



INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION

(Vill. : Bijay, Dist. : Seraikella-Kharsawan – 833220)

IFE, Seraikella is a pioneer in providing the best quality education in the rural belt of Seraikella-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand.

We provide four major courses which are



**All the above courses are approved by NCTE, ERC (Bhubaneswar)
Approved by AICTE and JAC and affiliated to the Kolhan University.**

We have also tied up with Sikkim Skills University and Jharkhand State Open University. The various courses under these are Pharmacy, PGDBM, BA, B.Sc, B.Com., MA and many other diploma courses in management.

We have another unit of IFE in the BSNL Office, Garamnala, Sakchi where we have currently procured the 2nd and the 3rd floor completely and we run Software courses like Web Designing, Web Development, Programming, Data analytics, SAP, GST Taxation, Soft Skills and communication Skills. This office is also the centre for various online entrance examinations conducted by IBPS, NTA and UGC NET.

IFE Academy is the coaching Centre run by the IFE Group. This is located in the heart of the city, L Road, Bustapur, where the most renowned faculty of Commerce, Science and Humanities take classes. The results are astounding and most of the toppers are from our coaching institute.



Our Memoranda of Understanding

IFE, Seraikella has tied up with various international and national academic institutions and companies for the purpose of academic research and extension activities. For example:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. University Malaysia Pahang | e. Insurance Point Office |
| b. R.I.E Bhubaneswar | f. Infinite Net Solutions |
| c. The Rainbow Tribe New Delhi | g. Shubh Saawariya, Jharkhand |
| d. Venturing Digitally Pvt Ltd | h. HDFC |
| | i. Masterminds |

Institute For Education (A Unit of Educational and Social Development) is one of the leading institution in Seraikella-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand which comes under IXth schedule of constitution. It is the First B.Ed. college that is creating a milestone by providing education to the children of rural areas.

It Started with B.Ed. Courses since 2014 and now ready for NAAC Accreditation. In 2024 BCA and BBA Courses approved from AICTE and One Innovation Cell was established by MHRD. Institute For Education is also providing Diploma Elementary Education and many short-term courses. In Short Term courses it is providing certificate and diploma courses such as Yoga, Beautician, Candle Making, Spoken English and Personality Development Course and Basic of Computers. Apart from this, it also offers different courses through Sikkim Manipal University which is an Academic Partner of Institute For Education. It also offers courses from Jharkhand State Open University as study centre of Jharkhand State Open university. Different computer courses, such as DOEACC and SAP, have been provided for the students not only for Kolhan region of Jharkhand but also for the whole country.

Institute For Education not only equipped students through different courses but also provided 700 students with an authentic environment to inculcate and enhance the student's inherent potential and skills and providing them employability in different sectors. A dedicated group of student of NSS are actively participating in social work. Many courses are approved by NCTE, AICTE & Jharkhand Academic Council and affiliated by Kolhan University Chaibasa, Jharkhand (a Govt. University).

It has also conducted various National Seminars, Workshops and International Seminar to give in-hand experiences to the students and teachers from all over world.

This institution is situated amidst the natural beauty of the countryside and the urban glamour of an industrial area of Seraikella-Kharsawan district. The flowing river and picturesque backdrop of low hills on one side and large tracks of forest on troling campus are an ideal place for learning. It has been growing from strength to strength ever since it was established in 2014.

➤ Many more Achievements like Member of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan of Govt. Of India and Best NSS Award etc.

➤ National Seminar Collaboration with IGNOU, Ranchi, National workshop on Accupreser & Healing Conducted by Delhi's one of the renowned person Mr Pramod Kumar Sinha and International Conference sponsored by Jharkhand Science and Technology Council.

➤ National and international seminars and workshops are organized from time to time in the college, where participants from not only the college but also from the state, country, and abroad come to enhance their knowledge.

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पांडेय गिरोह के गैंगवार में कुख्यात की पत्नी सहित दो हुए गिरफ्तार

भरत पांडेय व दीपक साव हत्याकांड के दोनों आरोपी को भेजा गया जेल

- हजारीबाग जेल में बंद विकास तिवारी ने रची थी साजिश
- श्रीवास्तव की हत्या में जेल में है विकास

AGENCY PALAMU : पलामू जिले के चैनपुर थाना क्षेत्र के गरदा गांव में रविवार की रात अपराधियों की अंधाधुंध गोलीबारी में मारे गए पांडेय गिरोह के दो अपराधियों भरत सिंह उर्फ भरत पांडेय और दीपक साव उर्फ दुल्ला की हत्या के मास्टर माईड गैंगस्टर किशोर पांडे की पत्नी निशि पांडेय एवं साले निशांत सिंह को गिरफ्तार कर बुधवार को न्यायिक हिरासत में भेज दिया गया। दोनों को

BRIEF NEWS

डालसा ने कई गांवों में चलाया विधिक जागरूकता अभियान

KHUNTI : झालसा रांची के निर्देश पर प्रधान जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश सह डालसा अध्यक्ष रसिकेस कुमार के मार्गदर्शन में बुधवार को नालसा के जरिये संचालित 90 दिवसीयझाउदरतीच अभियान पर बरदा, (तपकरा), हाकूहापा (करा), राजकीय कृत उच्च विद्यालय और जरियागढ़ थाना में विधिक जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। यह कार्यक्रम अभी लगातार 90 दिनों तक चलता रहेगा। अभियान में मुख्य विषय वाहन दुर्घटना मुआवजा प्राप्त करने संबंधी, लेबर कार्ड बनाने संबंधी , जन्म प्रमाण पत्र, महिलाओं से जुड़े अधिकार एवं राशन कार्ड बनाने आदि के संबंध में जानकारी दी गई। डालसा के पीएलवियों ने कार्यक्रम में लोगों को जागरूक किया और कल्याणकारी योजनाओं के लाभ के बारे में बताया। यह जानकारी डालसा की सचिव राजश्री अपर्णा कुजूर ने दी।

चिकित्सा शिविर का आयोजन किया गया

LOHARDAGA : सशत्रु सीमा बल और प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र के जरिये संयुक्त रूप से मानव चिकित्सा शिविर का आयोजन क्रिस्को प्रखंड के सेमरडीह में बुधवार को किया गया। मानव कल्याण कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत राजेश सिंह, कमांडेंट 32वीं वाहिनी सशस्त्र सीमा बल सिलम गुमला के मार्ग निर्देशन में क्रिस्को के कंपनी कमांडर जोशरवर सिंह, सहायक कमांडेंट के नेतृत्व में मानव चिकित्सा कैम्प का आयोजन किया गया। इसमें डॉ. हिमांशु गिरी सहायक कमांडेंट, 32 वीं वाहिनी सशस्त्र सीमा बल के साथ डॉ. प्रियंका, प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्र क्रिस्को के जरिये सेमरडीह, वाणपुर, डटमा और आस पास के लगभग 100 ग्रामीणों का स्वास्थ्य जांच किया गया।



आरोपी महिला को गिरफ्तार कर ले जाती पुलिस

रामगढ़ से गिरफ्तार करके मेदिनीनगर लाया गया एवं जेल भेजने से पहले एमआरएमसीएच में मेडिकल जांच करायी गयी। इसके बाद दोनों को जेल भेज दिया गया। कोर्ट में पेशी एवं

मेडिकल जांच के दौरान बड़ी संख्या में जवानों को तैनात किया गया था। अस्पताल में बड़ी संख्या में पुलिस अधिकारी एवं जवान तैनात थे। गैंगस्टर भरत पांडेय एवं दीपक साव हत्याकांड

बिरनी के पांच घरों में हुई लाखों की चोरी, सेंधमारी

GIRIDIH : जिले के बिरनी थाना क्षेत्र के गुरहा गांव में मंगलवार की रात में चोरों ने पांच घरों में लगभग दस लाख की चोरी की घटना को अंजाम दिया । बताया गया कि जिन पांच घरों चोरी हुई है। इनमें रिटायर्ड टीचर भागीरथ विश्वकर्मा, केदार विश्वकर्मा और इनके छोटे भाई नारायण विश्वकर्मा , हरिहर यादव और सहदेव महतो शामिल हैं। बताया गया कि टीचर भागीरथ विश्वकर्मा और केदार विश्वकर्मा और नारायण विश्वकर्मा के घर से अपराधियों ने चार लाख के जेवर की चोरी कर लिया। तीनों के घर पर रखे 50 हजार नगद से भी हाथ साफ किया। तीनों के घर से 80 हजार के बर्तन समेत अन्य कीमती सामान चुरा लिया। नारायण विश्वकर्मा के घर पहले तल्ले के कमरा का ताला तोड़कर दो लाख का जेवर के 30 हजार के जेवर

सदस्यता अभियान के लक्ष्य को पूरा करें भाजपा कार्यकर्ता: नीलकंठ सिंह



KHUNTI : भाजपा के प्रदेश उपाध्यक्ष और भाजपा सदस्यता अभियान के मंडल प्रभारी नीलकंठ सिंह मुंडा ने कहा कि पूरे देश में भाजपा के जरिये सदस्यता अभियान चलाया जा रहा है। विधानसभा चुनाव के कारण झारखंड प्रदेश में यह अभियान विलंब से शुरू हुआ है। उन्होंने कहा कि सदस्यता अभियान में सभी की भागीदारी हो। पूर्व ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री बुधवार को मुरहू मंडल में सदस्यता अभियान की बैठक को बतौर मुख्य अतिथि संबोधित कर रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि सदस्यता अभियान में अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, पिछड़ी जाति, सामान्य वर्गों को भाजपा का सदस्य बनाएं। साथ ही कार्यकर्ताओं को सदस्यता अभियान के लक्ष्य को पूरा करने का उन्होंने निर्देश दिया। बैठक की अध्यक्षता मण्डल अध्यक्ष विजय कुमार राम ने की।



की चोरी कर ली। जबकि सहदेव यादव और हरिहर यादव के घर पर ही सेंधमारी कर छह लाख के जेवर के साथ नगद की चोरी की। इस बावत भागीरथ विश्वकर्मा ने जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि रात में जब सभी खाना खा कर सो गए, दूसरे दिन बुधवार की सुबह उठा तो देखा कि तीनों भाइयों के घर का लॉक टूटा हुआ है। तीनों के घर के कई कमरे का दरवाजा टूटा हुआ है। और सारे कमरे में रखा समान बिखरा पड़ा है। यही स्थिति सहदेव यादव और हरिहर यादव के घर पर भी हुआ।

आग से 20 ट्रेक्टर पुआल जलकर राख, मुआवजा देने की उठी मांग



पुआल के ढेर में लगी आग

KHUNTI : मुरहू प्रखंड के ग्राम कुंजला में बुधवार तड़के उमेश महतो और रमेश महतो के घर के पास रास्ते किनारे बिजली के तार आपस में टकराने से आग लग गई। आग की चपेट में आने से बगल में रखे पुआल के ढेर में आग लग गई। इससे लगभग 20 ट्रेक्टर पुआल जलकर राख हो गया। सूचना मिलते ही भाजपा के पूर्व जिला अध्यक्ष काशीनाथ महतो घटनास्थल पर पहुंचे और मामले की जानकारी खूंटी के थाना प्रभारी और अग्निशमन विभाग को दी और

में रामगढ़ की निशि पांडेय एवं निशांत सिंह नामजद आरोपित हैं। हत्याकांड में शामिल शूटरों की तलाश में पुलिस कई इलाकों में छापेमारी कर रही है। उल्लेखनीय है कि पांडेय गिरोह के दो अपराधियों भरत और दीपक की हत्या की साजिश हजारीबाग जेल में बंद विकास तिवारी ने रची थी। विकास तिवारी भोला पांडेय-किशोर पांडेय गिरोह से ताल्लुक रखने वाला है। फिलहाल यह गैंगस्टर सुश्रील श्रीवास्तव की हत्या के जुर्म में हजारीबाग जेल में आजीवन सजा काट रहा है। इसने ही दोनों के बढ़ते वर्चस्व को देखते हुए गुर्गों भेज हत्या करा दी। विकास पांडेय को भोला पांडेय

विद्यालय की जमीन पर नजर गड़ाने वाले सुधर जाएं : सुदीप गुड़िया



KHUNTI : करी प्रखंड के इहकेला स्थित राजकीय मध्य विद्यालय के खेल मैदान को बेवने के विरोध में बुधवार को विद्यालय प्रधान समिति और ग्रामीणों की बैठक का आयोजन किया गया। बैठक को संबोधित करते हुए मुख्य अतिथि विधायक सुदीप गुड़िया ने कहा कि इहकेला के सरकारी स्कूल की जमीन पर नजर गड़ाने वाले दलाल सुधर जाएं, अन्यथा उन्हें परेशानी हो सकती है। उन्होंने कहा कि विद्यालय की भूमि पर अवैध कब्जा करने का प्रयास सफाश गलत है, जिसे किसी भी हाल में बर्दास्त नहीं किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि यह विद्यालय की जमीन है और विद्यालय की ही जमीन रहेगी। हमारी लड़ाई शुरू से जल, जंगल और जमीन की है और हमलोग हमेशा इसके लिए लड़ते रहेंगे। उन्होंने विद्यालय को जमीन दान देने वाले टाकुर महेन्द्र नाथ शाहदेव का भी आभार प्रकट किया।

गिरोह का सरगना भी माना जाता है। वह भोला पांडे का भांजा है। पहले भोला पांडे और फिर किशोर पांडे की हत्या के बाद गिरोह का संचालन विकास तिवारी ही कर रहा था। विकास तिवारी रामगढ़ के पतरातू का रहने वाला है। इस गैंगवार की जांच करते हुए पलामू पुलिस की एसआईटी ने रामगढ़ पुलिस के सहयोग से बड़ी कार्रवाई की है। टीम ने पतरातू के स्टीम कॉलोनी स्थित आवास से गैंगस्टर किशोर पांडेय की पत्नी निशि पांडेय और उसके भाई निशांत सिंह को गिरफ्तार किया है। गैंगस्टर किशोर पांडेय की पत्नी निशि पांडेय वर्तमान में कोयला यूनिशन जनता मजदूर संघ की केंद्रीय उपाध्यक्ष भी है।

बालाजी आउटसोर्सिंग कंपनी ने किया समझौते का उल्लंघन, राशि रिकवरी की कार्रवाई की जाए: मंत्री

AGENCY PALAMU : मेदिनी राय मेडिकल कॉलेज हॉस्पिटल की आउटसोर्सिंग कंपनी बालाजी के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की पूरी संभावना है। बुधवार को एमआरएमसीएच में पुलिस आउटपोस्ट का उद्घाटन करने पहुंचे राज्य के वित्त मंत्री राधा कृष्ण किशोर ने कहा कि बालाजी आउटसोर्सिंग कंपनी ने एग्रीमेंट के विपरीत कार्य करके समझौता अपराध किया है। इसे आर्थिक अपराध भी कहा जा सकता है। एग्रीमेंट के अनुसार 300 बेड अस्पताल के आलोंक में 135 सफाईकर्मों देने थे, लेकिन पिछले दिनों उनके निरीक्षण में मात्र 51 कर्मियों की हाजिरी बनी थी और 47 उपस्थित पाए गए थे। इसी तरह 4 जनवरी को डॉ आरके रंजन की जांच में मात्र 12 कर्मों ही पाए गए थे। कभी 12 तो कभी 20 तो कभी

टीबी मरीजों में किया गया पोषाहार वितरण

LOHARDAGA : सदर अस्पताल परिसर स्थित यक्ष्मा केंद्र में 44 टीबी रोगियों के बीच अतिरिक्त पोषण सहायता के तहत पोषण टोकरी (पोषाहार) का वितरण किया गया। साथ ही साथ सभी मरीजों को कंबल भी वितरित दिया गया। पोषाहार वितरण कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए सिविल सर्जन डॉ शंभु नाथ चौधरी ने कहा कि टीबी लाइलाज रोग नहीं है। इसका सम्पूर्ण और निशुल्क इलाज सभी सरकारी अस्पतालों में उपलब्ध है। समय से दवा लेने पर छह महीने में टीबी रोग पूरी तरह से ठीक हो जाता है। उन्होंने कहा कि टीबी की दवा का अनियमित सेवन करने से एमडीआर टीबी होने की संभावनाएं काफी बढ़ जाती है। उन्होंने कहा कि बेहतर पोषण का सेवन करने से शरीर में रोग प्रतिरोधक क्षमता को मजबूत करता है। जिससे टीबी जैसे गंभीर रोग से बचा जा सकता है।

खूंटी में चलाया गया सड़क सुरक्षा जागरूकता अभियान



KHUNTI : सड़क सुरक्षा माह के तहत जिला परिवहन कार्यालय के जरिये जिले की जगहों पर यातायात जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। इस कड़ी में बुधवार को बस स्टैंड में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में बस और अन्य सवारी वाहन चालकों को यातायात नियमों के विषय में जानकारी दी गई। साथ ही सड़क सुरक्षा के नियमों का अनुपालन करने के लिए प्रेरित किया गया। मौके पर जिला सड़क सुरक्षा प्रबंधक द्वारा सड़क सुरक्षा के नियमों की जानकारी देते हुए वाहनों में ओवरलोडिंग न करने की अपील की गई। कार्यक्रम के पेट्रोल पंपों पर नो हेलमेट, नो फ्यूल कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। पेट्रोल पंप के संचालक एवं कर्मचारियों को नो हेलमेट, नो फ्यूल का अनुपालन करने का निर्देश दिया गया।

