



अमेरिका-इजरायल के हमले में ईरान के सुप्रीम लीडर खामेनेई की मौत

NEW DELHI @ PTI : रविवार की सुबह ईरान की सरकारी मीडिया एजेंसी तस्नीम और फार्स ने ईरान के सुप्रीम लीडर अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई की मौत की पुष्टि की। खामेनेई के मारे जाने पर ईरान में 40 दिनों का राजकीय शोक और सात दिन की छुट्टी घोषित कर दी गई है। उधर, इजरायल की वायु सेना ने दावा किया है कि उसने अमेरिका के साथ संयुक्त हमले में एक दिन में ईरान पर 1200 से ज्यादा बम गिराए हैं। इन हमलों में सुप्रीम लीडर अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई की मौत हो गई है। उनके ऑफिस कॉम्प्लेक्स पर रॉकेटों की 30 मिसाइलों से हमला हुआ था। हमले में उनके बेटे-दामाद, बहू और पोती समेत कॉम्प्लेक्स में मौजूद 40 कमांडर्स भी मारे गए हैं। हमले के समय खामेनेई कमांडर्स के साथ मीटिंग कर रहे थे। इधर, खामेनेई की मौत के बाद अयातुल्ला अलीराजा अराफी को गार्जियन काउंसिल के ज्यूरिस्ट पद पर चुना गया है। यह चुनाव अंतरिम लीडरशिप काउंसिल के लिए किया गया है। ईरान की संवैधानिक व्यवस्था के मुताबिक, ऐसे वक्त में जब सुप्रीम लीडर की मौत के बाद देश के शीर्ष नेतृत्व की कुर्सी खाली होती है, तब शासन चलाने के लिए अस्थायी नेतृत्व परिषद जिम्मेदार होती है।

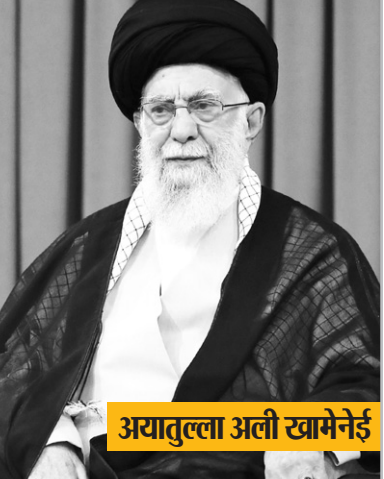
अटैक के समय कमांडर्स के साथ मीटिंग कर रहे थे खामेनेई, बेटे-दामाद, बहू और पोती समेत कॉम्प्लेक्स में मौजूद 40 कमांडर भी मारे गए
इजरायली वायु सेना ने किया दावा- 24 घंटे में गिराए 1200 से ज्यादा बम, ईरानी सेना ने कहा- सबसे खतरनाक अभियान की होगी शुरुआत

ईरान में 40 दिनों के राजकीय शोक और सात दिनों की छुट्टी घोषित

गार्जियन काउंसिल के ज्यूरिस्ट पद पर चुने गए अयातुल्ला अलीराजा अराफी

अहमद वहिदी को इस्लामिक रिवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड कॉर्प्स का बनाया गया नया कमांडर

ईरानी राष्ट्रपति बोले- हत्या का बदला लेना हक और जिम्मेदारी



अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई

पूर्व राष्ट्रपति अहमदीनेजाद के भी मारे जाने की खबर
इजरायल की हवाई हमले में ईरान के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति महमूद अहमदीनेजाद के मारे जाने की खबर सामने आई है। वे 2005 से 2013 तक ईरान के राष्ट्रपति रह चुके हैं। उधर, ईरानी सेना ने कहा कि वह सबसे खतरनाक अभियान की शुरुआत करने जा रही है। हमला शुरू होगा और अमेरिकी ठिकानों को निशाना बनाया जाएगा। इस बीच ईरान ने अहमद वहिदी को इस्लामिक रिवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड कॉर्प्स (आईआरजीसी) का नया कमांडर नियुक्त किया है। ईरान के राष्ट्रपति मसूद पजशकियान ने कहा है कि सुप्रीम लीडर अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई की अमेरिकी और इजरायल के हमले में हत्या मुसलमानों के खिलाफ जंग का एलान है।

पाक के अमेरिकी दूतावास में हंगामा, 12 की गई जान
मिडिल ईस्ट के देशों में इस जंग के कारण हालात बिगड़े हुए हैं। इधर, खामेनेई की मौत के बाद पाकिस्तान के कराची में हजारों शिया मुसलमानों ने सड़कों पर प्रदर्शन किया। इजरायल-अमेरिका के खिलाफ नारे लगाते हुए प्रदर्शनकारियों ने अमेरिकी दूतावास में घुसने की कोशिश की। इस दौरान सुरक्षाकर्मियों की फायरिंग में 12 से ज्यादा लोगों की मौत की खबर है। कई युवक घायल भी हैं। पाकिस्तान के ही स्कूट में प्रदर्शनकारियों ने यूनाइटेड नेशंस (यूएन) के ऑफिस में आग लगा दी।

देश की सड़कों पर उतरा शिया समुदाय, रांची में विरोध-प्रदर्शन, जमशेदपुर में निकला कैंडल मार्च
ईरान के सुप्रीम लीडर खामेनेई की मौत के बाद भारत के कई हिस्सों में शोक और विरोध का माहौल देखा जा रहा है। पूरे देश में शिया समुदाय सड़कों पर उतर आया है। श्रीनगर में लाल चौक पर प्रदर्शन कर खामेनेई की हत्या का विरोध किया। प्रदर्शनकारियों ने अमेरिका व इजरायल विरोधी नारे लगाए। वहीं, कारगिल और लद्दाख के अन्य शिया बहुल इलाकों में भी विरोध प्रदर्शन देखने को मिला। इधर, रांची में भी विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए हैं। यहां कर्बला चौक पर मुसलमानों ने प्रदर्शन किया और अमरपका व इसराइल के विरोध में नारेबाजी की। यहां



माह-ए-रमजान

इफ्तार

17:51

सेहरी

04:45

SARAFI

सोना	: 15,615
चांदी	: 320.00

(नोट : सोना 22 कैरेट प्रति ग्राम)

BRIEF NEWS

विस्फोटक निर्माण फैक्ट्री में ब्लास्ट, 17 की मौत

NAGPUR : रविवार की सुबह महाराष्ट्र के नागपुर जिले में विस्फोटक निर्माण फैक्ट्री एसबीएल एनजी लिमिटेड में हुए धमाके में अब तक 17 लोगों की मौत हो चुकी है और 18 अन्य गंभीर रूप से घायल बताए जा रहे हैं। सभी घायलों को तत्काल नागपुर जिला अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया है, जहां उनका इलाज जारी है। स्थानीय लोगों के मुताबिक, सुबह करीब 7:15 बजे फैक्ट्री की डेटोनेटर पैकिंग यूनिट में अचानक तेज धमाका हुआ। विस्फोट इतना शक्तिशाली था कि यूनिट में तुरंत भीषण आग लग गई और आसपास के क्षेत्रों में दहशत फैल गई।

हेमंत सरकार की बड़ी पहल : आवासीय के साथ गैर-आवासीय भवनों को भी अब किया जाएगा रेगुलर झारखंड में अवैध निर्माण होंगे नियमित तेलंगाना की तर्ज पर बनी नई नियमावली

एक्सक्लूसिव

कैबिनेट की मंजूरी के लिए भेजा गया प्रस्ताव, विभागीय मंत्री, विधि व वित्त विभाग की ओर से पहले ही मिल चुकी है सहमति

NIKHIL KUMAR @ RANCHI : हेमंत सरकार ने शहरी क्षेत्रों में बड़े पैमाने पर हुए अवैध और अनधिकृत निर्माण को कानूनी दायरे में लाने के लिए बड़ा कदम उठाया है। नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग ने अनधिकृत रूप से निर्मित भवनों के नियमितीकरण नियम- 2026 का प्रस्ताव कैबिनेट की मंजूरी के लिए भेज दिया है। इसमें खास बात यह कि अब राज्यभर में आवासीय भवनों के साथ-साथ गैर-आवासीय भवन भी नियमितीकरण के दायरे में आएंगे। प्रस्ताव पर स्वीकृति मिलते ही राज्यभर में अवैध भवनों के नियमितीकरण की नई प्रक्रिया शुरू होगी। बिना वैध भवन प्लान के अवैध निर्माण के साथ स्वीकृत भवन प्लान में अतिरिक्त विचलन किए हुए मकान का नियमितीकरण

- स्वीकृति मिलते ही राज्यभर में नियमितीकरण की नई प्रक्रिया की हो जाएगी शुरुआत
- लोगों की सुविधाओं को ध्यान में रखकर तीसरी बार लाया जा रहा छूट का प्रावधान
- सात साल पहले सिर्फ आवासीय भवनों के लिए नोटिफाई की गई थी विशेष योजना
- जटिल प्रक्रिया और अधिक शुल्क दरों के कारण आम लोगों ने कम दिखाई थी रुचि



अपेक्षित परिणाम नहीं दे सकी 2019 की योजना
बता दें कि वर्ष 2019 में केवल आवासीय भवनों के नियमितीकरण के लिए विशेष योजना अधिसूचित की गई थी, लेकिन जटिल प्रक्रिया और अधिक शुल्क दरों के कारण आम लोगों ने सीमित रुचि दिखाई। ऐसे में यह आवश्यकता महसूस की जा रही थी कि फिर तीसरी बार अनधिकृत निर्माण को सरचनात्मक स्थिरता, नियोजन मापदंड के दायरे में रखकर नियमितीकरण की कार्यवाही की जाए। राज्य सरकार के निर्देश पर अन्य राज्यों विशेष कर तेलंगाना में वर्ष 2015 में गठित नियमितीकरण नियमावली की तर्ज पर झारखंड रेगुलराइजेशन ऑफ अनऑथराइज्ड कंस्ट्रक्टेड बिल्डिंग रूल्स 2026 का प्रारूप तैयार किया गया है।

विभागीय मंत्री, विधि विभाग और वित्त विभाग की पहले ही सहमति मिल चुकी है। विभागीय प्रस्ताव के अनुसार, भवन निर्माण को नियंत्रित करने के उद्देश्य से पूर्व में झारखंड नगरपालिका अधिनियम- 2011 की धारा 434 के तहत वर्ष 2016 में भवन उपविधि अधिसूचित की गई थी। इसके बावजूद रांची सहित

नियमों की विशेषताएं
आवासीय के साथ गैर-आवासीय भवनों का भी नियमितीकरण।
शुल्क दरों को युक्तिसंगत एवं व्यावहारिक बनाना।
नियमितीकरण शुल्क की राशि किस्तों में जमा करने की सुविधा।
आवेदन अस्वीकृत होने की स्थिति में जमा राशि वापस करने का प्रावधान।
लाइसेंसधारी तकनीकी व्यक्ति (धलटीपी) के परामर्श से शुल्क की अधिकतम सीमा निर्धारित करना।

पूर्व में कम मामलों का निष्पादन
रांची नगर निगम में 208 आवेदन प्राप्त हुए, जिनमें से 190 निष्पादित और 18 अस्वीकृत हुए। रांची क्षेत्रीय विकास प्राधिकरण में 25 आवेदन प्राप्त हुए, जिनमें से 10 निष्पादित और 15 अस्वीकृत हुए। पूर्व नियमावली में अनुमत्य प्लोर एरिया अनुपात (एफएआर) तक 200 रुपये प्रति वर्गमीटर तथा उससे अधिक निर्मित क्षेत्र पर 500 रुपये प्रति वर्गमीटर शुल्क निर्धारित था, जिसे विभाग ने अधिक माना है। नियमावली के तहत आवेदन अधिसूचना की तिथि से 60 दिनों के भीतर केवल ऑनलाइन माध्यम से किए जाएंगे। आवेदन, शुल्क भुगतान, दस्तावेजों की जांच (स्कूटीन) एवं स्वीकृति की संपूर्ण प्रक्रिया बिल्डिंग प्लान अप्रुवल मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम (बीपीएमएस) पोर्टल के माध्यम से होगी। आवेदन के साथ बिल्डिंग का फोटो, स्वीकृति प्लान, स्वीकृत प्लान के साथ-साथ विचलन किया हुआ एरिया का दो सेट ड्राइंग कौपी देना होगा। कुल नियमितीकरण शुल्क का 50 प्रतिशत जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। किसी भी स्थिति में कुल राशि 10 हजार रुपये से कम नहीं होगी। जिन भवनों का निर्माण संबंधित नगर निकाय के गठन या पुनर्गठन से पूर्व हुआ है, उनके लिए एकमुश्त 5,000 रुपये नियमितीकरण शुल्क देना होगा।

