frequent target for U.S. sanctions, which Washington has used as a key tool in its foreign policy towards Beijing. The United States considers China's its biggest foreign policy challenge, and last month Yellen told Reuters that Washington would not rule out sanctions on Chinese banks as it seeks to reduce Russia's oil revenue and access to foreign supplies to fuel its war in Ukraine.

Horrificed": World Leaders React To New Orleans Attack That Killed 15

**Paris.** France. International condemnation poured in Wednesday for the attack on a crowd of New Year's Eve revellers in New Orleans, which killed at least 15 people and wounded dozens more.

**Here is a round-up of global reactions.**

**France**  
"New Orleans, so dear to the hearts of the French, has been struck by terrorism," French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on social media platform X, posting in both French and English. New Orleans was initially founded by colonists from France and the attack took place in the Louisiana city's famed French Quarter. "Our thoughts are with the families of the victims and the injured, as well as with the American people, whose sorrow we share," Macron said. Christian Estrosi, mayor of the southern city of Nice, which suffered a car-ramping attack in 2016 that killed 86 people, also sent condolences. "The tragedy in New Orleans, a sister city of Nice, very painfully recalls our own... Our thoughts go out to the families and the lives mowed

down in mid-New Year's celebrations," he said on X.

**UK**  
"The shockingly violent attack in New Orleans is horrific," said British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on X. "My thoughts are with the victims, their families, the emergency responders and the people of the United States at this tragic time."

**Ukraine**  
"Horrificed by the attack in New Orleans, US, which has claimed innocent lives and left many injured," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky posted on X. "We trust that those responsible for this terrible act will be brought to justice. Violence, terrorism, and any threats to human life have no place in our world and must not be tolerated. Our deepest condolences to the families of the victims... Ukraine stands with the American people and denounces violence."

**European Union**  
"I am deeply saddened by the deliberate attack on those celebrating New Year's in



New Orleans," the European Union's top diplomat, Kaja Kallas, posted on X. "There is no excuse for such violence... We stand in full solidarity with the victims and their families during this tragic time."

**United Nations**  
UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "strongly condemns" the attack and "extends his condolences to the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives", according to a statement from his spokesperson. He also wishes a swift recovery to those persons injured."

Germany

"This is terrible news from New Orleans," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in a post on X. "People celebrating happily are torn from their lives or injured by senseless hatred. We grieve with the families and friends of the victims and wish all those injured a quick recovery."

**Israel**  
"Deeply saddened by the terrorist attack in New Orleans," Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar wrote on X. "My heartfelt condolences go out to the families of the victims. Wishing a swift recovery to the two injured Israeli citizens and all the wounded... Terror has no place in our world."

**Saudi Arabia**  
Saudi Arabia "condemns and denounces" the attack, its foreign ministry said in a statement on X.

**Turkey**  
"We are deeply saddened by the attack that took place in New Orleans, USA," Turkey's foreign ministry said in a statement. "We extend our condolences to the families .

"Picked Wrong Vehicle": Elon Musk On Cybertruck Explosion Outside Trump Hotel

**World.** Billionaire Elon Musk claimed that the explosion involving a Tesla Cybertruck outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas was an act of terrorism. Mr Musk said that the electric vehicle's design minimised the blast's impact, sparing the hotel from significant damage. "The evil knuckleheads picked the wrong vehicle for a terrorist attack. Cybertruck actually contained the explosion and directed the blast upwards. Not even the glass doors of the lobby were broken," Mr Musk posted on X. The explosion occurred early Thursday morning when a 2024 Tesla Cybertruck, reportedly rented through the car-sharing platform Turo, erupted in flames outside the Trump International Hotel's main entrance. The blast resulted in one death and seven injuries, according to Las Vegas police. The injured individuals suffered minor injuries, and the hotel was evacuated as a precaution. Investigators confirmed that the explosion originated from materials stored in the truck's bed, including fireworks, gas tanks, and camping fuel. These were connected to a detonation system believed to have been controlled by the driver.



