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EDUCATION

# Psychology: CUK, defence institute to share expertise

Subjects include cognitive science, forensic psychology, psycho-social interventions and positive psychology

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

@Kalaburagi

DEPARTMENT of Psychology of Central University of Karnataka (CUK) Kalaburagi has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Defense Institute of Psychological Research (DIPR) New Delhi, a subsidiary of DRDO, said Vice Chancellor Professor Battu Satyanarana in a press note released here on Thursday.

Satyanarayana has said that "signing MoU is important but keeping it alive and working on it is even more important. It is the responsibility of both the parties to ensure that things keep rolling and the objectives of the MoU must be fulfilled continuously. We are signing this MoU with the intention that it will open the gate for the two parties to exchange expertise in the field of psychology, such as psychological assessment, cognitive science, forensic psychology, psycho-social interventions, positive psychology and mental health of our armed force and common public. Students and faculties of CUK will get an opportunity to do internship and research in DIPR. Similarly DIPR candidates will get opportunity to pursue PhD in CUK. This MoU will mutually benefit both the parties to



Heads of Department of Psychology of CUK signs MoU with DIPR | EXPRESS

grow further in research and development."

While expressing her views on MoU, Director of DIPR Dr. Arunima Gupta said, "DIPR's history can be traced back to 1943 and since then we are continuously taking care of psychological health of our armed forces.

With time, we want to spread more awareness about military psychology and for the benefit of the students, scientists and researchers we are trying to extend the formal relationship with the universities to solidify the research base. MoU with CUK will certainly help us in this direction".

The MoU was signed on 12th December at CUK, Kalaburagi. On the occasion Registrar of CUK Prof R R Biradar, Director of DIPR Dr Arunima Gupta, Prof Vijeyendra Pandey, Head of Department of Psychology, CUK, Dr Soumi Awasthy, Additional Director, DIPR, Dr Akriti Srivastava and others were present.

ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ-ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಪಯಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಎಂದ ಕುಲಪತಿ ಪ್ರೊ.ಬಟ್ಟು ಸತ್ಯನಾರಾಯಣ

# ಸಿಯುಕೆ-ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್ ಒಡಂಬಡಿಕೆ

■ ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಜಾಲ ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಪಯಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯ ಶುರುವಾಗಿದೆ.

ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಮತ್ತು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (ಡಿಆರ್‌ಡಿಒ)ಯ ಅಂಗ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಾದ ಡಿಫೆನ್ಸ್ ಇನ್ ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಆಫ್ ಸೈಕಲಾಜಿಕಲ್ ರಿಸರ್ಚ್ (ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್) ಮತ್ತು ಸಿಯುಕೆ ಮನೋವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ತಿಳಿವಳಿಕೆ ಪತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಗುರುವಾರ ಸಹಿ ಹಾಕಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಕುಲಪತಿ ಪ್ರೊ.ಬಟ್ಟು ಸತ್ಯನಾರಾಯಣ ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಸಹಕಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಒಡಂಬಡಿಕೆ ಜತೆಗೆ ಅದನ್ನು ಜೀವಂತವಾಗಿರಿಸುವುದು ಮುಖ್ಯ. ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ, ಅರಿವಿನ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ, ನ್ಯಾಯ ಮನೋವಿಜ್ಞಾನ, ಮಾನಸಿಕ-ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮಧ್ಯಸ್ಥಿಕೆ, ಧನಾತ್ಮಕ ಮನೋವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದಂತಹ ಮನೋವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಣತಿ ವಿನಿಮಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಎರಡು ಪಕ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಕೂಲ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶದಿಂದ ಈ ತಿಳಿವಳಿಕೆ ಒಪ್ಪಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಿ ಹಾಕಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದರು.

ಸೇನಾಪಡೆ, ಸಶಸ್ತ್ರ ಪಡೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸೇವೆ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಇದು ಸಹಕಾರಿ. ಸಿಯುಕೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಅಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂಟರ್‌ನ್‌ಷಿಪ್ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ

ವಿಜಯವಾಣಿ ಚಿತ್ರ



ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಗುರುವಾರ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡ ಒಡಂಬಡಿಕೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿನಿಮಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಯಿತು. ಕುಲಪತಿ ಪ್ರೊ.ಬಟ್ಟು ಸತ್ಯನಾರಾಯಣ, ಡಾ.ಸೌಮಿ ಅವಸ್ಥಿ, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಡಾ.ಡಿ.ರವಿ ಇತರರಿದ್ದರು.

ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಸಿಯುಕೆದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಿಎಚ್.ಡಿ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು. ಈ ಒಡಂಬಡಿಕೆ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಒಡಂಬಡಿಕೆ ಕುರಿತು ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕಿ ಡಾ.ಅರುಣಿಮಾ ಗುಪ್ತಾ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ, ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್ 1943ರಿಂದ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅಂದಿನಿಂದ ನಾವು ಸೇನಾಪಡೆ



ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧಕರ ಅನುಕೂಲಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನಾವು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ನೆಲೆ ಗಟ್ಟಿಗೊಳಿಸಲು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಔಪಚಾರಿಕ ಸಂಬಂಧ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಸಿಯುಕೆ ಜತೆಗಿನ ತಿಳಿವಳಿಕೆ ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಖಂಡಿತವಾಗಿಯೂ ಈ ದಿಕ್ಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೆರವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

! ಡಾ.ಅರುಣಿಮಾ ಗುಪ್ತಾ  
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕಿ

ಮತ್ತು ಸಶಸ್ತ್ರ ಪಡೆಗಳ ಮಾನಸಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ನಿರಂತರ ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಕಾಲಾನಂತರ ನಾವು ಮಿಲಿಟರಿ ಮನೋವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಜಾಗೃತಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಲು ಬಯಸುತ್ತೇವೆ ಎಂದರು.

ಸಿಯುಕೆ ಕುಲಸಚಿವ ಪ್ರೊ.ಆರ್.ಆರ್. ಬಿರಾದಾರ್, ಸಿಯುಕೆ ಮನೋವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥ ಪ್ರೊ. ವಿಜಯೇಂದ್ರ ಪಾಂಡೆ, ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕಿ ಡಾ.ಸೌಮಿ ಅವಸ್ಥಿ, ಒಡಂಬಡಿಕೆ ಸಂಯೋಜಕಿ ಡಾ.ಅಕೃತಿ ಶ್ರೀವಾಸ್ತವ್, ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಡಾ.ಡಿ.ರವಿ, ಪ್ರೊ. ರೊಮೇಟ್ ಜಾನ್, ಡಾ.ರವೀಂದರ್ ಕುಮಾರ್, ಸಂಶೋಷಕುಮಾರ ಇತರರಿದ್ದರು.

**Christ University announces its inauguration of the Centre for Korean Studies**



Recently at Concard Hotel, Bengaluru Christ University proudly announced the inauguration of its Centre for Korean Studies. which took place on 12th December 2023 at Conrad Bengaluru Hotel. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Fr. Jose C C, VC of CHRIST University, and Mr. Changnyun Kim, the Korean Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Chennai. Dr. Guydeuk Yeon, the Director of the Centre, emphasized the Centre's mission to strengthen Indo-Korean ties through various academic, cultural, and community initiatives. The VC, Dr. Fr. Jose C C, expressed his gratitude to the Korean community for their support and was optimistic about the Centre's potential impact. Mr. Changnyun Kim, the Korean Consul General, shared his delight at the establishment of the Centre and pledged his continued support. The event was attended by 40 dignitaries, including government officers, industry leaders, and heads of research institutes based in Bengaluru from South Korea. The Music Department of CHRIST enriched the ceremony with beautiful renditions of Christmas songs and the traditional Korean song "Arirang". The Centre for Korean Studies stands as a beacon of learning and cooperation, marking a new chapter in the rich history of Indo-Korean relations. It aims to forge deep and enduring bonds between the two nations.

**MBA convocation program organized by BNMIT College, Bengaluru**



VTU chancellor Dr. S. Vidyashankar speaking at the MBA convocation program organized by BNMIT College in Banashankari after awarding the degree to the students, he said that in the competitive era education alone does not provide good opportunities. Along with this, skill is also very important. This is why we are giving practical education to students, he said. Ramesh Kaza, CIO, State Street International, said, "We can only grow when we develop curiosity in life. We have to make a habit of keeping pace with new technology. A rapport should be maintained with all. He said that you will get many opportunities from this. BNM Charity Trustees Ashok A. Mane, Vaishali N. Mane, Ishwar N. Mane, Deves A. Mane, Deejes A. Mane, Additional Director of the College Dr. S.Y. Kulkarni, director T.J. Rama Murthy, Principal Dr. Krishnamurthy G.N and others were present. The students who scored the highest marks were honoured with a gold medal. It is a matter of happiness that students have chosen our college and completed their graduation here. We have envisioned all the privileges and comforts required for the learning of the students.

**National level HR Conclave organized by Nitte School of Management in association with HR Shapers, Bengaluru.**



The Chief Guest Dr. Mahesh Bhatt, CEO, Fornax Corporate Services, opined while speaking on the occasion of National level HR Conclave said " 'Generative Artificial Intelligence' is slightly different from the 'Artificial Intelligence' as it creates data by making inferences and extrapolations. In nutshell, an assignment that would normally take a relatively proficient human, an hour or longer, can be completed in seconds".

There were 50 Distinguished HR Experts, 200 HR Delegates and 500 Leaders of Future who participated in the day long on adaptation of Generative Artificial Intelligence in various fields of HR Management. The theme was - Role of Generative Artificial Intelligence in HR Management. Ashish Gakrey, Founder, HR Shapers, Bengaluru, was the Guest of Honour. In the beginning, Dr. M. Venugopal, Director, Nitte School of Management welcomed the gathering by giving a brief insight about the Generative Artificial Intelligence. Rohit Punja, Administrator, Nitte Education Trust; Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Director Academics, Nitte Education Trust; Dr. H.C. Nagaraj, Principal, NMIT; Prof. Raghavendra R, Principal, Dr. NSAM First Grade College, Bengaluru; Prof. Rajini Itham, Associate Director, Nitte School of Architecture, Planning and Design; and Coordinator of the Conclave Prof. Balakrishnchar M.S were present on the occasion.

**St. Joseph's Institute of Management's iconic annual National level inter-collegiate Cultural and Business fest 'Verve' 2023**



It started off with an insightful inaugural speech by the chief guest Shikha Nag, Founder and Director of Indian Academy of Public Speaking following which Verve 2023 was declared open by the Director Rev. Dr. Manoj D'Souza. An extraordinary number of 300 participants from both Undergraduate and Postgraduate level participated in the fest. The two-day cultural and management fest concluded by the inspiring speech of the Chief Guest Mr. Manish Raj, the Head of Strategy and Growth in Lithium Urban Technologies and the prize distribution. The Creative and Cultural overall winner were St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bangalore and the overall winner trophy for PG students was won by XIME, Bangalore.



# IITs focus on students' soft skills, roll out a bridge course on English

## Academicians Focus On Initiative To Improve Language Proficiency

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**Bengaluru:** When many of the fresh batch of students at Indian Institute of Technology-Jammu did not perform well in exams, the faculty decided to have a pep talk with them. That is when they realised that many of the students, especially those from rural areas, were not proficient in English and were unable to even follow the lectures. The institute decided to hold a language proficiency exam, identified students weak in English and started holding classes for them.

"Based on their proficiency levels, classes are divided into beginners, intermediate and advanced groups. Around 60% of the classes were in the beginners group. While they will be taught basic grammar and conversational English, those in the advanced category will have English literature. This is an initiative we have just launched, and hope to see the results soon," said Kanan Iyer, dean, academics.

When the IIT-Jammu dean discussed the issue at an Indian Institutes of Technology directors' forum at a conference — Pan-IIT World of Technology — there was a consensus among his counterparts. Many of the directors and deans said they were ta-



LINGUISTIC AID TO HELP SMOOTH TRANSITION FOR STUDENTS

king extra measures to ensure a smooth transition for students on their respective campuses.

IIT-Jodhpur director Prof Santanu Chaudhury said: "There are diagnostic tests that will help understand the proficiency of students in the language. Once students walk into the campus, we provide them the test and then the necessary training, especially in listening and reading comprehension. During the first year, we also provide supplementary materials in Hindi, ensure Hindi subtitles for video lectures and give some portions of lab manuals and question papers in Hindi. There is also a provision to block a faculty's time to have discus-

sions done in Hindi. The problem is that we can cater to only one or two such languages."

The academicians feel the problem lies in the way students are coached to crack JEE, the gateway to premier engineering institutions. "Unlike a regular school where the children are made to learn languages, the coaching centres merely concentrate on the ability to crack the Physics, Chemistry and Maths problems," said K N Satyanarayana, IIT-Tirupati director.