अपराधियों ने विस्थापित नेता को मारी गोली, हो गई मौत



घटनास्थल की जांच करते पुलिस पदाधिकारी

● फोटोन न्यूज

AGENCY RAMGARH : रामगढ़ और हजारीबाग जिले के सीमावर्ती इलाके उरीमारी में अपराधियों ने एक विस्थापित नेता की गोली मारकर हत्या कर दी है। बुधवार को विस्थापित नेता संतोष सिंह की मौत के बाद पूरे इलाके में सनसनी फैल गई है। उरीमारी क्षेत्र पोर्टगा लुकेयाटॉड में घात लगाए अपराधियों ने विस्थापित नेता सह सीसीएल कर्मी संतोष सिंह को गोली मारकर हत्या कर दी है। जानकारी अनुसार बाइक सवार हथियारबंद अपराधियों ने विस्थापित नेता को सोने, पेट और सिर में कुल तीन गोлияं मारी है। घायल संतोष सिंह को प्राथमिक

इलाज के बाद रिम्स रेफर कर दिया गया था। जहां इलाज के दौरान उसकी मौत हो गई। जानकारी के अनुसार उरीमारी क्षेत्र में कोयला और लोकल सेल से जुड़े संतोष सिंह को अपराधियों द्वारा पहले भी धमकी दी जा चुकी थी। आशंका जताई जा रही है कि लेवी को लेकर संतोष सिंह की हत्या कर दी गई हैं। खरका सयाल क्षेत्र में कई दिनों से अपराधियों की दस्तक से दहशत का माहौल बना हुआ है। मौके पर उरीमारी थाना प्रभारी रामकुमार राम, गिंदी थाना प्रभारी कुंदन कुमार घटनास्थल पहुंचकर जांच शुरू कर चुके है।



पत्रकारों को संबोधित करते मंत्री राधाकृष्ण किशोर

● फोटोन न्यूज

25 की उपस्थिति सफाई कर्मियों की रही है। यह सरकारी राशि का गबन है। उन्होंने बताया कि राज्य सरकार प्रत्येक महीने साढ़े 13 लाख रुपए बालाजी कंपनी को देती है। पैसे लेने के बाद भी बालाजी कंपनी के द्वारा 135 कर्मियों को बहाल नहीं किया गया। ऐसे में यह मामला आर्थिक अपराध की श्रेणी में आता है।

अधिक भुगतान की रिकवरी की कार्रवाई की जाए और पूरे मामले की जांच की जाए कि अब तक कंपनी के जरिये कितनी सरकारी राशि का गबन किया है। सरकार ने इसे गंभीरता से लिया है। मंत्री ने कहा कि चिकित्सा और शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में प्रदेश की हेमंत सोरेन सरकार लापरवाही बर्दाश्त नहीं करेगी।

जंगली हाथियों ने तोरपा में मचाया आतंक संत अन्ना कॉन्वेंट की बाउंड्री वाल को तोड़ा



हाथी के हमले से क्षतिग्रस्त दीवार

● फोटोन न्यूज

PHOTON NEWS KHUNTI : खूंटी जिले के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में जंगली हाथियों का आतंक थमने का नाम नहीं ले रहा है। पहले तो गजराज सिर्फ गांव-देहात में ही जान-माल को नुकसान पहुंचाते थे, पर वे शहरों में भी आतंक मचाने लगे हैं। बुधवार को तड़के जंगली हाथियों ने तोरपा प्रखंड मुख्यालय स्थित संत अन्ना कॉन्वेंट के बाउंड्री वाल और बैकुंठ पाइंगी की बारी दीवार को तोड़ दिया।

गनीमत रही कि कोई उनकी चपेट में नहीं आया। बताया गया कि कुछ लोग दो-तीन जंगली हाथियों को खदेड़ते हुए तोरपा की ओर ले आये। हाथियों ने बैकुंठ पाइंगी की दीवार को तोड़ते हुए हिल चौक स्थित संत अन्ना कॉन्वेंट स्कूल में घुस गये और उत्तर दिशा की ओर

शाम होने के बाद ही गांव-देहात के लोग घरों में दुबक जाते हैं और हर ओर सन्नाटा पसर जाता है। सुबह सैर-सपाटे में निकलने वालों ने भी घरों से निकलना बंद कर दिया है। ज्ञात हो कि लगभग एक सप्ताह पहले ही हाथियों ने कर्रा प्रखंड के केदली और छोटा केदली गांव में दो लोगों को कुचल कर मार डाला था।

पीएम मोदी ने जिसका किया उद्घाटन, वहां भी नहीं शुरू हो सका एडमिशन

पांच साल से बंद पड़ा है बहरागोड़ा एकलव्य विद्यालय

PHOTON NEWS JSR : आदिवासी बच्चों कोअंग्रेजी माध्यम के स्कूलों की तरह गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा मिल सके, इसके लिए केंद्र सरकार ने देश के अलग अलग हिस्सों में एकलव्य विद्यालय खोला है। इसी क्रम में पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के बहरागोड़ा में पांच साल से एकलव्य विद्यालय बनकर तैयार है। लेकिन यहां दोनों स्कूलों में से किसी में भी एडमिशन की प्रक्रिया अभी तक शुरू नहीं हो सकी है। पोटका में 17 करोड़ की लागत से बन कर तैयार हुए आवासीय एकलव्य विद्यालय का उद्घाटन इसी वर्ष दो अक्टूबर को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने किया था। तब कहा गया था कि इस विद्यालय में इसी साल से एडमिशन की प्रक्रिया शुरू हो जाएगी और इसके लिए नवंबर में प्रवेश परीक्षा आयोजित किया जाएगा। साल बीतने को है, लेकिन अभी तक प्रवेश परीक्षा तो दूर एडमिशन



बहरागोड़ा स्थित बंद पड़ा एकलव्य विद्यालय

● फोटोन न्यूज

जिले के दोनोएकलव्य विद्यालय के भवन तोबनकर तैयार है लेकिन अभी वहां बुनियादी संरचना जैसे डेस्क, बैच, ब्लैक बोर्ड आदि की व्यवस्था नहीं हो सकी है। साथ ही हॉस्टल में भी सामग्री की खरीद की जानी है। वहीं पोटका विद्यालय में शिक्षकों की भी अभी नियुक्ति नहीं हो सकी है। इन सभी जगहों से एडमिशन की प्रक्रिया शुरू नहीं हो पा रही है। इसे लेकर हम विभाग से परामर्श ले रहे हैं। वहां से जब आदेश होगा एडमिशन प्रक्रिया शुरू की जाएगी।

शंकराचार्य समद, जिला कल्याण पदाधिकारी, पूर्वी सिंहभूम

प्रक्रिया की तिथि भी घोषित नहीं हो सकी है। सबसे खराब स्थिति बहरागोड़ा एकलव्य विद्यालय का है, जिसका उद्घाटन पांच साल पहले हुआ था। लेकिन इसके बाद भी इसमें आज तक एडमिशन नहीं हो सका। हैरान करने वाली बात

जिले के तीन प्रखंडों में शुरू होना है एकलव्य विद्यालय

पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले की बात करें तोयहां कुल तीन एलव्य विद्यालय बना जा रहे हैं। इसमें बहरागोड़ा व पोटका प्रखंड में पहले ही विद्यालय बन चुका है। जबकि बोडम प्रखंड में यह निर्माणाधीन है। इसमें क्लासरूम के अलावा 120-120 बेड की क्षमता वाले छात्र व छात्राओं के लिए दो छात्रावास का निर्माण पहले चरण में कराया गया है। दूसरे चरण में 240 बेड वाले छात्रावास का निर्माण किया जाएगा। बनकर तैयार हुए सभी भवनों में ताला लटका हुआ है। इन स्कूलों के छठी कक्षा में प्रवेश परीक्षा के जरिए दाखिला शुरू होगा है।

कहना है कि बच्चे परीक्षा में उत्तीर्ण होने के बाद नामांकन के लिए गुंडाबांदा या अन्य जगहों पर जाना पड़ता है। जबकि बेहतर शिक्षा व्यवस्था के लिए यहां के आलोचान एकलव्य विद्यालय खंडहर में तब्दील हो रहा है।

उनका कहना है कि कभी कभार यहां अधिकारी आते हैं। इसके अलावा यह भवन ताले में ही बंद रहता है। इस विद्यालय कोबनाने में 6 करोड़ से अधिक की राशि खर्च हुई थी। इसके कई हिस्सों में दरारें भी आने लगी हैं। बहरागोड़ा में 6 शिक्षक, तो पोटका के लिए सिर्फ एक की हो सकी है नियुक्ति : इस विद्यालय में एडमिशन नहीं होने की वजह वजह शिक्षकों की कमी के साथ ही स्कूल के लिए जरूरी शैक्षणिक सामग्री की खरीद का न हो पाना भी है। इसका अंदाजा इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि बहरागोड़ा एकलव्य विद्यालय के लिए प्रिंसिपल समेत कुल 6 शिक्षक जबकि पोटका के लिए सिर्फ प्रिंसिपल की नियुक्ति हो सकी है। लेकिन शैक्षणिक सामग्री की खरीद अभी तक नहीं हो पाने की वजह से इन दोनों स्कूलों में एडमिशन नहीं शुरू हो पा रहा है।

अमन साहू के गुर्गे ने चलवाई फोरलेन टोल साइट पर गोली

PALAMU : एनएच 39 डालटनगंज-रांची मुख्य पथ पर मेदिनीनगर सदर थाना क्षेत्र के जोरकट में फोरलेन टोल निर्माण साइट पर ताबड़तोड़ फायरिंग मामले में भारत वाणिज्य प्राइवेट लिमिटेड कंपनी के प्रोजेक्ट कोऑर्डिनेटर के जरिये बुधवार को अमन साहू के खास गुर्गें मयंक सिंह के खिलाफ प्राथमिकी दर्ज करायी गयी है। एसडीपीओ मणि भूषण प्रसाद ने बताया कि मामला दर्ज कर अपराधियों को पकड़ने के लिए कार्रवाई की जा रही है। प्रोजेक्ट कोऑर्डिनेटर के आवेदन के अनुसार पूर्व में अंजान नंबर से कॉल आता था पर नजरअंदाज कर देते थे। गोली चलाने वाले नकाबपोश अपराधी राहुल सिंह के कहने पर गोली चलाने की बात कह रहे थे। घटना के कुछ देर बाद अमन साहू के खास मयंक सिंह ने घटना का



अस्पताल में इलाजमें घायल

जिम्मेदारी लेते हुए दो परसेंट कमीशन मांगी थी। इधर, गोलीबारी की घटना से मजदूरों में काफी दहशत है। उल्लेखनीय है कि मंगलवार शाम 4.30 बजे फोरलेन निर्माण में बन रहे टोल प्लाजा के समीप अज्ञात अपराधियों ने जेसीबी पर छह से सात राउंड गोली चलायी थी, जिसमें से एक गोली छिटक कर काम कर रहे मजदूर सतबरवा थाना क्षेत्र के पोखराड़ा पूणाईह गांव निवासी मनीष कुमार की लग गई थी। मजदूर का इलाज एमआरएमसीएच में चल रहा है।

संविधान को संकीर्ण राजनीतिक लड़ाई का उपकरण न बनाएं

संविधान के खामे को लेकर खासी बहस चली है। भारत का संविधान अनूठा है, अद्वितीय है। यह देश का राजधर्म है। इस संविधान में अनेक लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाएं हैं। सबकी अपनी सीमा है। यह सीमा भी संविधान निर्देशित है। सभी संवैधानिक संस्थाओं का स्रोत संविधान है। विधायिका, कार्यपालिका और न्यायपालिका की शक्तियां भी संविधान प्रदत्त हैं। संविधान निमार्ता भविष्य के भारत के प्रति सजग थे। उन्होंने गहन विमर्श के बाद संविधान बनाया। परस्पर विचार विमर्श अच्छी बात है, लेकिन संविधान को समाप्त करने का दुष्प्रचार करने का विपक्षी दलों का निर्णय अनुचित है। लोकसभा चुनाव के समय संविधान को खत्म करने और बदलने का शोर मचाया गया। विपक्षी दल लगातार आरोप लगाते रहे कि केंद्रीय सत्ता संविधान के खामे पर उतारू है। संविधान समाप्ति जैसी कोई योजना कभी प्रकाश में नहीं आई। न विचार में, न कर्म में और न ही लेखन सहित अन्य अभिव्यक्तियों में भी। संविधान को खत्म करने की अफवाह देश के कोने-कोने तक पहुंची। शिक्षित लोग सन्न थे कि संविधान के खामे की बात कहाँ से आई। संसद में विपक्ष के नेता राहुल गांधी संविधान की किताब लेकर फोटो खिंचवा रहे थे। मजेदार बात है कि संविधान खत्म किए जाने की सूचना संभवतः सबसे पहले उनको ही प्राप्त हुई। यह झूठ देश के मानस में बार-बार आ रहा है। संविधान के खामे का दुष्प्रचार करने वाले व्यक्ति या दल या समूह नितांत झूठ का सहारा ले रहे हैं। संविधान बदलने का सबसे बड़ा दुस्साहस 1976 में अधिनियमित 42वें संविधान संशोधन में कांग्रेस ने किया था। दुर्भाग्य से इस संविधान के खामे का विषय ठीक से जानने वाले लोगों की संख्या कम है। संसद और विधान मंडल और न्यायालयों की बहसों में संविधान की सर्वोपरिता है। संविधान की उद्देशिका में राष्ट्रीय जीवन के लक्ष्य हैं। उद्देशिका में उल्लिखित भारत को सामाजिक, आर्थिक और राजनीतिक न्याय, विचार अभिव्यक्ति, विश्वास और धर्म उपासना की स्वतंत्रता, अवसर की समता प्राप्त कराना मुख्य उद्देश्य है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अपने तमाम निर्णयों में उद्देशिका के महत्व और उपयोगिता की चर्चा की है। बेशक संविधान के अन्य प्रावधानों की तरह उद्देशिका को न्यायालय द्वारा प्रवर्तित नहीं किया जा सकता। लेकिन, न्यायालयों के कई निर्णयों में यह शासन का मुख्य घटक है। उद्देशिका ह्रदय भारत के लोग्ग से शुरू होती है। संविधान सभा की मिली शक्ति भारत के लोगों द्वारा ही अर्जित है। कुछ राजनीतिक दल जाति और महजब के आधार पर राजनीतिक समूह या संगठन चलाते हैं। इस प्रकार के दलों द्वारा समाज तोड़ने वाले शब्द चलाए जाते हैं। इनकी बात मानें तो संविधान की उद्देशिका में लिखा जाता कि भारत जात-पात आदि कई संकीर्णताओं में लिप्त है। इसे भारत के लोग कहना बेकार है। वे कहते हैं कि यहां की जनता केवल कुछ समूहों का गठजोड़ है, जबकि संविधान रचना का उद्देश्य और कारण सुस्पष्ट हैं। प्रत्येक भारतवासी उद्देशिका के अनुरूप हम भारत के लोग का हिस्सा है। भारत हजारों वर्ष पहले भी एक राष्ट्र था। वैदिक काल से लेकर आधुनिक काल तक भारत की एक संस्कृति है। इस संस्कृति के कारण ही हम भारत के लोग एक संशक्त राष्ट्र हैं। डॉ. अबेडकर ने लिखा है कि यह बात ठीक है कि भारतवासी परस्पर लड़ते-झगड़ते रहते हैं, किंतु संस्कृति के कारण भारत एक राष्ट्र है। संविधान रचना के उद्देश्य स्पष्ट हैं। पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने संविधान सभा में उद्देश्य और संकल्प का प्रस्ताव रखा था। संकल्प के अनुसार, प्रभुत्व संपन्न स्वतंत्र भारत की सभी शक्तियां और प्राधिकार उसके संगठक भाग शासन के सभी अंग आम जनों से उत्पन्न हैं। संकल्प के अनुसार, भारत की जनता को सामाजिक, आर्थिक और राजनीतिक न्याय, प्रतिष्ठा और अवसर की तथा विधि के समक्ष समता, विचार अभिव्यक्ति, विश्वास, धर्म और संगठन बनाने आदि कार्यों की विधि के अधीन स्वतंत्रता होगी। आगे कहा है कि राज्य क्षेत्र की अखण्डता, भूमि, समुद्र और आकाश पर उसके प्रभुत्वसंपन्न अधिकार, न्याय और अन्य राष्ट्रों की विधि के अनुसार बनाए रखे जाएंगे। संकल्प के अंतिम आठवें प्रावधान में लिखा है, यह प्राचीन भूमि विश्व में अपना समुचित और गौरवपूर्ण स्थान प्राप्त करेगी और विश्व शांति तथा मानव कल्याण के लिए स्वेच्छ से अपना पूर्ण सहयोग प्रदान करेगी। संकल्प में उल्लिखित प्राचीन भूमि का अर्थ क्या हो सकता है। सारी दुनिया की भूमि प्राचीन है। भारत के अर्थ में प्राचीन भूमि का अर्थ प्राचीन संस्कृति होना चाहिए। संविधान निमार्ताओं ने भारत को संपूर्ण प्रभुत्व संपन्न राष्ट्र बताया है। स्वाधीनता मिलने तक भारत राष्ट्रकुल का सदस्य था। इंग्लैंड के सम्राट के अधीन राष्ट्रमंडल में भारत के बने रहने पर आलोचना हुई। प्रत्यक्ष रूप में यह निर्णय उचित नहीं था। सभा में प्रधानमंत्री नेहरू को स्पष्टीकरण देना पड़ा। अखिरकार एक संप्रभु राष्ट्र इंग्लैंड के राजा-रानी के प्रति निष्ठा कैसे रख सकता है। आयरलैंड ने रिपब्लिक आफ आयरलैंड एक्ट बनाकर अपने आप को इंग्लैंड से पृथक कर लिया। आलोचनाओं के बाद कहा गया कि भारत में सम्राट के प्रति निष्ठा स्वीकार्य नहीं है। यह निर्णय प्रधानमंत्रियों के सम্মेलन में लिया गया। प्रधानमंत्री ने घोषणा की कि प्रभुत्व संपन्न गणराज्य बन जाने के पश्चात भी भारत राष्ट्रकुल का पूर्ण सदस्य बना रहेगा। लोकमंगल भारत के राष्ट्रजीवन का लक्ष्य रहा है। अनेक महत्वपूर्ण विषय ऐसे भी थे, जो संविधान सभा में अंतिम निर्णय तक पारित नहीं किए जा सके। संविधान सभा ने उन महत्वपूर्ण विषयों को भी संविधान में जगह दी। उन्हें राज्य का नीति निर्देशक तत्व कहा है। संविधान के नीति निर्देशक तत्वों (भाग चार-अनुच्छेद 36 से 51) में ऐसे उपयोगी उद्देश्य रखे गए हैं। संविधान में कहा गया है कि प्रशासन और विधि के निर्माण में इन सिद्धांतों का अनुसरण किया जाए।

Social Media Corner

सब के हक में...