जल निकासी और नगर नियोजन व्यवस्था पर दबाव बढ़ा है। शेष पेज 03 पर।

सौगात मद्रुरै में 4400 करोड़ के प्रोजेक्ट्स का पीएम मोदी ने किया उद्घाटन, कहा-

भारत के भविष्य में निर्णायक भूमिका निभाएगा तमिलनाडु

CHENNAI @ PTI : रविवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी तमिलनाडु के मद्रुरै पहुंचे। यहां उन्होंने 4400 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा के इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रोजेक्ट्स का उद्घाटन किया। साथ ही तमिलनाडु में आठ नए बने अमृत भारत रेलवे स्टेशनों, तीन नए आकाशवाणी एफएम रिले ट्रांसमीटर का भी उद्घाटन किया। इसके बाद मोदी ने सभा को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि तमिलनाडु भारत के भविष्य को आकार देने में निर्णायक भूमिका निभाएगा। हमारा सामूहिक लक्ष्य एक विकसित भारत के लिए एक विकसित तमिलनाडु है। इसके पहले मोदी ने पुडुचेरी में 2700 करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा के अलग-अलग डेवलपमेंट प्रोजेक्ट्स का

केंद्र सरकार समावेशी विकास व राज्य की प्रगति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध



तमिलनाडु की महिलाएं गंभीर संकट में, बढ़ रहा अपराध

हाल ही में मैंने सुना कि डीएमके के किसी व्यक्ति ने कहा कि उन्हें मेरे पिता या मुझसे डर नहीं लगता। मैं यह बात स्पष्ट रूप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि लोकतंत्र में कोई किसी से नहीं डरता। इसलिए, जब कोई कहता है कि उन्हें मुझसे डर नहीं लगता, तो वे मेरी आलोचना नहीं कर रहे हैं, बल्कि वे लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था के प्रति मेरी प्रतिबद्धता की सराहना कर रहे हैं। आज तमिलनाडु की महिलाएं गंभीर संकट में हैं। अपराध बढ़ रहा है। लगभग हर दूसरे दिन महिलाओं के खिलाफ किसी न किसी अपराध की खबर सुनने को मिलती है। इसके अलावा, महिलाएं अपने परिवारों को ड्रग माफिया और शराब के वंगल में बर्बाद होते देख रही हैं। उन्हें याद आता है कि अम्मा के समय उनका जीवन कितना बेहतर था।

भारतीय रेलवे में आया ऐतिहासिक बदलाव

प्रधानमंत्री ने बताया कि पिछले एक दशक में भारतीय रेलवे में ऐतिहासिक परिवर्तन आया है। यह एक आधुनिक, कुशल और जनकेंद्रित परिवहन प्रणाली के रूप में उभर रहा है। यह परिवर्तन विशेष रूप से तमिलनाडु में दिखाई देता है। हमारी सरकार के सत्ता में आने के बाद से तमिलनाडु के लिए रेलवे बजट आवंटन में लगभग नौ गुना वृद्धि हुई है। 2009 से 2014 तक, रेलवे के लिए औसत वार्षिक आवंटन 880 करोड़ रुपये था। 2026-27 में, यह आवंटन बढ़कर 7600 करोड़ रुपये हो गया है।

पूरी तरह से प्रतिबद्ध है। हम सब जानते हैं कि तमिलनाडु कई इंडस्ट्री का घर भी है, इसे बढ़ावा देने के लिए केंद्र की कई योजनाएं लागू की गई हैं।

उद्घाटन किया और आधारशिला रखी। प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार समावेशी विकास और राज्य की प्रगति को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए

PHOTON NEWS CHAIBASA : रविवार को पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले में नक्सलियों के खिलाफ बड़ा ऑपरेशन शुरू हुआ। सारंडा जंगल के मरंगपोंगा इलाके में पुलिस और नक्सलियों के बीच जोरदार मुठभेड़ जारी है। इस दौरान आईईडी विस्फोट हो जाने से सीआरपीएफ की कोबरा बटालियन-209 के सहायक कमांडेंट अजय मल्लिक घायल हो गए, जबकि नक्सलियों की फायरिंग से कोबरा बटालियन के ही हवलदार विक्रम यादव व जवान संजीव कुमार घायल हुए हैं। तीनों को एयरलिफ्ट कर रांची स्थित राज अस्पताल में भर्ती

दो जवानों को लगी गोली, एक आईईडी की चपेट में आया
सर्व ऑपरेशन के दौरान हुआ ब्लास्ट
जानकारी के मुताबिक, झारखंड पुलिस व सीआरपीएफ के जवान सुबह में सर्व ऑपरेशन चला रहे थे, तभी आईईडी ब्लास्ट हुआ। विस्फोट के बाद नक्सलियों ने फायरिंग शुरू कर दी, जिसके जवाब में सुरक्षाबलों ने भी मोर्चा संभालते हुए ताबड़तोड़ गोलीबारी की। दोनों ओर से लगातार हो रही गोलीबारी की आवाजें आसपास के ग्रामीण इलाकों तक सुनाई दे रही हैं। एक दिन पहले ही जिले के एसपी अमित रेनू ने मनेहरपुर में नक्सलियों को आत्मसमर्पण करने की चेतावनी दी थी।
कराया गया है। विक्रम यादव की पेट में गोली लगी है, जिससे उनकी स्थिति गंभीर बताई जा रही है। पश्चिमी सिंहभूम जिले के एसपी अमित रेनू ने घटना की पुष्टि की है, लेकिन विशेष जानकारी नहीं दी है। सूत्रों के अनुसार, सुरक्षाबलों ने एक बड़े नक्सली दस्ते को घेर लिया है। वहीं, मुठभेड़ में कई नक्सलियों के घायल होने की खबर है। हालांकि इसकी आधिकारिक पुष्टि नहीं हुई है।

नियोजितकरणी का सीमा तहः अधिकतर 100 मीटर रुचाई या भूतल लस दो मलिन (जी+2) तक दो भवन। अधिकतर 300 गमीटर तक दो भूखड पर निर्मित भवन। यदि अतिनशतन विभाग, पयारणर प्राधिकरण, एयरपोर्ट नो अथॉरिटी या अतन श्वास विभाग नो पूर्व स्वीकृति आषरक है, तो संघित नो ऑक्सीजन सर्टिफिकेट (एनओसी) अनिवार्य होत। जहाति और शहरी नियोजन पर फोकसः विभाग का कहना है कि बढती जनसंख्या, जमीन और मानक किराया नो तेज वृद्धि तथा कमजोर आय वृद्धि दो लोणी का आवारीष जरूरतों को ध्यान नो रखते हुए यह पहल की जा रही है। सरकार का उद्देश्य अनधिकृत एवं मलिन बसंतियों न रहने वाले परिवारों को राहत देना और शहरी नियोजन को सुव्यवस्थित बनाना है। कैबिनेट नो स्वीकृति मिलने दो बाद जल्द से जल्द नू नियम अतिनसूचित कर दिए जाणगे।

BRIEF NEWS

जीविका दीदियों की बनाई पोशाक बच्चों में की गई वितरित

BAGHA : ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री श्रवण कुमार ने पश्चिम चंपारण जिला के बगहा-01 प्रखंड के चरखनी पंचायत में आंगनबाड़ी केन्द्र का दौरा करने के उपरान्त,जहां उन्होंने मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार के जन्मदिन के शुभ अवसर पर जीविका दीदियों द्वारा निर्मित पोशाक आंगनबाड़ी बच्चों को अपने कर कमलों से वितरित किया। इस अवसर पर मंत्री ने कहा कि आज का दिन जीविका दीदियों के लिए गर्व का दिन है, जिन्होंने अपनी मेहनत और लगन से इन वस्त्रों को बनाया है। उन्होंने कहा कि मुख्यमंत्री महिला रोजगार योजना के तहत महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाने के लिए मुख्यमंत्री के नेतृत्व में राज्य प्रतिबद्ध है। इस योजना के माध्यम से महिलाएं न केवल अपनी आजीविका संवर्धन कर रही हैं, बल्कि अपने परिवार और समाज के विकास में भी योगदान दे रही हैं।

जंगली जानवरों का आतंक, 24 घंटे में कई लोग घायल

SUPAUL : जिले के बलुआ बाजार थाना क्षेत्र के भीमपुर पंचायत में जंगली जानवरों का आतंक थमने का नाम नहीं ले रहा है। बीते 24 घंटे के भीतर बच्चों समेत करीब 20 लोगों को काटकर घायल किए जाने की सूचना से इलाके में दहशत फैल गई है। कई मवेशियों पर भी हमले की बात सामने आई है। भीमपुर के केवला वार्ड संख्या तीन निवासी मुकेश पासवान के 12 वर्षीय पुत्र दिलखुश कुमार पंचायत के ही केवला से भोज खाकर घर लौट रहा था। इसी दौरान रानीपट्टी नहर के निमाण्णीय पुलिया के समीप पीछे से आए जंगली जानवर ने उसके चेहरे पर हमला कर दिया, जिससे वह गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गया। हमले के बाद वह नहर में गिर पड़ा। साथ में मौजूद अन्य बच्चों के शोर मचाने पर जानवर भाग निकला। स्थानीय लोगों ने घायल बालक को घर पहुंचाया, जिसके बाद परिजन उसे इलाज के लिए नरपतगंज पीचच्सी ले गए।

एसएसबी का 5 दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम संपन्न

SUPAUL : सशस्त्र सीमा बल की 45वीं वाहिनी, बीरपुर द्वारा मानव संसाधन विकास कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र के युवाओं के लिए आयोजित 5 दिवसीय निःशुल्क पूर्व-भर्ती प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम का रविवार को एल.एन. कॉलेज, बीरपुर में सफलतापूर्वक समापन किया गया।यह प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र के वाइब्रेट विलेज – नरपतपट्टी, साहेबान, पिपराही, ढाढा एवं सतना के विभिन्न विद्यालयों में संचालित किया गया। कार्यक्रम का मुख्य उद्देश्य सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र के युवक एवं युवतियों को सुरक्षा बलों में भर्ती हेतु आवश्यक मार्गदर्शन एवं प्रशिक्षण प्रदान कर उन्हें शारीरिक एवं मानसिक रूप से सशक्त बनाना था।प्रशिक्षण अवधि के दौरान प्रतिभागियों को शारीरिक दक्षता परीक्षण से संबंधित अभ्यास जैसे दौड़, लंबी कूद एवं ऊंची कूद का नियमित प्रशिक्षण दिया गया।

अररिया में 57 करोड़ का बिजली बिल बकाया

7000 से अधिक उपभोक्ताओं का कटा कनेक्शन, 202 पर एफआईआर

AGENCY ARARIA : बिहार सरकार के बिजली बिल पर रियायत के बावजूद जिले में बिजली बकायेदारों द्वारा बकाया का भुगतान नहीं किया जा रहा है जिसको लेकर बिजली विभाग ने अब सख्ता रुख अपनाना शुरू कर दिया है।लंबे समय से भुगतान नहीं करने वाले बड़े बकायेदारों के खिलाफ विभाग सर्टिफिकेट केस कर रहा है तो छोटे बकायेदारों के कनेक्शन काटे जा रहे हैं। 146 डिफॉल्टर उपभोक्ताओं पर सर्टिफिकेट केस किया गया है तो 27 उपभोक्ताओं को लीगल नोटिस जारी किया गया है।

जानकारी के अनुसार जिले में 20,950 ऐसे उपभोक्ता हैं जिन पर 20 हजार रुपए से अधिक बकाया है। बड़े डिफॉल्टरों पर विभाग का कुल 57 करोड़ 21 लाख रुपये बकाया है। अररिया अवर प्रमंडल में 14,799 उपभोक्ताओं पर 40 करोड़ 20 लाख रुपए और फारबिसगंज अवर प्रमंडल में



6,151 उपभोक्ताओं पर 17 करोड़ 01 लाख रुपए बकाया है। हालांकि जनवरी और फरवरी में करीब 3 करोड़ 79 लाख रुपए की वसूली की गई है, फिर भी बकाया राशि 57 करोड़ से अधिक बनी हुई है। अररिया प्रमंडल में 4655 कनेक्शन कटे।विशेष अभियान में फरवरी माह में ही जिले भर में 7,232 उपभोक्ताओं

के कनेक्शन काटे गए। अररिया प्रमंडल में 4,655 कनेक्शन काटे गए, जबकि 138 लोगों पर बिजली चोरी की एफआईआर दर्ज हुई। वहीं फारबिसगंज प्रमंडल में 2,577 कनेक्शन काटे गए और 74 लोगों पर एफआईआर दर्ज कराई गई। कार्यपालक अभियंता गौरव कुमार ने बताया कि दो हजार से अधिक