IIT-Tirupati holds a two-credit compulsory language course in the first semester. Students who are not proficient in English in a test will have to choose English.

The other students have the options of languages like German, Japanese, Spanish and Sanskrit.

Pointing out that speaking skills among students were still alright, but writing was uniformly poor, Seshadri Sekhar, director of IIT-Palakkad, said: "Students tend to think in their mother tongues and less of writing down notes, and not practising speaking in English means the skills suffer."

"Another reason could be due to the SMS language culture. The present generation is more used to communicating by short messages and emoticons... casual talk means scientific writing skills are affected more than speaking skills, relatively," the director of IIT-Palakkad said.

Indian Institute of Technology-Palakkad in Kerala has year-long in-person English classes for BTech students. In addition, a 'Computer-Assisted Listening Writing Reading Speaking' course for English learners has also been set up by the English Language Consultant of the institute. Students can go through the course at their own pace. IIT-Bhilai director Rajiv Prakash said the language problem was faced mainly by students who did not have English in class 12. "We conduct a screening at college and provide extra help to them," said the director of IIT Bihilai.

# 'A global leader in innovation needs a very strong university system – and a policy to attract people working at the frontiers of their field worldwide'

Carolyn Stein teaches at the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley. Speaking to Srijana Mitra Das, she discusses incentives which can galvanise – or thwart – new scientific development:



**Q. What is the core of your research?**

A. I am interested in how scientists respond to incentives. Researchers care about their careers and systems in place provide strong

motivations to them — these hold the power to shape the science and new knowledge produced. I research how we can do an optimal job at providing the right incentives or whether, in some cases, we are inadvertently distorting people away from certain areas — that will cost us in terms of new knowledge.



**Q. What are the most powerful incentives shaping science today?**

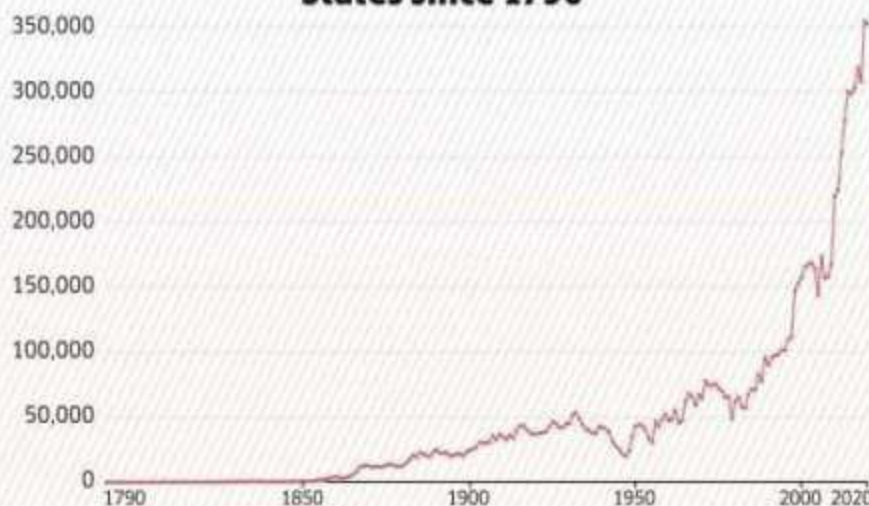
A. My work focuses on researchers in universities as opposed to corporate research. Currently, academic science is extremely competitive. That shapes the way researchers behave to a large extent. Some of my work looks at how the competition to publish first might incentivise people to cut corners on quality. More broadly, especially in the life sciences, this intense competition colours every interaction scientists have, including whether they're willing to talk about what they are working on because they fear their ideas being taken. So, you see less collaboration across different laboratories and schools which is not ideal.

**Q. Which innovations have benefited from having such incentives?**

A. I can actually share examples which occurred despite these incentives, such as the mRNA vaccine which didn't receive much funding initially as it was perceived as being too risky. I explore what innovations we could be missing out on because the incentives are pushing in another direction.

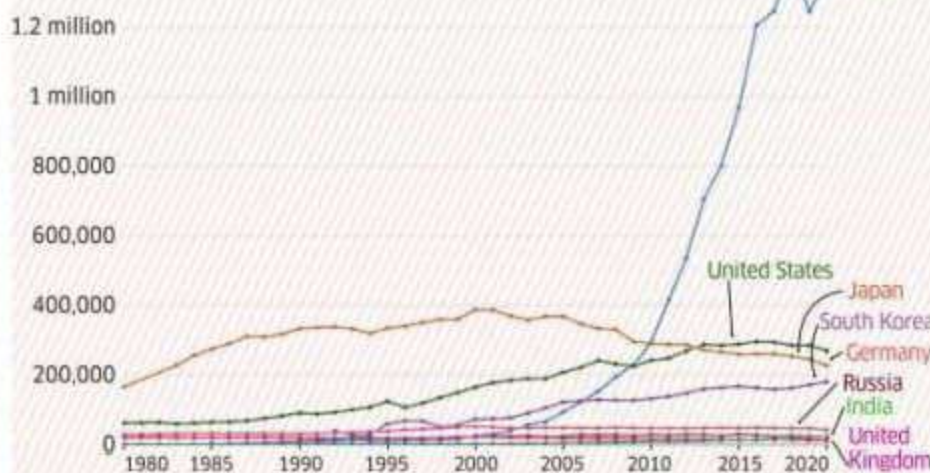
There is also very interesting work by Eric Budish, Benjamin Roin and Heidi Williams about clinical trial length in

## Invention patents granted annually in the United States since 1790



Data source: United States Patent and Trademark Office (2020)

## Annual Patent Applications (World)



Data Source: World Intellectual Property Organization (via World Bank) Note: Each country's data includes patent applications for which the first-named applicant is a country resident

All Data Courtesy: Our World in Data

**Then & Now:** Once, the United States was the global leader in innovation, its researchers revolutionising science, medicine and technology — while it remains dominant, other nations have also adopted policies to encourage innovativeness

cancer drug development — they make the point that the patent clock starts ticking when you begin a clinical trial. So, if you're working on a drug that has a very long trial, your effective patent period, once the drug has actually been approved, is much shorter. That effectively means you get a longer

window of patent protection if you work on a drug that is quick to develop. Now, such drugs target late-stage cancer as it's very fast in that circumstance to learn if a drug is effective. With early-stage cancer, researchers have to wait for years to see how a drug works. This creates a very strong incentive for pharmaceutical firms to work on late-stage drugs only, with one exception being hematological cancers which have very good biomarkers to show if a drug is effective. The time involved here in getting what is called a surrogate endpoint is relatively quick. Therefore, pharmaceutical companies develop these for both early and late disease stages.

These findings speak to the importance of being able to measure things — if this can be done well, it's easier to define success or failure which matters to scientists. Another interesting example is AlphaFold, the protein prediction algorithm — Google DeepMind came up with this machine-learning algorithm to predict the 3D shapes of proteins just from their amino acid sequence, eliminating the need for long, expensive experiments. That's been a goal for science for 50 years — the DeepMind CEO told me one reason they wanted to tackle this is the existing competition ensured your algorithm could be scored in a well-planned way. Success would be very measurable. This shows the ability to measure success is very important — it can dictate what problems people choose to work on. Making science more measurable creates incentives for research in those areas.

“ The length of a clinical trial influences its patent protection period — and thus, a drug's development ”

**Q. What is 'the pivot penalty'?**

A. Our research shows that when scientists write a paper which is distant from their core area of expertise, that often looks less successful in terms of the journal it's published in or the citations it gets as compared to a paper written by the same scientist which is more within their main area of expertise. We interpret that as it being hard to work on new things — this is important because if you look at the Covid-19 pandemic, for instance, all of science pivoted. But the only papers on average which looked like they really mattered were written by people who'd been working on topics quite adjacent to Covid before it happened. That suggests that in a world where crises arise and we don't know what these will be, we need to have people spread out across the scientific map, working on a very broad set of topics.

**Q. Which factors determine the level of innovation in an economy?**

A. Part of the answer here is attracting talented people — a very strong university system allows you to educate people optimally and also attracts the most talented people globally to work there and want to stay. Research shows how, in the US, a large share of our innovation is due to immigrants — to be a global leader in innovation, you need policies which attract people from across the world who are working at the frontiers of their field.

Views expressed are personal

“ Google DeepMind created AlphaFold, the machine-learning algorithm which predicts the 3D shapes of proteins just from their amino acid sequence — DeepMind saw this as an area where existing competition ensured your algorithm could be scored in a well-planned way. This ability to measure success is an extremely important incentive ”



# ಎಲ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೂ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಕುರಿತು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ

**ವಿಧಾನಪರಿಷತ್:** ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗತಿ, ನೌಕರರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆದು ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಶಾಲೆ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೂ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಪ್ರಶೋತ್ತರ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸದಸ್ಯೆ ಹೇಮಲತಾ ನಾಯಕ್ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗೆ ಉತ್ತರಿಸಿ, ಕಳೆದ ಎಂಟು ವರ್ಷದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಜಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು, 369 ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರಣಾಂತಿಕ ಕಾಯಿಲೆಗೆ ಸರಾಸರಿ ನೌಕರರು ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಈಗಾಗಲೇ 22.90 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರು.

ಪಿಎಂ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದ ಹೇಮಲತಾ ನಾಯಕ, ಡಾ. ವೈ.ಎ.ನಾರಾಯಣಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಜೆಡಿಎಸ್ ನ ಮರಿತಿಬ್ಬೇಗೌಡ, ಈ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ರೈತರು, ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರು ಸೇರಿ ಎಲ್ಲ ವರ್ಗದ ಜನರಿಗೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ವಿಮಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ಇವೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುದಾನ ರಹಿತ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ವಿಮಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಸಂಜೀವಿನಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಒತ್ತಾಯಿಸಿದರು.

ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತಿಕ್ರಿಯಿಸಿದ



369 ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು

ಈಗಾಗಲೇ 22.90 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಬಿಡುಗಡೆ

ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರು, ಪಿಎಂ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ, ಪಿಎಂ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಎಪಿಎಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿಪಿಎಲ್ ವರ್ಗದವರಿಗೆ ವಿಮೆ ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದರು.

ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಿಸಿದ ಮರಿತಿಬ್ಬೇಗೌಡ, ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರಿಗೆ ಇದು ಯಾವುದೂ ಲಾಗೂ ಆಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದಾಗ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸಲಹೆ ತಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡು ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಭ್ಯತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು.

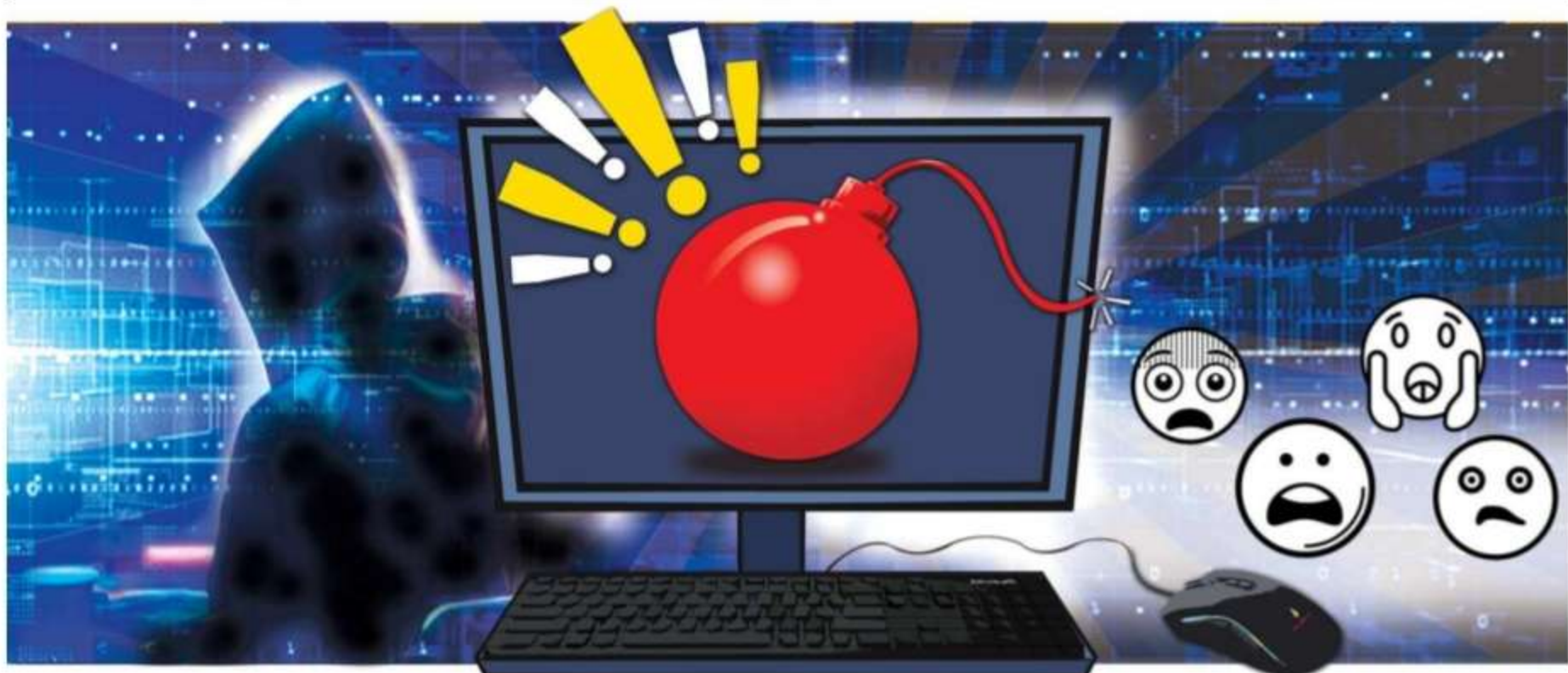


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## SPOTLIGHT



# New cyber threats catch info-tech city unawares

In the context of the recent hoax bomb threat email that around 70 schools in and around Bengaluru received and the chaos it unleashed in the IT city, K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj and Jahnvi T.R. look at the emerging nature of cyber threats and assess the infrastructural readiness to face new challenges