Jeremy Schwartz, the FBI's special agent in charge in Las Vegas, confirmed that the agency's joint terrorism task force is leading the investigation. The explosion's timing has raised concerns about a potential link to an earlier attack in New Orleans. In that incident, a man drove a pickup truck into a crowd of New Year's revellers, killing at least 15 and injuring dozens. Authorities identified the attacker as Shamsud-Din Jabbar, a 42-year-old US citizen and former military IT specialist, who appeared to have been inspired by the Islamic State group. Both vehicles involved in the Las Vegas and New Orleans incidents were rented through Turo, a car-renting company. Turo's spokesperson stated that the company is cooperating fully with law enforcement and noted that neither renter had a criminal background that would have flagged them as security threats.

Gaza Offensive To Escalate If Hostage Deal Fails, Israel Warns Hamas

**World.** Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz issued a stern warning stating that Israel would intensify its military operations in Gaza if Hamas does not agree to a deal for the release of hostages "soon." In a public statement, Gallant said that should Hamas fail to permit the release of Israeli hostages, the group would face "blows of an intensity not seen in Gaza for a long time." He emphasised that Israel's military would "escalate and intensify" its efforts against militant strongholds in Gaza until the hostages are freed and Hamas is "eliminated."

Negotiations mediated by Qatar, Egypt, and the US are stalled over key issues, including the continuation of the ceasefire, Xinhua news agency reported. Hamas seeks to prolong the truce, while Israel insists on the right to resume military action if it perceives a security threat. Another point of

contention is Hamas's demand for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, which Israel opposes, asserting the need for a continued military presence



to maintain security control. The Hamas-led assault on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, resulted in the kidnapping of approximately 250 civilians and soldiers, of whom around 100 are still believed to be held in Gaza. The subsequent Israeli offensive has had a devastating impact on the Gaza

Strip, causing mass destruction, widespread hunger and diseases, and resulting in at least 45,540 deaths, according to Gaza health officials. Earlier on December 29, fighters in the Gaza Strip fired about five rockets at southern Israel, the Israeli military said. The rockets on Sunday afternoon triggered air raid warning sirens in the city of Sderot and other communities near the Palestinian enclave. No injuries were reported. In a statement, the military said that two of the rockets were intercepted by the Iron Dome anti-rocket system, while the rest "likely fell in open areas." This marked the second consecutive day of projectile fire from the besieged enclave as the Israeli onslaught continues. The two long-range rockets fired on Saturday from Gaza toward the Jerusalem area were also intercepted.

Birmingham's New Year Eve Hoax: Thousands Tricked Into Non-Existent Fireworks Gathering

**World.** In a bizarre situation, thousands of Britons were duped into gathering at Birmingham's Centenary Square on New Year's Eve after being hoaxed into believing by social media scammers that a non-existent fireworks display was about to take place to celebrate the occasion. Based on social media rumors, the hopeful spectators arrived at the venue, only to be met with disappointment as no event had been organised, according to a report in The Guardian. Images and videos showed thousands of people gathered in anticipation as the clock ticked past the midnight mark. Although there were some loud cheers as the year 2025 was ushered in, the promise of grand pyrotechnics turned out to be a damp squib. "We're aware of speculation of a New Year's Eve fireworks display taking place in Birmingham's Centenary Square tonight - but we can confirm this is not the case," the West Midlands Police said. Birmingham Updates is believed to be one of the social media accounts that disseminated the false news

leading to the gathering. "As a social media page we frequently source information from a number of sources including local journalists and third party sites, in light of this we are now



reviewing our sources and editorial guidelines," said a spokesperson of the page which is run by a marketing agency called Nonsensical. otably, prior to the rumored event, Birmingham Superintendent Emlyn Richards had issued a warning, urging the public to not gather. We don't want people travelling unnecessarily into the city centre tonight to be left disappointed

after discovering the event isn't taking place," said Mr Richards. Internet reacts As the news of the incident went viral, social media users poked fun at the spectators who went to the venue while criticising the Birmingham council for allowing the people to gather without proper security arrangements. "You could not have made this made up, lol," said one user, while another added: "Can you imagine hitting midnight and just nothing happening." A third commented: "I'm sorry but thousands of people being duped by AI into thinking there would be fireworks in Centenary Square, only for

them to count down to nothing at midnight is the most Birmingham thing I've ever heard. Absolutely tragic." This is not the first instance when such a mass-level hoax has led to a public gathering. On Halloween last year, thousands of people gathered at the Dublin city centre for a nonexistent spooky season parade.