की बकाया रहने पर बिजली काटी जा रही है। इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य उपभोक्ताओं को निर्बाध और गुणवत्तापूर्ण बिजली उपलब्ध कराना है। बकायेदारों को पहले नोटिस दिया जाता है, उसके बाद कनेक्शन काटा जाता है। इसके बावजूद भुगतान नहीं करने पर लीगल नोटिस और फिर सर्टिफिकेट केस की कार्रवाई की जाती है। उन्होंने जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि कार्रवाई के बाद कुछ उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों के नाम पर नया कनेक्शन लेने के मामले सामने आए हैं। विभाग ने ऐसे मामलों की जांच शुरू कर दी है। संयुक्त परिवारों में विशेष रूप से यह देखा जा रहा है कि कहीं बकाया चुकाए बिना नया कनेक्शन तो नहीं लिया गया।

जानती है। उन्होंने जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि कार्रवाई के बाद कुछ उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों के नाम पर नया कनेक्शन लेने के मामले सामने आए हैं। विभाग ने ऐसे मामलों की जांच शुरू कर दी है। संयुक्त परिवारों में विशेष रूप से यह देखा जा रहा है कि कहीं बकाया चुकाए बिना नया कनेक्शन तो नहीं लिया गया।

सम्राट चौधरी ने मुख्यमंत्री को बताया विकास पुरुष, दी जन्मदिन की बधाई

AGENCY PATNA : बिहार के मुख्यमंत्री नीतीश कुमार के 75वें जन्मदिन पर उपमुख्यमंत्री सम्राट चौधरी ने उन्हें बधाई दी है। सम्राट चौधरी रविवार को मुख्यमंत्री के आवास पहुंचे और उन्हें हार्दिक बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं दीं। उपमुख्यमंत्री चौधरी ने मुख्यमंत्री को विकास पुरुष, सुशासन बाबू और जन-जन के प्रिय नेता बताया और कहा कि उनके नेतृत्व वाली एनडीए सरकार में राज्य ने विकास और सुशासन की नई ऊंचाइयां प्राप्त की है। सम्राट चौधरी ने कहा कि ईश्वर उन्हें उत्तम स्वास्थ्य, दीर्घायु और निरंतर जनसेवा की शक्ति प्रदान करें। मुख्यमंत्री ने वर्ष 2005 से पूर्व के भयावह जंगलराज से बिहार को बाहर निकाला। उनके नेतृत्व में एनडीए सरकार ने यहां कानून का राज स्थापित किया। दशकों से पिछड़



रहे प्रदेश को विकास की मुख्यधारा में लाते हुए सड़क, बिजली, पानी, स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय कार्य किए गए। उन्होंने कहा नीतीश कुमार की नेतृत्व वाली एनडीए सरकार ने महिलाओं के उत्थान के लिए भी ऐतिहासिक कार्य किए हैं। उन्होंने देश में सबसे पहले पंचायत चुनावों में महिलाओं को 50 प्रतिशत आरक्षण देकर आधी आबादी को पूरा सम्मान देने का काम किया। जीविका के माध्यम से महिलाओं को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की दिशा में भी निरंतर कार्य किया जा रहे हैं।

सूखे नशे के खिलाफ शुरु हुई सघन जांच

AGENCY EAST CHAMPARAN : जिले के रक्सौल में सूखा नशा के खिलाफ विशेष अभियान शुरू किया गया। रविवार को अनुमंडल क्षेत्र के विभिन्न बाजारों में औचक निरीक्षण करते हुए कई दुकानों में सघन तलाशी ली गई। अचानक हुई इस कार्रवाई से बाजार में हड़कंप की स्थिति बन गई। अभियान का नेतृत्व अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी मनीष कुमार और अनुमंडल पुलिस पदाधिकारी मनीष आनंद ने संयुक्त रूप से किया। उनके साथ पुलिस बल की टीम ने कौड़िहार चौक समेत शहर के प्रमुख बाजारों और संवेदनशील इलाकों में छापेमारी की। इस दौरान पान दुकानों, जनरल स्टोर्स और अन्य संदिग्ध प्रतिष्ठानों की बारीकी से जांच की गई। दुकानों में रखे सामानों का निरीक्षण कर संदिग्ध वस्तुओं को संबंध में दुकानदारों से पूछताछ की गई। प्रशासन ने स्पष्ट चेतावनी



दी कि यदि कहीं भी सूखा नशा या प्रतिबंधित सामग्री की बिक्री पाई गई तो संबंधित के खिलाफ कड़ी कानूनी कार्रवाई की जाएगी। अनुमंडल पदाधिकारी मनीष कुमार ने कहा कि युवाओं में बढ़ती नशे की प्रवृत्ति गंभीर चिंता का विषय है। लगातार मिल रही शिकायतों के आधार पर यह विशेष अभियान चलाया गया है। उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि यह कार्रवाई केवल एक दिन तक सीमित नहीं रहेगी, बल्कि नियमित रूप से ऐसे अभियान जारी रहेंगे। अनुमंडल पुलिस

पदाधिकारी मनीष आनंद ने कहा कि सूखा नशा युवाओं के स्वास्थ्य और भविष्य के लिए बड़ा खतरा है। इसे जड़ से खत्म करने के लिए पुलिस पूरी तरह सतर्क है। उन्होंने आम लोगों से अपील करते कहा कि कहीं भी नशे की बिक्री या सेवन की सूचना मिले तो तत्काल प्रशासन को जानकारी दें। छापेमारी अभियान में रक्सौल थानाध्यक्ष अभिषेक कुमार, हरैया थानाध्यक्ष किशन कुमार पासवान सहित बड़ी संख्या में पुलिस पदाधिकारी और जवान शामिल रहे।

दर्दनाक हादसा : एनएच-19 पर बस और ट्रक की टक्कर, मासूम सहित 3 की मौत

AGENCY KAIMUR : बिहार के कैमूर जिले के कुदरा थाना क्षेत्र अंतर्गत दिल्ली-कोलकाता नेशनल हाईवे एनएच-19 पर आज सुबह करीब 3 बजे एक दर्दनाक सड़क हादसा हुआ। जमशेदपुर से वाराणसी जा रही एक यात्री बस और मोहनिया से सासाराम की ओर जा रहे ट्रॉली ट्रक के बीच जोरदार टक्कर हो गई। इस हादसे में मासूम सहित तीन लोगों की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई, जबकि दर्जनों यात्री गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए। टक्कर इतनी तेज थी कि बस का अगला हिस्सा पूरी तरह क्षतिग्रस्त हो गया। हादसे के समय अधिकांश यात्री सो रहे थे। अचानक हुई जोरदार टक्कर से बस में चारों तरफ चीख-पुकार मच गई। एक घायल यात्री ने बताया कि वे नींद में थे



और झटके के साथ ही अफरा-तफरी मच गई। हादसे में मारे गए तीनों लोगों के शवों को पुलिस ने कब्जे में लेकर सदर अस्पताल भरे दिया है, जहां पोस्टमार्टम किया जाएगा। मृतकों में एक मासूम बच्चा शामिल है। प्रारंभिक जानकारी के अनुसार, सभी मृतक उत्तर प्रदेश के निवासी थे। पुलिस ने शवों की पहचान की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है और परिजनों को सूचना दी जा रही है। पुलिस की शुरुआती जांच में तेज

रफ्तार और ड्राइवर की झपकी को हादसे का मुख्य कारण माना जा रहा है। एनएच-19 पर रात के समय वाहनों की आवाजाही अधिक होती है और कई बार ड्राइवर थकान के कारण सतर्कता खो बैठते हैं। हालांकि, पुलिस ने मामले की विस्तृत जांच शुरू कर दी है और दोनों वाहनों के ड्राइवरों के बयान दर्ज किए जा रहे हैं। हादसे के सटीक कारणों का पता लगाने के लिए फॉरेंसिक टीम भी मौके पर पहुंची है।

एकीकृत कृषि से बढ़ेगी किसानों की आय : राधामोहन

AGENCY EAST CHAMPARAN : कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र पीपराकोठी स्थित सभागार में रविवार को समेकित कृषि प्रणाली मृदा स्वास्थ्य प्रबंधन विषय को लेकर एक दिवसीय प्रशिक्षण का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन पूर्व केन्द्रीय कृषि मंत्री राधामोहन सिंह, विधायक प्रमोद कुमार, विधायक कृष्णनंद पासवान, विधायक सचिन्द्र प्रसिंह, केविके प्रमुख डा अरविन्द कुमार सिंह ने संयुक्त रूप से दीप प्रज्ज्वलित कर किया। कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए पूर्व केन्द्रीय मंत्री एवं सांसद राधामोहन सिंह ने कहा कि पिछले वर्षों में किसानों को सीधे लाभ पहुंचाने के लिए सरकार ने डीबीटी प्रणाली लागू की है, जिससे प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि और फसल बीमा जैसी योजनाओं की राशि सीधे किसानों के बैंक खातों में पहुंच रही है।



उन्होंने कहा कि अब बिचौलियों की भूमिका कम हुई है और पारदर्शिता बढ़ी है। उन्होंने बताया कि देश के करोड़ों किसानों को प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि के तहत प्रतिवर्ष 6000 रुपये की सहायता दी जा रही है तथा प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना के माध्यम से किसानों को सुरक्षा प्रदान की जा रही है। इसके अलावा किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड और अन्य योजनाओं से किसानों की आर्थिक स्थिति मजबूत हुई है। राधामोहन सिंह ने कहा कि राष्ट्रवादी सोच से प्रेरित राजनीति

ही देश और समाज का भला कर सकती है। उन्होंने उदाहरण देते हुए कहा कि पहले गरीब किसानों, गांवों की सड़कों और आवास जैसी बुनियादी जरूरतों पर पर्याप्त ध्यान नहीं दिया गया, लेकिन आम योजनाओं के माध्यम से गांव-गांव तक विकास पहुंचा है। उन्होंने प्राकृतिक खेती और टिकाऊ कृषि पर जोर देते हुए परंपरागत कृषि विकास योजना के तहत जैविक और प्राकृतिक खेती अपनाने की अपील की। उन्होंने कहा कि मिट्टी की उर्वरता बनाए रखने के लिए समय-समय पर

मिट्टी की जांच आवश्यक है। साथ ही उन्होंने एकीकृत कृषि प्रणाली को किसानों की आय बढ़ाने का प्रभावी माध्यम बताते हुए पशुपालन, मत्स्य पालन, बागवानी और फसल उत्पादन को एक साथ अपनाने की सलाह दी। उन्होंने कहा कि विकसित भारत के निर्माण के लिए किसानों की समृद्धि और पारदर्शी व्यवस्था बेहद जरूरी है। अंत में उन्होंने किसानों से जागरूक होकर नई तकनीकों को अपनाने और दूसरों को भी प्रेरित करने की अपील की। मौके पर मुख्य रूप से विधायक प्रमोद कुमार, कृष्णनंद पासवान, श्यामबाबू प्रसाद यादव, सचिन्द्र प्रसाद सिंह, पूर्व विधायक सुनीलमणि तिवारी, उपमेयर डॉ. लालबाबू प्रसाद, राजेन्द्र गुप्ता, पवन राजू, जिला कृषि पदाधिकारी मनीष कुमार सिंह सहित अन्य मौजूद थे।

पहल पुस्तकालय प्रबंधन प्रणाली को आधुनिक स्वरूप प्रदान करने की दिशा में उताया गया कदम

एमजीसीयू के केंद्रीय पुस्तकालय में आरएफआईडी प्रणाली का लोकार्पण

AGENCY EAST CHAMPARAN : महात्मा गांधी केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय स्थित केंद्रीय पुस्तकालय में उपयोगकर्ता अनुभव को बेहतर बनाने तथा पुस्तकालय प्रबंधन प्रणाली को आधुनिक स्वरूप प्रदान करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण पहल की गई है। पुस्तकालय में अत्याधुनिक रेडियो फ्रीक्वेंसी आइडेंटिफिकेशन प्रणाली का विधिवत उद्घाटन विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति प्रो. संजय श्रीवास्तव द्वारा किया गया। यह पहल विश्वविद्यालय की शैक्षणिक अधोसंरचना को सुदृढ़ एवं तकनीक-संपन्न बनाने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर मानी जा रही है।



उद्घाटन के अवसर पर कुलपति प्रो. संजय श्रीवास्तव ने अपने संबोधन में कहा कि यह आरएफआईडी तकनीक का कार्यान्वयन केंद्रीय पुस्तकालय

को 'स्मार्ट लाइब्रेरी' में रूपांतरित करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह प्रणाली पुस्तकालय संचालन को अधिक सुव्यवस्थित, पारदर्शी

एवं प्रभावी बनाएगी, जिससे शिक्षक, विद्यार्थी एवं शोधार्थी प्रशासनिक प्रक्रियाओं में कम समय व्यतीत कर अध्ययन एवं शोध पर अधिक ध्यान केंद्रित