**I** was in the middle of my yoga class when I received a call from my children's schools informing me they would be sent home due to a 'bomb threat'. I immediately rushed to my daughter's school while my husband went to my son's school to get them home. Later, we learnt that the threats were a hoax, but when I received that call, panic set in within a second," said Gowri Raj, a resident of Yelahanka, about 20 kilometres from the city centre, remembering the events of December 1.

She was not alone. Nearly 70 schools in and around Bengaluru received the same "bomb threat email" from kharijites@beebble.com on December 1. It threatened to kill "you and your children" and said, "From Buddha to infinity they will fly apart from our explosions". It even targeted Zionists and signed off with "Allahu Akbar".

The children had been in school for just an hour or so. Bengaluru, the IT capital of the country, plunged into chaos and was gripped by panic in a matter of minutes. Even parents who hadn't received intimations from their children's schools were alerted by rolling television coverage. They rushed there and demanded that they be allowed to take their wards back home.



Schools were milling with police officials and bomb detection and disposal squads while children huddled in playgrounds and other open spaces. The threats turned out to be a hoax. However, over 1 lakh children returned home within hours of that email.

## Probes hit dead end

As the city went into a tizzy that Friday morning, there was also a sense of *deja vu*. On April 8, 2022, over 20 schools received a similar bomb threat email, which also eventually turned out to be a hoax. The December 1 drill was just a repeat of what unfolded last year in more ways than one.

Over a month after Bengaluru schools received the threat last year, schools in Bhopal received similar hoax bomb email threats in May 2022. This time around, the email to Bengaluru schools was preceded by a similar hoax bomb threat email to 51 schools in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; to several schools in Jamaica in November; and to several schools in Germany in October. The email to Bengaluru and Kuala Lumpur schools was sent from a Cyprus-based email service provider, Beebble.com.

In the 2022 case, the email was initially traced to Syria, but as more layers of the Virtual Private Network (VPN) were uncovered, the trail finally went cold in Pakistan. "We couldn't trace the final user who sent the mail from across the border. We gave our inputs to central security agencies and are unaware of further developments," said an officer involved in that probe.

The email sent to schools on December 1 differed in their tone in how they had an Islamist slant. However, given that similar emails were sent to different targets across three months, police suspect this is a new kind of "cyber terrorism" to send bustling cities into panic.

Queries with Beebble.com, through which the December 1 email was sent, revealed that the user had used the Switzerland-based Proton Virtual Private Network (VPN), a company that has a "no-

A person sitting somewhere, hiding behind the anonymity that VPNs provide, took just a few minutes to send the IT capital of India, a city of nearly 14 million and a growth engine of the country, into a tizzy. It is pretty low-tech. This is the best illustration of how asymmetric cyber threats are. A senior police official



Commotion at a school in Bengaluru after it received a bomb threat email on December 1. PTI

logs policy". "We are not hopeful that the company will give us any useful information that will lead to the identity of the email sender," a senior police official said.

## Changing nature of cyber threats

"A person sitting somewhere, hiding behind the anonymity that VPNs provide, took just a few minutes to send the IT capital of India, a city of nearly 14 million and a growth engine of the country, into a tizzy. It is pretty low-tech. This is the best illustration of how asymmetric cyber threats are," said a senior police official with considerable experience in fighting cybercrime.

If a hoax bomb threat can send an entire city into a tizzy, imagine what can happen if a city's power grid is hacked and shut down as a result. That's precisely what happened in Mumbai on October 13, 2020. A cyber attack on the city's power grid brought the country's financial capital to a halt for nearly half a day. The famed local trains stopped, and the stock exchange shut down, even as hospitals struggled to keep ventilators running.

The attack was reportedly traced to state actors in China, reported *The New York Times* in February 2021, a claim acknowledged by Ministers in the government of Maharashtra. India and China relations were tense in October 2020 over the Galwan Valley clash.

Several key cyber attacks were reported on critical information infrastructure in India in recent years: on the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in 2019, on Goa's flood monitoring system in 2020, ransomware attacks on nationally important institutions like New Delhi-based All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Bengaluru-based National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in 2022. The Karnataka State Data Centre, the information nerve centre of the Government of Karnataka, fell prey to the Wanna-Cry ransomware attack in 2017.

"The trade-off of going more and more digital is like dining with the devil. It is a cat and mouse game, and who wins is always a function of who is ahead of the curve, and the adversary always has an advantage," said Toby Simon, founder-president, Synergia Foundation, a Bengaluru-based strategic think tank specialising in cyber security, with over three decades of experience.

## Institutional vacuum

Synergia Foundation organised a roundtable meeting for the top bureaucrats of the State and honchos of Bengaluru Inc. in 2018, posing a simple question: "Who cares, and who do you call in case of a cyber attack on critical information infrastructure?" That question hasn't found a satisfactory answer in Karnataka to this day.

"We have just been lucky that there has been no major attack on our critical infrastructure. Given that our State data centre had a ransomware attack, we are not equipped to prevent it or handle its aftermath efficiently. There are no standard operating procedures (SOPs) and a set chain of command or architecture in place to handle such crises in the State," said a senior police official who is a cybercrime expert.

A national cyber security architecture has recently evolved – the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which coordinates cybercrime investigations, and the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), with which States have been coordinating. But multiple police officials and e-governance experts said a similar architecture was needed at the State level. That is missing in Karnataka, even as Maharashtra and Odisha have taken the lead in this avenue.

Multiple proposals from the Karnataka State Police and e-Governance Department to set up a cyber security architecture like I4C and NCIIPC have been ignored. The Cyber Security Policy 2023, still in the draft stage, does provide a State Cyber Security Committee led by the Chief Secretary but doesn't include the Karnataka State Police and has come under criticism over it by the police, who are at the forefront of fighting cybercrimes, cyber security breaches, and now cyber terrorism.

"What we need is a two-organisation set-up. One organisation that coordinates and has adequate skill sets for cybercrime probes also houses a command centre to handle any crisis in the state. Another organisation needs to proactively ensure that our critical information infrastructure – like our power grids, flood management systems, metro and railway signals, and traffic management systems – is safe.

We must ethically hack our systems, identify vulnerabilities, and patch up our bugs and gaps.

That is the only way we can stay ahead of the curve," said a senior police official.

Officials responsible for cyber security and fighting cybercrime said there was a lack of understanding of these ideas in the government across parties. "Unless a big attack happens, there seems to be a lack of receptiveness to these ideas, even though the vulnerability of Bengaluru to such attacks is very high. This is like waiting for your first accident to get insurance. But often, that is how it works. Maharashtra is now investing over ₹800 crore in a Computer Emergency Response Team - Maharashtra (CERT-MH) after the 2020 power grid attack," a senior official said.

In the Budget the then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai presented in February 2023, he proposed to set up a Cyber Security Operation Centre (CSOC) at a cost of ₹20 crore. This followed a proposal by the Karnataka State Police and was on the lines of I4C and NCIIPC. However, Bommai was voted out in May, and incumbent Chief Minister Siddaramaiah junked the February Budget and presented a new one in July in which the CSOC proposal was dropped.

Toby Simon of Synergia Foundation said most of the organisations set up by the governments tended to be "post-facto" crisis management groups but said what was needed was a "thinking organisation" that doesn't work to solve the problem at hand but thinks ahead of the curve and tries to anticipate and solve the next issue. "The key thing in this cat-and-mouse game is thought leadership," he said.

"For instance, all our cyber security is based on encryptions and passwords. The advent of artificial intelligence and quantum computing has made decryption so much easier and fast. We now need to prepare for a post-AI and quantum age cyber security," he said.

The E-Governance Department is now working on initiating "purple teaming", where government teams ethically hack their critical information infrastructure to expose the chinks to fix them, among a host of other initiatives. Cyber Security Policy 2023 in the offing is expected to give a big fillip for the government's cyber security culture. However, many in the field pointed out the need for more collaboration between the e-Governance Department and Karnataka State Police in the State.

## Schools pick up the pieces

"Schools and colleges are easy targets for people deliberately trying to disrupt peace and harmony. But we cannot take even a single thing lightly. As schools, we have maximum security, and we even have strong firewalls for cyber security. Yet, we cannot control emails," said Mansoor Ali Khan, trustee and member of the management board, Delhi Public School. One of the group's branches had also received a threat on the day.

"Once such threats come in, schools take two to three days to return to normalcy, and children start panicking. These things greatly impact students, especially as it is the second or third time something like this has happened in the last few months. It affects their confidence. We have to counsel and talk to them patiently," Khan said.

The management from some other schools reported that while the students were mature enough to understand that the threats were a hoax, the security on the premises was beefed up, nevertheless.

"We already had 20 security guards and around 400 cameras on campus. We have never let anyone come to the campus without prior appointments and ID verification. Now, after this incident, we have employed three additional security guards, a few night guards, and also installed extra night lights," said Nooraine Fazal, co-founder, CEO, and managing trustee, Inventure Academy, also a school that received a bomb threat on December 1.

Following these events, the Department of School Education and Literacy also recently issued a circular, reiterating an earlier regulation that the school premises, including the playgrounds attached to them, only be used for educational purposes and not be rented out. Additionally, the private schools in the city also demanded that the State government roll out a "School Safety Policy" which provides legal security to students, staff, management, and the school's property.

# How fraudsters stole money using biometric details in Sub-Registrar offices

A senior police official overseeing investigation into the AEPS fraud cases in Mangaluru said multiple gangs based in Bihar were involved in siphoning money

**Raghava M.**  
MANGALURU

**N**otices displayed outside the two Sub-Registrar Offices a Mini Vidhana Soudha building in Mangaluru a some days ago asked people to lock their biometrics before going for registering their documents.

The notices read: "In light of complaints registered with (Mangaluru) CEN (Cyber Economic and Narcotic Crime) police station on fraudsters misusing Aadhaar number and fingerprints printed on the registered documents for removing money from bank accounts, we are advising people coming for registration to lock their biometrics."

The notices in Mangaluru sub-registrar offices also mentioned the procedure to be followed for locking the biometrics. In addition, the Stamps and Registration Department posted on You Tube (<https://youtu.be/Jtq6nTpu5A?si=EPnbTDCuUKbiOIRh>) a video tutorial on "How to block Aadhaar biometric on your phone."



### Three arrested

It is well over a month since Mangaluru police arrested three persons from Bihar in connection with 10 cases registered relating to stealing money from bank accounts of people by misusing Aadhaar number and fingerprints printed on the documents registered at Sub Registrar offices.