त्रिपुरा के मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. माणिक साहा जी को जमद्वी की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं। अपने विनम्र और महंनती स्वभाव के कारण उन्होंने खुद को त्रिपुरा के लोगों का प्रिय बना लिया है। राज्य के सर्वांगीण विकास पर उनके ध्यान के अच्छे परिणाम सामने आए हैं। वह लंबा और स्वस्थ जीवन जिएं।

(प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट)

श्री गुरु गोबिंद सिंह जी का जीवन बलिदान, साहस और समर्पण का प्रतीक है। श्री गुरु गोबिंद सिंह जी के प्रकाश पर्व के अवसर पर नई दिल्ली के गुरुद्वारा श्री रकाब गंज साहिब में मत्था टेककर सत्संग का आशीर्ष प्राप्त किया।

(गृह मंत्री अमित शाह का 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट)

रामगढ़ में हुए सड़क हादसे में 3 स्कूली बच्चों सहित 4 लोगों के मृत्यु की दुखद सूचना से मन अत्यंत दुर्घटना है। ईश्वर दिवंगत आत्मा को शांति एवं दुर्घटना में घायल बच्चों को शीघ्र स्वास्थ्य लाभ प्रदान करें। शोक संतप्त परिवारों के प्रति अपनी संवेदनाएं व्यक्त करता हूं।

(पूर्व सीएम बाबूलाल मरांडी का 'एक्स' पर पोस्ट)

वीर सावरकर के नाम पर कॉलेज खुलने से खफा है कांग्रेस

ANALYSIS



आर. के. सिन्हा

काश, सावरकर के नाम पर खुलने वाले कॉलेज का विरोध करने वाले वीर सावरकर के बारे में अपनी महान नेत्री इंदिरा गांधी की ही राय को जान लेते। इंदिरा गांधी जब भारत की सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री थीं, तब उन्हीं के निर्देश पर वीर सावरकर पर केंद्रित डाक्यमेंट्री फिल्म उनके विभाग ने बनाई थी। इंदिरा गांधी के प्रधानमंत्री रहते हुए सावरकर की स्मृति में डाक टिकट भी जारी हुआ। श्रीमती गांधी ने अपने निजी खाते से सावरकर स्मृति कोष के लिए 11 हजार रुपये का अंशदान भी किया था। इंदिरा गांधी ने सावरकर को रिमार्केबल सन ऑफ़ इंडिया इंडिया कहा था। इंदिरा गांधी ने 20 मई 1980 को पंडित बाखले, सचिव, स्वतंत्रवीर सावरकर राष्ट्रीय स्मारक के नाम से संबोधित चिट्ठी में सावरकर के योगदान का जिक्र किया था। इस पत्र में इंदिरा गांधी ने लिखा है, मुझे आपका पत्र 8 मई 1980 को मिला था। वीर सावरकर का ब्रिटिश सरकार के खिलाफ मजबूत प्रतिरोध हमारे स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के लिए काफी अहम है। मैं आपको देश के महान सपूत के शताब्दी समारोह के आयोजन के लिए बधाई देती हूं। मशहूर लेखक वैभव पुरंदरे ने अपनी किताब टू स्टोरी ऑफ फादर ऑफ हिंदुत्व में लिखा है कि इंदिरा गांधी की ही राय को जान लेते। इंदिरा गांधी जब भारत की सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री थीं, तब उन्हीं के निर्देश पर वीर सावरकर पर केंद्रित डाक्यमेंट्री फिल्म उनके विभाग ने बनाई थी। इंदिरा गांधी के प्रधानमंत्री रहते हुए सावरकर की स्मृति में डाक टिकट भी जारी हुआ। श्रीमती गांधी ने अपने निजी खाते से सावरकर स्मृति कोष के लिए 11 हजार रुपये का अंशदान भी किया था। इंदिरा गांधी ने सावरकर को रिमार्केबल सन ऑफ़ इंडिया इंडिया कहा था। इंदिरा गांधी ने 20 मई 1980 को पंडित बाखले, सचिव, स्वतंत्रवीर सावरकर राष्ट्रीय स्मारक के नाम से संबोधित चिट्ठी में सावरकर के योगदान का जिक्र किया था। इस पत्र में इंदिरा गांधी ने लिखा है, मुझे आपका पत्र 8 मई 1980 को मिला था। वीर सावरकर

वीर सावरकर के नाम पर दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी एक नया कॉलेज खोलने जा रही है। वीर सावरकर जैसे महान स्वाधीनता सेनानी के नाम पर कॉलेज खुलने से देशभर के नौजवान निश्चित रूप प्रेरित ही होंगे। इस बारे में किसी को किसी तरह का शक भी नहीं होना चाहिए, पर कांग्रेस को तकलीफ हो रही है। अब कांग्रेस को कौन बताए कि वीर सावरकर, जिनका पूरा नाम विनायक दामोदर सावरकर था, भारत के स्वाधीनता आंदोलन के एक ही अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हस्ताक्षर थे। वे एक महान क्रांतिकारी, राष्ट्रवादी विचारक, लेखक और वकील थे। उनका जीवन और कार्य भारतीय इतिहास के एक अत्यंत ही महत्वपूर्ण और क्रांतिकारी अध्याय का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं। काश, सावरकर के नाम पर खुलने वाले कॉलेज का विरोध करने वाले वीर सावरकर के बारे में अपनी महान नेत्री इंदिरा गांधी की ही राय को जान लेते। इंदिरा गांधी जब भारत की सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री थीं, तब उन्हीं के निर्देश पर वीर सावरकर पर केंद्रित डाक्यमेंट्री फिल्म उनके विभाग ने बनाई थी। इंदिरा गांधी के प्रधानमंत्री रहते हुए सावरकर की स्मृति में डाक टिकट भी जारी हुआ। श्रीमती गांधी ने अपने निजी खाते से सावरकर स्मृति कोष के लिए 11 हजार रुपये का अंशदान भी किया था। इंदिरा गांधी ने सावरकर को रिमार्केबल सन ऑफ़ इंडिया इंडिया कहा था। इंदिरा गांधी ने 20 मई 1980 को पंडित बाखले, सचिव, स्वतंत्रवीर सावरकर राष्ट्रीय स्मारक के नाम से संबोधित चिट्ठी में सावरकर के योगदान का जिक्र किया था। इस पत्र में इंदिरा गांधी ने लिखा है, मुझे आपका पत्र 8 मई 1980 को मिला था। वीर सावरकर



का ब्रिटिश सरकार के खिलाफ मजबूत प्रतिरोध हमारे स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के लिए काफी अहम है। मैं आपको देश के महान सपूत के शताब्दी समारोह के आयोजन के लिए बधाई देती हूं। मशहूर लेखक वैभव पुरंदरे ने अपनी किताब टू स्टोरी ऑफ फादर ऑफ हिंदुत्व में लिखा है कि इंदिरा गांधी का लिखा पत्र सत्य है। किताब में लिखा है कि इंदिरा गांधी ने 1966 में सावरकर के निधन पर गहरा शोक भी जताया था। इंदिरा गांधी ने सावरकर को महान क्रांतिकारी बताते हुए तारीफ की थी और एक बयान भी जारी किया था। इंदिरा गांधी ने कहा था कि सावरकर ने अपने कार्यों से पूरे देश को प्रेरित किया था। अफसोस कि कांग्रेसियों को सच जानने से कोई मतलब ही नहीं रहा। उन्हें तो मीन-मेख निकालनी है। इसलिए इतनी पुरानी पार्टी सिकुड़ती ही चली जा रही है। वीर सावरकर तो बचपन से ही देशभक्ति की भावना से ओत-प्रोत थे और उन्होंने ब्रिटिश शासन के खिलाफ विरोध में भाग लेना शुरू कर दिया था। सावरकर 1905 में श्यामजी कृष्ण वर्मा द्वारा स्थापित 'इंडिया हाउस' में शामिल होने के लिए लंदन चले गए। लंदन में उन्होंने 'अभिनव भारत' नामक एक

गुप्त क्रांतिकारी संगठन की स्थापना की, जिसका उद्देश्य भारत को ब्रिटिश शासन से मुक्त करना था। उन्होंने 1857 का भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संग्राम नामक एक पुस्तक लिखी, जिसमें उन्होंने 1857 के सिपाही विद्रोह को भारत का पहला स्वतंत्रता संग्राम बताया। इस पुस्तक को ब्रिटिश सरकार ने प्रतिबंधित कर दिया था। सावरकर ने इटली के क्रांतिकारी नेता गिउसेप्पे मैजिनी से प्रेरणा ली और उनकी क्रांतिकारी विचारधारा को भारतीय संदर्भ में लागू करने का प्रयास किया। 1910 में सावरकर को नासिक के जिला मजिस्ट्रेट जैक्सन की हत्या में शामिल होने के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया गया था। उन्हें दोषी ठहराया गया और 50 साल की कारावास की सजा सुनाई गई। उन्हें अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह में स्थित सेलुलर जेल में भेजा गया, जहां उन्होंने कई वर्षों तक कठोर यातनाएं सहیں। काला धानी में उन्होंने एकलंकारावास, कठोर श्रम और अमानवीय परिस्थितियों का सामना किया। कोल्हू में बैल की तरह जोतकर उनसे सूखे नारियल से तेल निकलवाया जाता था। सावरकर ने भारत की स्वतंत्रता के लिए लड़ाई में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। उन्होंने

क्रांतिकारी गतिविधियों में भाग लिया और अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ आवाज उठाई। सावरकर हिंदू राष्ट्रवाद के एक प्रमुख पैरोकार थे। उन्होंने एक मजबूत और एकजुट हिंदू राष्ट्र की वकालत की। सावरकर ने जाति व्यवस्था और छुआछूत जैसी सामाजिक बुराइयों के खिलाफ लड़ाई लड़ी। उन्होंने हिंदू समाज में सुधार लाने के लिए कई आंदोलन चलाए। वे एक कुशल वक्ता और लेखक थे। उनके भाषणों और लेखों ने लोगों को प्रेरित किया और उनमें देशभक्ति की भावना जगाई। सावरकर के गृह राज्य महाराष्ट्र में कई संगठन और संस्थान हैं, जो उनके विचारों और कार्यों को बढ़ावा देते हैं। वीर सावरकर महाराष्ट्र में एक सम्मानित और प्रभावशाली व्यक्ति हैं और उन्हें कई लोगों द्वारा एक महान स्वतंत्रता सेनानी और समाज सुधारक के रूप में याद किया जाता है। वीर सावरकर का एक शानदार चित्र पुराने संसद भवन के केंद्रीय कक्ष में लगा हुआ था। उनके चित्र का 26 फरवरी 2003 को तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति डॉ. एपीजे अब्दुल कलाम ने संसद भवन में अनावरण किया था। इसे चंद्रकला कुमार कदम ने बनाया था। जब वीर सावरकर का चित्र लगाने की पहल

हुई, तब भी कांग्रेस ने यह कहकर विरोध किया था कि वे सांसद नहीं थे। तब कांग्रेसी भूल गए थे कि लोकमान्य तिलक तथा महात्मा गांधी जैसे राजनीति व स्वाधीनता संग्राम में अहम योगदान देने वाले व्यक्ति भी तो सांसद नहीं थे। उनके त्याग व समर्पण को देखते हुए केंद्रीय कक्ष में उनका चित्र स्थापित कर सम्मान दिया गया। कांग्रेस के नेता राहुल गांधी ने कुछ समय पहले वीर सावरकर पर गैर-जरूरी अपमानजनक टिप्पणी की थी। उनकी बयानबाजी से शिवसेना नेता उद्धव ठाकरे की नाराज हो गए थे। उन्होंने तब कहा था, हम स्वातंत्र्यवीर सावरकर के बारे में कांग्रेस नेता राहुल गांधी के बयान से सहमत नहीं हैं। हमारे मन में सेनानी के लिए सम्मान है। आपको कोई पसंद नहीं तो ठीक है। खैर, वीर सावरकर कॉलेज खुलने से राजधानी में उस महान स्वाधीनता उद्धव ठाकरे का गठजोड़ है। उनके स्थापित हो जाएगा। देर से ही सही राष्ट्रीय राजधानी दिल्ली में अब वीर सावरकर का एक अहम प्रतीक स्थापित होने जा रहा है।

(लेखक वरिष्ठ संपादक, संभकार और पूर्व सांसद हैं)

मनमोहन सिंह: भारतीय नीतिगत परिदृश्य पर छोड़ी व्यापक छाप

पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री डॉ. मनमोहन सिंह के निधन के बाद मध्य वर्ग से लेकर कारोबार जगत और औद्योगिक एवं राजनीतिक गलियारों में शोक जताया गया। खांटी नेता न होते हुए भी उन्होंने राजनीतिक मोर्चे पर इतना कुछ हासिल किया, जिसकी कुछ लोग सिर्फ कल्पना ही कर सकते हैं। सिंह एक बुद्धिजीवी भी थे और उन्होंने भारतीय नीतिगत परिदृश्य पर अपनी व्यापक छाप छोड़ी। हालांकि इसे भी अनदेखा नहीं किया जा सकता कि राजनीतिक पटल के शीर्ष पर बैठे लोग जिस प्रकार नीतियों को प्रभावित करने की क्षमता रखते हैं, उसमें सिंह अपेक्षित रूप से अपर नहीं छोड़ पाए। चाहे प्रधानमंत्री का दायित्व हो या फिर उससे पहले वित्त मंत्री का, उनकी भूमिका मुख्य रूप से वास्तविक राजनीतिक शक्ति से लैस दिग्गजों के सहायक-सलाहकार की ही रही, जिन्होंने स्वीकार्य नीतियों को नौकरशाही के जरिए लागू करने का काम

किया। जब वह प्रधानमंत्री थे तो पूरी राजनीतिक शक्ति सोनिया गांधी के पास थी, जो उस समय तमाम निर्णायक फैसलों से जुड़ी रही। उनके पास ही वह शक्ति थी, जिससे वह मनमोहन सिंह को कोई भी फैसला लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने के साथ ही उन्हें किसी निर्णय को लेने से रोक भी सकती थीं। इसी तरह जब सिंह वित्त मंत्री थे, तब वस्तुतः प्रधानमंत्री नरसिम्हा राव ने ही अर्थव्यवस्था के उदारीकरण को हरी झंडी दिखाई। यह एक विडंबना ही है कि राव को भारतीय इतिहास में वह सम्मान और स्थान नहीं मिला, जिसके वह सर्वथा सुपात्र थे। उन्होंने शीत युद्ध के बाद अस्थिरता वाले वैश्विक दौर में भारत को सही राह दिखाई और 6 दिसंबर 1992 की घटना को लेकर उन पर चाहे जितने सवाल उठें, इससे उनकी विरासत संदिग्ध नहीं हो जाती। राजनीति में सक्रिय लोगों की यात्रा उतार-चढ़ाव वाले विभिन्न पड़ावों से होकर गुजरती है। बेशक

राजनीतिक परिवारों से आने वालों की राह भी आसान नहीं रहती, लेकिन जिनकी कोई राजनीतिक पृष्ठभूमि नहीं होती, उनके लिए यह यात्रा और कठिन हो जाती है। जो किसी तरह के प्रत्यक्ष चुनाव के जरिए आगे बढ़ते हैं, वही असल राजनीतिक राह के पथिक बनते हैं। चुनावों के जरिए मिलने वाले राजनीतिक सबक ही किसी को खांटी नेता के रूप में ढालते हैं। उससे उन्हें समझ आता है कि जनता की नब्ब को कैसे भांपना है। इससे भी अधिक महत्वपूर्ण यह है कि ऐसे नेता जनता का भरोसा जीतने में सफल होते हैं, क्योंकि वे लंबे समय तक उनके साथ संवाद से जान जाते हैं कि लोगों के मन में क्या है और वे क्या चाहते हैं। वे लोगों के सुख-दुख के साथी बन जाते हैं। यह कुछ ऐसा अनुभव है, जिसे अकादमिक जगत के लोग टेक्नोक्रेट और निजी क्षेत्र के पेशेवर शायद कभी अर्जित नहीं कर पाएं। इसलिए यह पूरी तरह उचित ही है कि लोकतांत्रिक