समारोह में इनकी रही मौजूदगी

उद्घाटन समारोह के दौरान केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय गुरजरात, वडोदरा के पूर्व कुलपति प्रो. रामाशंकर दुबे, एमजीसीयू के मुख्य प्रोक्टर प्रो. प्रसून दत्त सिंह, आईसीटीई, बीएचयू वाराणसी के प्रो. आशीष श्रीवास्तव, प्रो. शहाना मजूमदार, डॉ. कुंदन राजा, डॉ. मधु पटेल, डॉ. पथलीय ओंकार, शोधाधीन एवं केंद्रीय पुस्तकालय के अधिकारी एवं कर्मचारी उपस्थित रहे।

तथा विश्वविद्यालय निरंतर अपने शैक्षणिक संसाधनों के उन्नयन के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है। यह तकनीकी उन्नयन विश्वविद्यालय के केंद्रीय पुस्तकालय के आधुनिकीकरण की व्यापक एवं सतत प्रक्रिया का हिस्सा है, जिसे देश के अग्रणी उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में अपनाई जा रही आधुनिक पुस्तकालय प्रणालियों के अनुरूप विकसित किया जा रहा है। आरएफआईडी प्रणाली के माध्यम से पुस्तकों का स्वचालित निर्माण एवं वापसी, बेहतर सुरक्षा, त्वरित सूची प्रबंधन तथा उपयोगकर्ता सुविधा में उल्लेखनीय सुधार सुनिश्चित होगा।

जल्द एआई हब के रूप में विकसित होगा भागलपुर : रोहित पांडेय

AGENCY BHAGALPUR : होली के बाद मई-जून में उद्योगपतियों के साथ भागलपुर में एक बड़े इंडस्ट्रियल और एआई सम्मिट की संभावना जताई जा रही है। यह जानकारी भागलपुर के भाजपा विधायक रोहित पांडेय ने रविवार को दी। उन्होंने कहा कि दिल्ली में आयोजित एआई सम्मिट के बाद अब भागलपुर को भी एआई हब के रूप में विकसित करने की दिशा में गंभीर प्रयास किए जाएंगे। विधायक रोहित पांडेय ने बताया कि भागलपुर में पहले से ही शैक्षणिक और औद्योगिक दृष्टि से मजबूत आधार रखता है। यहां ट्रिपल आईटी, इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज और एप्लीकलर यूनिवर्सिटी जैसी संस्थाएं मौजूद हैं, जो तकनीकी और शोध के क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण



भूमिका निभा सकती हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि यदि सरकार और उद्योग जगत मिलकर काम करें तो भागलपुर को पूर्वी भारत का एक प्रमुख टेक्नोलॉजी और एआई केंद्र बनाया जा सकता है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि स्मार्ट सिटी के रूप में विकसित हो रहे भागलपुर में आधारभूत संरचना को लगातार मजबूत किया जा रहा है। बेहतर सड़क, बिजली, इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी और प्रशासनिक सहयोग के कारण उद्योगपतियों के लिए यह शहर एक बेहतर विकल्प बन सकता है।

Congress scores another own goal

DEMOCRACY is inconceivable without dissent and protests. These are not merely democracy’s byproducts; they undergird the working of the system and maintain equilibrium between unchecked bedlam and authoritarian order. The challenges manifest in the form of debates or a forced entry into the Well of the House, the use of more robust instruments against the government such as a no-confidence vote, and demonstrations — perfunctory or spirited — in the public space.Parliament and state Assemblies are crowded with these manifestations that often test the mettle of a government. The uproarious scenes that inevitably erupted each time the Women’s Reservation Bill was tabled are the stuff of parliamentary history and lore. The Bill was finally passed as the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in September 2023, but the prelude to its passage was often marked by violence.

In the December 1998 session of Parliament, when the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government made bold to bring in the Bill, Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Daroga Prasad Saroj tried to reach the Speaker’s podium in the Lok Sabha and grab the papers, but Mamata Banerjee, the Trinamool Congress chief, caught him by the scruff of the neck.

In March 2010, when the Rajya Sabha passed the Bill (the Lok Sabha did not vote on it), every imaginable stalling tactic was deployed by leaders of the pro-Mandal parties: shattering glass tumblers, squatting and napping in the Well, pummelling and kicking the guards and even punching one in the stomach until the protesters were outnumbered by security reinforcements.

March 25, 1989, would be etched in Tamil Nadu’s legislative history as the day when the roughnecks of the DMK government assaulted J Jayalalithaa, then the Opposition leader, and pulled the end of her sari. A tearful Jayalalithaa left the Assembly, vowing that if she returned it would be as the chief minister. Two years down the line, she unseated M Karunanidhi and claimed the throne.In the civic arena, perhaps the best remembered protest was staged by the “Mothers of Manorama” in Imphal in July 2004. These women assembled outside the Assam Rifles’ headquarters to dare the personnel to come out and assault them. They protested against the torture, rape and killing of a young woman, Thangjam Manorama Devi, an alleged insurgent.

The legitimacy — or lack of legitimacy — of these demonstrations can be interminably argued. However, the spectacle mounted by Indian Youth Congress (IYC) activists on February 20 at Delhi’s Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the government’s prestigious national and international events, signified a new low in the history of protests, although the last word has not yet been said on its justness by the political class.

The India AI Impact summit, which drew world leaders and corporate giants, was in progress. From the Modi government’s viewpoint, it was as high-powered as the 2023 G20 show, if not more, because the idea was to exhibit India’s leadership at the helm of cutting-edge technology and innovation.Politically, its importance lay in the government’s effort to deflect attention and discussions from a stormy start to the Budget session that was overshadowed by the tricky India-US interim trade agreement. Other factors were also at play. The Epstein files allegedly enmeshed a senior Cabinet minister. The summit began on a series of false notes, thanks to poor logistics and later a Chinese robotic dog that a private university close to the present regime tried to pass off as its own and was caught out. There was no way the PM could allow the event to be dragged to the rock bottom of history.

The “banian” protest came at the most opportune moment for the government. A handful of IYC men in vests waved white tees with uncomplimentary slogans about Modi printed on them and alleged that the trade deal was compromised. This was enough of a spur for his supporters to launch a pro-PM campaign and an anti-Congress tirade

Bookended by melas and fests

A mela suggests not a trade fair for bookish audiences and writerly stars, but rural harvest festivals. In India, the traditions of the deadly-serious book fair and the entertaining festival have merged.

William Dalrymple recently sputtered like a lit fuse on X at an “irritating and ignorant article” in The Guardian that had asked why India has over 100 literary festivals but low book sales and no culture of reading. Is it because entertainments like Bollywood are included in festivals? Why did Dalrymple feel irritated when the argument about poor sales and low readership has been around for decades?The article by Amrit Dhillon only added the contrast between the smallness of the publishing industry in India and the boom in literature festivals, led by the Jaipur Literature Festival that Dalrymple co-founded. She offered supporting quotes from authors, booksellers and publishers. All of them affirm that the book trade moves slowly, but Indians like a nice jamboree. This rather harmless allegation burst like an inflamed boil.Blame the name. The literature (or literary) festival is a British creature of post-war provenance-the oldest is at Cheltenham, an annual feature from 1949, and the best-known is at Hay-on-Wye, established in 1988, which exported the concept and the name overseas. In India, JLF adopted the format in 2006, grew exponentially and encouraged entrepreneurs with literary leanings-and organisations which understand that literariness works like angel dust-to get in on the game. Writing became performative.In the beginning, there were book fairs, not literary festivals. In medieval Europe, trade fairs at commercial centres like Leipzig attracted booksellers and printers, who then launched book fairs. The Frankfurt fair, the biggest business-to-business book expo, is purely a trade fair for the sale of international rights. It lets in retail buyers only as an afterthought. Interaction of readers with writers and publishers, a hallmark of literary festivals, is limited to the weekend.

In India, book fairs preceded literary festivals. The New Delhi World Book Fair opened in 1972 in conjunction with the Asia 72 trade show. Both were held at the Pragati Maidan exhibition complex, a classic design by architect Raj Rewal that the present government has demolished in a random act of vandalism to make room for Bharat Mandapam.India’s biggest book event is the International Kolkata Book Fair, started in 1976, which draws over 20 lakh visitors. It’s a very serious fair—rare titles like Revelations of Divine Love by the 13th century anchoress Julian of Norwich can be found there (I know, I bought a copy). The fair also features literary entertainments like readings and discussions by prominent writers and publishers, and Kolkata’s significant set circulate freely. So do phalanxes of pamphleteers selling crank treatises proposing a geocentric universe or divination by observing crows



(Kak Charitra). It’s a mixed bag, like a country mela, which is where it gets its Bengali name from-Boi Mela. A mela suggests not a trade fair for bookish audiences and writerly stars, but rural harvest festivals. There’s the Poush Mela in nearby Santiniketan, for instance, where highbrow and lowbrow mingle in a strangely uplifting cloud of food, music, poetry, handicrafts, activism and pot. In India, the traditions of the deadly-serious book fair and the entertaining festival have merged. People who don’t like this say it devalues books. The rest say that it brings more people into the fold of readers. These are opinions, not facts.

The older allegations which started this thread—books don’t sell in India and there’s hardly a culture of reading—must be inconclusive because, invariably, the discussion is about publishing in English, which is a fraction of the Indian publishing landscape. The whole vista is very varied, from risk-averse publishers who print textbooks to offset speculative losses in literary publishing, specialists like Amitav Ghosh’s publisher Ravi Dayal and Vikram Seth’s publisher P Lal, and idealists running small presses, usually into the ground.Besides, in Indian publishing, for every fact there’s an alternative. The industry formalised only recently and it is still normal for writers to submit a manuscript without a contract and to hand over rights

during a casual phone call, with no written record. Frames of reference also matter. In response to the article in The Guardian, which stated that Indian print runs are low and that 10,000 copies make a bestseller (a fact in English publishing), HarperCollins India CEO Anantha Padmanabhan pointed out that the Malayalam novel Ram C/O Anandhi by Akhil P Dharmarajan and Too Good to be True by Prajakta Koli sold 3 lakh and 2 lakh copies in a year (an alternative fact). The context: both are young social media phenomenons and Koli works in OTT cinema. Of course they’d have the numbers. Amish pioneered that strategy when he embraced digital media promotion.

Beyond English, on which the spotlight is fixed, Indian publishing is a vast landscape. If you consider sellers of used books—who often participate in trade fairs—you’ll find the numbers climbing fast. And if you look into the darker corners of this world where the pirates are silently at work, you’ll find hoards that go uncounted. That’s why, when no one’s looking, many writers ask the bootleggers at traffic lights how their novels are doing. The pirate estimate can be more revealing than formal sales figures. A market with such varied cultures of reading, and so many languages, styles and niches, can’t be treated as a single, orderly entity bound by universal rules.

Breather for AAP: Trial court verdict vindicates Kejriwal’s stand

Meanwhile, the ED has stated that its “standalone” money-laundering probe linked to the excise policy case is on a firm footing

FORMER Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and his ex-deputy Manish Sisodia can afford to claim the moral high ground — at least for the time being. The trial court has discharged the duo and 21 others in the Delhi excise policy case registered by the CBI, throwing a lifeline to the beleaguered Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). In a scathing judgment, the court observed that the probe agency’s case was incapable of surviving judicial scrutiny, describing it as speculative, inferential and devoid of legally admissible evidence. Left red-faced, the CBI has approached the Delhi High Court against the discharge order. Indeed, the battle is only half won for Kejriwal & Co.Allegations of corruption against the AAP top brass were the BJP’s central plank in the Delhi Assembly elections last year. The saffron party left no stone unturned to convince the national capital’s voters that Kejriwal’s anti-graft stand was just a sham. Promising clean



governance, the BJP regained power in Delhi after 26 long

years, while AAP finished a distant second. Subsequently, the young party has focused largely on Punjab, the only state where it is in power at present. The trial court’s order has presented AAP with an opportunity to reconnect with Delhi’s electorate and reaffirm its anti-corruption credentials. The judgment raises uncomfortable questions about investigative overreach. The court’s observation that the probe appeared to follow a “predetermined trajectory” indicates that due process was given short shrift. Meanwhile, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has stated that its “standalone” money-laundering probe linked to the excise policy case is on a firm footing. However, the legal sustainability of the prosecution by the ED might face fresh scrutiny if the discharge in the CBI case is upheld by the high court. Amid all the ifs and buts, the onus is on Kejriwal and Sisodia to give AAP a new lease of life.

Trade corridors can rebuild Punjab

➦Punjab has been severed from the overland trade corridors that historically powered its prosperity.