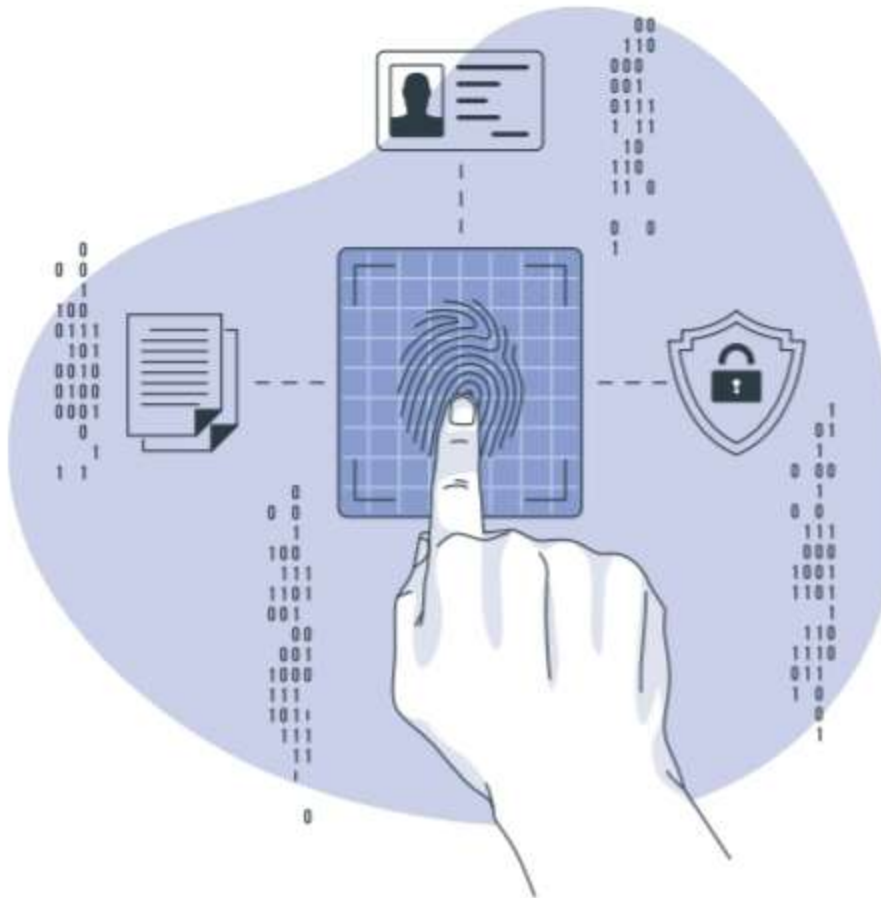
Such cases of new age data theft have been reported from elsewhere in Karnataka and other states as well.

Now, before coming to the offices of Sub-Registrar to complete the registration work, people are seen logging on to the 'mAadhaar' app or to myaadhaar.uidai.gov.in for locking their biometrics. Document writers and advocates are seen at the Sub Registrars' office helping people in blocking their biometrics. "Before people sit to capture their picture and give fingerprint to complete the registration (under the new Kaveri 2 system) process, we ensure they have blocked their biometrics," said a Sub-Registrar of Mangaluru.

### Cases reported

The misuse of Aadhaar number and fingerprints in the registered documents for stealing money was first pointed out by a doctor couple from Bejai in Mangaluru. The two had gone to the Sub Registrar's office on September 9 for registering their land. Ten days later, ₹ 50,000 each got deducted from the accounts of the husband and the wife respectively between September 11 and September 16. The two filed a complaint with the Mangaluru CEN police station on September 16.

Nine other complaints were registered at the CEN Police Station between October 25 and October 26 wherein complainants reported on losing money ranging between ₹10,000 and ₹99,599 between August 6 and September 19.



Mangaluru Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal said a total of 58 complaints have been filed with Mangaluru City police and the total money lost is about ₹ 3.2 lakh between this August and October.

### Investigation

In Udupi, K. Ravishankar, a doctor from Shirva, was the first to register the complaint on October 3 on losing ₹ 10,000 each from his Union Bank of India and Canara Bank accounts respectively on September 30. Four complaints were registered at the Malpe police station on October 31 reporting on the deduction of money ranging between ₹6,000 and ₹28,000 between October 12 and October 24.

As interaction with the Registration

Department officials did not help in unravelling the way fraudsters accessed Aadhaar and fingerprints from the Kaveri-2 system, the city police took up the laborious task of tracing the money trail.

It took nearly two months for the Mangaluru police to identify Deepak Kumar Hembram, 33; Vivek Kumar Biswas, 24; and Madan Kumar, 23, and arrest them from a place in Bihar, in the last week of October. The three were arrested in connection with 10 cases registered by Mangaluru police. The city police is searching for the main accused, who is said to be the leader of the gang of fraudsters.

### More cases in Bengaluru

A couple of days after Mangaluru police arrested

three persons, the Bengaluru Northeast Division cybercrime police arrested two persons allegedly involved in AEPS fraud. A total of 116 cases of AEPS fraud have been registered in Bengaluru. Cases of AEPS fraud have been reported from other parts of the State including Hassan, Chikkamagalur and Kodagu districts. AEPS fraud cases have been reported from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states too.

A senior police official overseeing investigation into the AEPS fraud cases in Mangaluru said multiple gangs based in Bihar were involved in siphoning money using AEPS enabled devices. "A majority of the members of these gangs are Class 10 pass outs and the way they have exploited loopholes in AEPS is mind-boggling," the officer said.

Those arrested by Mangaluru police have no links with the persons arrested by Bengaluru police, the official added.

### Modus operandi

The accused, the official said, have given fake details to register themselves on the Kaveri Online Services website ([kaveri.karnataka.gov.in](http://kaveri.karnataka.gov.in)) of Karnataka Stamps and Registration Department. Then they have submitted online application seeking copies of documents by randomly mentioning registration numbers. The copies of these documents are then downloaded.

Culling out documents where the fingerprints are clearly seen, fraudsters took image of the fingerprints on a butter paper. The image is adjusted to the size of thumb. A rubber stamp like tool using silicon material was prepared, which had ridges of the fingerprint.

This tool was placed on AEPS-enabled device and was pressed after entering the Aadhaar number. Following match of Aadhaar number and finger print, money to a maximum of ₹10,000 per transaction was withdrawn. A maximum of ₹ 25,000 can be withdrawn per day using AEPS.

In some cases, money has been withdrawn a couple of days after registration, while there are cases where money has been withdrawn a month after registration. Mangaluru police have recovered PDF images of over 1000 registered documents related to Karnataka and over 300 registered documents related to Andhra Pradesh and a few other states. The police official said the whole process was well organised. While one applied for certified copies, there was another person to take print out and keep apart those documents that had clear fingerprints. There were persons for preparing rubber stamp like tool and withdrawing money.

### Meeting with authority

The senior police official said recently the Mangaluru police had a meeting with officials from Unique Identification Authority of India where loopholes in the AEPS were pointed out.

The police expressed the need for generating OTP for withdrawing money. An alert should be generated and sent to the mobile number of the account holder when money is withdrawn at a far away place than the place where an account holder resides. "In all cases reported in Mangaluru, withdrawals were made at Bihar," the police official said and added, "Interestingly, the place where the money was withdrawn was about 200 km away from the place the accused was staying."

### Changes made

The fraud has led the Department of Stamps and Registration to bring some changes in the Kaveri-2 system. "We have stopped providing image of all the pages of the registered document. Instead, only image of the first page of the document is being provided to those filing for certified copy application online," said a senior officer from the Stamps and Registration Department. The document writers have been told to mention in the document to be registered only last four digits of Aadhaar number while writing "X" in place of the first eight digits of the number.



Sub Registrar Office (Mangaluru City) in Mini-Vidhana Soudha in Mangaluru.

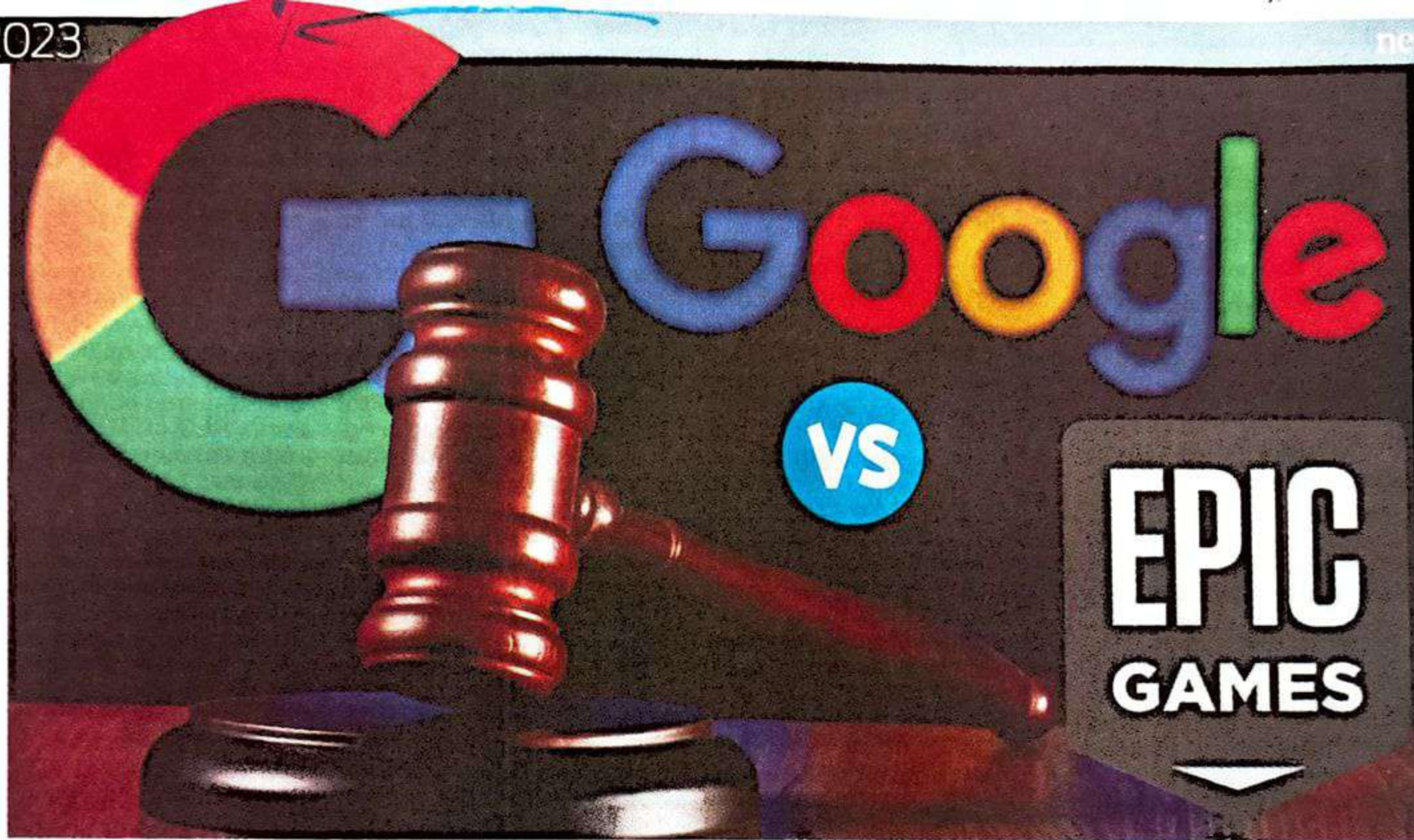
Game maker Epic recently won a major anti-monopoly lawsuit against Google over its abuse of dominance in its Play Store market. This could have a wide impact on the revenue model of Google and probably Apple's App Store

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

**A**MERICAN video game and software developer Epic Games, maker of the hit game Fortnite, has won big in its battle against Google in a major antitrust trial, which challenged the tech giant's 'illegal monopoly' in Play Store, alleging that Google is quashing competitors and charging exorbitant fees for app developers. The nine-member jury ruled in favour of Epic on all counts.

In its lawsuit, Epic alleged that in 2021 Google made an operating profit of \$12 billion on its Play Store by abusing its dominance in the app store market.

Epic also alleged that Google used to bun-



# EPIC WIN AGAINST GOOGLE'S DOMINANCE IN DIGITAL MARKET

dle its Play Store and billing service, forcing developers to use both.

Google charges a commission fee of up to 30% on in-app purchases on platform and

also charges service fee for digital goods sale.

The jury also noted that Google "willfully acquired or maintained monopoly power by engaging in anticompetitive conduct". The court will begin

work in January on what remedies to implement. This could determine how Google needs to make changes in its operations addressing anti-competitive behaviour. Epic did not ask for monetary damages.

Commenting on the development, Epic CEO Tim Sweeney in a post on X claimed victory over Google. "After 4 weeks of detailed court testimony, the California jury found against the Google Play monopoly on

all counts. The court's work on remedies will start in January. Thanks for everyone's support and faith! Free Fortnite!"