Anti-Israel Protesters Call For "Intifada Revolution" at New York's Times Square

**The protest came hours after US Army veteran Shamsud-Din Jabbar, flying an ISIS flag from his truck, swerved around makeshift barriers and plowed into New Orleans' crowded French Quarter on New Year's Day.**

**New York, US.** Hundreds of anti-Israel demonstrators gathered at New York City's Times Square on New Year's Day on Wednesday, calling for an "intifada revolution". Attendees waved Palestinian flags and carried placards that said "Zionism is cancer," "No war on Iran," and

"End all US aid to Israel." Incidentally, the protest happened just hours after a terrorist carried out a deadly car attack in the French Quarter of New Orleans, that killed at least 15 people.

The protest was reportedly organized by the Palestinian Youth Movement, the Party for Socialism and Liberation and the People's Forum. Demonstrators shouted slogans -- "There is only one solution: Intifada revolution," "Resistance is glorious - we will be victorious," and "Gaza, you make us proud," according to a report by the New York Post. In one of the videos of the protest circulating on social media, a female demonstrator wearing a keffiyeh can be heard saying, "We're sending you back to Europe you white b-ches." "Go back to Europe! Go back to Europe," she shouted at counter-protestors outside the event at the Big Apple. Another speaker shouted through a megaphone, "2024 was



a year of struggle against the crime of Zionism." The came hours after US Army veteran Shamsud-Din Jabbar, flying an ISIS flag from his truck, swerved around makeshift barriers and plowed into New Orleans' crowded French Quarter on New Year's Day. Police officials said 42-year-old Jabbar may have had the help of others to carry out the attack in which 15 people were killed. The attack injured about 30 other people, including two police officers

wounded by gunfire from Jabbar, who was later shot dead by cops. The attack took place around 3:15 am near the intersection of Canal and Bourbon Streets, a historic tourist destination known for its music and bars where crowds were celebrating the New Year. Three improvised pipe bombs were found nearby in the tourist-drawing French Quarter, including one in Jabbar's truck.

US President Joe Biden condemned what he called a "despicable" act and said investigators were looking into whether there might be a link to a Tesla truck fire outside a Trump hotel in Las Vegas. So far, there was no evidence linking the two events, Biden said. "The FBI also reported to me that mere hours before the attack, he posted videos on social media indicating that he's inspired by ISIS, expressing the desire to kill," Biden said of the New Orleans suspect.



NEWS BOX

Will Rohit Sharma play in Sydney Test  
Gautam evades questions

New Delhi. India coach Gautam Gambhir declined to confirm whether captain Rohit Sharma would play in the Sydney Test against Australia when asked directly about his inclusion. Rohit was observed during warm-ups, shadow-practising his drives and kicking a football around with his teammates. However, when questioned about Rohit's availability, Gambhir stated that the team had yet to finalise their playing XI and would make the decision tomorrow after assessing the pitch.A journalist persistently questioned Gambhir, asking why the captain had not attended the press conference on the eve of the Test, highlighting that it is a tradition in Test cricket. While Gambhir confirmed that India



would miss fast bowler Akash Deep due to an injury, he remained non-committal regarding the team combination and Rohit's inclusion in the playing XI."Everything is fine with Rohit. I don't think it's a tradition. The head coach is here. That should be fine, that should be good enough. I am going to have a look at the wicket and finalise it tomorrow," Gambhir said.Also Read: Just reports, not truth - Gambhir on reports of dressing room leaksWhen asked if Rohit would feature in Team India's plans, Gambhir reiterated: "As I just said, we are going to have a look at the wicket and announce the playing XI tomorrow."Several fans and pundits have questioned Rohit Sharma's place in the side following his lacklustre performances with the bat in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Rohit has managed only 31 runs in three Tests, and his body language on the field as a skipper has also come under scrutiny.Former India opener Aakash Chopra was among those who stated outright that dropping Rohit would not be an unfair decision for the Sydney Test.