PUNJAB was once India’s economic pacesetter. The Green Revolution secured national food supplies and built one of the country’s most affluent rural economies. High farm incomes fuelled transport, small-scale manufacturing and commercial networks that rippled across north India, placing Punjab among the top states in per capita income.Today the state grapples with stagnation. Soil exhaustion, depleting water tables, subsidy distortions and double cropping dominate the diagnosis. These are genuine problems. But they do not fully explain why Punjab has fallen behind faster-growing coastal and southern states or why public debt has ballooned relative to output. The core issue is structural: Punjab has been severed from the overland trade corridors that historically powered its prosperity.For centuries, Punjab served as India’s northwestern gateway to Central Asia and Europe. Caravans carried textiles, grains and other products across the region, sustaining vibrant trading towns. The Partition and subsequent border closures erased that advantage. The long-term economic cost has been profound but under-discussed.India’s global trade footprint has shifted dramatically. The European Union is now its largest trading partner, with bilateral goods and services flows reaching roughly \$180 billion annually.The India-EU Free Trade Agreement, concluded in early 2026, promises to deepen ties further, with tariff cuts expected to double EU exports to India by the early 2030s and save European firms billions in duties. European buyers prize reliability, speed and cost efficiency in an era of global trade.North India ought to be ideally placed to capture more of this demand. Instead, exporters from Punjab and its neighbouring states face a built-in handicap. Goods must travel hundreds of additional kilometres to western seaports before

embarking on long maritime journeys. Perishables suffer the most: every added day in transit erodes quality and margins. Over time, this skews investment decisions towards coastal clusters with shorter, more predictable logistics.The impact is stark in agro-processing. Punjab ranks among India’s top producers of wheat, rice and dairy, backed by skilled farmers and an established base. However, it has failed to build a world-class export-oriented processing sector.When raw or semi-processed output must endure lengthy domestic hauls before shipment, the economics of large-scale value addition near farms weaken. Processing hubs have proliferated, instead, in southern and western ports. A state with the raw material scale to lead India’s branded food exports remains locked into low-value commodity production.Manufacturing tells a similar story. Clusters in Ludhiana (machinery and textiles), Jalandhar (sports goods) and Mohali (electronics) compete in global markets that reward precision and timelines. Overland routes to western markets, where feasible, routinely cut transit times compared with sea freight. Without them, northern producers absorb higher costs and greater uncertainty, while greenfield export investment flows elsewhere.

The result is a vicious cycle: poor connectivity deters industry; weak industry deepens agricultural dependence; skilled youth migrate abroad in search of opportunity; fiscal strains mount. Connectivity is not a side issue for Punjab — it is the linchpin of revival. Security imperatives along the western border remain non-negotiable. Modern trade corridors can incorporate safeguards: digital customs, non-intrusive scanning,

satellite tracking and restricted goods lists. Transit regimes for third-country trade function in other tense regions without compromising security.

Across successive governments, there has been periodic recognition that connectivity underpins national strength. Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s outreach initiatives reflected an understanding that economic logic cannot indefinitely be subordinated to political tension. Manmohan Singh articulated a strategic sequence in which



reconnecting the subcontinent would precede wider regional integration. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised rebuilding regional linkages as a component of India’s growth strategy. Across administrations, the underlying principle has remained consistent: economic integration strengthens strategic resilience.

The cost of inaction is mounting. Northern manufacturing stays tethered to distant ports. Food-processing

investment clusters elsewhere. Punjab’s economy leans ever more heavily on volatile agriculture. Outward migration continues.A practical path forward lies in an Amritsar-Rajpura economic corridor. Amritsar, India’s closest major land gateway towards Europe, anchors one end; Rajpura, a logistics node at major highway and rail intersections, the other. This spine could host agro-processing zones, turning Punjab’s produce into globally competitive brands; industrial parks feeding machinery and consumer goods toward continental markets and integrated hubs with dry ports, cold chains and warehousing to slash turnaround times.

Geopolitically, it would position Punjab as India’s northwestern bridge to Central Asia and Europe, plugging northern industry into international supply chains. Think Singapore for maritime Asia or Rotterdam for Europe: a commercial gateway that lowers costs, widens access and generates cross-sector jobs.

Reopening regulated land routes is not wishful thinking; it is strategic pragmatism. As India’s ambitions extend deeper into Europe and Central Asia, leaving its most direct western gateway dormant is an anomaly.

Punjab asks not for special favours but for policy alignment: match national trade goals with regional potential. Restore calibrated overland links, and a historically dynamic region can once again become a bridge linking northern India to continental markets and securing its own future in the process.

Maruti Suzuki India total sales up 7.32% at 213,995 units in February

New Delhi.(Agency)

Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India on Sunday reported a 7.32 per cent rise in total sales to 213,995 units in February 026 compared to 1,99,400 units a year earlier.Total domestic passenger vehicle sales were marginally up at 161,000 units last month against 160,791 units in February 2025, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing.Sales of the mini car vertical, comprising Alto and S-Presso, increased slightly to 10,238 units from 10,226 units in the year-ago month.However, the compact car segment, including Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift, and WagonR, witnessed a decline in sales to 66,386 units last month against 72,942 units in February 2025.

On the other hand, sales of utility Vehicles, consisting of Brezza, Ertiga, e-Vitara, Fronx, Grand Vitara, Invicto, Jimny, Victoris and XL6, increased to 72,756 units compared to 65,033 units a year ago.The company has been calibrating production to reduce the waiting period uniformly across models.

Sales of light commercial vehicle (LCV) Super Carry stood at 3,130 units against 2,710 units in the year-ago period, Maruti Suzuki India said.

Total exports in February 2026 were higher at 39,155 units compared to 25,021 units in the same month last year, it added.

Hyundai Motor India reports 12.6% rise in Feb sales, exports jump 25%

New Delhi.(Agency)

Hyundai Motor India Ltd on Sunday reported a 12.6 per cent year-on-year increase in total sales to 66,134 units in February 2026.Domestic sales grew 9.8 per cent to 52,407 units in February, and exports surged 24.8 per cent to 13,727 units, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) said in a regulatory filing. This is HMIL's highest-ever tally for total and domestic sales for February since its inception, the company added.HMIL MD and CEO Tarun Garg said, "We kicked off 2026 on a high note, achieving our highest-ever monthly sales in January, and the momentum continues in February".As the company approaches completing 30 years in India, he said, "Our ambition is very clear, to make cutting-edge connected technology accessible to all while elevating every ownership experience and carrying the spirit of Hyundai from India to the world".

VOC Port to invest 15,000 crore in Outer Harbour transshipment hub project

New Delhi.(Agency)

VO Chidambaranar Port will invest Rs 15,000 crore in its ambitious Outer Harbour project, which aims to increase overall cargo handling capacity and position Tamil Nadu as a major transshipment hub of southern India, a top executive has said.

The investment is in addition to the Rs 1,500 crore capex, which has been set aside to upgrade port infrastructure, along with clean projects and deployment of new-age technologies, VOC Port Authority Chairperson Susanta Kumar Purohit told PTI in an interview.VO Chidambaranar Port (VOC Port) is one of the major ports in India, located at Tuticorin in the southern part of Tamil Nadu, with an annual cargo handling capacity of 82 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). It is also one of the oldest operational ports, with trade links dating back to 123 AD. Sharing future growth plans, Purohit said, "Outer Harbour is our ambitious project, aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the maritime sector. Our ministry aims to make VOC Port a major transshipment hub of southern India".

To tap the growing opportunities, VOC Port Authority



is investing close to Rs 15,000 crore in the Outer Harbour project, which will add another 4 million tonne per annum (MTPA) cargo handling capacity in two phases by 2027 and 2030, he said. The port aims to compete with international hubs located in other countries, such as Sri Lanka, Singapore and Indonesia.

As part of the expansion, two berths will be developed with a draft depth of 18 meters, which will be sufficient to handle even the largest container ship.The berths will be able to handle vessels up to 2.5 lakh deadweight tonnage (DWT). In shipping, DWT is a measure of the total weight of a vessel.

On the status of the project, Purohit said a detailed project report prepared for the Outer Harbour project has been submitted to the government for approval.

VOC Port has already signed a tripartite agreement with Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited to secure the necessary funding, the official said in reply to a question related to finance sourcing.

The rapid growth in container cargo traffic at VOC Port and good hinterland connectivity have created an urgent need to increase handling capacity and accommodate larger vessels. Hence, the Outer Harbour project is proposed with upgraded vessel handling capacity for present and future trend vessels, he added.

Production rise in non-Gulf areas unlikely to offset oil disruption from Iran war

Traders warned that prices could jump sharply when markets reopen on Monday if the violence continues.

New Delhi..(Agency)

Missiles fired between Iran and Israel-US joint forces across the Gulf pose one of the most serious disruptions to oil flows in decades and may not be offset by production increases outside the Gulf, analysts said on Sunday. Traders warned that prices could jump sharply when markets reopen on Monday if the violence continues. Though no confirmed disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the risk of tankers being stranded or targeted has prompted major oil traders to suspend shipments through the strait.The narrow



waterway between Iran and Oman handles nearly 20 million barrels a day of crude and refined products. Tanker freight rates have already risen, with benchmark rates for very large crude carriers from

the Middle East to China having tripled in 2026 YTD, indicating that vessels are shrinking away from taking risks. The Middle East supplies about 20 per cent of the world's oil, and the scale of

disruption will depend on if energy infrastructure will be directly targeted and how quickly normal service on shipping routes resumes, they said.

So far, war conflict between Iran and Israel-US joint forces have not led to any confirmed hits to major oil and gas infrastructure, though explosions were reported in the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait and blasts were heard near Iran's Kharg Island, the terminal that handles most of Tehran's crude exports, according to multiple reports.Analysts noted that even short-term conflicts have outsized effects on prices and supply, citing past incidents in the Gulf during the 1980s Iran-Iraq war.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced a new wave of attacks targeting US and Israeli military installations across the Middle East, to avenge the recent US-Israeli strikes on Iran that reportedly killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

HSBC keeps Brent crude forecast at USD 65/barrel despite Iran strikes

In a report titled "Strikes on Iran," HSBC noted that President Trump described a "massive ongoing operation" after strikes were launched.

New Delhi.(Agency)

HSBC Global Investment Research has kept its Brent price forecast unchanged at USD 65 per barrel for 2026, even as it warned of rising risks following air strikes on Iran. In a report titled "Strikes on Iran," HSBC noted that President Trump described a "massive ongoing operation" after strikes were launched. "Given uncertainty, we pull together views related to the economic and market risks of such escalation." HSBC added, "Oil market risk is asymmetrical, with Hormuz transit the main concern; USD likely to have an

upper hand in the near-term." It also cautioned, "We can have no conviction on how the situation in Iran may evolve following air strikes launched on Saturday, with the impact contingent on the duration of any conflict and how it extends to the



broader region."In crude markets, the bank wrote oil market risk is asymmetrical regarding possible Iran scenarios, with Hormuz transit the main concern. While spare capacity in the Mideast Gulf is significant, it warned that it would not be accessible if Hormuz is closed. Assessing the larger regional impact,

HSBC said, "Wealth and policy experience safeguard economic order but any fresh conflict would test sentiment, activity and capital flows in the Gulf and challenge Egypt's recent external account gains."

In foreign exchange markets, the bank stated the USD is likely to have an upper hand in the near-term. It added, "Geopolitical events can give confusing signals for currencies, not just for the USD."

On Saturday, the United States and Israel carried out joint missile attacks on Iran, with large explosions reported in Tehran and other major cities, signalling a sharp escalation that risks expanding tensions into a broader regional conflict in West

Asia.

Meanwhile, Iran has retaliated, targeting Israel and US assets in multiple Gulf states. Multiple explosions have been heard in Iran's capital, Tehran, while blasts have also been reported in several other locations across the country.

The macroeconomic implications of India's new trade gamble

New Delhi.(Agency)

India is undertaking one of the most ambitious trade pivots since 1991. The pivot doesn't involve mere tariff reductions or is part of diplomatic symbolism. It also concerns whether India establishes its manufacturing prowess embedded in global supply chains, or remains as a large consumption market economy that is dependent on imports. With Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal confirming the operationalisation of recent Free Trade Agreements with the UK and Oman by April 2026 followed by New Zealand in September, New Delhi is decisively redefining its trade posture, which merits a closer scrutiny. India is gradually integrating into global supply chains not by lowering its multilateral World Trade Organization tariffs, which average roughly around 15.8%, but

through targeted bilateral agreements. As former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian argued in The Economist, this marks a clear dismantling of recent protectionist tendencies. If these agreements endure, India could emerge as one of the world's most open large economies.