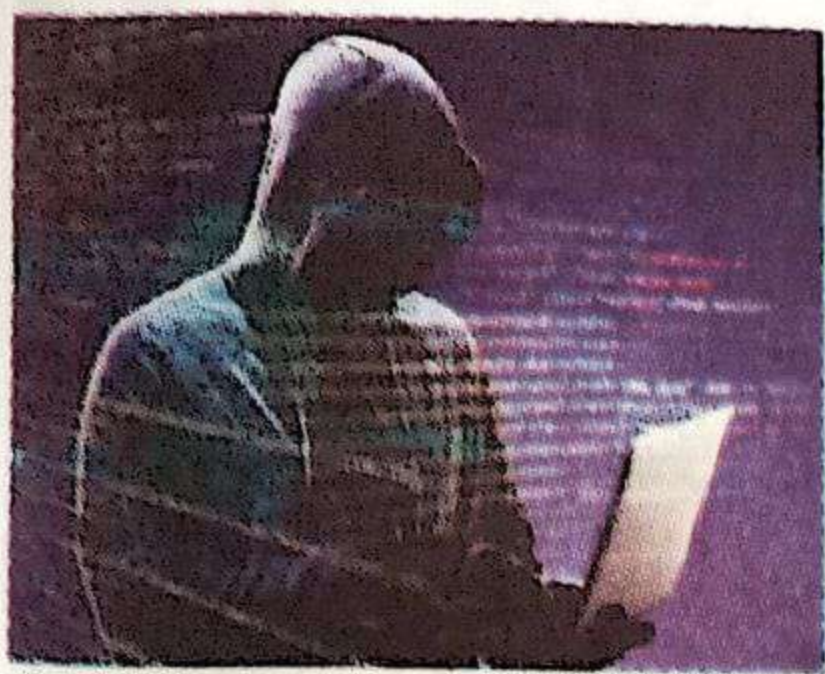
Google said it would appeal. "We will continue to defend the Android business model," a company official said in a statement. The verdict will have major ramifications for Google's app market revenue model and could impact Apple, too. The ruling could also give a level-playing field for app developers.

"This is a major victory in the fight against one of Google's most profitable monopolies," said American Economic Liberties Project, an anti-monopoly body.

Katherine Van Dyck, senior legal counsel at American Economic Liberties Project, said: "A jury of 9 has found that Google's sweetheart deals, bribes and monopoly profits are illegal. Epic's decision to forego monetary damages and instead pursue injunctive relief all but ensures that this decision will fundamentally reshape Google's monopoly, which it has leveraged to exploit app developers and stifle innovation. This is a message that justice can prevail in the fight against Big Tech's out-sized power over our lives," she added.

Epic has earlier lost an anti-trust lawsuit against Apple's dominance over its misuse of dominance and monopoly in its App Store. Its appeal is currently pending in the US Supreme Court.





# Cyber attacks to become more sophisticated in 2024

ENS @ Bengaluru

**B**OTH hackers and cyber security professionals continue to improve on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML). In a blog post on predictions and trends in the cybersecurity industry for 2024, security intelligence solutions provider Securonix says 2023 was the year that AI exploded on the public stage with the growth of large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT.

This trend will extend into 2024, as attacks will become more sophisticated as threat actors continue to use AI tools. Year 2024 will likely witness an increase in AI-assisted and AI-driven attacks successfully bypassing security controls such as multi-factor authentication (MFA), zero trust, and other fundamental security technologies and defences.

Security professionals will have to adapt to these attacks through the development of their own AI-based tools to create effective defences. Stressing on generative AI and deep fakes, Securonix says they have been proven to be effective in improving phishing and other social engineering attacks that bypass security protocols to access sensitive information -- 47% of Indians have been, or know people who are, victims of AI voice cloning attacks.

# ಡೀಪ್ಲೋಮ್ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು: ಕಳವಳ

**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು:** ಡೀಪ್ಲೋಮ್ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ದುರ್ಬಳಕೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ತಮ್ಮ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಕಲಿ ವಿಡಿಯೋ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಗಳನ್ನು ಹರಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೇಶದ ಉದ್ಯಮಿಗಳಾದ ಇನ್ಫೋಸಿಸ್ ಸಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ಎನ್. ಆರ್.ನಾರಾಯಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಟಾಟಾ ಸಮೂಹದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ರತನ್ ಟಾಟಾ ಕಳವಳ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಇದನ್ನು ನಂಬಿ ಮೋಸ ಹೋಗದಂತೆ, ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಯಿಂದಿರುವಂತೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಎಕ್ಸ್ ಖಾತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ

ಬರೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ನಾರಾಯಣ ಮೂರ್ತಿ, ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಟೋಮೇಟೆಡ್ ಟ್ರೇಡಿಂಗ್ ಆಪ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಯಾವುದೇ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ನಾನಾಗಲೀ, ನನ್ನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯದಾಗಲೀ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪಾತ್ರವಿಲ್ಲ' ಎಂದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಬಿಟಿಸಿ ಎಐ ಎವಾಕ್ಸ್, ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷ್ ಬಿಟ್ಯಾಯಿನ್ ಪ್ರಾಫಿಟ್, ಬಿಟ್ ಲೈಟ್, ಸಿಂಕ್, ಇಮಿಡಿಯಟ್ ಮೊಮೆಂಟಮ್, ಕ್ಯಾಪಿಟಲಿಕ್ ವೆಂಚರ್ಸ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ತಾಣಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸುವಂತೆ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಜಾಲತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಡಿಯೋ ಹರಿದಾಡುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿರುವುದ ತಮ್ಮ ಡೀಪ್ಲೋಮ್ ಚಿತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಡಿಯೋ' ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಕಳವಳ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.



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# HEALTH





# Another abortion racket unearthed at private hospital

**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the city police unearthing an inter-city sex determination and abortion racket this November, Health Department officials uncovered another abortion racket run at a private hospital on the outskirts of the city during a routine inspection at SPG Hospital and Diagnostic Centre in Anugondanahalli on Wednesday.

Health Department officials found a fresh female foetus in the dustbin of the hospital during the raid.

Following instructions from the department, the

**Health Department officials found a fresh female foetus in the dustbin of the hospital during a raid**

officials carried random inspections at the private hospital and found a scanning machine operating illegally at the hospital.

The health officials alerted the district health officials who went to seize the machine.

They found the foetus and are now questioning the staff.

Inquiries revealed that the hospital belonged to

Srinivas who was running the racket with the help of seven staff members, including a lab technician, two nurses, and house-keeping staff.

Based on a complaint, the police have taken up case under Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, and efforts are on to track down the doctor who is on the run.

“We have detained the staff for questioning and legal action will be initiated based on their role in the racket,” Mallikarjun Baldandi, Superintendent of police, Bengaluru Rural, said.

# 'State's start-up funding has seen 80% dip and FDI down by 46% due to global slowdown'

Bengaluru, known as India's start-up capital, is facing the impact of global challenges: Mid-Year Review of State Finances

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BELAGAVI

**T**hough Karnataka's economic growth is steady, stable, and resilient, start-up funding in the State has dropped by about 80% and foreign direct investment (FDI) has reduced by 46% in the first half of the financial year as a result of the slowdown in advanced global economies, according to Mid-Year Review (MYR) of State Finances 2023-24.

The MYR, which was tabled in the State legislature on Thursday, says that start-up funding has dropped by \$2.8 billion from \$3.4 billion in the first half of the previous year to \$0.6 billion in the first half of the current financial year. It says that FDIs in Karnataka have dropped by \$2.5 billion from \$5.3 billion in the first half of the previous financial year to \$2.8 billion in the first half of the present financial year.

Bengaluru, renowned as India's start-up capital and home to 40% of India's



Start-up funding has dropped by \$2.8 billion from \$3.4 billion in the first half of the previous year to \$0.6 billion in the first half of the current financial year, according to Mid-Year Review of State Finances.

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unicorns, is facing the impact of global challenges, the review notes. Karnataka being the IT hub of India with a majority of global IT companies headquartered in Bengaluru amplifies the impact of such global factors, it adds.

## **Impact of conflicts**

Putting the decline in FDI and start-up funding in a global perspective, the review notes that the IMF has projected the global

growth to decrease from 3.5% in 2022 to 3% in 2023 and to slow down further to 2.9% in 2024. While the outlook for global trade is downcast due to dismal global demand, the global supply chain and trade outlook is adversely impacted due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

At the same time, the State Own Tax Revenue increased by 15% in the first

half of 2023-24 compared with the corresponding period in the previous year. State non-tax revenue for the same period showed a growth of 14%. Overall, the revenue receipts have increased by 5% compared with the corresponding period in the previous year, the MYR states.

Karnataka, which has budgeted gross borrowing of ₹78,363 crore from the Open Market in the cur-

rent fiscal, has not borrowed from the market in the first half of the year. Considering the cash position, borrowings will be undertaken in the last two quarters only on necessity basis and within the permissible limit, the MYR notes.

State's revenue expenditure for the first six months of 2023-24 stands at ₹98,070 crore which is 39% of the total Budget estimates. Growth of 13% has been seen in the revenue expenditure as compared with the first half of 2022-23, the review report points out.

## **Monsoon impact**

The review has observed that the failure of the southwest monsoon has adversely impacted agricultural production and hydroelectricity generation which in turn poses an adverse risk to the State's economic growth.

The initial estimates have put the crop losses for the kharif season at ₹33,770.10 crore, the review points out.

# Urgent need to control use of e-cigarettes, says WHO

E-cigarettes with nicotine are highly addictive and harmful to health and can lead to cigarette use, it says and urges countries to implement strict measures to protect children and young people

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**

NEW DELHI

**E**-cigarettes as consumer products are not shown to be effective for quitting tobacco use at the population level. Instead, alarming evidence has emerged on adverse population health effects, the World Health Organization said on Thursday. It added there is an urgent need to control e-cigarettes to protect children, as well as non-smokers and minimise health harms to the population.

“Children are being recruited and trapped at an early age to use e-cigarettes and may get hooked to nicotine,” WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement, while urging countries to implement strict measures to prevent uptake to protect citizens, especially children and young people.

The WHO said that e-cigarettes have been allowed on the open market and aggressively marketed to young people. Thirty-four



**Health hazard:** E-cigarettes generate toxic substances some which cause cancer and some that increase risk of heart disorders.

countries have banned the sale of e-cigarettes, 88 countries have no minimum age at which e-cigarettes can be bought and 74 countries have no regulations in place for these harmful products. In India, the possession of e-cigarettes and similar devices is a violation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarette Act, 2019, according to the Union Health Ministry.

Even brief exposure to e-cigarette content on social media can be associated with increased intention to use these products,

as well as more positive attitudes towards e-cigarettes. Studies consistently show that young people who use e-cigarettes are almost three times more likely to use cigarettes later in life, the WHO said.

## Alarming figures

According to data, children in the age group of 13-15 years are using e-cigarettes at rates higher than that among adults in all WHO regions. In Canada, the rates of e-cigarette use among 16 to 19-year-olds has doubled between 2017

and 2022, and in the U.K., the number of young users has tripled in the past three years.

The world organisation noted that e-cigarettes with nicotine are highly addictive and are harmful to health. While long-term health effects are not fully understood, it has been established that they generate toxic substances, some of which are known to cause cancer and some that increase the risk of heart and lung disorders. It can also affect brain development and lead to learning disorders for young people.

Foetal exposure to e-cigarettes can adversely affect the development of the foetus in pregnant women. Exposure to emissions from e-cigarettes also poses risks to bystanders.

The WHO has said that urgent measures are necessary to prevent uptake of e-cigarettes and counter nicotine addiction alongside a comprehensive approach to tobacco control, and in light of national circumstances.

# Did COVID vaccination have a positive impact on mental health?

A study in the U.K. revealed increased incidence of mental health problems after the pandemic. This was less common among the vaccinated, compared to the unvaccinated; researchers explored records of 17 million people in the U.K., comparing incidence of eight types of mental illnesses over a timeline from the pre-vaccine era to months after vaccine rollout

Rajeev Jayadevan

**W**hile the benefits of vaccination in reducing the severity and mortality of COVID are well-established, its impact on mental health is a less explored area. Following COVID, there are reports of persistent mental health issues, including anxiety and depression. In a recent ICMR study, 9% of individuals who survived COVID hospitalisation were found to experience mental health challenges lasting at least one year. These conditions overlap with Long COVID, a spectrum of lingering symptoms affecting about 5% of individuals recovering from COVID, regardless of severity. Any intervention that could reduce this burden would therefore be valuable.

A recent U.K. study by Walker et al. revealed an increased incidence of mental health problems following COVID. However, this was less common among vaccinated individuals, when compared to unvaccinated people. The additional risk of depression at 6 months following COVID was 449 per 100,000 among vaccinated individuals, while it was 1009 per 100,000 among the unvaccinated.

The researchers explored the medical records of 17 million people in the U.K., comparing the incidence of eight types of mental illnesses over a timeline that extended from the pre-vaccine era until several months following the vaccine rollout. This enabled the detection of various types of COVID-associated mental illnesses, not only during the time before vaccines were available, but also afterward.