व्यवस्था में वही लोग उच्च राजनीतिक पदों पर बैठने के योग्य हैं, जो लोगों का भरोसा जीत पाएं। प्रधानमंत्री के मामले में यह पहलू और भी उल्लेखनीय हो जाता है। यह ऐसा पद नहीं, जिसे कभी आउटसोर्सिंग से भरा जाना चाहिए। यह मनमोहन सिंह की उपलब्धियों, अनुभव और व्यक्तित्व का अवमूल्यन करने का प्रयास नहीं, बल्कि इसका सरोकार भारतीय लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था के व्यापक हित से जुड़ा है। लोग जनादेश के जरिए ही अपना भाग्य विधाता चुनते हैं और ऐसा व्यक्ति किसी अन्य को अपने अधिकार नहीं सौंप सकता। भले ही वह व्यक्ति लंबे समय से राज्यसभा में ही क्यों न रहा हो। देश 2004 से 2014 के बीच इन्हीं स्थितियों का साक्षी रहा। जनादेश की यह कसौटी जवाहरलाल नेहरू से लेकर इंदिरा गांधी और नरेंद्र मोदी तक लागू होती है। मोदी जनादेश के दम पर ही राजन का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं। क्या यह उचित रहता कि वह पद के पीछे से सक्रिय रहकर

किसी पेशेवर को प्रधानमंत्री का पद सौंप देते। इस बिंदु पर विचार तक नहीं किया जा सकता, क्योंकि लोगों की ही यही अपेक्षा है कि जब तक उनकी चाहत है, तब तक मोदी ही नेतृत्व करें। निःसंदेह यह नहीं कहा जा सकता कि नेताओं या प्रधानमंत्री का राजनीतिक मजबूरियां या आग्रह नहीं होते। निःसंदेह ऐसा होता है और वे उन्हीं के दायरे में अपने विकल्प चुनते हैं। माना जाता है कि अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जसवंत सिंह को वित्त मंत्री बनाया चाहते थे, लेकिन संघ परिवार के दबाव में ऐसा नहीं कर पाए। बहुत बाद में जाकर 2002 में वह जसवंत सिंह को वित्त मंत्रालय का जिम्मा सौंप सके। यं दशाला है कि तब सत्ता समीकरण अटलजी के अधिक अनुकूल हो गए थे। राजनीति का यही चरित्र और प्रकृति है। इसी तरह स्वतंत्रता के बाद के आरंभिक दौर में जवाहरलाल नेहरू को अपनी ही पार्टी के परंपरावादी तबके के दबाव से जूझना पड़ा, लेकिन बाद

में चुनावी जीत के जरिए ही वह अपनी पकड़ मजबूत बनाने में सफल रहे। यही बात इंदिरा गांधी के बारे में कही जा सकती है, जिन्होंने कांग्रेस को दोफाड़ कर अपना राजनीतिक वर्चस्व स्थापित किया। महान प्रशासक, रणनीतिक विशेषज्ञ, सैनिक, अकादमिक, उद्यमी, राजनयिक, कलाकार और अन्य विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में सक्रिय लोग देश के प्रति अपने-अपने स्तर पर योगदान देते हैं। वे सम्मान और प्रतिष्ठा के पात्र हैं। इसके बावजूद उन्हें शीर्ष राजनीतिक पद की आकांक्षा नहीं करनी चाहिए और यदि जनादेश प्राप्त लोग अपने हितों को देखते हुए उन्हें ऐसी कोई जिम्मेदारी सौंपते हैं तो फिर उस दौरान लिए गए अच्छे-बुरे फैसलों का दारोमदार भी उन्हीं राजनीतिक लोगों का होना चाहिए, जो उन्हें सत्ता सौंपते हैं। उन लोगों के बीच स्पष्ट रूप से अंतर किया जाए, जिन्हें चुनावी प्रक्रिया के जरिए लोगों का भरोसा प्राप्त होता है और जिन्हें जनादेश हासिल करने वाले तोहफे में सत्ता सौंप देते हैं।

प्रयागराज के महाकुंभ नगर में सुविधाओं का संगम

प्रयागराज में 13 जनवरी को पौष पूर्णिमा से महाकुंभ की शुरूआत हो रही है। 14 जनवरी को मकर संक्रांति का दूसरा स्नान है। इसे शाही स्नान और अमृत स्नान भी कहते हैं। संगम के मेला क्षेत्र में महाकुंभ नगर सज-धजकर तैयार है। दुनियाभर से पहुंचने वाले लाखों-करोड़ों तीर्थयात्रियों को संचार संपर्क में असुविधा न हो, इसके लिए केंद्रीय दूरसंचार विभाग (डीओटी) ने व्यापक इंतजाम किए हैं। डीओटी ने संपूर्ण मेला क्षेत्र, प्रयागराज शहर और उत्तर प्रदेश के प्रमुख सार्वजनिक स्थानों में दूरसंचार के बुनियादी ढांचे की अपग्रेड किया है। भारत सरकार के पत्र एवं सूचना कार्यालय (पीआईबी) की वेबसाइट में उपलब्ध ब्योरे के अनुसार, प्रयागराज शहरी क्षेत्र में 126 किलोमीटर ऑप्टिकल फाइबर केबल बिछाया गया है। इसके अलावा 328 नए टावर स्थापित किए गए हैं। मजबूत और निरबाध कॉन्निक्टिविटी के लिए 1462 मौजूदा बीटीएस इकाइयों का उन्नयन किया गया है। इसके अलावा 575 नए बेस ट्रांसीवर स्टेशन बनाए गए हैं। यही नहीं, अकेले मेला क्षेत्र में हाईस्पीड विश्वसनीय नेटवर्क कवरेज प्रदान करने के लिए 192 किलोमीटर ऑप्टिकल फाइबर केबल बिछाई गई है। 78 सीओडब्ल्यू (ट्रांसपोर्टेबल टावर) से मेला क्षेत्र को कवर किया गया है। यह सुनिश्चित किया गया है कि

रेलवे स्टेशन, बस स्टेशन और हवाई अड्डों में दूरसंचार सेवा हर हाल में पूरी क्षमता से काम करे। प्रयागराज जनपद के सभी महत्वपूर्ण मार्गों पर भी ऐसी ही व्यवस्था की गई है। मेला क्षेत्र में 53 हेल्य डेस्क स्थापित किए गए हैं। यह डेस्क संदिग्ध घोखाधड़ी, खोए या चोरी हुए मोबाइल फोन को ब्लॉक करने जैसी सेवा प्रदान करेंगे। मेला अवधि के दौरान आपातकालीन अलर्ट, आपदा चेतावनी और सामान्य सार्वजनिक जागरूकता संदेश भेजने के लिए सेल ब्रॉडकास्ट अलर्ट सुविधा और कॉमन अलर्टिंग प्रोटोकॉल (सीएपी) एकीकृत प्लेटफॉर्म की व्यवस्था की गई है। चारों दूरसंचार सेवा प्रदाता यानी एयरटेल, बीएसएनएल, जियो और वीआई संचालित तीन आपदा प्रबंधन केंद्र भी बनाए गए हैं। मेला क्षेत्र में स्थापित इन केंद्रों को प्राकृतिक या मानव निर्मित आपदा की स्थिति में महत्वपूर्ण संचार चैनल प्रदान करने के लिए नवीनतम तकनीक से लैस किया गया है। महाकुंभ ऐसी महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थयात्रा है जो दुनियाभर से करोड़ों लोगों को प्रयागराज की ओर आकर्षित करती है। यह आयोजन हर 12 साल में होता है। वर्ष 2025 का महाकुंभ मेला इतिहास के सबसे बड़े समारोहों में से एक होने की उम्मीद है। इसकी सफलता के लिए उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने भी अप्रतपूर्व काम किया है। योगी सरकार ने महज चार माह में बेहतरीन सुविधाओं वाला दिव्य

और भव्य शहर (महाकुंभ नगर) बसा दिया है। सड़कों का जाल बिछाया गया है। इनकी कुल लंबाई 300 किलोमीटर है। एक किलोमीटर लंबाई के 30 फ्लोटिंग पुल भी बांधे गए हैं। पेयजल और सौवेज जैसी सुविधाएं जुटाई गई हैं। समृद्ध तीर्थयात्रियों के लिए फाइट स्टार डोम और जरूरतमंदों के लिए डॉरमेटरी की सुविधा का ख्याल रखा गया है। महाकुंभ नगर में आंखों का अस्पताल भी होगा। मेला प्रशासन का कहना है कि यह दुनिया का अब तक का सबसे बड़ा अस्थायी अस्पताल होगा। यहां 45 दिन में पांच लाख मोतियाबिंद के ऑपरेशन करने का लक्ष्य तय किया गया है। प्रयाग हिंदुओं के लिए सदियों से महत्वपूर्ण तीर्थस्थल है। परंपरागत तौर पर नदियों का मिलन बेहद पवित्र माना जाता है, लेकिन संगम पर यह मिलन बेहद अहम माना गया है। यहां गंगा, यमुना और सरस्वती का अद्भुत मिलन होता है। पौराणिक कथाओं के अनुसार, भगवान विष्णु अमृत से भरा कुंभ (बर्तन) लेकर जा रहे थे। असुरों से छीना-झपटी में अमृत की चार बूंद छलक कर गिर गईं। यह बूंदें प्रयाग, हरिद्वार, नासिक और उज्जैन रूपी तीर्थस्थानों में गिरें। तीर्थ वह स्थान होते हैं, जहां भक्तों को इस नश्वर संसार से मोक्ष की प्राप्ति होती है। ऐसे में जहां-जहां अमृत की बूंदें गिरें, वहां तीन-तीन साल के अंतराल पर बारी-बारी से कुंभ मेले का आयोजन होता है।

गिरे हैं, टूटे नहीं

रविवार को सिडनी क्रिकेट ग्राउंड में एक दशक लंबे दबदबे का अंत हो गया। बाईंडर गावस्कर ट्रॉफी क्रिकेट में कद के मामले में एग्जेज के बाद दूसरी सबसे बड़ी ट्रॉफी है और दर्शक संख्या के आधार पर सबसे बड़ी। इस पर 2015 के बाद से भारत का कब्जा रहा है। ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने पिछली बार यह खिताब 2014-15 की घरेलू सीरीज में जीता था और उसके बाद भारत ने चार बार ट्रॉफी अपने नाम की। जीत का यह सिलसिला सिडनी में हुए पांचवें टेस्ट के साथ खत्म हुआ, जिसमें पैट कमिन्स और उनके साथियों ने छह विकेट से जीत दर्ज करते हुए सीरीज 3-1 से अपनी मुट्ठी में कर ली। जीत के अंतर से दोनों टीमों के बीच भारी फर्क लग सकता है। लेकिन, ऐसा कतई नहीं था। कई लम्हे थे, जो भारत के थे और वह विजेता के मंच तक पहुंच सकता था। यह एक ऐसी सीरीज थी, जिसमें बल्लेबाज बेहतरीन तेज गेंदबाजों के सहायक की भूमिका में रहे। कोई हैरत नहीं कि जब तेज गेंदबाजों में सबसे प्रबल जसप्रीत बुमराह बीते टेस्ट में घायल हो गए और ऑस्ट्रेलिया की दूसरी पारी के दौरान गेंदबाजी नहीं कर पाए, तो मेजबानों की चांदी हो गई। बुमराह ने इस सीरीज की शुरूआत बतौर कप्तान की। फॉर्म से बाहर चल रहे नियमित कप्तान रोहित शर्मा के क्लाहमेक्स के समय मैदान से हटने पर वह एक बार फिर इस जिम्मेदारी में लौटे। कुल 32 विकेटों के साथ वह तालिका में सबसे ऊपर रहे। इतना ही नहीं, अपनी मददगार बल्लेबाजी से उन्होंने ब्रिस्बेन के गंगा में भारत को फॉलोआन से बचाने में भी मदद की। भारतीय टेस्ट टीम का बदलाव से गुजरना तय है, खासकर आईसीसी विश्व टेस्ट चैंपियनशिप फाइनल के लिए क्वालीफाई करने में नाकामी के बाद। चेतेश्वर पुजारा व अजिंक्य रहाणे को बाहर करने और अब सीरीज के बीच में आए, अश्विन के संन्यास से निपटने के बाद चयनकर्ताओं और कोच गौतम गंभीर को विराट कोहली, रोहित और रवींद्र जडेजा के भविष्य पर विचार करने की जरूरत है।



Reforms must give us a cutting edge

INDIA's composite defence and military ecosystem is critical for ensuring that national security and sovereignty are not endangered. This domain has been accorded priority by Prime Minister Narendra Modi since he assumed office in 2014.

The need for a holistic review and necessary reforms was long acknowledged — an issue that the late Dr Manmohan Singh often flagged in his interaction with the military top brass — but the institution remained reluctant to go down this path.

During his second term, PM Modi announced the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff. However, the task of initiating defence reforms is mammoth, and it remains a work in progress. The entire organisation that is the responsibility of the Defence Minister is like an octopus, whose many tentacles — some going back to the colonial period (ordnance factories, for example) — are insular, prickly and tenaciously resistant to change. This, incidentally, is not an Indian trait. Most militaries the world over are steeped in tradition and slow to adapt to change — this is part of the institutional DNA.

Thus, it is encouraging to note that in PM Modi's third term, 2025 has been designated as the 'Year of Reforms'. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted this move at the 67th Foundation Day of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) last week. He dwelt on the crucial role the organisation could play in realising the objectives of these much-needed reforms.

In a nutshell, the core objectives of India's defence reforms are: One, to move the needle of national combat readiness, as warranted by national security and shaped by contemporary techno-strategic and geopolitical compulsions; and two, to reduce dependency on external sources that provide critical platforms/inventory items/technology. The DRDO and the larger national scientific and manufacturing ecosystem have a major role in this endeavour.Rajnath Singh exhorted scientists to improve their core competencies and set an ambitious benchmark. He added, "The DRDO should aim to become one of the strongest research and development organisations in the world." He also commended the design team that enabled the success of the Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile, which is the most recent feather in the sparsely burnished DRDO cap.However, the structural constraints and legacy issues related to India's defence R&D and manufacturing need to be addressed if the stated objective is to be realised. India does not figure among the top R&D nations of the world, and the defence sub-sector has a relatively modest record in terms of investments and scientific output over the decades, barring a few islands of innovation.In September last year, DRDO Chairman Samir V Kamat pointed out that India spent only 0.65 per cent of the national GDP on R&D. The contrast with other nations is striking. Their respective R&D spending as a percentage of the GDP is: the US, 2.83; China, 2.14; France, 2.19; and South Korea, 4.8. Kamat added that the government was aware of this insufficiency and that over the next few years, during Modi 3.0, this modest figure will hopefully rise to 1 per cent of the GDP and be doubled to 2 per cent by 2035. But on current evidence, this is a low-probability exigency and may need a major political intervention, especially since the whole defence budget just touches 2 per cent of the GDP.

The legacy challenge for the DRDO and the extended defence-military ecosystem is that India continues to have high dependency on foreign imports to maintain its minimum combat readiness. In the decade from FY 2012-13 to 2021-22, as per a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, India's capital expenditure for military inventory acquisitions and modernisation in foreign exchange was above 35 per cent; it hit 49 per cent in one year.

This proportion blunts India's claim to credible strategic autonomy. PM Modi's prioritisation of 'atmanirbharta' (self-reliance) over the past decade is laudable, but the gestation periods are very long and a broad-brush review of the DRDO and defence public sector undertakings (DPSU) indicates a pattern that needs a review.

Balancing privacy rights and investigative powers

Denying ED access to computers and mobile phones of offenders needs to be examined as electronic and digital devices have almost become an extension of human memory.

THE Supreme Court recently upheld a high court order quashing the arrest of former Haryana MLA Surrender Panwar in a money-laundering case, while terming his 15-hour-long interrogation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as 'high-handedness' and 'inhuman conduct'.In another case, on December 13, 2024, an interim order of the SC drew the red line for the ED over access to and copying the content stored in computers and mobile phones seized from Santiago Martin, the 'lottery king', and his associates. The court did not prescribe any date for lifting the ban in the Santiago case. It ordered that the matter be heard along with other connected cases in which the ED's demand to the applicants to produce electronic devices had been challenged and guidelines were sought for such seizures.

If the interim order in the case becomes a precedent, it would have serious consequences on the powers of the law enforcement agencies (LEAs). However, at the same time, it would be a welcome reminder to the citizens that their fundamental right to life, including right to privacy, and the constitutional guarantee against self- incrimination are sacrosanct and that 'fishing expeditions' by the LEAs under the cover of investigations are not to be allowed.Justice Felix Frankfurter, in Nardone vs United States (1939), gave the "exclusionary rule of evidence" and stamped the "doctrine of fruits of the poisonous tree". It postulates that illegally procured evidence becomes inadmissible in court proceedings; if the source of evidence or the evidence itself is tainted, anything gained from it is also tainted and cannot be used against the accused.

Evidence collected by questionable means, like by using unauthorised phone-tapping or recording without the knowledge of the subject, accessing private information and personal secrets contained in electronic gadgets, conducting illegal and unwarranted searches and recording events using secret cameras, etc, certainly fall in the category of tainted evidence. Indiscriminate confiscation of personal laptops and mobile phones by the LEAs and accessing the contents stored therein also run the risk of intruding into privacy, compromising business secrets and fishing into private affairs of individuals; at times, even bringing their personal

and business activities to a halt.On the other hand, tracing the digital footprint and filtering the electronic record of suspects have become a necessity in almost all heinous crimes, including crimes against women, financial scams, money-laundering, drug trafficking and offences against the state and national security, etc. Perhaps, this is the reason the legislature, hitherto, has refrained from subscribing to the doctrine of "fruits of the poisonous tree" in Indian laws.

Accordingly, the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA), which prescribes rules of evidence, is silent on the admissibility of illegally procured evidence, although it declares confession caused by inducement, coercion, threat or promise irrelevant in



criminal proceedings.Even the SC, in RM Malkani vs State of Maharashtra (1972), has validated the admissibility of illegally tape-recorded evidence. In the case of Umesh Kumar vs State of AP (2013), the court has observed: "Even if a document is procured through unlawful means, its admissibility would not be barred if it is relevant and genuine."