Who is Beau Webster?  
Australia all-rounder set to debut in SCG Test vs India

New Delhi Australia will hand Beau Webster his debut in the New Year's Test against India, replacing the out-of-form Mitchell Marsh in the playing XI for the Sydney Test. This is the only change to the team that secured a commanding 2-1 series lead in Melbourne, with Mitchell Starc declared fit to play despite experiencing rib soreness during the Boxing Day Test.

Marsh, Australia's T20 captain, managed only 73 runs across the first four Tests and bowled sparingly as the team rebounded from a heavy defeat in the Perth opener. Meanwhile, Webster, 31, is set to make his international debut in any format. The Tasmanian all-rounder boasts an impressive domestic



record, having scored 5,297 runs and taken 148 wickets in 93 first-class matches.

WHO IS BEAU WEBSTER?

Born on December 1, 1993, Webster's cricketing journey began with age-group cricket for Tasmania before debuting in first-class cricket in 2014. Over the years, he has cemented his reputation as a versatile player. He has scored 5,297 runs in 93 first-class matches at an average of 37.83, including 12 centuries. With the ball, Webster took 148 wickets, solidifying his status as a genuine all-rounder.In a career-defining move four years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic, Webster transitioned from off-spin to seam bowling. The switch, coupled with relentless gym sessions, has paid dividends. Tasmania captain Jordan Silk praised Webster's adaptability: "He's basically playing as our third seamer and top-six batter, which is a pretty good luxury to have in our side."

Webster's contributions have been critical for Tasmania, particularly in recent seasons. Since the start of the 2022/23 campaign, he has amassed 1,837 runs at an average of 51.01 and taken 39 wickets.

Transition phase in Test team has already begun, says coach Gautam Gambhir

Australia vs India: Speaking to the press on the eve of the New Year's Test in Sydney, coach Gautam Gambhir said the transition phase in the Test team is not just a challenge but an exciting opportunity.

New Delhi. Head coach Gautam Gambhir acknowledged that a transition phase in the Test team has begun but emphasised that it is not about phasing out senior players, as India prepare for the next cycle of the World Test Championship. Addressing the press on the eve of the New Year's Test against Australia in Sydney, Gambhir expressed his satisfaction that the transition is occurring in both the batting and bowling departments, unlike certain periods in the past.Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Full Coverage Questions about Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's place in the side have intensified after India conceded an unbeatable 2-1 lead to Australia following the 184-run defeat in Melbourne. While Kohli has struggled for

consistency in Tests, Rohit's form has declined sharply. The India captain has managed just 31 runs in three Tests in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and only 164 runs in eight matches in the 2024-25 Test season, averaging a mere 10.83 per innings."See, I will tell you one thing. I think Indian cricket will always be in safe hands till the time honest people are sitting in the dressing room. Honesty is the most important thing for any transition. It's not about phasing out senior players or getting the youngsters in. Ultimately, the only thing that can keep you in the dressing room is the performance," Gautam Gambhir said.The Indian head coach declined to answer questions about Rohit Sharma's place in the XI for the fifth and final Test, reiterating that a decision would be made on Friday morning after assessing the pitch at the Sydney Cricket Ground.Gambhir's comments come at a time when several pundits have been discussing the futures of senior batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Former head coach Ravi Shastri remarked that Kohli could continue in Tests for another three to four years but suggested that Rohit Sharma might need to make a decision about

his future at the conclusion of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Former Australia captain Mark Waugh speculated that Rohit's Test career might be nearing its end, while former India opener Aakash Chopra called on Rohit



to drop himself for the Sydney Test. TRANSITION PERIOD IS AN EXCITING TIME: GAMBHIR Gambhir, who was part of the Indian team during a major transition phase that saw the careers of Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, and Sachin Tendulkar come to an end, described the current transition phase as not just a challenge but an exciting opportunity.

The head coach further stated that ensuring a smooth transition is a collective responsibility, emphasising that both the batting and bowling units of the current team are already undergoing significant changes."It's not the role of only the support staff, but you people as well. It's about not just criticising them, but trying to hug them out as well. Transition doesn't happen only for us; it happens for the entire country," Gambhir said."Yeah, it's an exciting time in Indian cricket. I felt that when transitions happened in the past, there was one department that was carrying the team forward. But at the moment, if you see this transition, it's happening in both departments. And it has already started. You see some younger fast bowlers coming in. You have got some younger batters who have been on their first tour to Australia and done exceptionally well. Look at Yashasvi Jaiswal, Nitish Reddy and Washington Sundar, who is on his second tour. Akash Deep has done really well. I think the conversations that have happened are only around how we can play well in this series," he added.