India commands around 2-3.5% of low-skilled global exports compared to China's 53%, while merchandise exports remain at 12-13% of GDP. The new treaties aim to close that gap. However, trade pacts expose competitiveness. Share of manufacturing in India's economy has remained between 15% and 17% for over a decade, far below the government's 25% aspiration. The question is whether domestic industry is capable of rising. The utilization paradox India has attempted this

integration before by signing agreements with ASEAN, Japan, and South Korea to plug Indian firms into the Asian growth engine. The results were sobering. Since the ASEAN pact took effect in 2010, India's trade deficit with the bloc widened from \$7.5 billion to nearly \$44 billion by FY23, with imports growing to roughly double the value of exports. Trade expanded, but the benefits flowed unevenly. The reason was the Inverted Duty Structure. India reduced tariffs on finished goods, while keeping import duties on intermediate inputs elevated.

It became cheaper to import fully assembled products than to import components and manufacture domestically. Instead of strengthening local production, the policy framework incentivised dependence on foreign assembly lines.



trend, India's forex reserves have shown steady growth in recent years. They have increased by about USD 56 billion so far in 2025, following a rise of over USD 20 billion in 2024 and a USD 58 billion addition in 2023, after a decline of USD 71 billion in 2022. The RBI actively manages reserves by buying dollars when the rupee strengthens and selling them to prevent excessive depreciation.

AI changes how India's IT employees work, not yet the jobs

Across large IT firms, AI adoption is no longer optional. Inside the company, there is strong encouragement to use AI in every project

New Delhi.(Agency)

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping how employees work inside India's IT services companies, forcing engineers to adopt new tools, retrain in AI skills and adjust to rising productivity expectations, even as company leaders say the shift is creating more transformation than immediate job losses. "AI has clearly changed how we work. Earlier, we would spend days writing and testing basic code. Now, tools can generate a first version in hours. It saves time, but it also means clients expect faster delivery and sometimes lower costs," said Ram Prasad, a mid-level software engineer at a Bengaluru-based IT firm. He said the

change is altering the nature of work rather than eliminating it outright. "So we have to add value in other ways, like understanding the business problem better or improving system design. I don't think jobs will disappear overnight, but the nature of our roles is definitely changing." Across large IT firms, AI adoption is no longer optional. "Inside the company, there is strong encouragement to use AI in every project. Training programmes and certifications are becoming common," said a project lead at a top Indian IT firm, who did not want to be named. "At the same time, people are quietly worried about what this means in the long term. If AI can handle routine tasks like testing or monitoring, fewer junior roles may be required. For now, it feels more like a shift in skills rather than job losses, but everyone knows we have to keep adapting to stay relevant," she added. Shilpi Chopra, a Noida-based IT professional, said both companies and clients are now encouraging the use of large language models (LLMs) in projects. According to her, LLMs help generate baseline code — with nearly 50% of the work being handled by these

tools — after which engineers build and refine the rest. Earlier, Chopra said, clients and companies often restricted the use of LLMs such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Alibaba Cloud's Qwen, Anthropic's Claude, and Meta's Llama. Now, however, their use is actively encouraged.

Chopra, who worked at Tata Consultancy Services until last year, said companies have made it mandatory for employees to complete AI courses and obtain certifications. Even fresh recruits are now trained in AI.

However, she dismissed concerns that AI poses a large-scale threat to IT jobs. At the organisational level, executives say artificial intelligence is changing how services are delivered, particularly in cloud operations. TCS wants employees to proactively use artificial intelligence (AI) even if it means "cannibalising revenue streams", CEO K Krithivasan said at the Nasscom Technology and Leadership Forum in Mumbai. "We are telling associates that if you find that you can do something faster, better, cheaper with AI, you should probably go and tell your customers, even if it cannibalises revenue," Krithivasan said. Enterprises are moving towards what is described as a

'human by exception' model, where AI systems handle routine monitoring and fixes, while people intervene only when decisions carry significant risk, Anant Adiva, EVP and Service Offering Head at Infosys, told TNIE. "The level of criticality and potential impact of a decision determines whether human judgment must remain involved," Adiva said. "When a decision affects business-critical systems, security posture or data integrity, or has a large or irreversible impact, humans must stay in the loop." AI agents are designed to analyse large volumes of operational data and act on it automatically.

"They make operational decisions and execute in high-volume situations like proactive monitoring (lead indicator identification), fleet management, backup assurance, incident triaging, recovery handling, and change analysis," Adiva said, adding that this boosts system availability, provides operators with vital insights, and reduces fatigue, all without elevating enterprise risk. While employees adapt to new tools, company leaders acknowledge that AI-driven productivity is putting pressure on traditional billing models.

AAP ministers meet family of cop killed in Gurdaspur in Punjab, extend support

New Delhi.(Agency)
Punjab Cabinet Ministers Lal Chand Kataruchak (Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs of Punjab) and Laljit Singh Bhullar (Minister of Transport) on Saturday met the family members of the deceased Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of the Punjab Police, Gurnam Singh, to extend their condolences. Singh, along with home guard Ashok Kumar, was found dead on February 22 with gunshot wounds. Their bodies were recovered from a checkpoint in Punjab's Adhian Village, two-kilometres away from Pakistan's border. Three local youths, Ranjit Singh (19), Inderjit Singh (21), and Dilwar Singh (19), were identified by the police later, for allegedly being involved in the murder. As per the preliminary information, the murders were carried out at the behest of the ISI handlers. The police further revealed that the three accused acted for a promised payment of Rs 20,000 from Pakistan-based handlers. While meeting the family members, both ministers conveyed that the Punjab government stands firmly with them in this hour of grief and will extend every possible support. He also said that the Punjab Chief Minister will meet the victims' families soon.



"The killing of our brave police personnel, Gurnam Singh and Ashok Kumar, while they were on duty at the Adhian checkpoint, was a cowardly act. This was not merely an attack on the police force, but an attack on the soil of Punjab and on the peace of its

people," Kataruchak said. "The sacrifice of our martyrs will not be allowed to go in vain, and the guilty will be given the strictest punishment under the law," he further added. Appreciating the role of the Punjab Police, Bhullar, on the other hand, said that the police traced and arrested all the accused in the case, which sends a clear message that anyone on the wrong side of the law will face the strictest action. Slamming the ISI for allegedly trying to destabilise India by using Punjab, the Minister further urged the youth not to fall prey to the ill intentions of the ISI. He reminded the youth that they belong to the land of the pious gurus and the brave martyrs. The minister also took a jibe at the opposition parties, including the Congress, the BJP, and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), as they questioned the death of one of the accused, Ranjit Singh, in a police encounter. Criticising the parties, Kataruchak said, "These parties are indulging in politics out of fear that the government is succeeding. Punjab, being a border state, faces repeated attempts to disturb its peace. These parties are, in some way, complicit in such efforts and are working to demoralise the police."

Delhi Police arrests Rajasthan man for killing wife, three daughters

New Delhi.(Agency)
Delhi Police has arrested a man from Rajasthan who was accused of murdering his wife and three daughters in Samaypur Badli area. The woman and her three minor daughters were killed allegedly with a sharp-edged weapon on Wednesday. According to the police, the accused fled the capital after the incident to evade arrest. Police teams were on alert to nab him. After committing the crime, the accused had switched off his phone, which caused difficulty in tracing his location. He reportedly changed routes multiple times. The technical and manual intelligence informed police that the accused was present in Rajasthan. Police apprehended him there and brought him to Delhi. The accused is currently in custody and is being interrogated. Investigators are trying to ascertain the motive behind the murder. Police are yet to recover the knife, the alleged murder weapon. The police will also examine his mobile phone call details to determine whom he was in contact with before the incident. Attempts are being made to determine the exact time of the murders and how long the accused remained in the room after committing the crime. One of the key questions is how he managed to kill all four victims without alerting other family members sleeping in an adjacent room. Police may take the accused to the house where the crime was committed. A reconstruction of the scenario may also be carried out to understand how the murders were executed. The deceased woman, Anita used to live with her husband and three daughters—five years, four years, and three years.

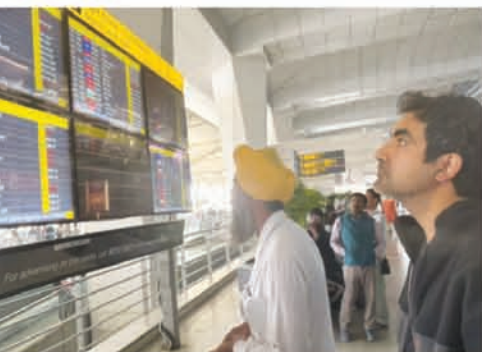
Over 60,000 govt school teachers in Delhi spend Rs 15,000 from own pockets on digital project

New Delhi.(Agency)
For nearly seven years, Delhi's government school teachers have been paying out of their own pockets for a digital reform project that was meant to be funded by the state. More than 60,000 teachers, including regular and guest staff, were directed by the education department to purchase tablets worth around '15,000 each to record attendance and carry out official work. The promised reimbursement and monthly internet allowance, however, remain largely unpaid. The tablets were introduced during the tenure of the Aam Aadmi Party government as part of its much-publicised "education model" and digital governance drive. Teachers complied with the directive, using their salaries to buy devices for official duties. Yet, despite repeated assurances, the government have failed to clear their dues. "This is not the first time," said the teachers. In 2018, the Directorate of Education issued a circular instructing schools to procure tablets for teachers. The circular also stated that '200 per month would be paid to each tablet holder towards internet charges, with the amount subject to revision and budget allocation. In practice, teachers say the allowance was paid only once or twice and then stopped altogether. The issue was raised three months ago as well with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who reportedly directed the education minister to ensure payment. The minister assured that the matter would be resolved. No action has followed. According to Ajay Veer Yadav, general secretary of the Government School Teachers Association, Delhi, who has yet again written to the Chief Minister stating that the delay in the reimbursement has pushed teachers into financial distress. "They are spending from their own pockets to run official systems. This is unjust. If the government wants digital classrooms and digital records, it must bear the cost," he said. The association has now demanded immediate reimbursement of the amount which was Rs 15,000 per teacher for tablet purchases and clearance of the pending data allowance within the current financial year. The teachers argue that as digital systems expand across schools, the financial burden of reforms should not be shifted onto employees.

"No Clue What To Do": Fliers Stuck At Indian Airports Due To Middle East Crisis

New Delhi.(Agency)
Thousands of fliers were stuck at airports across India after airlines cancelled international flights on Sunday due to airspace restrictions in the Middle East. The flight ops were disrupted after the US and Israel attacked Iran on Saturday, forcing countries around the region to close their airspace and key airports that connect Europe, Africa, and the West to Asia. India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), said that as many as 444 flights of domestic carriers were expected to be cancelled on Sunday. "I have no clue what to do," Somnath, a resident of Rajasthan who travelled to Delhi for a flight to Lebanon, told. Sandeep, who works in London and came to India to attend a function, said he was in "big trouble" since he was already on extended leave. He said he has to attend at his office from Monday but now has "no clue". Two passengers who were going to the UAE's Dubai, which has been under attack by Iran, for a vacation have also been stranded at Delhi airport.

Chandigarh, Mumbai, and other cities. Air India, IndiGo, Air India Express, Akasa Air, and SpiceJet were among the domestic carriers that have suspended their operations to the Middle East. More than 400 flights were also cancelled on Saturday, according to the DGCA. The DGCA also advised airlines to avoid airspaces of 11 countries, including Iran, Israel, Lebanon, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, and Qatar, till March 2. Israel-US-Iran Tensions The Middle East was plunged into chaos after the US and Israel carried out joint strikes on Iran early Saturday, killing Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. US President Donald Trump and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said the strikes aimed to end a decades-long threat from Iran and ensure it could not develop a nuclear weapon.



They said their hotel bookings and everything were done. "The return flight was also booked, but now it is a major loss for us," they said. A couple from London who were in Delhi to attend a wedding were also stuck. Passengers were also stuck at Chennai,

Racket selling expired Nestlé Sugar Free, Glucon-D, Vicks VapoRub busted in Delhi; one held

New Delhi.(Agency)
A 40-year-old man was arrested in connection with a racket involved in tampering with and selling expired food and cosmetic products as fresh stock in the open market, Delhi Police's Crime Branch said on Saturday. Police said that acting on credible intelligence regarding the illegal storage and reprocessing of expired consumer goods, a raid was conducted at a godown located at Gali No 9B, Pushta Road, Jagatpur, Delhi. A huge quantity of expired daily-use items like Nestlé Sugar Free, Glucon-D, Dabur Gulabari Body Lotion, Dabur Gulabari Rose Water, Clean & Clear Face Wash, Vicks VapoRub,



Dabur Lal Tail, Odomos, Dabur Chyawanprash, and Savlon Antiseptic were seized during the raid, police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police Vikral Singh said the accused has been identified as Omprakash Sharma (40), a resident of Rail Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. He was allegedly operating an illegal setup where

expired products were being systematically altered and prepared for resale, police said. According to the police, the accused was storing large quantities of expired food and cosmetic products as well as removing or chemically erasing original expiry dates and batch numbers. "He allegedly reprinted fresh manufacturing and expiry dates, repacked and relabeled the products to make them appear genuine, and supplied them to unsuspecting buyers in the market," a police officer said. Printing frames, labeling materials, and other equipment used to alter expiry and manufacturing details were also seized from the premises, police said.