In fact, Indian laws put the relevancy of evidence on a higher pedestal than the source of its procurement. Illegally collected evidence is admissible even after the right to privacy has been recognised as a Fundamental Right by the Supreme Court in Justice KS Puttaswamy (retd) vs Union of India and Others (2017).In fact, in our constitutional scheme, no right, including the right to life, is absolute and may be curtailed in accordance with the procedure

established by law. Under Section 349 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS), the court can force a suspect to give his handwriting and voice sample; Section 53 of the BNSS allows even the extraction of body fluids from an accused person by force to meet the demand of investigations.Electronic and digital devices have almost become an extension of human memory for a majority of the people nowadays. In Selvi and Others vs State of Karnataka (2010), the Constitutional Bench of the SC allowed the recovery of information from the mind of an accused after obtaining his informed consent before the court by resorting to 'narco-analysis', 'brain-mapping' and 'lie detection test', as an aid to investigation.

Denying ED access to the computers and mobile phones of offenders needs to be examined in this backdrop, too. The interim order in the case should also be viewed in light of the fact that electronic and digital records are included in the definition of 'document', as contained in the BSA, and Sections 94 to 97 of the BNSS empowers the LEAs to summon, undertake searches and seize documents during investigations. The order has the implication of taking away this power from the LEAs and may halt investigations in those cases where digital and electronic evidence are crucial.

The investigation needs of the LEAs and yardsticks to judge the admissibility of evidence in courts are two separate domains. Whereas a strict law of evidence needs to be applied during the trial, the LEAs deserve freedom, under strict vigilance of the court, to find out and present the truth before the courts. The protection of citizenry from overzealous law enforcers, though, is equally important.Unarguably, the issues at hand in the case are contentious. Finding a balance between the contrary demands of the LEAs for just investigations and safeguarding the constitutional rights of the people, both at the same time, is a tightrope walk. It is, however, a given that any blanket prohibition on the powers of the LEAs would not augur well for public safety and national security. Every case needs to be decided on its own merit.

The Kejri splurge

House renovation row dents ex-CM's image

For once, the BJP and the Congress are on the same page. Their common rival in poll-bound Delhi is former CM Arvind Kejriwal, who is under fire for having renovated his official residence at a cost of at least Rs 33 crore. According to an audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, the expenditure quadrupled — the initial estimate was Rs 7.91 crore — by the time the work was completed in 2022. Moreover, the renovation was done in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, a turbulent period during which many development projects were stalled and the state government was supposed to be protecting Delhi residents from the deadly virus. Now that's what you call a classic case of misplaced priorities.

The damning report has dented Kejriwal's carefully constructed 'aam aadmi' image, giving the BJP and the Congress ample fodder



to target the ruling AAP, which is eyeing a hat-trick in the

upcoming Assembly elections. Splurging Rs 96 lakh on curtains and Rs 66.9 lakh on marble stone for walls, and that too at a time when people were falling ill or dying, is simply unacceptable. Kejriwal, who has projected himself as a commoner CM from the outset, has a lot of explaining to do. The extravagance was avoidable, to say the least.

The CAG report has also put the Public Works Department on a sticky wicket, citing irregularities in the remodelling of the ground-floor accommodation and the construction of an additional storey. A fair and thorough probe is needed to establish the complicity of officials. As of now, the case has become a hot-button poll issue in the Capital. At stake is the credibility of AAP, whose top leaders have been accused of corruption by Central agencies. The party has its work cut out to regain the trust of voters, who gave it a landslide mandate in 2015 and 2020.

Pakistan punishes Taliban for TTP attacks

Pakistan will continue to face the brunt of TTP attacks, as the latter's crusade is religious and such militant groups seldom abandon their ideological beliefs.

ON December 24 last year, Pakistan launched targeted attacks against Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) hideouts in the Paktia province of Afghanistan, killing dozens of people, mostly women and children. This was in response to the TTP's raids against Pakistani security forces on December 21 in south Waziristan, which resulted in the killing of 16 Pakistan soldiers.As US-made weapons seized during the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 became available to the TTP, it increased its attacks inside Pakistan in 2024, killing 1,612 security personnel and others in 444 terrorist attacks. Last year was the deadliest in terms of terror attacks, as per Pakistani sources.Pakistan's reading of the Taliban — whom it reared and supported for more than two decades against the US-led international security forces in the expectations of having a friendly regime in Kabul, which would provide it with "strategic depth" — has turned out to be completely wrong. The Taliban has accused Islamabad of pocketing much of the international aid it got from the US and other countries in the name of Afghanistan. The two countries have also differed on the installation of a fence by Pakistan in the bordering areas as Afghanistan does not accept the Durand Line marking the border, claiming that it was an artificial line dividing the Pashtuns unfairly on both sides.In 2021, the then Imran Khan government of Pakistan engaged in peace talks with the TTP, which were facilitated by the Taliban. The year-long negotiations, which included a brief ceasefire, failed without the ceasing of attacks by the TTP. According to some Pakistanis, these talks provided useful time to the TTP to regroup and boost its strength. Pakistan has given several warnings to the Taliban at the

highest levels, but the latter has shown no serious intent to control the TTP.The Taliban and TTP share ethnic ties and have fought together against the West for years. The Taliban has ideological sympathy with the TTP's objective of establishing a Sharia state in the tribal areas of Pakistan and uses TTP's militant activities to pressure Pakistan whenever it wants. Also, if the Taliban were to take harsh action against the TTP, the latter's fighters could defect to the Islamic State of Khorasan (ISK), an offshoot of ISIS, with whom they share jihadist beliefs and deep-rooted bonds and which is active in several parts of eastern and north-western Afghanistan. It would, thus, weaken the Taliban and strengthen its enemy.At present, the Taliban has given a decisive blow to the ISK, killing several of its senior commanders and keeping the group's terror activities under check.

The TTP attacks have increased destabilisation and insecurity in Pakistan and encouraged other dissident groups, such as the Balochs and Pashtuns, to fight against the Pakistani state. Pakistan's hopes of attracting foreign investment from Saudi Arabia and the UAE have not borne fruit. China, which is Pakistan's "iron brother" is unhappy about inadequate security arrangements for its 1,200 workers who are building critical infrastructure in Pakistan as the TTP and Baloch separatists have targeted Chinese experts in several attacks. With Pakistan unable to pay China's loans and provide

foolproof security to its personnel, China has stalled work on most projects.The TTP attacks leave Pakistan with few viable options. Pakistan has no desire to mount a full-scale war — which it is

nurtures the ambition to extend its Belt and Road Initiative to Afghanistan and carry out projects in mining, oil exploration and infrastructure sectors. Also, then the Taliban will not be able to control the China-centric terror group, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, in Afghanistan.

The deterioration in Pakistan's relations with the Taliban has allowed India to reassess its policy towards the Taliban, reopen its embassy and provide emergency assistance to the Afghan people and consider resuming work on its economic projects in Afghanistan. The Afghan Embassy in New Delhi is now being run by the representatives of the Taliban government.Pakistan has taken a few steps to increase the cost for the Taliban in allowing the TTP. These include the repatriation of about 8,00,000 Afghan refugees and disruption of Afghanistan's land trade via Pakistan. These measures were not liked by the US and others as they felt that the Taliban was already facing a grim humanitarian situation, with a shortage of food, energy and other essential items, and was hardly in a position to look after so many more people.The Taliban has also not relented in any of its policies about broad-basing its government, allowing education to women beyond the middle school or other human rights despite facing severe sanctions and near-total isolation on the world stage. It has enforced its religious codes of conduct in an authoritarian manner, oblivious of the global public opinion.



unlikely to win — against the Taliban. It has seen how the Afghans have fought valiantly against the Soviets and Americans in the last four decades. The Taliban may not have a big army like Pakistan, but it has a brilliant record of mounting guerrilla operations, with its human suicide bombers and hit-and-run attacks. Even Pakistan's allies like China and the US would not favour that option for their own reasons. The US would not like the Taliban to be distracted from its fight against the ISK. China

Quadrant Future Tek IPO
Day 2: Check latest
subscription, GMP and price
band

NEW DELHI. The Quadrant Future Tek IPO, which opened for subscription on January 7, witnessed strong investor interest, with the issue fully subscribed within hours.

As of 11 am on Day 2, the IPO had been subscribed over 24 times. Retail investors drove the momentum, with the retail portion subscribed 78.58 times, while the non-institutional investor (NII) category saw 36.31 times subscription. The Rs 290-crore IPO is a completely fresh equity issue of 1 crore shares. Investors can bid for the public issue at a price band of Rs 275-290 per share, with a minimum lot size of 50 shares. The bidding window for the IPO will remain open until January 9.

The grey market premium (GMP) for Quadrant Future Tek IPO stood at Rs 210 as of Wednesday, signalling a premium of approximately 73% over the issue's upper price band of Rs 290. While GMP is not an accurate market listing indicator, it reflects positive sentiment in the unofficial market.

OTHER IPO DETAILS

The IPO's strong response is backed by the company's potential to benefit from robust growth in the Indian specialty cable and train control system markets. Analysts have recommended subscribing to the issue, citing fair valuations and the company's strategic position. Quadrant Future Tek specialises in developing next-generation Train Control and Signaling Systems under the Indian Railways' KAVACH project. It also manufactures specialty cables for railway and naval defense sectors.

The IPO proceeds will fund long-term working capital needs, capital expenditure, loan repayments, and general corporate purposes. The allotment is scheduled for January 10, with the listing expected on January 14.

Explained: Why Indo Farm Equipment share price rose over 7% in early trade

NEW DELHI. Shares of Indo Farm Equipment gained momentum on Wednesday, rising over 7% to hit an intraday high of Rs 292.30 in early trade. The surge follows the company's strong stock market debut in the previous session. However, the early gains were short-lived as profit booking pulled the share price down within an hour. By 10:39 am, the stock was trading at Rs 276.50, just 1.39% higher than its previous closing price of Rs 272.70. On January 7, Indo Farm Equipment's shares closed with a premium of over 27% against the issue price of Rs 215. The stock opened at Rs 258.40 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), reflecting a 20.18% premium. It surged 33.44% during the session to hit Rs 286.90 before closing at Rs 272.70, marking a gain of 26.83%. On the NSE, the stock debuted at Rs 256, up 19%, and ended the day at Rs 273.69, a 27.29% gain.

The Rs 260-crore initial public offering (IPO) of Indo Farm Equipment received an overwhelming 227.57 times subscription on its final bidding day. Priced in the range of Rs 204-215 per share, the IPO comprised a fresh issue of 86 lakh equity shares and an offer for sale (OFS) of 35 lakh shares by promoter Ranbir Singh Khadwalia. Proceeds from the IPO will be used to expand the company's manufacturing capacity for pick-and-carry cranes, repay debt, and enhance its capital base by investing in its NBFC subsidiary, Barota Finance.

Indo Farm Equipment is a leading manufacturer of tractors, pick-and-carry cranes, and other farm equipment, which has positioned it for growth in India's agricultural and construction sectors.

CoinSwitch to launch Rs 600 cr recovery plan for hack victims

BENGALURU. Crypto platform CoinSwitch has launched a Rs 600 crore recovery programme to help users impacted by cyberattack on WazirX. It said this will provide an opportunity to users to recoup losses.

A cyberattack on WazirX in July last year led to the theft of about Rs 2,000 crore worth of funds.

"As an industry leader, we wanted to do our bit to help the ecosystem, especially now, when the market has picked up. We don't want crypto investors in India to miss opportunities. This program is an important step to rebuild what was lost," said Ashish Singhal, co-founder, CoinSwitch. The platform, which has over 2 crore users, said the programme will be rolled out in a way that it delivers maximum value to impacted users. Singhal said users wssho were affected due to cyberattack can recover losses and re-enter the market. Users can upload their WazirX statements for verification and estimate recovery on CoinSwitch Cares portal. It said eligible users can earn up to 10% of the funds deposited through this program over two years.

How drug-smuggling detection soared
in run-up to Christmas, New Year

NEW DELHI. The detection and seizure of weed and cocaine by customs officials across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and other zones surged in the run up to the Christmas and New Year celebrations, with cases even involving foreign nationals concealing narcotics worth crores in their bodies.

Delhi customs reported registered nearly half a dozen cases in December alone involving foreign nationals arriving at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) from Kenya, Brazil, the Philippines, and other countries hiding over Rs 50 crore worth of cocaine capsules inside their bodies. Just a week before Christmas, Mumbai customs reported multiple large seizures of hydroponic weed (marijuana) worth crores at Mumbai International Airport. The contraband was hidden in breakfast cereal boxes, passenger baggage, food packets, undergarments, and toys. Earlier last month, Mumbai customs destroyed narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (NDPS), such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and charas worth Rs 410 crore, weighing nearly 55

kg, at the Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage & Disposal Facility in Navi Mumbai. Meanwhile in Chennai, customs reported that the Air Intelligence Unit seized cocaine worth Rs 14.2 crore, weighing 1,424 grams, from a Kenyan woman traveling from Addis Ababa on December 7.

Modus Operandi

In what could suggest the involvement of organised crime networks, traffickers could be using identical methods to smuggle cocaine into the country since a number of cases emerged where capsules were hid inside human bodies and required medical extraction at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. In one such case, Delhi customs intercepted two passengers, a man and a woman, traveling from Sao Paulo, Brazil, via Paris on December 24. Both passengers exhibited "unusual behaviour" after crossing the green channel and "voluntarily" admitted to



Filipino national traveling from Bangkok via Addis Ababa on December 13. The individual had ingested 90 cocaine capsules, weighing 676 grams and valued at Rs 10.14 crore, which were extracted through medical procedures.

Intelligence Input

While vigilance and "cutting-edge profiling techniques" are being used to prevent the entry of illicit products into the country, customs officials are also relying on intelligence inputs to identify perpetrators.

For instance, on December 19, Mumbai customs intercepted a passenger arriving from Bangkok and seized hydroponic marijuana worth Rs 11.32 crore. The contraband, weighing 11.322 kilograms, was hidden in vacuum-sealed plastic pouches inside the passenger's trolley bag.

Budget 2025: Salaried earners up to Rs 15
lakh may get tax relief. Details here

NEW DELHI. The upcoming Budget 2025-26 is likely to introduce significant tax benefits aimed at individuals earning up to Rs 15 lakh annually. These measures are expected to increase disposable incomes, spurring consumption in urban areas where most taxpayers reside. Sources indicate that the government is eyeing tweaks to the new income tax regime, introduced in FY 2020-21, which has attracted over 70% of taxpayers due to its simplified structure and regular enhancements.

income up to Rs 3 lakh is tax-free, while earnings between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 6 lakh are taxed at 5%, Rs 6-9 lakh at 10%, Rs 9-12 lakh at 15%, Rs 12-15 lakh at 20%, and above Rs 15



"Majority of income taxpayers live in urban areas where most of the consumption also takes place. Given that inflation is hurting people in the lower income strata, each IT slabs can be raised by 1 lakh each."

He added, "To boost consumption, especially in urban areas (where the majority of income taxpayers reside), expanding slabs at lower and middle-income levels, that is, up to 20% tax bracket should be considered."

PROPOSED CHANGES IN TAX STRUCTURE

Currently, under the new regime, income up to Rs 3 lakh is tax-free, while earnings between Rs 3 lakh and Rs 6 lakh are taxed at 5%, Rs 6-9 lakh at 10%, Rs 9-12 lakh at 15%, Rs 12-15 lakh at 20%, and above Rs 15 lakh at 30%. A standard deduction of Rs 75,000 ensures that incomes up to Rs 7.75 lakh are tax-free.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN TAX STRUCTURE

Currently, under the new regime,

lakh at 30%. A standard deduction of Rs 75,000 ensures that incomes up to Rs 7.75 lakh are tax-free. The changes aim to provide relief to urban taxpayers, who face rising inflation and form the bulk of the consumption-driven economy. Experts believe that revising tax slabs by raising thresholds by Rs 1 lakh each could significantly lower tax burdens, encouraging higher spending.

Sudhir Kapadia, EY India Tax & Regulatory Services partner, while speaking to Financial Express, stated,

Sensex, Nifty open lower amid weak
sentiments; Reliance jumps 2%

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices fell on Wednesday as government data estimated economic growth in FY25 to decelerate to 6.4%, much lower than the 8.2% in FY24. The S&P BSE Sensex was down 141.64 points to 78,057.47 at 10:09 am, while the NSE Nifty50 was trading 42.60 points lower at 23,665.30. All the other broader market indices were also trading in the red as the situation remains volatile on Dalal Street. High-weightage Nifty IT, Nifty Bank and Nifty Financial were all trading in negative territory. However, shares of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)

rose over 2% and helped counter the negative trend.

The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Reliance Industries Limited, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, ONGC, Axis Bank and BPCL. On the other hand, the top losers were Trent, Shriram Finance, Titan, BEL and Adani Ports. Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services also highlighted that the trend of strong US macros weakening emerging markets is continuing. "The US 10-year bond yield has spiked to 4.67% on better-than-expected jobs numbers and indications of the services sector

doing very well. This means the Fed may hold rates in January leading to further strengthening of the dollar and rising bond yields," he said.

Vijayakumar added that the fall out of this on the Indian macros is that the RBI may hold rates in February against the market expectation of a cut. "In this macro setting, FIIs are likely to continue selling, putting pressure on the market. Large caps, despite fair valuations, may continue to be on the defensive," he said and advised investors to take a slightly long-term view of the market and buy large caps in financials, IT, pharmaceuticals and select autos.

BP beats Shell to win bid to operate ONGC's Mumbai High fields

ONGC sought bids from firms with annual revenue of at least USD 75 billion, according to the tender document.