AUS vs IND: Akash Deep out of Sydney Test with back issue, confirms coach Gambhir

New Delhi. India coach Gautam Gambhir has confirmed that pacer Akash Deep is ruled out of the fifth and final Test against Australia, starting Friday in Sydney, due to a stiff back. Akash had claimed five wickets in the first two Tests in Brisbane and Melbourne. He was somewhat unlucky not to take more wickets, as several catches were dropped off his bowling during those matches. "Akash Deep is out with a back issue," India coach Gautam Gambhir confirmed during the pre-match press conference.

The 28-year-old right-arm pacer bowled a total of 87.5 overs in the series so far, and the injury could be attributed to the heavier-than-usual workload he has endured. The hard Australian pitches are notorious for causing knee, ankle, and back issues for fast bowlers. Either Harshit Rana or Prasidh Krishna is expected to replace Akash in the playing XI. India trail 1-2 in the five-match series and must win the final game to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.India's selection decisions throughout the tour have raised eyebrows, starting in Perth where both Ravindra Jadeja and R. Ashwin were benched in favor of Washington Sundar. Harshit Rana, who made his debut in Perth, was also included in the



Adelaide Test but visibly struggled with the demands of back-to-back matches and long bowling spells.The trend continued in Melbourne, where India opted to field three all-rounders—Nitish Kumar Reddy, Jadeja, and Washington—while dropping their No. 3 batter, Shubman Gill. Adding to the puzzling decisions, they promoted the out-of-form Rohit Sharma to open the innings in place of KL Rahul, who had looked steady at the top, disrupting the team's balance further.

Kusal Perera's hundred gives SL their first T20I win in New Zealand since 2006

New Delhi. Kusal Perera's maiden T20I century powered Sri Lanka to a thrilling seven-run victory over New Zealand in the final T20I, ending a 17-year drought for the visitors on Kiwi soil. This was Sri Lanka's first T20I win in New Zealand since 2006, a consolation in the three-match T20I series, which New Zealand won 2-1.

After being sent in to bat under overcast skies, Sri Lanka faced early trouble, losing both openers within the powerplay. However, Kusal Perera stepped up and transformed the innings with a blistering counter-attack. His remarkable century, off just 44 balls, set a record as the fastest T20I hundred by a Sri Lankan. Perera's knock was studued with 13 fours and 4 sixes."It's always a pleasure to score a 100. When I faced the first ball today, was like a wake-up call. You need to adjust to the extra bounce and conditions here. I always try to back myself and play

my natural game. These conditions are helpful for the seamers, the last two games we did not get a start, once you get a start



here you need to make it count. That's what I tried to do," Kusal Perera said after winning the Player of the Match series.Supported by skipper Charith Asalanka's solid 46, Perera guided Sri Lanka to an imposing total of 218/5, their second-highest T20I score.

Even a subdued finish in the final overs could not overshadow the platform set by Perera's brilliance.

Chasing a challenging target of 219, New Zealand got off to a flying start, with openers Tom Robinson (37) and Rachin Ravindra (69) putting on an 81-run partnership in the powerplay. Their aggressive approach placed the Sri Lankan bowlers under pressure and gave the hosts a realistic chance of reaching the target.

However, Sri Lanka fought back with crucial wickets at key moments. Charith Asalanka (3/50) played a pivotal role, despite conceding runs, by removing important batters. Daryl Mitchell's brisk 35 kept New Zealand's hopes alive, but the lack of middle-order support ultimately saw them fall short by seven runs.

Pat Cummins set to miss Sri Lanka tour, explains desire to be at home with family

New Delhi Australian captain Pat Cummins has hinted at the possibility of skipping the upcoming Sri Lanka Test series, scheduled for January 29 and February 6, as he prepares to welcome his second child. The star fast bowler, whose wife Becky is due to give birth later this month, expressed a strong desire to prioritise being with his family during this significant time. In his absence, Steve Smith or Travis Head may be handed the captaincy of Australia for the Sri Lanka tour.