Police deny nod, then allow Jantar Mantar rally with 'conditions'

A senior police officer said AAP has been allowed to hold the event with "some conditions".

New Delhi.(Agency)
Hours after the AAP alleged that the Delhi Police has denied it permission to hold a "mega rally" at Jantar Mantar on Sunday, the police allowed the event with "some conditions" on the ground that Section 163 (power to issue order in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger) of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita has been imposed near the Parliament. Without elaborating further, a senior police officer said AAP has been allowed to hold the event with "some conditions". Sources in Delhi Police said AAP was earlier denied permission to hold the rally, as Jantar Mantar cannot accommodate such a huge gathering that AAP is expecting. Earlier in the day, Delhi Police denying permission for the rally triggered a fresh political confrontation

between AAP and the ruling BJP government. This comes a day after the a trial court discharged AAP leader and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and 21 others booked for alleged corruption in the excise policy case. The rally is set to be held to celebrate the court verdict. AAP Delhi chief Saurabh Bhardwaj said that while the Delhi Police had initially denied permission for the rally, in the evening, senior officers communicated that permission has been granted and all events will be held as per schedule. According to AAP, which claimed that the rally had been announced several days in advance and permission was denied by



the police at the last moment, will be addressed Kejriwal, among others. Soon after the Delhi Police denied permission, Kejriwal posted on X that it was a pre-scheduled rally and that all necessary procedures had been followed. "Every citizen has the constitutional right to express their views and hold peaceful

rallies. If the court's decision came in our favor, then will the government now try to suppress our voice?" he wrote, adding that in a democracy, people must be allowed to speak to the public. Senior AAP leader Atishi also questioned the timing of the cancellation, calling it an attempt to curb democratic expression. Bhardwaj alleged that a written notice had been given to the police well in advance. "Delhi does not belong to the father of the BJP government. The Delhi Police had been given written notice well in advance for Arvind Kejriwal ji's rally at Jantar Mantar. All our preparations were done — how can the BJP's sycophantic police cancel the permission just one day before?" Bhardwaj posted on X.

17 killed in blast at Nagpur gunpowder factory; PM, Fadnavis announce aid

Seventeen people died and 18 others were injured in an explosion at a gunpowder factory near Nagpur. PM Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced compensation of Rs 2 lakh and Rs 5 lakh respectively for the families of the victims.

New Delhi.(Agency)
At least 17 people were killed and 18 others injured after a blast at a gunpowder factory in Maharashtra's Nagpur district on Sunday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis condoled the deaths and announced compensations of Rs 2 lakh and Rs 5 lakh for the families of the victims. The blast occurred at the SBL Energy Limited factory at Raulgaon near Nagpur. Visuals from the site showed a thick black plume of smoke coming out of the facility. Emergency teams rushed to the spot soon after the blast. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel joined local responders, while rescue



operations were intensified. District Collector Vipin Itankar and SP Podar were present at the site to oversee relief efforts. The injured were shifted to hospitals in Nagpur, police said. PM Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives, calling the incident "deeply distressing." In a post from the Prime Minister's Office, he announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each victim and Rs 50,000 for the injured. Fadnavis described the explosion as "extremely unfortunate and tragic," saying he was in constant touch with the local administration. He announced that the state government would provide Rs 5 lakh in financial assistance to the families of those killed, adding that the concerned company would also extend support. He also ordered a thorough investigation into the cause of the blast. The tragedy comes a day after a separate explosion at a firecracker unit in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district claimed 21 lives.

NEWS BOX

Israel says strikes target Iran missile, air defence sites

world. (Agency)

The Israeli military said it launched a fresh wave of strikes targeting Iranian ballistic missile and air defence sites on Sunday, while an AFP journalist in Tehran reported hearing loud explosions.

Tehran's enemies Israel and the United States began waves of strikes on Saturday, calling for regime change in Iran and prompting retaliation from the Islamic Republic.

A military statement said Israeli forces had begun "an additional strike wave targeting the ballistic missile array and the aerial defence systems belonging to the Iranian terror regime", without specifying any location.At least three explosions were heard in Tehran around 0030 GMT, the AFP journalist said.

Israel's military chief Eyal Zamir said on Saturday that the campaign against Iran comes after it "accelerated" its ballistic missile production and continued to promote nuclear weapon research.

"We now face a significant, decisive and unprecedented operation to dismantle the capabilities of the Iranian terrorist regime," he said in a televised statement.

Death toll from Israeli strike that hit school in south now 108: Iranian Red Crescent



ATLANTA. (Agency)

The Iranian Red Crescent said the death toll from a strike on Saturday that hit a school in the country's south has risen to 108, after the US and Israel launched a wave of attacks on the Islamic republic.

"The number of student martyrs at Minab School has reached 108, and relief and debris removal operations are still ongoing," a spokesperson for the organisation said.AFP was unable to access the location to verify the toll or the circumstances surrounding the incident.

When contacted by AFP, the Israeli military did not offer an immediate comment on the reports.

The Pentagon also did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but a CENTCOM spokesperson was quoted by The New York Times as saying: "We are aware of reports concerning civilian harm resulting from ongoing military operations. We take these reports seriously and are looking into them."

"The protection of civilians is of utmost importance, and we will continue to take all precautions available to minimise the risk of unintended harm."

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said "this barbaric act is another black page in the record of countless crimes committed by the aggressors".Israel and the US launched a wave of strikes against their longtime foe on Saturday morning.The Iranian Red Crescent said on Saturday evening that at least 201 people had been killed and 747 injured in the attacks.

Explosion, Gunfire In Kabul As Afghan Forces Shoot At Pakistani Aircraft

world. (Agency)

An explosion followed by multiple rounds of gunfire were reportedly heard in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul,



as fighting between Pakistan and Taliban entered its fourth day on Sunday. The Taliban government said Afghan forces were shooting at Pakistani aircraft.

"Anti-aircraft fire is being directed at Pakistani aircraft in Kabul; residents should not be alarmed," Taliban government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid posted on X.Pakistan on Friday bombed Taliban military installations and posts, some of them in Kabul and Kandahar, in one of the deepest incursions into its neighbour in recent years.The escalation came hours after Afghan forces attacked Pakistani border troops in what the Taliban government said was retaliation for deadly airstrikes earlier this week.

After the strikes, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said his country's armed forces can "crush" aggressors."Our forces have the full capability to crush any aggressive ambitions," he said.

Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif declared an "open war" with the Taliban government.

"Our patience has reached its limit. Now it is open war between us and you," Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif posted on X as the Pakistani military launched operation 'Ghazab Lil Haq' against Afghanistan.Islamabad accuses the Taliban of harbouring the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) group, who it says are carrying out attacks inside Pakistan, a charge the Taliban denies.The latest strikes mark the most serious escalation between Pakistan and Afghanistan in recent months, threatening a fragile ceasefire along the 2,600-km frontier.

US, Israel defend strikes at emergency Security Council meeting as Iran alleges 'war crime'

UN Secretary-General

António Guterres told the council that everything must be done to prevent an escalation.

UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)

The United States and Israel clashed with Iran at an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Saturday where the U.N. chief and many countries urged a halt to their attacks and a return to negotiations to prevent the conflict from spreading further into the region and beyond.

Secretary-General António Guterres told the council that everything must be done to prevent an escalation."The alternative," he warned, "is a potential wider conflict with grave consequences for civilians and regional stability."Guterres said the U.S. and Israeli airstrikes violated international law, including the U.N. Charter. He also

condemned Iran's retaliatory attacks for violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Mike Waltz, insisted the U.S. military action was lawful."Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon," he told the council. "That principle is not a matter of politics. It's a matter of global security. And to that end, the United States is taking lawful actions."Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon defended the airstrikes as necessary to stop an existential threat."We are stopping extremism before it becomes unstoppable," he said. "We will ensure that no radical regime armed with nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles can threaten our people or the entire world."Amir Saïd Iravani, Iran's ambassador to the U.N., told the council that the airstrikes have killed and injured hundreds of Iranian civilians, which he called a war crime and a crime against humanity.He blasted the U.N. and the Security Council, its most powerful body, for not heeding Tehran's warnings

about the "warmongering statements" by the U.S. in recent weeks and urged the council to act now."The issue before the council is straightforward: whether any



member state may, including a permanent member of this council, through the use of force, coercion or aggression, determine the political future or system of another state or impose control over its affairs," Iravani said.During his speech, the Iranian diplomat did not mention or comment on President Donald Trump's statement that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

was killed in the strikes. The assassination of the second leader of the Islamic Republic, who had no designated successor, raised the prospects of a protracted conflict given Iranian threats of retaliation.Iranian and US ambassadors have tense back-and-forthIn a rare exchange, the U.S. and Iranian ambassadors traded warnings and direct rebuffs toward the end of the emergency session as military aggression between their countries risked spilling into a regional war.After Waltz responded to Iranian claims that the U.S. had violated international law, Iravani asked to speak again to issue a warning: "I advise to the representative of the United States to be polite. It will be better for yourself and the country you represent."Waltz responded immediately, saying, "This representative sits here, in this body, representing a regime that has killed tens of thousands of its own people, and imprisoned many more, simply for wanting freedom from your entire tyranny."

How succession works in Iran and who will be the country's next supreme leader

DUBAI. (Agency)

The death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei after almost 37 years in power raises paramount questions about the country's future. The contours of a complex succession process began to take shape the morning after Khamenei's assassination.

Here is what to know:

A temporary leadership council assumes dutiesAs outlined in its constitution, Iran on Sunday formed a council to assume leadership duties and govern the country.The council is made up of Iran's sitting president, the head of the country's judiciary and a member of the Guardian Council chosen by Iran's Expediency Council, which advises the supreme leader and settles disputes with parliament.Iran's reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and hard-line judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei are its members who will step in and "temporarily assume all the duties of leadership."A panel of clerics selects a new supreme leaderthrough the leadership council will govern in the interim, an 88-member panel called

the Assembly of Experts "must, as soon as possible", pick a new supreme leader under Iranian law.The panel consists entirely of Shiite clerics who are popularly elected every eight years and whose candidacies are approved by the Guardian Council, Iran's



constitutional watchdog. That body is known for disqualifying candidates in various elections in Iran and the Assembly of Experts is no different.The Guardian Council barred former Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, a relative moderate whose administration struck the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, from election for the Assembly of Experts in March 2024.Khamenei's son could be a possible contenderClerical

deliberations about succession and machinations over it take place far from the public eye, making it hard to gauge who may be a top contender.

Previously, it was thought Khamenei's protégé, hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, may try to take the mantle.

However, he was killed in a May 2024 helicopter crash. That has left one of Khamenei's sons, Mojtaba, a 56-year-old Shiite cleric, as a potential candidate, though he has never held government office. But a father-to-son transfer in the case of a supreme leader could spark anger, not only among Iranians already critical of clerical rule, but also among supporters of the system.

Some may see it as un-Islamic and in line with creating a new, religious dynasty after the 1979 collapse of the U.S.-backed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's government.A transition like this has happened only once before

There has been only one other transfer of power in the office of the supreme leader of Iran, the paramount decision-maker since the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Shipping Companies Tell Vessels To Steer Clear Of Gulf

Paris. (Agency)

Two major shipping groups on Saturday suspended navigation through the Gulf as conflict flared between the United States, Israel and Iran, piling onto a growing maritime slowdown in the region.The announcements came as Iran's Revolutionary Guards had warned several ships that the Strait of Hormuz, the vital waterway for oil from the Gulf, was "basically closed", Iran's Tasnim news agency reported.

France's CMA CGM issued a statement telling its vessels in the Gulf to "take shelter" and also suspended passage through the Suez Canal because of the regional conflict."All ships currently in the Gulf, or on route to the Gulf, have received the instruction, with immediate effect, to take shelter," said

the statement from CMA CGM, the world's third-largest container shipping company."Passage through the Suez is suspended until further notice and ships will be rerouted around the Cape of Good Hope," which would prolong the journey by thousands of kilometres, the statement added.Hapag-Lloyd, the world's fifth-largest container shipping company, said it was suspending all transit through the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Gulf to the open seas, "until further notice."Several shipping lines, including Danish giant Maersk, warned clients of possible delivery delays as ships re-routed.The United States for its part warned ships to stay away from the Gulf due to ongoing military activity.The strait, which

Iranian officials have often threatened to block in the event of a US attack, is a key transit point for global oil trade.According to data from maritime analytics site Marine Tracker, traffic through the trade artery has plummeted and a slew of oil tankers have turned around or been stopped at the strait.The EU's naval mission to the Red Sea confirmed that vessels had received radio messages from the IRGC saying the Strait was blocked to traffic, despite no formal closure order.The Strait of Hormuz is frequently the scene of ship seizures and attacks.The vital corridor links the Gulf to the Indian Ocean and is situated between Iran and Oman's Musandam exclave, situated at the tip of a peninsula.