NEW DELHI. BP Plc has won a bid to operate ONGC's giant Mumbai High oil and gas field by offering up to 60 per cent increase in output over baseline, the state-owned firm said on Wednesday. State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) had in June last year floated a tender seeking foreign partners to reverse declining output at its flagship Mumbai High fields, offering a share of revenue from incremental production plus a fixed fee but no equity stake.

The tender attracted two bidders – BP and Royal Dutch Shell. After the bid evaluation process, BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd, a wholly-owned step-down subsidiary of BP Plc, UK has been selected as the technical service provider (TSP)," ONGC said in a stock exchange filing. "The TSP will review the field performance and identify improvements in reservoir, facilities and wells to enhance the production from Mumbai High field. The TSP has indicated a

substantial increase in oil plus oil equivalent gas production (up to 60 per cent) from baseline production levels (reputed third-party vetted production estimates with natural decline) over 10 years contract period." ONGC said it had issued an international competitive bidding (ICB) tender on June 1, 2024 to engage a Technical Services Provider (TSP) for Mumbai High Field with expertise in managing complex mature reservoirs and implementing advanced recovery technologies and best operational practices. Through this ICB tender, the company invited bids from international operators with proven technical expertise, financial strength, and a track record in similar projects. ONGC sought bids from firms with annual revenue of at least USD 75 billion, according to the tender document. The TSP would have to do a comprehensive review of the field performance and identify improvements as well as implement suitable technological interventions and practices for improving production and recovery, it said. Bidders were asked to quote quarterly incremental production they can enable over the 10-year contract period as well as the percentage share of the revenue they want from the sale of oil and gas produced over and above the baseline production.

ONGC did not disclose the bid details.

The TSP, which was selected on the basis of one offering the highest incremental production and the lowest revenue share, will also be paid a fixed service fee for its efforts, the document said.

The Mumbai High field (previously Bombay High field) – India's most prolific oil field – lies some 160-kilometer in the Arabian Sea off the Mumbai coast.



It was discovered in February 1974 and started production on May 21, 1976. The field hit a peak of 4,76,000 barrels of oil per day and 28 billion cubic meters of gas in 1989 and has since seen a gradual decline in output. It is currently producing 1,34,000 bpd of oil and 13 bcm (less than 10 million standard cubic meters per day) of gas – accounting for almost 38 per cent of India's production and 14 per cent of consumption. ONGC believes the field

still has a balance reserve of 80 million tonnes (610 million barrels) of oil and over 40 bcm of gas and hence needs partners who can help tap them.

With the field seeing a steady decline in output, a stake sale had been considered on at least two occasions in recent years. A high-level committee headed by the then Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar in late 2018 considered "transferring" western offshore oil and gas fields of Mumbai High as also some fields in Mumbai offshore, Assam, Rajasthan, and Gujarat to private/foreign companies.

But that plan met with strong opposition from ONGC and some quarters within the government, three sources with knowledge of the matter said.

While ONGC opposed giving away on a platter to private/foreign sector what it discovered after years of toil and spending billions of dollars over the last four decades, some in government were not convinced by the incremental potential toyed with to get the proposal through, they said, adding that it wasn't clear how the incremental output numbers were arrived at in the absence of any real basin or field study by the panel.

Yet to get 40 Tejas ordered in 2010: IAF chief as China tests sixth-gen jets

Indian Air Force (IAF) chief AP Singh has raised concerns over China's astonishing pace of air force modernisation while expressing frustration over the sluggish pace of the delivery of Tejas jets.

NEW DELHI.Expressing concern over the snail-paced delivery of Tejas fighter jets, Indian Air Force (IAF) chief AP Singh lamented that it was yet to receive the first batch of 40 aircraft ordered in 2009-2010. Speaking at the 21st Subroto Mukerjee Seminar, the IAF chief asserted that the scale of production had to increase at a time when India's adversaries like China were "investing heavily in its air force".The Air Chief Marshal's scathing remarks come days after China tested its mysterious sixth-generation stealth combat aircraft- a feat not achieved by any other nation. Singh said that the first Tejas jet flew in 2001, while induction started 15 years later in 2016.

RAISES CONCERN OVER DELAYS IN TEJAS DELIVERIES

"We should go back to 1984, when we conceived that aircraft. The first aircraft flew in 2001, 17 years later. The induction started another 15 years later, in 2016. Today, we are in 2024. I do not have the first 40 aircraft also, so this is the production capability," the IAF chief said, underlining that "technology delayed is



technology denied".

The Tejas is a multirole light fighter aircraft being developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). It is being inducted into the IAF to replace the ageing Mig 21 fighter jet, dubbed the "flying coffin" because of its high crash rate.Underscoring the need for production agencies to invest in advanced manufacturing processes, AP Singh called for the need to rope in private players."I am very convinced that we need to get some private players in. We need to have competition. We need to have multiple sources available so that

people are wary of losing their orders. Otherwise, things will not change," the Air Chief Marshal emphasised.

CHINA TESTS 6TH GEN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

His comments come at a time when the Air Force is facing a severe crunch in its fighter strength. It currently has 30 fighter squadrons against a sanctioned strength of 42. A fighter squadron consists of 18 aircraft.China's recent display of two sixth-generation combat aircraft, which took the world and defence experts by surprise, also found a mention in Singh's address.

In contrast, India's fifth-generation fighter jet is still at the design and development stage. A proposal to develop the jet was cleared by the Cabinet only last year, in March.Raising concerns over India's neighbour's astonishing pace of military modernisation, the IAF chief said, "As far as China is concerned, it is not just the numbers, even the technology is growing at a very rapid pace. We just saw the recent flight of the new generation fighter that they have pulled out."

Tibet rocked by 20 earthquakes in 24 hours: What happened in the Himalayan region

The Xizang region of Tibet, which experienced a deadly 7.1-magnitude earthquake on Tuesday morning, recorded at least 20 significant aftershocks within 24 hours.

NEW DELHI. A series of powerful earthquakes rocked Tibet on Tuesday, leaving over 120 dead and more than 400 people trapped under debris as rescue operations continued for the second day on Wednesday. The seismic activity began with a 7.1-magnitude earthquake in the Xizang region, near the Nepal-Tibet border, followed by over 20 tremors within 24 hours.The most recent quake, recorded at 6.58 am on Wednesday, registered a magnitude of 4.0 on the Richter scale. Among the series of earthquakes, 10 exceeded a magnitude of 6, highlighting the region's seismic vulnerability.Tibet, a known earthquake-prone zone, experienced over 100 earthquakes with magnitudes of at least 3.0 last year. However, quakes measuring 7.0 and above are rare, with only nine recorded since the early 20th century. The epicentre of the disaster was located in Tingri County, near the collision point of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. This tectonic activity



creates extensive fault lines across the Tibetan plateau, resulting in frequent, often devastating earthquakes.

Rescue efforts have been hampered by the region's rugged terrain and remote location. Emergency workers are racing to deliver aid to isolated communities, navigating through debris-strewn streets and damaged infrastructure. Visuals from the affected areas show piles of rubble, crushed vehicles, and devastated homes. More than 1,000 homes have been damaged in the sparsely populated region, leaving many without shelter.

Rescue teams have been seen climbing mounds of rubble and using ladders in heavily affected villages to search for survivors. The high altitude, averaging 4,200 meters (13,800 feet), adds to the challenges faced by emergency responders.

Seismologists are closely monitoring the situation, warning of potential aftershocks and advising residents to remain vigilant.

According to Chinese state media, about 6,900 people reside in three townships and 27 villages within 20 kilometres of the epicentre. The unfolding tragedy underscores the urgent need for disaster preparedness and mitigation in this seismically active region.

Delhi lawyer allegedly under stress from divorce dies by suicide

NEW DELHI. A 45-year-old Delhi-based lawyer, who was allegedly under stress due to an ongoing divorce case with his wife, shot himself dead with a licenced pistol, police said. The victim has been identified as Sameer Mehendiratta, a resident of Mukherjee Nagar.

According to the police, Mehendiratta, who died in a hospital on Tuesday evening, had been living separately from his wife amid the ongoing case.His family has alleged that Mehendiratta had been suffering from depression as a result of the divorce case.

Authorities have initiated an investigation into the incident.This latest case comes days after Puneet Khurana, a bakery owner also based in Delhi, died by suicide amid divorce proceedings with his wife. The couple were also engaged in a dispute over the bakery, called For God's Cakes, which they co-owned.According to Khurana's family, he "upset" with his wife.Last month, Bengaluru-based techie Atul Subhash died by suicide. The software engineer left behind a 24-page suicide note in which he accused his wife and her relatives of harassment and also detailed his years-long emotional distress from marital issue.



Thick fog engulfs Delhi, over 200 flights delayed, temperature to dip further

New Delhi. A thick layer of fog blanketed Delhi and neighbouring areas as North India continued to reel under a cold wave. Visibility was significantly reduced at airports across the region, disrupting flight services.At New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI), 200 flights were delayed, and four services were cancelled. In the latest advisory, the airport authorities stated that while landings and takeoffs continue, flights that are not equipped for low-visibility landings (CAT III A compliant) may be affected due to the prevailing weather conditions.Along with IGI Airport, the airports in Amritsar, Jammu, and Agra also recorded zero visibility, affecting services.

Meanwhile, the weather department's 7-day forecast



indicates that from Wednesday, the minimum temperature will start dipping, and by Friday, it is expected to drop to 5 degrees Celsius.

Anticipating dense to very dense fog conditions, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange warning for Delhi on Wednesday and a yellow alert for Thursday and Friday.In the past 24 hours, the maximum temperature in Delhi was recorded at 16.2 degrees Celsius, which is 2.8 degrees below normal, and the minimum temperature was 7.4 degrees, which was 5 degrees above normal. It marked a 3.1-notch fall from Tuesday's temperature.

On Tuesday, over 300 flights were delayed, and around 25 train services were disrupted due to blinding fog.States including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan, among others in the North Indian region, continued to be gripped by an extreme cold wave. In Rajasthan's Nagaur, the minimum temperature was recorded at 2.5 degrees Celsius.

'Sheeshmahal' Showdown: AAP vs BJP Over Media Tour Of Chief Minister Home

New Delhi. Dramatic scenes played out outside the Delhi Chief Minister's residence today when Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders reached there to "show the truth" about BJP's "Sheeshmahal" charge.Determined to score big in the upcoming Delhi election, the BJP has accused AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal of spending public money on a luxurious upgrade of the bungalow on 6, Flagstaff Road. To turn the tables, AAP said its leaders would visit the Civil Lines bungalow with the media and then head to the Prime Minister's residence on 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, to show the revamp there.

When AAP MP Sanjay Singh and Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj reached the bungalow with mediapersons, police stopped them, citing a law and order situation. Mr Singh was seen telling a senior officer why police were stopping them. He also said stopping them amounted to a breach of privilege

of an MP and a cabinet minister.

"Why can't we be allowed inside? BJP is spreading misinformation that there is a golden toilet, swimming pool, minibar, so show us and show them (media)," Mr Singh has heard saying.Mr Bharadwaj was seen asking whose directions they were being stopped on. "Only person above me is the Lieutenant Governor. Who has given you the direction (to stop us)?"The BJP's lie has been exposed, it is now proved that BJP is Bharatiya Jhootha Party. For months, BJP has been saying there is a golden toilet, swimming pool and minibar in this Chief Minister's residence. We brought you here today. Have you seen? For just two people, they have placed water cannons, so many cops. Are we terrorists? Why are they stopping us? This means BJP is lying. We will wait here for 10 minutes, if the BJP is telling the truth, they should open the Chief Minister's residence and allow us

inside," Mr Singh said.Later, the AAP leaders headed to the Prime Minister's residence, but were stopped.

The Delhi Chief Minister's official residence has been vacant since Mr Kejriwal stepped down after being granted bail in a corruption case linked to the now-scrapped liquor policy. The AAP leader has said he would return to the top job only after the "people's court" verdict.The BJP has been targeting the AAP with 'Sheeshmahal' jabs and a CAG report has given it fresh ammo. The report, filed by Girish Chandra Murmu who retired in November, pointed to a four-fold jump between budgeting for the renovation and the final cost.Leading the BJP charge, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said, "You will be shocked to know that when Delhi residents were fighting Covid, wandering in search of oxygen and medicines, their (AAP) focus was on the building Sheesh Mahal."

Simultaneous Polls: Parliamentary Panel Holds First Meeting

New Delhi. The parliamentary panel constituted to scrutinise the two bills on simultaneous elections held its first meeting on Wednesday. Officials of the Ministry of Law and Justice are briefing the panel members on the provisions of the proposed laws, sources said.

Headed by BJP MP PP Chaudhary, the 39-member joint committee of Parliament comprises members from all major parties, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Congress, Sanjay Jha from JD(U), Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, AAP's Sanjay Singh, and



Kalyan Banerjee from Trinamool Congress.

Mr Chaudhary is a former minister of state for law.The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill

were introduced in the Lok Sabha during the recent Winter Session and referred to the committee.

The government decided to increase the committee's strength from 31 to 39, as more political parties expressed their desire to be part of the exercise to examine the two draft legislations on simultaneous elections.

Former Union ministers Anurag Thakur, Parshottam Rupala and Manish Tewari and several other lawmakers, including Anil Baluni, Bansuri Swaraj and Sambit Patra, are also members of the committee.The panel has 27 members from the Lok Sabha and 12 from the Rajya Sabha.

Domestic Airlines May Soon Have To Share Weather Data With Weather Office

The earth sciences ministry secretary said weather forecasts depended largely on the number of observations collected.

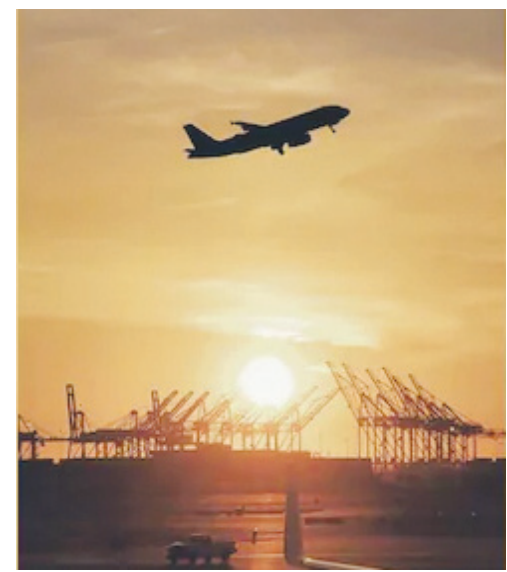
New Delhi. The government is planning to make it mandatory for domestic airlines to share weather data captured by aircraft during takeoff and landing with the IMD, which senior officials say will significantly enhance forecasting capabilities.M Ravichandran, secretary in the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, told PTI that his ministry had been in discussions with the civil aviation ministry on the matter, and providing weather data would be "made mandatory for domestic airlines within a year". "It has to be mandatory... It will not only be

very useful for airline operations but also for weather forecasts everywhere," he said.

The earth sciences ministry secretary said weather forecasts depended largely on the number of observations collected.

"The more observations we have, the better our predictions can be. It is similar to an exit poll -- if you gather data from more places, you will get a clearer picture. In the same way, we aim to collect information on temperature, humidity, and wind wherever possible," he said.

Vertical weather observations (obtained from aircraft and weather balloons) are more important than ground observations because they provide a complete picture of the atmosphere, not just what is happening at the surface, Ravichandran said.Weather systems such as storms form and evolve in the atmosphere, where temperature, humidity and wind conditions at different



altitudes play a key role, he said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) launches weather balloons from 50-60 stations to collect critical data on temperature, humidity and wind at

various altitudes.Aircraft also record weather data during takeoff and landing. This data is transmitted to the ground in real-time and integrated into forecasting models. Unlike the limited number of weather balloons, thousands of aircraft can relay data.Ravichandran said all aircraft operating on international routes provided weather data because it was required by law.

However, not all domestic airlines do so as it is not mandatory for them.

He said many countries had made it mandatory for their airlines to provide this data and India needed to have a similar mechanism."The aircraft are already gathering the data. It would be a different issue if they were not doing so," he said.

"Air connectivity is increasing tremendously in India, with each state having 10 to 15 airports. Our prediction capability will improve significantly if all domestic airlines start providing this crucial data," he added.

NEWS BOX

All hell will break out if hostages in Gaza are not freed': Trump warns Hamas

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump has warned that all hell will break out in the Middle East if the hostages being held by Hamas are not released by Inauguration Day, repeating the threat four times. Trump did not elaborate on what actions he might take if the captives are not released by the time he takes office.Officials say about 100 hostages, including some Americans, who were seized on October 7, 2023, remain captive in Gaza, though they believe many of them may have died in captivity.

All hell will break out.
If those hostages aren't back, I don't want to hurt your negotiation, if they're not back by the time I get into office, all hell will break out in the Middle East, Trump told reporters at a news conference in Mar-a-Lago, Florida. Trump will be sworn in on January 20 as the 47th President of the United States.

He was responding to a question on the status of negotiations with Hamas on the release of American hostages.His Special Envoy to the Middle East Steven Charles Witkoff, who has just returned from the region, told reporters that they are on the verge of it.

I believe we've been on the verge of it. I don't want to discuss sort of what's delayed it, no point in being negative in any way. But I think it's the president, his stature, what he's said he expects, the red lines he's put out there, that's driving this negotiation, Witkoff said.

Noting that they are making a lot of progress, he said: I don't want to say too much because I think they're doing a really good job back in Doha.