## Clear difference in outcomes

During the period following vaccine rollout, the researchers found a clear difference in mental health outcomes among vaccinated individuals. They suffered less depression, anxiety and serious mental illness following COVID, compared to their unvaccinated peers. The effect was independent of whether they had prior history of mental illness. This is inferred to be due to the decreased severity of COVID-19 among vaccinated people, which could have had an indirect impact on the mental health outcomes.

An additional explanation is that vaccination reduces anxiety, creating a sense of safety, as noted in a University of New Hampshire paper. Various studies affirm this, indicating decreased anxiety and depression across age, gender, and occupation among the vaccinated. However, mental health is not a binary topic, and a deeper examination is warranted to shed more light on this.



The unvaccinated displayed a greater prevalence of mental health issues. GETTY IMAGES

Unlike physical health and its commonly used markers such as hospitalisation rate and death, mental health is more difficult to measure, and is often understudied. There is no lab test or scan that can diagnose mental illness. Depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, substance abuse, schizophrenia and personality disorders are part of the spectrum, the diagnosis of which requires expert evaluation. In countries such as the U.K., electronic medical records serve as a reliable source of data on the mental illness burden in the population. This is primarily because of the GP system which caters to the general public - where all medical conditions are electronically logged.

## Quality of life

Mental ill-health adversely affects quality of life, not only for the individual but also for the dependents. It contributes directly and indirectly to productivity and, consequently, the economy. A person with undiagnosed mental wellness might not be as productive as a healthy person, irrespective of their role, whether a homemaker or a public servant. Mental illness can impair the quality of decisions made in daily life, ranging from personal matters to government policies. It results in inefficiency, absenteeism and attrition, with employees frequently leaving their jobs. A report by Deloitte in the U.K. estimated that there was a 25% increase in

cost to employers in the U.K. directly attributable to poor mental health during the pandemic.

A paper by the National Bureau of Economic Research, US found that vaccination reduced the burden of anxiety and depression in the population by 30%, leading to an estimated monetary saving of \$346 billion. No 'spill-over effect' was observed, ruling out benefits for the unvaccinated. Reduced anxiety and depression were thus exclusive to vaccinated individuals.

At an individual level, better mental health could mean the difference between suicide and being alive, being happy or sad, or being unemployed or otherwise. Unfortunately the stigma associated with mental illness has prevented several people from seeking the help that they need. Unlike diseases such as chickenpox or conjunctivitis with overt clinical features which enable swift identification, mental illnesses can remain undiagnosed for years until a critical event brings them to light.

In any research, it is important to examine the baseline characteristics of the groups being studied. It is possible that there were fundamental differences between people who chose to be vaccinated and individuals who refused.

## Marginalised groups

Studies reveal that unvaccinated individuals tend to have relatively lower



At an individual level, better mental health could mean the difference between suicide and being alive, being happy or sad, or being unemployed or otherwise

education levels and belong to socioeconomically and ethnically disadvantaged groups. Within these subgroups, the physical toll of COVID is compounded by uncertainty regarding employment, income drops, job loss, bereavement, domestic stress, and challenges in accessing healthcare. Indirectly impacting mental health, some of these factors may have contributed to the apparent difference between the two groups after experiencing COVID.

The U.K. study examined data from 2021, a period during which several mandates were in place in developed nations. Vaccination granted people certain privileges, which were out of reach for the unvaccinated. This discrimination may have contributed to their delayed recovery from a mental health setback. Another potential explanation is that early vaccination prioritised older people and healthcare workers who had greater baseline anxiety about the outcome of COVID. Consequently, such individuals may have felt a sense of relief when vaccines were introduced.

In fact, a 2022 study published in the European Economic Review by the University of Leeds found that the benefits of vaccination on mental health were predominantly observed in older and clinically vulnerable people. They did not find any significant difference in mental health outcomes attributable to vaccination among younger groups. This could be because younger people are less anxious about the outcome of COVID and perhaps did not feel the need for vaccination. Additionally, vaccination may have had a greater impact among the elderly because they were prone to severe forms of COVID.

It is estimated that 50% of all disability benefits in Britain are linked with mental health, the proportion being only 25% two decades ago. Mental health issues, when not sorted out, can aggravate unemployment. The longer a person remains unemployed, the harder it is to get employment in the future.

## Children affected too

Mental health was affected during the pandemic in several ways besides COVID

infection. *The Hindu* published a report in October 2020 stating that the pandemic triggered mood disorders among senior citizens in India. During the early part of the pandemic, factors like social isolation, limited access to communication devices and domestic abuse from caregivers created problems among the elderly in India. The untimely deaths of friends and relatives from COVID-19 exacerbated their sadness and anxiety.

It was not only adults who suffered from mental health issues. Children were adversely affected by school closures. Schools provide crucial non-academic services and support systems, including personal safety and nutrition for children, all of which were disrupted during closures. The increase in screen time along with a heightened attraction to video games, diminished quality of education, and lack of social interaction further impacted their mental health.

Among younger adults, working from home during the early part of the pandemic led to family conflicts, excessive alcohol use and social isolation. An entity called Zoom dysmorphia has been described, which is essentially a warped perception of self image. Following prolonged Zoom meetings, some individuals develop a heightened self-awareness and body image dissatisfaction.

A Cambridge U.K. study showed an interesting paradox. Although depression and anxiety were lower among vaccinated individuals in general, the opposite was observed among vaccinated people with lower educational attainment. The authors note that baseline vaccine hesitancy and susceptibility to misinformation in this subgroup contributed to a paradoxical increase in anxiety and depression.

A 2023 meta-analysis by Lee et al. found that although vaccination reduced depression and anxiety overall, people who had a prior history of COVID experienced more severe symptoms of depression and anxiety after being vaccinated. The U.K. study however did not find such a difference.

In summary, mental ill health during the times of COVID has rightfully been referred to as the second pandemic. Not easy to detect yet having a profound impact on the individual, family, society as well as economic productivity, it deserves greater attention. The overwhelming evidence suggests that vaccination reduced the negative impact COVID had on mental health.

(Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan is co-chairman of the National IMA COVID Task Force. He may be reached at [rajeevjayadevan@gmail.com](mailto:rajeevjayadevan@gmail.com))

# Battling loneliness by reconnecting social lifelines

**Ramya Kannan**

Of late, particularly after the pandemic, a great deal of attention is being paid to mental health. The forced seclusion of the COVID-19 years appears to have severed social connections that people had established over time. Even as people establish these connects once again, it is clear that some have been unable to revert to pre-pandemic levels of socialisation, or form or sustain meaningful relationships.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has indicated that high-quality social connections are essential to our mental and physical health and our well-being. Social isolation and loneliness are important, yet neglected, social determinants for people of all ages including older people. More recently, the WHO established a Commission on Social Connection (2024-2026) with an intent to see the social isolation issue recognised and resourced as a global public health priority.

“Anyone, anywhere, can be lonely or socially isolated,” the WHO says. “Across all ages and regions, loneliness and social isolation have serious impacts on our physical and mental health, and the well-being of our communities and society.” The Commission will propose a global agenda on social connection, working with high-level Commissioners to make the case for action, marshal support to



The Covid-19 lockdown ruined social connections and left people alone.  
GETTY IMAGES

scale up proven solutions and measure progress.

As per statistics with the world health body, social isolation and loneliness are widespread, with an estimated 1 in 4 older people experiencing social isolation and between 5 and 15 per cent of adolescents experiencing loneliness. A large body of research shows that social isolation and loneliness have a serious impact on physical and mental health, quality of life, and longevity. The effect of social isolation and loneliness on mortality is comparable to that of other well-established risk factors such as smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity. Social isolation and loneliness do not just harm individuals; they also have a negative impact on entire communities and societies. Research shows that their safety, prosperity, and effective governance depend greatly on the quality of social connections within neighbourhoods, workplaces, and schools, the WHO adds.

Even before the pandemic, loneliness was a concern. A systematic review by Mareike Ernst et al in a paper in the peer-reviewed journal *American Psychologist* had this to say: “Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, social isolation and loneliness were becoming major public health and policy concerns, largely due to their serious impact on longevity, mental and physical health, and well-being”.

In context the results of the The Global State of Social Connections survey by Gallup and Meta are interesting. Meta and Gallup collaborated on two research studies, the first in 2022, revealed important variations in people’s sense of connectedness and loneliness across the seven countries studied. The 2023 report builds on that research by presenting data on connections and loneliness among people from 142 countries.

As per the results of that perception study, 72% of the people felt “very” or “fairly” connected to others; 6% did not feel connected “at all” to other people. Nearly a quarter (24%) of the global population felt “very” or “fairly” lonely, while 49% said they were not lonely “at all.” On an average, similar percentages of men and women reported feeling very or fairly connected to others (73% and 72%, respectively) or very or fairly lonely (24% each); however, there were sizeable gender differences in feelings of social connectedness and loneliness in several countries.

As per the survey, most people reported interacting with a variety of social groups at least once a day, including friends or family who live with or near them (58%) as well as neighbours or others who live nearby (46%). A third of the global population reported interacting daily with friends and family who live far away, suggesting that many people likely use some form of technology every day to foster connectedness with important people in their lives. Of the six types of social ties explored, interactions with strangers were reported least, with 16% of the global population saying they interacted with strangers at least once a day in the previous seven days.

Even with this latest perception poll, there is a substantial number of people who do feel disconnected and lonely. Clear strategies will be required from governments across the world in order to keep their residents happy. No mean task at any time, but in the current set of circumstances, increasingly so.

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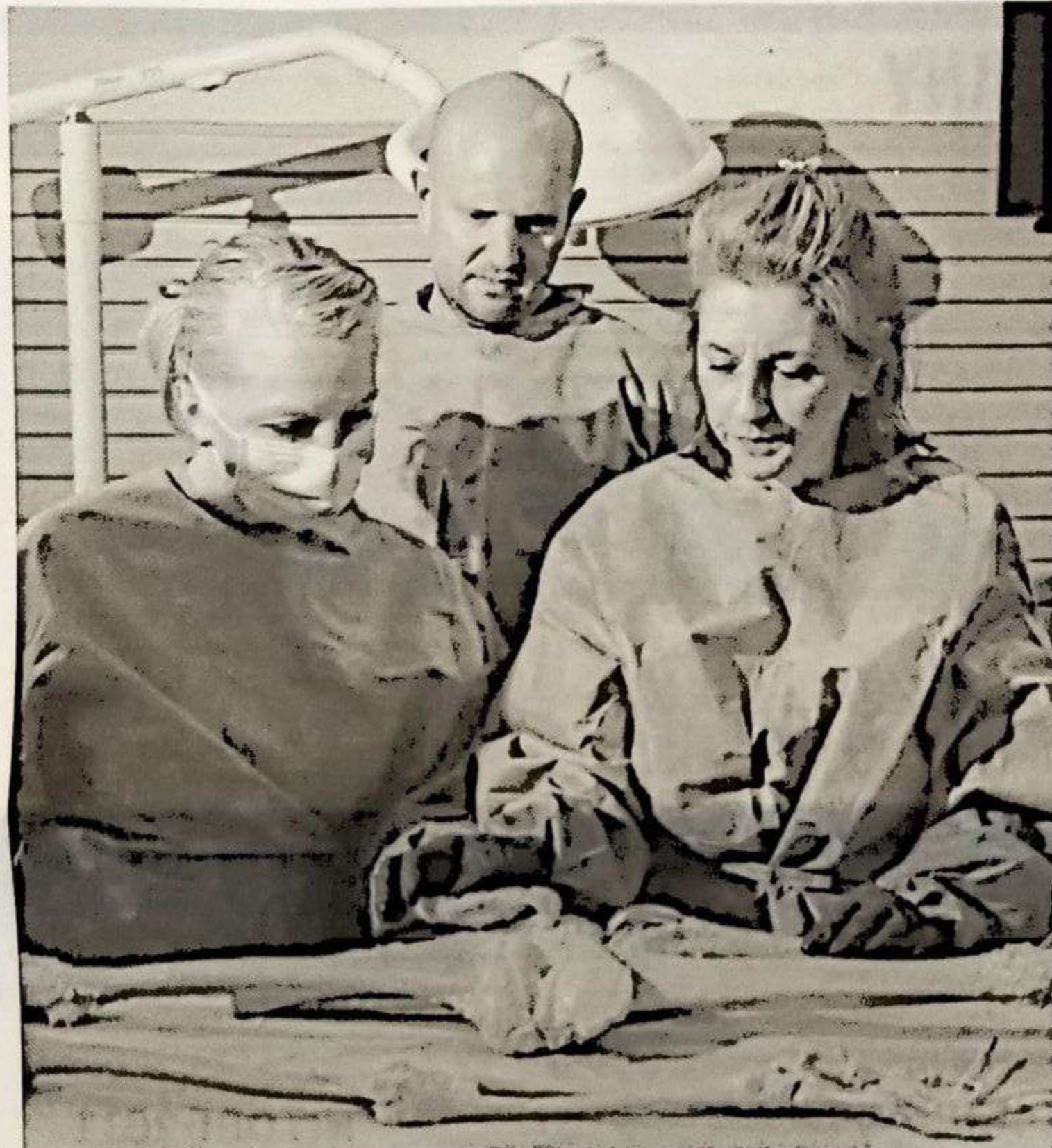
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# Why yoga teachers are learning to dissect cadavers

Thousands of fitness professionals and massage therapists have participated in cadaver workshops. They say it makes them more effective at their jobs

DANIELLE FRIEDMAN



Two students and a lab assistant examining a knee joint during a dissection course. For many fitness professionals, such classes are a way to better understand the human body. THE NEW YORK TIMES

Jane Sato thought she understood the abdominal muscles. For the first decade that she taught Pilates and yoga in New York City, she would tell her students to pull their belly button into their spine to strengthen their core.