Questions cloud Trump's case for war against Iran

Iran "rejected every opportunity to renounce their nuclear ambitions," Trump said in a roughly eight-minute video message posted on social media more than an hour after US strikes began.

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

President Donald Trump made his case for war against Iran early on Saturday as US and Israeli forces bombed the Islamic republic, saying conflict was required to eliminate "imminent threats" from Tehran.

Iran "rejected every opportunity to renounce their nuclear ambitions," Trump said in a roughly eight-minute video message posted on social media more than an hour after US strikes began."They attempted to rebuild their nuclear program and to continue developing long-range missiles" that "could soon reach the American homeland," the US president said, also

calling on Iranians to overthrow their government.But Iran was said to have signaled in talks that it was willing to cease stockpiling nuclear material, while Tehran may still be years away from developing significant quantities of missiles with intercontinental range -- raising significant questions about Trump's rationale for the conflict."President Trump did not make a strong case for an imminent threat posed by Iran that would justify the massive joint US-Israeli strikes," said Mona Yacoubian, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.His call for the Iranian people to prepare to take control underscores that the ambitions here are more akin to regime change," Yacoubian said, also noting that according to intelligence assessments, Iran's nuclear program was "still not close to weaponizing."Trump had repeatedly claimed to have obliterated Tehran's nuclear program in June 2025 strikes, and the US military did not mention nuclear-related sites in a list of targets it had struck on Saturday.

Progress in negotiations? Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi,



who has been mediating talks between Tehran and Washington, said Friday that Iran had agreed to cease stockpiling nuclear material needed to make a weapon -- a major concession he said would have eliminated the nuclear threat."If you cannot stockpile material that is enriched then there is no way you can actually create a bomb," Albusaidi told CBS's "Face the Nation.""If the ultimate objective is to ensure forever that Iran cannot have a nuclear bomb, I think we have cracked that problem through these negotiations," the foreign minister said.Trump's assertion

that Iranian missiles could "soon" strike the United States is meanwhile called into question by a 2025 Defense Intelligence Agency assessment that said Tehran did not have intercontinental ballistic missiles then, and that it could take until 2035 for it to develop 60 such weapons.Tehran currently possesses short- and medium-range ballistic missiles with ranges that top out at about 1,850 miles (3,000 kilometers), according to the US Congressional Research Service.Aside from nuclear and missile issues, Trump cited other sources of tension with Iran, including the 1979 takeover of the US embassy in Tehran, attacks by Iranian proxy groups on US forces and international shipping in the region, as well as Iran's deadly crackdown on protesters.But proxy attacks on American forces were not currently ongoing, and Trump had hailed a ceasefire last year as having halted attacks on shipping by Yemen's Iran-backed Huthi rebels.And while Trump had repeatedly threatened military intervention if Iran killed protesters, he pulled back from ordering strikes last month at the height of Tehran's crackdown on dissent.

'He Bet on Bombs': Mystery Trader Made Rs 4 Crore On Tehran Strike Before Missiles Hit

World. (Agency)

Three hours after bombs struck Tehran in a joint U.S.-Israel operation, one anonymous trader was already counting his winnings.

On Polymarket, a crypto-based prediction platform where users buy and sell "YES" or "NO" shares on real-world events, a wallet known as "Magamyman" turned a controversial wager into a windfall. According to blockchain data, the account collected \$431,146 after betting "YES" on a strike scenario weeks before the first missile was reported.

The trade was placed when markets priced the probability at 27 cents, implying just a 27% chance of military action. While diplomats were still negotiating and Oman's foreign minister was signaling that peace talks were within reach, the wallet poured in \$235,947 on the "YES" side.

When the market resolved, each winning share paid out \$1.

The payout wasn't a one-off.

Crypto watchers claim the same account has made 88 Iran-focused predictions since October 2024: every



single one tied to escalating deadlines, strike scenarios, or geopolitical flashpoints. Not the Super Bowl. Not U.S. elections. Not Bitcoin. Just Iran.

In another instance cited by traders, the wallet allegedly won \$278,079 betting that Israel would strike Iran by January 31. Now, even as missiles reportedly continue to fly, the account has fresh positions open, including \$78,000 on a "US strikes Iran by March 1" market.The timing is what has triggered alarm.Separate X posts allege the account placed a key trade 71 minutes before news of the strike became public, turning roughly \$87,000 into more than half a million dollars overnight when odds were sitting at 17%.Polymarket itself operates as a decentralized prediction market. Users connect crypto wallets, deposit USDC stablecoins, and trade shares priced between \$0 and \$1. The price reflects crowd probability, 17 cents equals a 17% perceived chance. When an outcome is confirmed, winning shares pay \$1 automatically.Supporters argue prediction markets aggregate information efficiently and often outperform pundits.

With the batting finally settling into roles and combinations working, Chopra suggested that continuity is key.

Ankita Lokhande

Introduces Her 'Baby' On Laughter Chefs: 'It's Such A Proud, Happy Feeling'

Television superstar Ankita Lokhande introduced her baby 'Mau' on the celebrity cooking reality show Laughter Chefs, further calling it a proud and special moment as her little one made a debut on national television. Sharing glimpses from the episode, she wrote on her social media account, "Such a special episode coming your way our little Mau made her debut on national TV... she has no idea what's happening on screen, but we know... and our hearts are just full It's such a proud, happy feeling to introduce our baby to all of you Mau meri Mau Love thy pets."

In the picture, Ankita is seen sitting on the stage floor holding her fluffy pet cat close, smiling ear to ear. Ankita Lokhande and her husband Vicky Jain adopted Mau in 2024 and ever since then, the fur baby has been an integral part of their family.

Back then, Ankita had announced the arrival of her pet on her social media account. Ankita had shared a cute video of herself playing with the kitten. The clip showed Ankita and Vicky playing with the cat, hugging it, kissing it and cuddling with it. In a heartfelt note, Ankita wrote, "Welcome to the family, our little princess Mau Lokhande Jain! You're the newest addition to our family, mommy and Daddy are already head over heels in love with you! Your tiny meows and cuddles have stolen our hearts. May your little paws bring immense joy and happiness to our lives."

"Congratulations to us, the proud parents! May our lives be filled with laughter, snuggles, and endless joy, courtesy of your adorable antics, Mau. Here's to many adventures, playtime, and cozy moments with our new little bundle of joy! Mau, you're loved and cherished already, our sweet daughter," the note further read. Talking about the couple, Ankita had tied the knot with businessman Vicky on December 14, 2021 in a traditional ceremony in Mumbai.

On the work front, the couple had participated in the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss 17', that tested their relationship. The couple is currently seen in the celebrity cooking reality show, 'Laughter Chefs-Unlimited Entertainment'. It is hosted by Bharti Singh, and judged by chef Harpal Singh Sokhi.



Drishyam Actress Ishita Dutta Gets Real About Motherhood: 'Am Celebrating Beautiful Chaos'

In a time when social media presents picture-perfect parenting, Bollywood actress Ishita Dutta is opting for honesty over filters. In a recent candid insight into her daily life as a mother, the Drishyam star celebrated the chaos, fatigue, and emotional upheaval that accompany raising small children. She portrayed parenthood as gloriously chaotic, with disorganised toys, messy hair, and never-ending to-do lists, rather than as perfectly tranquil. Dutta views these flawed moments as reminders of unwavering love rather than as duties.

Finding Joy in the Beautiful Mess

Taking to social media, Dutta shared a candid selfie and a heartfelt note describing the realities of parenting — from toys strewn across the house to stickers appearing in unlikely places. She captured the bittersweet nature of having young children when she said that, despite the chaos, motherhood symbolises "happiness in its purest form."

"Life as a mom – Messy hair, toys everywhere, a never-ending to-do list, stickers in places they don't belong and yet, somehow, this is happiness in its purest form," Dutta captioned her Instagram Story.

Parenting Beyond Perfection

The Drishyam actress married actor Vatsal Sheth in 2017. The couple welcomed their son Vayu in 2023 and were blessed with a baby girl in 2025. Dutta has been outspoken about dealing with emotional outbursts and toddler meltdowns, especially with her young son.

Instead of aiming for impossible perfection, she promotes a balanced parenting style that involves remaining composed during tantrums and giving oneself grace on trying days. The actress continues to fulfil her film commitments, like the upcoming Drishyam 3, while sharing glimpses of her family life on social media.

Ishita Dutta Lost 15Kgs Post Second Pregnancy

Ishita Dutta recently shared that she lost weight after giving birth to her second child. The actress lost 15 kgs within two months, which Dutta blamed on health issues brought on by her gallbladder surgery and the eating restrictions that followed. "I lost more than 15 kgs in less than two months. Want to know my secret? I hate to break it to you guys, but there is no secret," Dutta said in an Instagram video.

Munawar Faruqui, Huma Qureshi Pose For A Candid Picture At Awards Night



Saumya Tandon

Shares How She Kept Working Out Despite Pregnancy, Sciatica: 'Your Body Is The Best...'

Actress Saumya Tandon believes fitness is a lifelong commitment and not something to be paused. She asserted to never stop, even with a knee injury, pregnancy, or sciatica. Saumya, who is currently basking in the success of her latest release "Dhurandhar" by Aditya Dhar, took to Instagram, where she shared a string of images of herself doing aerial yoga, planks, TRX workout, pilates and yoga.

Reflecting on her fitness journey over the years, Saumya highlighted how yoga, pilates and weight training have remained constant in her routine. She wrote: "Over the years.... Yoga, Pilates, Weight training. Never stop. Even with knee injury, pregnancy, sciatica whatever situation you are thrown into, just be at it. Your body is the best investment in the world. Women lift weights."

Talking about Dhurandhar, the film also stars Akshaye Khanna, Ranveer Singh, R. Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt, Sara Arjun and Rakesh Bedi with Manav Gohil, Danish Pandor, Saumya Tandon, Gaurav Gera, and Naveen Kaushik in supporting roles.

The film draws inspiration from real-life events involving geopolitical tensions and covert operations conducted by India's RAW, particularly those associated with Operation Lyari, 2008 Mumbai attacks, crackdown on gangs and criminal syndicates.

Saumya she took up modelling assignments early in her career and was the "Femina Cover Girl First Runner Up" in 2006. She also appeared in the Afghan serial Khushi in 2008 as part of the international project, where she played the lead of an Afghan woman doctor.

She co-hosted Zor Ka Jhatka: Total Wipeout with Shah Rukh Khan in 2011. She has hosted Dance India Dance for 3 seasons. She co-hosted the Bournvita Quiz Contest, along with Derek O'Brien for three seasons. In Imtiaz Ali's Jab We Met, starring Shahid Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor, she played the role of Kareena's character's sister Roop. In 2015, she started playing the role of Anita in the comedy serial Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain!. She is also known as "gori mem" from the serial, due to her being referred to as the same in the show by Rohitashv Gour's character. In 2018, she hosted the second season of Entertainment Ki Raat.



The Indian Telly Streaming Awards 2026 honoured some of the best OTT performances last night. Several actors graced the special event in Mumbai and many secured the prestigious accolade for their shows and films. At the event, Munawar Faruqui was spotted interacting with Huma Qureshi. In the clip, Munawar was seen congratulating her for her award.

Moving on, he was also seen posing with her for some pictures before she bid him goodbye. Rasika Dugal was also seen standing beside them and greeting the duo later on. Munawar was seen in a black and white suit while Huma was seen in a classic black dress.

Munawar Faruqui's Acting Debut

Munawar made his acting debut in First Copy, and the reality TV personality just participated in the sequel.

The second season, set in the early 2000s, follows Munawar's character as he struggles to maintain control of his piracy empire. As his enemies tighten their grip, his allies betray him, and the underworld becomes involved, complicating matters for him. Season 2 of First Copy is presently available on Amazon MX Player.

Munawar Faruqui To Host The Society Season 2

Meanwhile, hosted by Munawar Faruqui, The Society was introduced in July 2025 and has garnered excellent feedback from fans. The show has been renewed for Season 2, and Munawar has announced the release date, along with a new trailer. The Society Season 2, hosted by Munawar Faruqui, will premiere on March 9 and will be available for free on JioHotstar Sparks.

The teaser shows extreme physical and psychological trials, such as brutal combat-style tests and head shaving, as well as emotional breakdowns and heated confrontations among the participants. Munawar is portrayed as the ultimate authority figure, serving as judge, jury, and executioner for the system. Meanwhile, the lion, deer, and rat icons reflect various levels of social order in the game.

Bhawish Madaan, a social media star, won Season 1. In the final, he overcame the other competitor, Badal Sharma. The show included 25 contestants participating in a controlled social experiment divided into classes.