I'm leaving tomorrow to go back to Doha. But I think that we've had some really great progress and I'm really hopeful that by the inauguration we'll have some good things to announce on behalf of the president.I actually believe that we're working in tandem in a really good way, but it's the president, his reputation, the things that he has said that are driving this negotiation. So hopefully it'll all work out and we'll save some lives, Witkoff said.Negotiations between Hamas and Israel are ongoing in Qatar, with Hamas this week naming 34 hostages in Gaza including two dual US citizens it would be willing to release in a ceasefire deal, the National Public Radio reported.Trump, in response to a question, warned Hamas to release all the hostages by January 20.

A seaplane crashes off an Australian tourist island, killing 3 and injuring 3 others

MELBOURNE, Australia: A seaplane crashed during takeoff from an Australian tourist island, killing three people including Swiss and Danish tourists and injuring three others.Only one of the seven people aboard the Cessna 208 Caravan was rescued without injury after the crash Tuesday afternoon on Rottnest Island, police said. The plane owned by Swan River Seaplanes was returning to its base in Perth, the Western Australia state capital 30 kilometers (19 miles) east of Rottnest Island, which is also known by its Indigenous name Wadjemup.

The dead were a 65-year-old Swiss woman, a 60-year-old man from Denmark and the 34-year-old male pilot from Perth, Western Australian Premier Roger Cook said. The dead tourists' partners, a 63-year-old Swiss man and a 58-year-old Danish woman, survived. A Western Australian couple, a woman aged 65 and a 63-year-old man, also survived.

It is not clear which passenger was uninjured. Western Australian Police Commissioner Col Blanch said no survivor sustained life-threatening injuries. The three injured people were flown to a Perth hospital.

Cook said the cause of the crash was not yet known. Reports that the plane had struck a rock at the entrance of a bay on the west side of the island could not be confirmed from video viewed so far, Cook said.

Rottnest Island is renowned for its sandy beaches and cat-sized hopping marsupials called quokkas which are rare on the Australian mainland. The island's tourist accommodation is fully booked during the current Southern Hemisphere summer months."Every Western Australian knows that Rottnest is our premier tourism destination," Cook told reporters."For something so tragic to happen in front of so many people, at a place that provides so much joy, especially at this time of the year, is deeply upsetting," Cook added.Blanch said police divers had recovered the bodies on Tuesday night from a depth of 8 meters (26 feet). Wreckage of the plane was still being recovered.s

Man who exploded Tesla Cybertruck outside Trump hotel in Las Vegas used generative AI, police say

World The highly decorated soldier who exploded a Tesla Cybertruck outside the Trump hotel in Las Vegas used generative AI including ChatGPT to help plan the attack, Las Vegas police said Tuesday.

Nearly a week after 37-year-old Matthew Livelsberger fatally shot himself, officials said according to writings, he didn't intend to kill anyone else.An investigation of Livelsberger's searches through ChatGPT indicate he was looking for information on explosive targets, the speed at which certain rounds of ammunition would travel and whether fireworks were legal in Arizona.

Kevin McMahon, sheriff of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, called the use of generative AI a "game-changer" and said the department was sharing information with other law enforcement agencies."This is the first incident that I'm aware of on U.S. soil where ChatGPT is utilized to help an individual build a particular device," he said. "It's a concerning moment."In an emailed statement, OpenAI said it was committed to seeing its tools used "responsibly" and that they're designed to refuse harmful instructions."In this case, ChatGPT responded with information already publicly available on the internet and provided warnings against harmful or illegal activities. We're working with law enforcement to support their investigation," the emailed statement said.

Fast-moving wildfires rage across Los Angeles, destroying homes and prompting widespread evacuations

LOS ANGELES. A fast-moving wildfire broke out Tuesday in the inland foothills northeast of Los Angeles, just hours after another blaze tore through the city's Pacific Palisades neighborhood along the coast, destroying many homes and prompting evacuation orders for tens of thousands.

The Eaton fire in Altadena started near a nature preserve just before 6:30 p.m. The flames spread so rapidly that staff at a senior care center had to push dozens of residents in wheelchairs and hospital beds down the street to a parking lot, where they waited in their bedclothes for ambulances and other vehicles to take them to safety.

To the west, the Pacific Palisades fire that started Tuesday morning burned out of control into the night. The Los Angeles Fire Department issued a plea for off-duty firefighters to help fight the flames, which were being pushed by winds topping 60 mph (97 kph) in some places and creating chaotic scenes as residents fled.It was too windy for firefighting aircraft to fly, hampering the efforts.The Pacific Palisades fire swept through a Los Angeles hillside dotted with celebrity residences

Tuesday, burning homes and prompting evacuation orders. In the frantic rush to get to safety, roadways became clogged, and many people abandoned their vehicles and fled on foot, some toting suitcases.A resident of a senior center is evacuated as the Eaton Fire approaches Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025 in Altadena, Calif. The traffic jam on Palisades Drive prevented emergency vehicles from getting through. A bulldozer was brought in to push abandoned cars to the side and create a path, according to the LA Fire Department. California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who was in Southern California to attend the naming of a national monument by President Joe Biden, made a detour to the canyon to see "firsthand the impact of these swirling winds and embers." He said he found "not a few many structures already destroyed."Officials did not give an exact number of structures damaged or destroyed in the Pacific Palisades wildfire, but they said about 30,000 residents were under evacuation orders, and more than 13,000 structures were at risk. The worst could still be ahead. The blaze began around 10:30 a.m., shortly after the start of



a Santa Ana windstorm that the National Weather Service warned could be "life-threatening" and the strongest to hit Southern California in more than a decade. The exact cause of the fire was unknown, and no injuries had been reported, officials said.Firefighters hose down flames as the Palisades Fire destroys a residence in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025Firefighters hose down flames as the Palisades Fire destroys a residence in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025Photo | APAdvertisementOnly about 25 miles (about 40 kilometers) northeast in Altadena, the Eaton fire was

burning.The winds were expected to increase overnight and continue for days, producing isolated gusts that could top 100 mph (160 kph) in mountains and foothills including areas that haven't seen substantial rain in months."By no stretch of the imagination are we out of the woods," Newsom warned residents, saying the worst of the winds were expected between 10 p.m. Tuesday and 5 a.m. Wednesday. He declared a state of emergency on Tuesday.

As of Tuesday evening, 28,300 households were without power due to the strong winds, according to the mayor's office. About 15,000 utility customers in Southern California had their power shut off to reduce the risk of equipment sparking a blaze. A half a million customers were at risk of losing power preemptively.he Pacific Palisades fire quickly consumed about 4.6 square miles (11.6 square kilometers) of land in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood in western Los Angeles, sending up a dramatic plume of smoke visible across the city. Residents in Venice Beach, some 6 miles (10 kilometers) away, reported seeing the flames.

Grief and nostalgia in India's 'Jimmy Carter village'

NEW DELHI. In a quiet village tucked in the shadow of India's capital, the late US president Jimmy Carter's name is etched for posterity.

Carterpuri, or the "village of Carter" was abruptly renamed from Daulatpur Nasirabad after an hour-long visit by the Nobel laureate in 1978.

The renaming was suggested by India's then-prime minister Morarji Desai who accompanied Carter on the visit to the small hamlet, some 30 kilometres (20 miles) from New Delhi."When the proposal was mooted, all the village elders immediately said yes," recalled 71-year-old resident Attar Singh, who vividly remembers the January afternoon from nearly half a century ago.One of the last surviving members from the generation old enough to remember the occasion, Singh said he was "distressed" by Carter's death last month, and played a key role in staging a small tribute ceremony.

A picture of the former president was quickly downloaded from the internet, framed, garlanded and placed at a local war memorial where a group of village elders made offerings of salty porridge



and a newly stitched traditional turban. Singh said the porridge and the turban, along with a condolence message, were then shipped to the US Embassy.

"The entire village grieved because we considered him as one of our own," said Rajiv Kumar, a younger resident who was a toddler when Carter visited.

The body of Carter, who died at the age of 100 last month, is currently lying in state in Washington and will be buried Thursday in his home state of Georgia.

- 'Such a big man' -

Carter's visit to the village, then home to less than 500 people, was not by chance.He was driven by a deeply personal mission: his mother Lillian

had worked in the village as a Peace Corps volunteer in the late 1960s.

The dilapidated mansion where Lillian stayed during her time there no longer exists. It was torn down around 15 years ago to make way for a concrete two-storey structure with a line of tiny shops on its ground floor.Little else from that era survives in Carterpuri, which now has a population of roughly 5,000.The village council office where Carter and his wife Eleanor Rosalynn Carter were feted while bedecked in traditional headgear, is now a community health centre.

Nonetheless, Carter's visit remains firmly imprinted in the memory of Carterpuri's old-timers."I was a little boy then but I remember everything," said 62-year-old Motiram, who goes by one name.His recollections include Carter smoking tobacco from a hookah and waving at the eager children who looked from the rooftops as he took a tour of the village.But Motiram's nostalgia is tinted with disillusionment.

"Despite such a lofty name, our village has seen no progress in all these years," he said.

Biden administration asks court to block plea deal for alleged mastermind of 9/11 attacks

WASHINGTON. The Biden administration asked a federal appeals court on Tuesday to block a plea agreement for accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed that would spare him the risk of the death penalty in one of the deadliest attacks ever on the United States.

The Justice Department argued in a brief filed with a federal appeals court in the District of Columbia that the government would be irreparably harmed if the guilty pleas were accepted for Mohammed and two co-defendants in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.It said the government would be denied a chance for a public trial and the opportunity to "seek capital punishment against three men charged with a heinous act of mass murder that caused the death of thousands of people and shocked the nation and the world."

The Defense Department negotiated and approved the plea deal but later repudiated it. Attorneys for the defendants argue the deal is already legally in effect and that Defense

Secretary Lloyd Austin, who began the administration's efforts to throw it out, acted too late.When the appeal was filed Tuesday, family members of some the nearly 3,000 people killed in the al-



Qaida attacks already were gathered at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to hear Mohammed's scheduled guilty plea Friday. The other two men, accused of lesser roles in 9/11, were due to enter them next week.Family members have been split on the deal, with some calling it the best resolution possible for a prosecution mired for more than a decade in pretrial hearings and legal and logistical difficulties.

Others demanded a trial and — they hoped — execution.Some legal experts have warned that the legal challenges posed by the case, including the men's torture under CIA custody after their capture, could keep the aging detainees from ever facing verdicts and any possible sentences. Military prosecutors this summer notified families of the victims that the senior Pentagon official overseeing Guantanamo had approved a plea deal after more than two years of negotiations. The deal was "the best path to finality and justice," military prosecutors said.But some family members and Republican lawmakers condemned the deal and the Biden administration for reaching it.Austin has fought unsuccessfully since August to throw out the agreement, saying that a decision on death penalties in an attack as grave as the Sept. 11 plot should only be made by the defense secretary.

Israeli TV reporter regains his ability to speak with the help of AI

JERUSALEM. When renowned Israeli TV journalist Moshe Nussbaum lost his ability to speak clearly due to ALS, he thought his career might be over. However, with the help of artificial-intelligence software that recreates his iconic gravelly voice, Nussbaum known to generations of viewers simply as "Nussi" is making a comeback.Nussbaum, 71, was diagnosed two years ago with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, a progressive condition that attacks nerve cells controlling muscles throughout the body.At the time, he vowed to Channel 12 News viewers that he would continue working as long as he was physically able. But as time passed, it became increasingly difficult.

It was a devastating blow for the leading reporter, who had spent more than 40 years covering many of Israel's most important stories. Nussbaum had reported from the scenes of suicide bombings, the front lines of wars in Gaza and Lebanon, and covered high-profile scandals and court cases in Israel's parliament.After Hamas' October

7, 2023, attack, which triggered the war in Gaza, Nussbaum was unable to report from the field. It was the first war of his career that he had ever missed. Despite his difficulties with speaking and moving, he launched a segment interviewing injured soldiers in Israeli hospitals. His questions were slow and halting, but he continued for the first half of the war. However, as it became harder to be understood, his interviews became less frequent.

On Monday, Channel 12 announced that Nussbaum would return to the air in the coming weeks, with the help of AI.

"It took me a few moments to absorb it and understand that it is me speaking now," Nussbaum told The Associated Press via text message. "Slowly, I'm understanding the incredible meaning of this device for everyone with disabilities, including me."

Nussbaum will write his stories, and an AI programme trained on his voice will allow him to deliver them. He will be filmed as if presenting, with his lips "technologically adjusted" to match the words.Unlike



traditional text-to-speech technology, which sounds robotic, the AI software mimics Nussbaum's intonations and phrasing by using recordings from his lengthy career in TV and radio.

Nussbaum is excited by the possibilities of the technology but also concerned about its potential misuse to spread fake news. In its current form, the technology doesn't work for live broadcasts, so Nussbaum will focus on commentary and analysis on crime and national security, areas of expertise from his decades of reporting.

Ahead of the broadcasts, Channel 12 released a preview featuring snippets of Nussbaum

speaking naturally garbled and difficult to understand followed by the new "Nussi AI," which sounds strikingly like the original Nussbaum, speaking quickly and emphatically."Honestly, this is my first time sitting here in the studio after more than a year," AI Nussbaum says in the preview. "It feels a bit strange, and mostly, it tugs my heart."AI-powered voice cloning has rapidly advanced in recent years. Experts warn that the technology could enable phone scams, disrupt elections, and violate the dignity of individuals who did not consent to having their voices recreated. However, it also holds great promise for people who have lost their ability to speak clearly. Similar AI programmes have enabled a U.S. congresswoman with Parkinson's disease to deliver a speech and helped a woman who lost her voice due to a tumour.Channel 12 declined to disclose which AI programme it is using.Nussbaum had feared that ALS would rob him of the career he loved. In an interview with Channel 12, he recalled telling his managers.

NEWS BOX

Neymar says 2026 World Cup will be his last; hints at reunion with Messi, Suarez

Brazilian football star Neymar has announced that the FIFA 2026 World Cup will be his last opportunity to compete on football’s biggest stage. While injuries have limited his impact at Al-Hilal in Saudi Arabia, Neymar remains determined to represent Brazil and is optimistic about earning a spot in the squad for the tournament, which will be jointly hosted by Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Brazil currently sit fifth in the South American World Cup qualifiers, with six matches left to secure a top-six spot for automatic qualification. Neymar, sidelined since October 2023 due to a ruptured ACL and meniscus, remains hopeful about contributing to his national team’s campaign. The 32-year-old forward, who recently became Brazil’s all-time top scorer with 79 goals, described the upcoming World Cup as his "last shot" at glory. Speaking to CNN, Neymar said, "I will try, I want to be there. I will do everything I can to be part of the national team. This will be my last World Cup, my last shot, my last chance, and I will do everything I can to play in it."

REUNION WITH MESSI?



Neymar’s time at Al-Hilal has been marred by injuries, limiting him to just seven appearances since his move from Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) for a reported fee of €90 million in 2023. His contract with the Saudi Pro League club runs until June 2024, but Neymar hinted at future possibilities, including a move to Major League Soccer (MLS) and a reunion with former Barcelona teammates Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez at Inter Miami. Neymar, Messi, and Suarez famously formed one of football’s most celebrated attacking trios, leading Barcelona to a historic treble in 2015 before Neymar’s record-breaking transfer to Paris Saint-Germain for €222 million (\$230.39 million) in 2017. Reflecting on the prospect of reuniting with his friends, Neymar said, "Obviously, playing again with Messi and Suarez would be incredible. They are my friends, we still speak to each other. It would be interesting to revive this trio. I’m happy at Al-Hilal, I’m happy in Saudi Arabia, but who knows. Football is full of surprises."

Sam Konstas admits provoking Jasprit Bumrah in Sydney Test: It was my fault

New Delhi. Australia’s Sam Konstas admitted to provoking Jasprit Bumrah on Day 1 of the fifth Test in Sydney, a move that ultimately backfired when the Indian pacer dismissed Usman Khawaja on the last delivery of the day. With 15 minutes left in the day’s play, Australian openers Usman Khawaja and Konstas faced the daunting task of surviving against Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj on a lively SCG track. A minor interruption from Khawaja, who stepped away to slow things down, seemingly irked Bumrah. However, it was Konstas at the non-striker’s end who escalated the tension by engaging in a verbal exchange with the Indian stand-in captain. The heated moment ended with the umpire’s intervention. On the very next delivery,



Bumrah dismissed Khawaja with a sharp delivery that caught the edge, sending the Indian team into wild celebrations. Bumrah then stepped toward Konstas in celebration but refrained from further escalation. Reflecting on the incident, Konstas admitted his role in the sequence of events. Speaking to Triple M, he said, "I didn’t get too fazed. Unfortunately, Uzi got out. He was trying to buy some time. It was probably my fault, but it happens. It’s cricket. Credit to Bumrah for the wicket, but overall, it was a great team performance." Konstas was a polarising figure in his debut series. From riling up Bumrah to theatrically egging on a crowd of 90,000 after a maiden half-century, the teenager has left his mark. His audacity was further highlighted in Melbourne, where he reverse-ramped Bumrah for four, setting the tone for a memorable debut series. However, his antics haven’t always been welcomed. Virat Kohli’s shoulder charge in the previous Test-aimed at Konstas-sparked widespread criticism and earned Kohli a fine. "No, I was very calm. I was talking to my parents and teammates. Uzi (Khawaja) mentioned my adrenaline was pumped when batting, but I didn’t feel it. Still, it was a great debut, and I’m happy with two wins."

Two-tier Test cricket system proposal fair South Africa great Graeme Smith reacts

Former South Africa captain Graeme Smith said teams like South Africa, West Indies and Sri Lanka need to be strong to ensure Test cricket remains competitive. The legendary cricketer expressed concerns about the reportedly proposed idea of a two-tier system for the traditional format.