Cummins' decision is deeply influenced by personal experiences, particularly the recent loss of his mother, Maria, and his reflections on balancing professional commitments with family life. Speaking at the launch of the Pink Test for the McGrath Foundation—a cause close to Australian cricket, now expanding its support to all cancer patients-Cummins shared his



evolving perspective."In some ways it really makes you focus in on what I think is important," he told the Daily Telegraph at the launch of the Pink Test. "It's family, it's enjoyment, it's trying to find joy in life and I think that's been a slight shift in the way I've approached playing and touring and it's just given me that real decluttering mindset."When you go out you just want to play well and of course there's going to be pressure,

but you don't want to forget that what mum and dad used to say to us every time we went and played as kids, was to go and enjoy it. Try your best, but make sure you enjoy it. I try and remind myself of that every time I go on a tour or play."Whatever you choose to do there's always an opportunity cost. And I think in the last few years that's probably rung true. That is when you go away on a tour you are missing out on maybe family time or moments. That's a deliberate choice so make sure you are making the most of that tour or that game if that makes sense."

Reflecting on the birth of his first child, Albie, Cummins expressed regret for missing the early weeks of his son's life while playing in a World Cup. "I missed a big chunk last time. I want to spend more time at home for this initial period," he said.

Just reports, not truth: Coach Gautam Gambhir on leaks from Indian dressing room

Coach Gautam Gambhir has dismissed reports of a rift within the Indian dressing room, emphasising the importance of maintaining privacy in dressing room discussions. The controversy has added to the mounting pressure on the Indian team, which trails 1-2 in the series.

New Delhi India's head coach Gautam Gambhir has addressed the controversy surrounding reports of leaked dressing room conversations during the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy, emphasising the importance of "honesty" and maintaining confidentiality within the team.Speaking to the press on the eve of the final Test in Sydney, Gambhir dismissed reports of unrest following the Boxing Day Test defeat, where India succumbed to Australia by 184 runs.

A report had suggested that Gambhir had delivered a scathing address to the team after the defeat, reportedly criticising players for



prioritising their "natural game" over adapting to match situations.However, Gambhir downplayed the incident, stating, "Those are just reports. That's not the truth. I don't think I need to answer any reports. There were some honest words, that is what I can say. Honesty is very important. Honesty is extremely important if you want to go and achieve great things. The coach also reaffirmed the need for unity within the squad, saying, "Team first. It's a team game, and everyone understands this. Debates between a player and a coach should stay

between them. Any conversations in the dressing room should stay in the dressing room."The controversy arose after a report by The Indian Express detailed Gambhir's frustration during the post-match team meeting, where he reportedly warned players unwilling to adhere to his team strategies that they would face exclusion. Gambhir, who took over as head coach in July, admitted in the reported post-match meeting to allowing players more freedom over the past six months but signalled a stricter approach moving forward.Former

cricketers Irfan Pathan and Sreevats Goswami criticised the breach of confidentiality, with Pathan stating, "What happens in the dressing room should stay in the dressing room."EXTREMELY CONFIDENT OF WINNING SYTNEY TEST: GAMBHIR

Gambhir said the focus will now shift to winning the Sydney Test and that he is "extremely confident" of the team putting on a strong show in the series finale"There has been only one conversation and it is about how to win the Test. There is no other conversation apart from this. Everybody knows how important this Test match is. There is no other conversation apart from this," he said."Extremely, extremely confident. We have got the skillset, we have got the individuals, confidence and everything in the dressing room to win a Test match here. Not only here, but probably go on to do some unbelievable things in the future as well. So, extremely confident," he said.India and Australia will meet in the fifth Test, starting January 3 in Sydney. India will be able to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy if they win the final Test and draw the series 2-2.





# Sonakshi Sinha

**Calls Husband Zaheer Iqbal ‘Very Irritating’; He Says, ‘I Need Help. My Wife Wants...’**

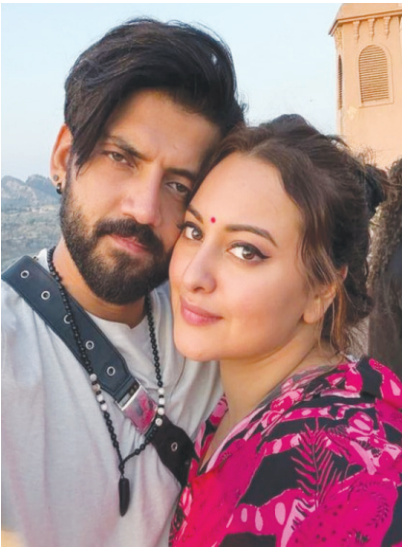
Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha, last seen in Kakuda, jokingly shared her annoyance with husband Zaheer Iqbal’s antics. On Wednesday, she posted an Instagram Story with a video of Zaheer playfully teasing her for her love of long camera shots. The actress wrote on the video, “You are a VVIP, very very irritating person”.

Sonakshi Sinha recently attended the Boxing Day Test between India and Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. She shared Instagram Stories showing her cheering for Team India amidst the massive crowd. One video even captured her husband, Zaheer Iqbal, playing cricket with kids during the break.

Sonakshi and Zaheer, who tied the knot on June 23 in Mumbai after seven years of dating, first met at a party hosted by Salman Khan.

Interestingly, both began their Bollywood journeys under Salman’s mentorship. Sonakshi Sinha made her debut opposite Salman Khan in the blockbuster hit Dabangg, while Zaheer Iqbal stepped into Bollywood with Salman’s production Notebook. The couple reportedly dated for seven years and lived together for a year before tying the knot. Their wedding was followed by a star-studded reception attended by Bollywood A-listers like Salman Khan, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Kajol, Tabu, and Yo Yo Honey Singh, among others.

On the professional front, Sonakshi is gearing up to share the screen with her husband in Tu Hai Meri Kiran. The duo has previously worked together in the film Double XL alongside Huma Qureshi and a music video titled Blockbuster. Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal tied the knot on June 23 in a private ceremony in Mumbai after dating for almost seven years. The couple had also lived together for a year before tying the knot. Their wedding was followed by a grand reception attended by top Bollywood stars like Salman Khan, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Kajol, Tabu, and Yo Yo Honey Singh.



## Natasa Stankovic Hopes For 'Peace' And 'Love' In 2025 After Separation From Hardik Pandya



Natasa Stankovic is hoping for peace, joy and love in 2025. On Tuesday night, the actress took to her Instagram handle and shared a series of pictures expressing gratitude for 2024 and hoping for a better 2025. In multiple of these pictures, Natasa was seen spending some quality time with her son, Agastya. However, it was the caption of Natasa’s post that caught everyone’s attention. “2024 I really liked you ?? you taught me a lot and for that I am grateful ? I pray that 2025 brings peace, joy and love ??,” she wrote. Check it out here:

It should be noted that 2024 wasn’t easy for Natasa. The actress parted ways from her cricketer husband Hardik Pandya. The two, who tied the knot in May 2020 and renewed their wedding vows according to the Hindu and Christian rituals in February 2023, confirmed their separation in July 2024. Following their separation, Natasa was brutally trolled by many on social media. In November, Natasa spoke about her life after her split from Hardik and shared how she is still ‘family’ with Pandya because of their son. “We (Hardik and I) are still a family. We have a child, and the child will always make us a family at the end of the day. I haven’t done that anyway because Agastya needs to stay with both parents. It’s been 10 years and I go every year at the same time back in Serbia,” she told ETimes.

Natasa also talked about how she had to remain strong and learn to love herself for Agastya. “I’ve learned to love myself with Agastya, by being with him. I understood that for the child to be happy, he needs me – as a mother – to be happy and mentally healthy. So, there was no way for me to fall down. I just had to stand and be like – Nobody can touch me, nobody can touch him. No matter what someone says, the moment, you know your worth, you know who you are, and you know that your heart is clean, nobody can shake you. I’ve reached that point,” she added.