New Delhi. Legendary South African cricketer Graeme Smith has expressed concerns about the idea of a two-tier system for Test cricket—an idea reportedly under discussion by cricket powerhouses India, Australia, and England, alongside newly elected International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah. Smith pointed out that no other sport limits competition to just the top three teams, while also stressing the importance of ensuring well-matched

contests in Test cricket. Legendary South African cricketer Graeme Smith has expressed concerns about the idea of a two-tier system for Test cricket—an idea reportedly under discussion by cricket powerhouses India, Australia, and England, alongside newly elected International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah. Smith pointed out that no other sport limits competition to just the top three teams, while also stressing the importance of ensuring well-matched contests in Test cricket. "I also do feel for the ICC. I was just looking at a note this morning about how much England and India are playing each other over the next period, and Australia and vice versa. It gets extremely hard for the other nations... India are probably the best because they are commercially so reliable for the other nations. But where do you find the top three nations playing each other all the time? And you can only imagine in the next FTP cycle how that’s been tied up in the background," Smith said during an appearance on Sky Cricket.



“How does the ICC create a structure that’s fair in the top three’s eyes? I think what world cricket needs is South Africa to be strong, the West Indies to be strong, and Sri Lanka to improve. Otherwise, can you see a world where there are only three nations playing cricket in the future?” he added.

DO WHAT YOU HAVE GOT TO DO: SMITH Former cricketers like Ravi Shastri and Michael Vaughan have endorsed the idea, saying Test cricket needs more competitive contests for its survival. The recent blockbuster between India and

Australia, which drew record crowds in Australia, was a great advertisement for the longest format of the game. The former South African captain, who played a pivotal role in the team’s dominance in Test cricket during the last decade, emphasised the need for all teams to prioritise the format. He also highlighted South Africa’s success in the current World Test Championship (WTC) cycle as an example. “My answer to that would be, we [South Africa] are in the World Test Championship (WTC) final; we’ve got a chance to win the mace. I think that’s the key,” he stated. “You’ve got to do what you’ve got to do, and South Africa have done that. I think over the last couple of years, their win percentages are actually pretty decent if you go and look over a period of time.”

For the first time in history, South Africa reached the WTC final, finishing the 2023–25 cycle at the top of the points table. They are set to face Australia in the final at Lord’s in London this June.

Didier Deschamps to step down as France manager after 2026 FIFA World Cup

Didier Deschamps, France’s longest serving national team coach, will not seek to renew his contract which expires in 2026, the French soccer federation (FFF) told Reuters on Tuesday. Deschamps’ deal runs until after the next World Cup, for which Les Bleus have yet to qualify. The 56-year-old took over from fellow 1998 World Cup winner Laurent Blanc in 2012 and led Les Bleus to the World Cup title in 2018, two years after reaching the European Championship final on home soil. Didier Deschamps, France’s longest serving national team coach, will not seek to renew his contract which expires in 2026, the French soccer federation (FFF) told Reuters on Tuesday. Deschamps’ deal runs until after the next World Cup, for which Les Bleus have yet to qualify. The 56-year-old took over from fellow 1998 World Cup winner Laurent Blanc in 2012 and led Les Bleus to the World Cup title in 2018, two years after reaching the European Championship final on home soil. A defensive midfielder nicknamed ‘the water carrier’ by Eric Cantona, Deschamps was a



winning machine and under his guidance as coach, France were at times boringly efficient and at others brilliant, beating Argentina 4-3 in the 2018 World Cup round of 16 and Croatia 4-2 in the final. While Deschamps’ side has boasted the thrilling attacking talent of Kylian Mbappe, his teams have also shown grit and unmatched defensive ability when it mattered most. It is uncertain who will succeed him but Zinedine Zidane is the heavy favourite for the job. "It's a wise decision. I didn't send anything and I won't send anything (to Zidane). But of course we all hope it will be him after 2026," Christophe Dugarry, a former teammate of both Zidane and Deschamps and one of the latter's most vocal critics, told RMC Radio.

Premier League: 7 potential January transfer deals to watch out for

New Delhi The January transfer window has long been a source of excitement and intrigue for Premier League fans, known for delivering unexpected twists and marquee signings. While the 2024 window unfolded with little fanfare globally, 2025 promises to reignite the buzz, especially in England’s top flight, where key clubs look poised to make strategic moves. Manchester United, eager to rectify their early-season struggles, is expected to be active, with rumors swirling about high-profile arrivals. Liverpool, in the midst of a title race, may seek to fortify their midfield further, ensuring they remain in contention. Meanwhile, Manchester City, grappling with injuries and a packed fixture list, could dive into the market to bolster their squad depth for a grueling campaign. The stakes couldn’t be higher, with the second half of the season likely to determine the fortunes of many. From potential big-money arrivals to surprise exits, the Premier League’s January dealings seem destined to deliver



drama, leaving fans glued to the headlines as their clubs plot crucial reinforcements. Marcus Rashford’s uncertain future at Manchester United has become a hot topic this transfer window. The England star, sidelined by manager Ruben Amorim since December, recently returned for a surprise appearance against Newcastle United but remains on the fringes. With three years left on his £325,000-a-week contract, few clubs can afford Rashford outright. Borussia Dortmund and AC Milan are exploring loan options with a purchase

clause, while PSG also looms as a potential destination. A move could offer Rashford the chance to revive his form and escape Old Trafford’s recent turbulence.

Victor Osimhen - Manchester United/Chelsea

Victor Osimhen has emerged as a potential target for Manchester United in the upcoming January transfer window. The Nigerian forward, on loan at Galatasaray, has been in remarkable form, netting nine goals and assisting three in just 11 Super Lig appearances. While Napoli retain control over the 22-year-old’s future, they could recall him next month to facilitate a permanent transfer. Manchester United reportedly view Osimhen as a prime candidate to strengthen their attack and are optimistic about agreeing to personal terms. However, Napoli’s €75 million asking price could prove to be a stumbling block in sealing the deal. United’s interest underscores their determination to secure dynamic young talent as they aim to enhance their offensive options.

Sam Konstas reveals surprise chat with 'legend' Virat Kohli after MCG drama

New Delhi. Young Australian opener Sam Konstas has revealed his surprise post-match exchange with Indian batting great Virat Kohli following their fiery encounter during the high-octane Boxing Day Test. Despite the heated moments on the field, Konstas revealed a heartwarming post-match exchange with Kohli and reflected on the lessons from his fiery showdown with India’s ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah. The Boxing Day Test was a spectacle from the outset, with 19-year-old Konstas standing his ground against Bumrah, who was in scintillating form. Konstas stunned the crowd with audacious ramp shots, scoring 34 of his 60 runs off Bumrah and proving his mettle on cricket’s grand stage. The confrontation escalated when an on-field collision between Konstas and Kohli led to a heated verbal exchange, intensifying the already charged atmosphere. "I had a little chat after the game telling him that I idolise him, and it's obviously a huge honour playing against him," Konstas told News Corp. "He just had that presence about him...[and] he was very down to earth. A

lovely person, just wishing me all the best. I've idolised him from a young age and he's a legend of the game." Konstas described Kohli as "down to earth" and revealed that the Indian stalwart wished him well for the upcoming Sri Lanka tour. "He was very kind



and wished me all the best. He even said he hoped I did well if I got selected for the Sri Lanka series. My whole family loves Virat, and he has been my idol from a young age. He’s truly a legend of the game." After David Warner’s retirement, Australia

sought a reliable partner for Usman Khawaja at the top of the order, turning to young Sam Konstas for the final two matches of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Konstas rewarded their faith with a scintillating debut, scoring a stroke-filled 60 off just 65 balls. His audacious knock included stunning ramp shots that saw him dispatch Jasprit Bumrah for a six and a four, leaving the Indian pacer visibly surprised. Konstas’ aggressive approach not only rattled the Indian bowling attack but also sparked heated exchanges with Indian players, particularly Virat Kohli and Bumrah.

Konstas’s performance in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy showcased his potential, with 113 runs in four innings at a strike rate of over 81. His standout 60-run knock against Bumrah’s fiery spells highlighted his fearless approach. Konstas also made significant contributions during Australia’s ICC U19 World Cup 2024 triumph and the preceding Australia A series, underlining his rise as a promising talent in Australian cricket.

Mikel Arteta blames Carabao Cup ball for Arsenal's 0-2 loss to Newcastle United

Mikel Arteta believes Arsenal's inability to adjust to the Carabao Cup ball played a role in Tuesday's 2-0 semifinal, first-leg loss against Newcastle United.

New Delhi. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta made surprising remarks about the match ball following his team’s 2-0 defeat to Newcastle United in the Carabao Cup semi-final first leg. The competition uses a Puma ball, unlike the Nike ball used in the Premier League, and Arteta hinted that this difference may have impacted his players’ performance. Alexander Isak was pivotal for Newcastle, scoring his 50th goal for the club just before halftime and playing a key role in Anthony Gordon’s second-half goal. Despite



Arsenal’s dominance in chances—registering 23 shots with only three on target—they failed to capitalise, hitting the woodwork and squandering opportunities, including a glaring miss by

Kai Havertz. Arteta, addressing the missed chances, said, "We also kicked a lot of balls over the bar, and it's tricky that these balls fly a lot, so there are details we can do better." When pressed, he elaborated on the ball’s

differences: "It's very different to the Premier League ball. It flies differently, the grip is different as well, so you have to adapt to that." In every other aspect we were the better team but it's about scoring goals," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. "Credit to them, they defended their box very well. We had the chances but at this stage, a semi-final, you have to be clinical."

"Isak has been in sensational form recently, netting 10 goals in his last nine appearances for the club. Newcastle United manager Eddie Howe praised the Swedish striker's "electric" first-half display but revealed concerns over a hamstring issue that limited his second-half involvement. Howe expressed hope that Isak would recover in time for the second leg at St James' Park on February 5. "First half he was electric, I thought he played really well. He scored but I just thought his general game was in a really good place," Newcastle manager Eddie Howe said.





Urvashi Rautela

Gives A Peek Into Backstage Scenes For Daaku Maharaaj Song Dabidi Dibidi



The song Dabidi Dibidi from Nandamuri Balakrishna and Urvashi Rautela's upcoming action thriller Daaku Maharaaj has set the Internet on fire. The actress' electrifying moves coupled with sizzling looks have fans raving about her, making the song viral among enthusiasts. While the dance number continues to make waves among fans, a video from backstage, showcasing Urvashi practicing the hook step has surfaced online. Her undeniable energy and on-point expressions in the clip are proof of the hard work that she did to nail the choreography and we appreciate that. Shared by Urvashi Rautela on Instagram, the video gave fans a peek into her backstage time with her choreographers of the now viral song. In the clip, we can see her pulling off the difficult dance moves with confidence, grace and perfection worthy of applause. For the practice session, she wore a vibrant pink midi dress featuring full sleeves, a collared neckline, buttoned closure till the waist and a fit and flare silhouette. To ensure comfort, she wore a pair of sneakers but it was her red socks that caught all our attention.

Ever since the song Dabidi Dibidi was released, social media users have been questioning the dance moves, calling them 'cringe'. Before this, social media users also highlighted the age difference between the protagonists of the film Nanadamuri Balakrishna and Urvashi Rautela.

Addressing the same in an interview, Urvashi earlier told iDiva, "I'm paired opposite Balakrishna garu, and between us, the age gap is... He's in his 60s or 70s, and it's the biggest age gap in the history of Indian cinema.



Vaani Kapoor

Is All Set To Make 2025 Unforgettable

Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor has multiple projects in her pipeline this year. And it seems she has already begun working. Recently, the actress was spotted outside the Maddock Films production house, which left us wondering about her upcoming collaboration. Reportedly, she has four diverse films in her kitty— Navjot Gulati's Badtameez Gill, Ajay Devgn starrer Raid 2, a romantic comedy Abir Gulaal and Maddock Films' Sarvagunn Sampann. In a video making rounds on the Internet, Vaani Kapoor was spotted interacting with the paps outside the Maddock Films production house in Santacruz, Mumbai. She was seen waving at the paps and flaunting her radiant smile, which echoes the emotion of the actress that she is content with her work and life. She looked stylish in a black V-neck top layered with a matching-hued jacket and a pair of denim pants. The Shamshera fame accessorised her look with a pair of block heels, subtle makeup, and open hair. She also carried a mini leather arm candy to amp up her style game. Earlier, in an interview with ANI, Vaani Kapoor shared her excitement about her upcoming projects. She said, "I'm absolutely thrilled about the upcoming cinematic year in 2024, where I'm fortunate to be involved in four diverse projects." The actress further explained, "One of the highlights is Raid 2, a project alongside the legendary Ajay Devgn, promising to be a tremendous learning experience that will undoubtedly enrich my journey as an actor," adding, "Simultaneously, I've embarked on a monumental venture with a top-tier superstar, but unfortunately, the project's announcement is shrouded in secrecy, preventing me from divulging details."



Vaani then went on to talk about her collaboration with Sarvagunn Sampann and said, "Sarvagunn Sampann, a film where I take on the lead role, which is set to hit the screens, offering audiences a glimpse into one of my most challenging multifaceted roles." In Sarvagunn Sampanna, Vaani will be essaying the role of a porn star lookalike, as per ANI. The film is set in the 90s and blends comedy with a fresh perspective on contemporary issues. Not only this, the Khel Khel Mein actress also has an OTT project lined up in her pipeline. She is set to make a web series debut with Mandala Murders, bankrolled by Yash Raj Films. Talking about the same, in the same conversation, she expressed, "Furthermore, I'm stepping into the world of streaming with YRF's tentpole series of the year, Mandala Murders, helmed by the ingenious Gopi Puthran, known for his work on Mardaani 2 (also the writer of Mardaani)," adding, "The anticipation is high and I'm eager for audiences to witness the diversity and strength I like to bring as an actor. Here's to crossing my fingers for the success of these exciting releases."

Shriya Saran Is A Hands-On Mother To Radha, Video Inside



Shriya Saran is a devoted mother to her adorable daughter Radha, and their bond is simply heartwarming. The actress, often seen cherishing moments with her little one, was recently spotted walking through the streets of Mumbai with Radha. The way she guided her daughter towards a restaurant melted our hearts. In a video that surfaced online, Shriya playfully encouraged Radha to pose for the paparazzi. A little shy, the cute munchkin was reluctant to do so.

The video opens with Shriya Saran and her daughter Radha getting out of their car and making their way towards the restaurant in Bandra. Holding a toy, Radha looked cute in a dress paired with matching sandals. On the other hand, the proud mother donned a red fitted top and printed midi skirt. Her brown espadrilles, open tresses and sleek golden accessories added the finishing touch. Before this, Shriya Saran also shared a heartwarming video of her daughter on Instagram. In the video shared last week, little Radha is seen imitating the iconic dialogue Jhukega Nahi Saala from the blockbuster film Pushpa: The Rise. The film, starring Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna has been a rage with the recent release of its second installment, Pushpa 2, only adding to its fanbase.

Dressed in a cute navy blue outfit, the little bundle of joy perfectly mimics the hand gesture, made by Allu Arjun in the film. Her expressions and confidence as she performed the iconic dialogue are impressive, we must add. In the caption of the video, Shriya wrote, "Radha has got the Pushpa fever on", followed by mentioning that her daughter has not even watched the movie yet.

In terms of work, Shriya Saran last appeared in the Disney+ Hotstar series titled Showtime. Directed by Mihir Desai and Archit Kumar, the web series boasts a star-studded cast including Naseeruddin Shah, Emraan Hashmi, Mahima Makwana, Mouni Roy, Rajeev Khandelwal, Shriya Saran and Vishal Vashishtha. Produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Somen Mishra, and Mihir Desai under the Dharmatic Entertainment banner, the series was released on March 8.

Janhvi, Khushi Kapoor Drop Fun Video On Loveyapa Song, Boney Kapoor's Cameo Wins Hearts



Khushi Kapoor and Junaid Khan will be sharing the screen in their next rom-com Loveyapa. The first song has been released and it has been getting an overwhelming response from the audience. Well, to make it more special Janhvi Kapoor and Khushi dropped a fun video on the song. But what grabbed everyone's attention was Boney Kapoor's cameo. Arjun Kapoor, Varun Dhawan and others also reacted to it. Taking their Instagram handles, Janhvi and Khushi shared a video in which both are seen recreating the hook step of the song. And from the back we can see Boney Kapoor doing 'aaaa'. "Nikla tha love karne par papa aagaya #Loveyapa." Arjun Kapoor wrote, "best alaap ever!!!" Varun Dhawan dropped laughing emojis. Aaliyah Kashyap wrote, "too good." Fans called it cute video.

Speaking to ANI, Aamir Khan expressed his admiration for the film and its cast. He said, "I have watched the rough cut. I liked this film. It is very entertaining.

The way our lives have turned out these days due to cellphones, and the interesting things that happen in our life due to this have been shown here. All the actors have done a good job. When I watched the film and saw Khushi (Kapoor), I felt that I was watching Sridevi. Her energy was there, I could see. I am a huge fan of Sridevi. "Loveyapa is slated to release on February 7, 2025. Directed by Advait Chandan, who previously helmed Laal Singh Chaddha, the romantic comedy is produced by Phantom Studios and AGS Entertainment, with global distribution by Zee Studios. Touted as a heartwarming modern love story, the film promises lively music, stunning visuals, and unforgettable performances.

Reportedly, Loveyapa is a remake of the 2022 Tamil hit Love Today, which was directed by and starred Pradeep Ranganathan. The film explores how modern relationships are shaped by the omnipresence of technology, a theme that resonates with today's audiences. The first leg of the shoot wrapped in Mumbai, followed by a schedule in Delhi, where Junaid and Khushi filmed key sequences. With their chemistry already sparking excitement, Loveyapa is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated releases of the year.