## Sutapa Sikdar Reflects On Life Without Irrfan Khan: 'Babil And Ayan Have Their Struggles'



Writer and actor Sutapa Sikdar recently opened up about the immense challenges she has faced since the passing of her husband, the late actor Irrfan Khan. Speaking in an interview with Times Entertainment, Sutapa candidly shared how her life has changed and how her sons, Babil and Ayan, are also navigating their own struggles in the absence of their father. Reflecting on life without Irrfan, Sutapa said, “It’s a task to deal with life after Irrfan. I used to think that I wouldn’t be able to share this emotion with anyone, but lately I feel more comfortable talking about him. It’s been a long time since he has been gone, but I am not the same person as I was before. I have also struggled to give time to writing and come up with something I am passionate about.”

Sutapa, who has made her mark as a dialogue writer with films like Kahaani, Shabd, and Khamoshi, and produced the 2016 film Madaari, starring Irrfan, revealed how her creative process has been affected by his loss. “I am the most passionate about writing, but since Irrfan, I have not been able to get in touch with my emotions and put the pen to the paper in an effective manner. I am trying to write a book and film, where the former is about my husband. While I have been in an artistic rut, I want to share heartfelt stories of our journey together.”

Beyond her own struggles, Sutapa highlighted how their sons are coping with life without Irrfan. “Both of my sons have struggles of their own and often find themselves lost without their father. Irrfan was the composed character of our household, while I was the one who would panic quite easily,” she shared, adding that revisiting her life for the sake of her children has become an important part of her journey.

The Life and Legacy of Irrfan Khan Irrfan Khan, one of Indian cinema’s finest actors, left an indelible mark on both Bollywood and Hollywood with his unparalleled talent and versatility. Born on January 7, 1967, in Jaipur, Rajasthan, Irrfan pursued acting at the National School of Drama before making his breakthrough in films like The Warrior and Maqbool. Known for his nuanced performances, he starred in critically acclaimed films such as Paan Singh Tomar, The Lunchbox, Piku, and Hindi Medium. Internationally, he was celebrated for his roles in films like Slumdog Millionaire, Life of Pi, The Namesake, and Jurassic World.

# Ananya Panday

**Reveals Similarity With Deepika Padukone: 'Showing Our Human Side Is Beautiful'**

Ananya Panday, who starred alongside Deepika Padukone in Gehraiyaan, recently reflected on a unique similarity she shares with her co-star. The young actress opened up about showing their “human” side, especially on tough days, and how both she and Deepika embrace their emotions rather than suppress them. In an interview with Filmfare, Ananya was asked about dealing with angst and emotional baggage from the past. She candidly replied, “No,” explaining that she tends to release her emotions in the moment. “I’m the kind of person who has to let it all out,” she said, describing her approach to processing feelings.

Ananya elaborated on how she openly displays her emotions on set, even on bad days, allowing those around her to see her vulnerable, human side. She mentioned noticing the same trait in Deepika Padukone while working with her. “Because at the end of the day, people forget that... when you’re an actor, they think, ‘Oh, you don’t feel anything,’” Ananya shared, adding that she found it beautiful how Deepika also embraced her humanity.

Highlighting the importance of vulnerability, Ananya revealed her own methods of coping. “I don’t hold onto baggage,” she said, adding that crying, venting, or therapy help her move on quickly. “I get over it at the end,” she

concluded. The two actresses shared screen space in Shakun Batra’s 2022 romantic drama Gehraiyaan, where they played sisters navigating complex relationships. The film, which premiered on Amazon Prime Video, also featured Siddhant Chaturvedi, Dhairya Karwa, Rajat Kapoor, and Naseeruddin Shah.

Ananya has an exciting slate of projects lined up for 2025. Among them is an untitled film based on the life of C. Sankaran Nair, where she stars alongside Akshay Kumar and R. Madhavan. Additionally, the romantic drama Chand Mera Dil with Lakshya, produced by Dharma Productions, is highly anticipated. Fans can also look forward to sequels like Kho Gaye Hum Kahan 2 and Call Me Bae 2, as well as her action-drama Shankara. Meanwhile, Deepika Padukone, currently enjoying her motherhood phase, was last seen in the Cop Universe film Singham Again. While fans eagerly await her next Bollywood announcement, her role in Rohit Shetty’s blockbuster has left audiences excited for more.