But when she saw what actual abdominal muscles looked like during a human cadaver dissection workshop at Mount Sinai Hospital — the crisscrossed layers of tissue, the way the muscles also ran back to front and up and down — she realised her words weren't nearly as instructive as they could be. "There's just a lot more to the picture," she said. "When you see it in real life, your cues automatically change."

Now, instead of telling clients to suck in their belly button, she tells them to draw in all their core muscles, "like a hug."

Sato is one of thousands of fitness professionals who have sought out cadaver workshops to better understand anatomy and improve their teaching skills. Over the past two decades, at least a dozen dissection courses — most outside the traditional medical system — have popped up, catering to people like yoga teachers, massage therapists and Peloton trainers.

While most of these professions require some anatomy training to become certified, it can vary widely and usually relies on two-dimensional pictures, plastic models and even anatomy colouring books, which can create a misleading picture of how the body works.

"They are looking for more information," said Rachele Pojednic, the director of exercise science at Norwich University and a research associate at Harvard's Institute of Lifestyle Medicine. But often, she added, "they don't know who to go to." Why not "arm these professionals with as much knowledge as possible?"

## A visceral experience

Experts say you can't fully understand the value of a dissection until you participate in one. So on a sunny Saturday in October, fueled partly by morbid curiosity, I went to a lab called Experience Anatomy, in an office park near the Charlotte, NC, airport. I was both excited and nervous, and keenly aware that I might not be able to unsee what I observed. The two-day dissection was led by Fauna Moore, an Ashtanga yoga instructor and massage therapist who began attending, studying and then teaching dissections after being disappointed with the anatomy instruction she received during training. (One does not need a special certification to oversee a cadaver dissection, though she has spent years shadowing experienced dissectors.)

After a short orientation, the course's five students gathered around the cadaver, scalpels in hand. While some courses for fitness professionals teach with bodies (or body parts) that have already been dissected, in this workshop the students would be dissecting a full cadaver themselves. In all

cases, the donors or next of kin have specifically donated the body to scientific learning — though they don't always know whether it will be used to teach medical students, physical therapists or yoga instructors.

As the group stood in silence under the glare of fluorescent lights, Moore removed a white sheet covering the body. Dissecting a human being can be an emotional and jarring experience, she said, so she suggested that the students give the cadaver, a 75-year-old female, a name, in recognition of her humanity. The group decided on "Betty."

New technologies, such as three-dimensional virtual software, have made the human body easier to study — and, some argue, rendered cadavers unnecessary. But medical students still say that seeing, touching and holding real human tissue is far more instructive than pictures or models. And it leads to better, more compassionate care, said Jeffrey Laitman, who has helmed Mount Sinai's anatomy lab for more than 40 years.

"It's an enormously humbling experience," he said. "When you hold a heart in your hand, you are never the same again."

In the dissection room, Moore demonstrated how to properly hold a scalpel ("like a pen"). Then she made the first cut, on the upper thigh, showing how to delicately pull back one layer at a time — first the skin, then the sticky white fascia, then the bright yellow fat and so on. The body

had been "soft embalmed," a technique that relies on very little formaldehyde, preserves colors and textures and, I quickly learned, makes things very messy.

"I don't know where to start," one student, a massage therapist, said.

"You can't mess it up," Moore replied. "Even if you go a little bit too deep, you can start over somewhere else."

For people who lay hands on clients — like massage therapists and Pilates, yoga or strength trainers — touching actual tissue offers unparalleled learning, said Dr Carrie McCulloch, a physician and Pilates instructor who co-founded the Mount Sinai dissection course in 2006 with her husband, a Pilates instructor and former dancer named Matt McCulloch, as well as Dr Laitman. "They are working with real human bodies," Dr McCulloch said, "and they should learn from real human bodies."

Courses range from about \$1200 for a weekend workshop to \$4500 or more for a six-day programme. Anna Kaiser, who owns two popular cardio dance studios in New York and attended the Mount Sinai course in 2012, said the class made her feel better equipped to help certain postpartum clients.

Kaiser was able to study a donor body that had undergone a C-section and was struck by just how many layers of abdominal muscle were severed. This deepened her appreciation for the seriousness of the

recovery, as well as for the work needed to rebuild core strength, layer by layer.

Now, "I can visualise what that looks like," she said. "It's very different than seeing a picture in a book."

Back at the dissection table, the students had begun to reach muscle, pulling apart the four long strands that made up the quadriceps. In contrast, they noted the toughness of the fascia, or connective tissue, that surrounds every muscle. "It's very flexible but very durable," one student said. "You have to put a little pressure on your scalpel."

One student handed me the iliotibial (or IT) band, which ran from Betty's hip to her knee and felt strong but surprisingly light and thin, almost like duct tape. For all the years I aggressively foam rolled mine, I pictured it as thicker and knottier. I made a mental note to go easier.

## The case for cadavers

Over the past twenty years, as research around the health benefits of exercise has expanded, more and more primary care doctors are recommending exercise to their patients, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. As a result, many fitness professionals now find themselves working with clients who have complex conditions, from knee replacements to high blood pressure.

"Health, fitness, treatment, doctors are part of a continuum," Dr Laitman said. "Fitness professionals — they see people oftentimes before they'll go to a doctor."

Sometimes, after taking a dissection course, "instructors realise that some of the choices they were making for their clients were not well enough informed," said McCulloch, who has co-written books about anatomy. For example, some students, after seeing the bones of cadavers with osteoporosis, realized that the bends and twists in their workouts may be too aggressive for a client's fragile body.

Natasha Standley, a massage therapist and former step aerobics instructor in Ms. Moore's course, told me later that she learned what is — and isn't — in her hands when she works with clients.

"Some of the muscles are really, really deep," she said. The dissection made it clear that the psoas and quadratus lumborum (QL) muscles, which can cause back, pelvis and hip pain, aren't accessible, despite what diagrams might suggest. Instead of trying to reach them through massage, she said, she plans to incorporate more stretching into her work.

After the students finished lunch (most opted for vegetarian), they returned to their posts at the dissection table. Moore and a lab assistant had flipped Betty over and put on music to reinvigorate the group. As REM's "Losing My Religion" began playing through an overhead speaker, everyone picked up their scalpels.

The day went smoothly, but afterward I felt shaken. When I arrived at the airport that night, I didn't see travelers — I saw walking cadavers. NYT

# ಭ್ರೂಣಹತ್ಯೆ: ದಾಖಲೆ ನಾಪತ್ತೆ

1500ಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ | 400 ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹೆರಿಗೆ ದಾಖಲೆ ನಾಪತ್ತೆ | ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಜಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಭ್ರೂಣಹತ್ಯೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣ

ನಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಾಣಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಮನೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಭ್ರೂಣಹತ್ಯೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಸೀಲ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ತಿರುಮಲಶೆಟ್ಟಿ ಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಜಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಡಯಾಗ್ನೋಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ 1,500ಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರ ಸ್ಕ್ಯಾನಿಂಗ್ ಮತ್ತು 400 ಹೆರಿಗೆ ಕುರಿತು ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೇ ಇಲ್ಲ..!

ಅಚ್ಚರಿಯ ಜತೆಗೆ ಆತಂಕಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಗಿರುವ ಈ ಅಂಕಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು ಹಲವು ಅನುಮಾನಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಡೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು, ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಡಯಾಗ್ನೋಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಸೆಂಟರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭ್ರೂಣ ಪತ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಭ್ರೂಣಹತ್ಯೆ ಪ್ರಕರಣಗಳು ಅಪ್ಯಾಹತವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿತ್ತು ಎಂಬ ಆರೋಪಕ್ಕೆ ಇದು ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಪುಷ್ಟಿ ನೀಡಿದೆ.

ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ತಿರುಮಲಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಜಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಕಸದ ತೊಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಭ್ರೂಣ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾದ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಜಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಡಯಾಗ್ನೋಸ್ಟಿಕ್ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಸೀಲ್ ಹಾಕಿ ಏಳು ಮಂದಿ ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ವಶಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಆವರನ್ನು ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿದಾಗ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ಕಸದ ತೊಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾದ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಭ್ರೂಣವನ್ನು ಜೀವಂತವಿದ್ದಾಗಲೇ ತೆಗೆದು ಸಾಯಿಸಿ ಬಳಿಕ ಕಸದ ತೊಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಎಸೆದಿರುವುದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಈ ವೇಳೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿದಾಗ, ಕಳೆದ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ 1,500 ಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಗರ್ಭಿಣಿಯರು ಸ್ಕ್ಯಾನಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿರುವುದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ 400 ಕ್ಕೂ ಅಧಿಕ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಹೆರಿಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯೇ ನಾಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೇರೆಡೆ ಹೆರಿಗೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆಯೇ ಅಥವಾ ಗರ್ಭಪಾತ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆಯೇ ಎಂಬ ಅನುಮಾನ ಮೂಡಿದೆ.

ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಪರವಾನಿಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್ ಘಟನೆ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮಾಲೀಕ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಪರಾರಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕೃತ್ಯವೆಸಗಿದವರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕಾನೂನು ಕ್ರಮ



ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ತಿರುಮಲಶೆಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆಗೆ ದೂರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿ ವಶಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆದು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಸೀಲ್ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪರಾರಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಮಾಲೀಕ ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್‌ಗೆ ಬಲೆ ಬೀಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹಲವು ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್ ಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ನೆಲಮಂಗಲದಲ್ಲಿ 5 ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರದ ಒಂದು ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್ ಸೀಜ್ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಪರವಾನಿಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೇ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಬಂದ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿದೆ.

# ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಷಾಚರಣೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ರು. ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ವಹಿವಾಟು ನಡೆಸಲು ಸಂಚು ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಅಲಟರ್ಸ್: ವಿಶೇಷ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆ

ನಿ ವಿಶ್ವನಾಥ ಸುದ್ದಿಮನೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಷಾಚರಣೆ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜಧಾನಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಮಂಗಳೂರು, ಉಡುಪಿ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ, ಪುಟ್ಟಣ್ಣ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಸಹಿತ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ (ಮದಕವಸ್ತು) ಪ್ರವೇಶ ತಡೆಯಲು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ವಿಶೇಷ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆಗೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಷಾಚರಣೆಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಸಹಿತ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ನಗರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋಟ್ಯಂತರ ರು. ವಹಿವಾಟು ನಡೆಸಲು ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ವೆಡ್ಡರ್‌ಗಳು ಮುಂದಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆರ್ಡರ್ ಪಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸುಳಿವು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿರುವ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಕಟ್ಟಿಬಿಟ್ಟ ವಹಿವಾಟು.

ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಪಾರ್ಟಿಗೆ ಕಡಿವಾಣಿ ಹಾಕಲು ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಆಯುಕ್ತ ಬಿ.ದಯಾನಂದ್ ಅವರು ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಿದ ಅವರು, ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸ್ಪೆಷಲ್ ಡೈವ್



ನಡೆಸುವಂತೆ ಆದೇಶಿಸಿ, ಅವರಂತೆ, ಮಾದಕ ಲೋಕವನ್ನು ಮಟ್ಟಹಾಕಲು ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಸಜ್ಜಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ವಾರಗಳ ಕಾಲ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಚರಣೆ ನಡೆಸಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಷಾಚರಣೆಗೆ 200 ಕೋಟಿ ರು.ಗಿಂತಲೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು

## ಜಾಲತಾಣಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪೆಡ್ಲರ್‌ಗಳ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ

ಎನ್‌ಸಿಐ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾಣು ತಪ್ಪಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಮೊದಲನೇ, ಡಿ.ಯೇನ್ ಮೆಡ್ ಸೈಟ್, ಕೊರಿಯರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ತಲುಪಿಸುವ ಜಾಲತಾಣ ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ಒಡಿಶಾ, ಬಾಂಗ್ಲಾದೇಶ, ಅಂಧ್ರ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಅನಂತಪುರ, ವಿಶಾಖಪಟ್ಟಣ, ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನ ಕೃಷ್ಣಗಿರಿ, ಗೋವಾದಿಂದ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪಮು ಗಾಂಜಿ, ಅಫೀಮು ಬರುವ ಸುಳಿವು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದೆ. ವಿಶ್ವಾಘೋಷ ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಷಾಚರಣೆಗೆ ಮೆಡ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ಗಳು, ವಾಟ್‌ಆಪ್, ವೇಪ್‌ಆಪ್, ಟೆಲಿಗ್ರಾಫ್, ಇನ್‌ಸ್ಟಾಗ್ರಾಂ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಸ್ಕ್ರೀನ್ ಇವರಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವೆಡ್ಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಈ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಮೆಲ್ಲದ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ವಹಿವಾಟು ನಡೆಸುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಇದೆ ಎಂದು ಅಂದಾಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟಲು ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮುಂದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಳೆದ ಮಾರ್ಗದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಹಿತ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ

ಮಾರ್ಗದ ಮೂಲ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಪ್ರವೇಶವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ವಿಮಾನ, ಹೆಡ್‌ಗುಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಎಲ್‌ಎನ್‌ಡಿ, ಎಂಡಿಎಂಎ, ಎಲ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ, ಎಕ್ಸ್‌ಟಿ, ಬೆನ್‌ನಿ, ಮಗ್‌ನ, ಕೋಕೇನ್, ಪ್ಯಾಪಿಲ್, ಚರಣೆಗಳು ದೊಡ್ಡ

ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರಾನ್ ದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದು, ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಹೆದಗಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳ್ಳಸಾಗಣೆಗೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿ, ಗೋವಾ, ಬೆಳ್ಳೆ, ಮುಂಬೈಗೆ ತಲುಪಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ರವಾನೆಯಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

## 100 ಕೋಟಿ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಸಾಗಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಶಂಕೆ

ಈ ಬಾರಿ ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಷಾಚರಣೆಗೆ ಸಶಿ ವರಿಸಲು ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಬರೋಬರಿ 100 ಕೋಟಿ ರು. ಮೆಲ್ಲದ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಸಾಗಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಿದ್ದು, ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಸ್ಪೆಷಲ್ ಡೈವ್ ನಡೆಸಲು ಸಜ್ಜಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಸಂಘಟಿತ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಗುಂಪುಗಳು ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಡಿಲಿವರಿಗೆ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಎಳೆತು ಗುಂಪುಗಳಿಂದ ಸೂರಾರು ಕೋಟಿ ಮೆಲ್ಲದ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಸಾಗಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪೊಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ನಗರದ ಹೊರವಲಯದ ವಿಲ್ಲಾ, ಐಪಾರಾಮಿ ಹೋಟೆಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ವೆಡ್ಡರ್‌ಗಳು ಟಾರ್ಗೆಟ್ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ 10 ದಿನಗಳ ಬಾಕಿ ಇರುವಂತೆ ದೊಡ್ಡವರ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮೋಜಿಗೆ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಆಗಲಿದೆ. ಹೊರ ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಿಂದಲೂ ಒಂದುಮು ಒಬರು ಮತ್ತೆರಿಸಲು ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನಗರಕ್ಕೆ ಹಲವು ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಡ್ರಗ್ಸ್ ವೆಡ್ಡರ್‌ಗಳು ಉಪಾಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರೆ, ಇತ್ತ ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ನಗರದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಪಡ್ಡಿಸಿ ಕಟ್ಟಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ.





# Business Finance

# Fed's surprise dovish pivot lifts Sensex to a record high

Powered by technology stocks, BSE Sensex surges 1.34% to an all-time closing high of 70,514.20; leading Sensex gainers include Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Tech and IndusInd Bank

**The Hindu Bureau**

MUMBAI

India's benchmark stock indices soared to record highs on Thursday, riding on a global rally in equities triggered by Wednesday's surprise dovish pivot by the U.S. Federal Reserve.

Led by technology stocks, the S&P BSE Sensex surged 1.34% to 70,514.20, an all-time high. The top Sensex gainers included Tech Mahindra that rose 3.91%, Infosys (3.61%), Wipro (3.52%) and IndusInd Bank (2.97%). The NSE Nif-

## Bull run

India's benchmark indices soared to record highs, riding on a global rally in equities triggered by the U.S. Fed's dovish turn

- The NSE Nifty-50 crossed the 21,100-mark for the first time, rising 1.23% to 21,182.70 points
- We can see a fresh new high if bond yields and crude prices remain at the same levels: Axis Securities' Haridasan
- U.S. stocks rallied after the Fed indicated it could lower rates about three times in 2024



ty-50 index rose 1.23% to 21,182.70 points.

"Thanks to the dovish narrative from the U.S. Fed... the Nifty 50 scaled to

an all-time high level and crossed the 21,100 mark for the first time," said Pranav Haridasan, MD and CEO, Axis Securities.

"The election results in three out of four key States have raised the expectations of policy continuity in 2024, boosting market confidence," he noted.

"We can see a further new high in the market if the bond yields and the crude prices remain at the same levels for the entire month," Mr. Haridasan added.

U.S. stocks rallied after the Fed "indicated it could lower rates about three times in 2024 as inflation eases," said Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

# India's net direct tax receipts rise 23.4%

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

India's net direct tax collections had grown 23.4% to hit ₹10.64 lakh crore by November 30, attaining 58.34% of the Budget estimates for the year, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday.

The gross direct tax kitty by the end of last month had reached ₹12.67 lakh crore, a 17.7% rise over the same period of the earlier year. Refunds paid out to income tax payers had reached ₹2.03 lakh crore.

As of November 9, the



gross direct tax collections stood at ₹12.37 lakh crore, while net collections were ₹10.6 lakh crore, 21.82% over last year. This suggests that while gross tax receipts rose ₹30,000 crore over the rest of November, the net kitty grew by ₹4,000 crore.

# Prestige to report 39% growth in topline in FY24

Six housing projects worth Rs 20K crore on the anvil

SHAKSHI JAIN  
BENGALURU, DHNS

**B**engaluru-headquartered real estate major, the Prestige Group is positive about closing FY24 with Rs 18,000-20,000 crore in total sales, company chief executive Venkat K Narayana told *DH* on Tuesday. This would mark at least a 39% year-on-year growth over the Rs 12,931 crore clocked in FY23.

The Group is slated to launch six residential projects, including two joint venture undertakings, before the end of the ongoing fiscal year. They will collectively span 12 million square feet (msf) across Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai and Noida.

The six projects, upon completion in a three year time-frame, are expected to fetch the realty player Rs 20,000 crore in sales revenue. Of this, 25% or Rs 5,000 crore is expected to land in the company's coffers this fiscal year



Venkat K Narayana

itself.

So far this year, the company has launched six residential projects spanning 16 msf across Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

On the hospitality front, the company is making long strides. "We have 9 hotels running - 1,361 keys, and we have almost 1,600 keys - seven more hotels, either under construction or planning," Narayana elaborated. The upcoming projects include Edition O in Mumbai, Moxy in Chennai and JW Marriot in Sakleshpur.

Going by numbers in the current portfolio, JW Marriott Bengaluru Prestige Golfshire Resort & Spa is the company's star performer, followed by Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel & Convention Center.

Moving forward, the company will channel efforts into deepening and widening its presence in the Pune and Mumbai markets, besides making inroads in the National Capital Region, Narayana underscored.

With the Indian real estate industry on a bull run this year, Narayana attested to negligible unsold inventory levels. "Our completed project inventory is around Rs 300 crore in comparison with Rs 13,000 crore sales that happened last year. So, it is 2-2.5%," Narayana said.

Prestige is currently engaged in 24 msf of office space construction, with another 15 msf of projects under design, planning or approval stages.

"On an average we will be delivering around 8-10 msf of office space across 7-8 cities. That will also take our rental income to Rs 3,000-plus crore in 4-5 years' time," Narayana elaborated.

"Our retail income will also grow from Rs 220 crore to about Rs 600 crore in 3-4 years time," he added.

While the group sees potential in alternate asset classes such as warehousing and data centres, with one project active in each category, it will be some time before Prestige diverts serious focus to these segments, Narayan said.

# IRDAI proposes higher surrender value

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

IN a positive development for policyholders, the insurance regulator has proposed to amend rule to increase the surrender value of traditional life insurance policies.

Surrender value is the amount that an investor receives if she surrenders the policy without completing the full tenure of the policy.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in a draft product regulation issued recently has proposed that there will be a premium threshold defined for each product, and no surrender charges imposed on the balance of the premiums beyond such threshold limits, irrespective of the timing of the surrender.

Currently, the surrender val-



ue is calculated as a percentage (or surrender value factor) of the total premium paid. The Surrender value factor increases with time. A traditional insurance policy or non-participating policy acquires a surrender value in the third year (after completing two years). The surrender value factor in the third year is 30%,

## If implemented will benefit policyholders

The proposal if implemented may benefit those policyholders who could not continue their policies beyond a few years. However, insurers could get hit as their margins would come down. An insurance executive said higher surrender value will adversely affect persistency ratio of life insurance policies

4-7th year is 50% and last two years of the policy term is 90%. So, if a policyholder surrenders his policy after paying ₹1 lakh premium annually for three years, she would get only ₹90,000  $\{30 * (\text{₹}100,000 * 3)\}$  as surrender value against her total investment of ₹3 lakh.

But as per the new proposal, if threshold limit is ₹25,000 for a

non-linked savings insurance policy with annualised premium of ₹100,000 and policy term of 20 years, then the surrendered value for threshold premium is ₹22,500  $(25,000 * 3 * 30\%)$ . The premium refund beyond threshold premium is 2,25,000  $\{(\text{₹}1,00,000 - 25,000) * 3\}$ .

So the adjusted guaranteed surrender value the policy holder receives after three years is 2,47,500  $\{\text{₹}2,25,000 + \text{₹}22,500\}$ . The proposal if implemented may benefit those policyholders who could not continue their policies beyond a few years. However, insurance companies could get hit as their margins would come down. An insurance executive told this newspaper, on condition of anonymity, higher surrender value will adversely affect persistency ratio of life insurance policies.

# Fed stance, lower oil prices propel market to new high

Fed keeps rates within 5.25%-5.5% range, signals 3 rate cuts in 2024

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC equity market scaled to fresh highs on Thursday, with the benchmark indices -- BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 -- gaining nearly 1.3% each after the US Federal Reserve signalled the end of its hawkish stance and at least three rate cuts next year.

Sensex ended 929.60 points or 1.34% higher at 70,514.20 while the Nifty 50 closed at 21,182.70, up 256.35 points or 1.23%. Investors' wealth surged by ₹4 lakh crore as the market capitalisation of the BSE-listed companies rose to ₹355.10 lakh crore.

Parth Nyati, founder of Tradingo, said a confluence of domestic and global factors is driving a Goldilocks scenario in the Indian equity market. "Unwavering political stability, a robust macroeconomic backdrop with healthy GDP growth and subdued inflation, and weakening dollar and US bond yields amid expectations of a 2024 rate cut have fueled bullish momentum."



**Unwavering political stability, robust macroeconomic backdrop with healthy GDP growth, subdued inflation, weakening dollar and US bond yields amid expectation of a 2024 rate cut have fueled bullish momentum**

Parth Nyati, founder, Tradingo

Additionally, a slump in crude oil prices, which had eased inflation pressure and foreign institutional investors (FIIs), also supported the market rally. FIIs net bought ₹3,570 crore worth of equities on Thursday, according to NSE data. As per NSDL data, FIIs have invested a net of ₹39,260 crore so far in December.

The US Federal Reserve in its latest policy meeting maintained interest rates within the range of 5.25%-5.50% and signalled a plan to implement three rate cuts in 2024. This led to a sharp rally in equity markets worldwide.

When the Federal Reserve announces rate cuts, FIIs in-

crease their exposure in emerging markets such as India as it offers them a better risk-reward scenario. The rate hike lowers the strength of the US dollar and makes the safer US bond yields less attractive.

Additionally, other central banks around the world follow the Fed lead when it comes to increasing/decreasing future interest rates. This means that the RBI may also go for multiple rate cuts next year which will make borrowings easier for corporates and improve their earning margins- a big positive for the equity market.

IT shares witnessed maximum buying on December 14, with the Nifty IT index jumping as much as 3.5%. Among the Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Technologies, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major gainers. On the other hand, Power Grid, Nestle, Titan, JSW Steel, Maruti and Tata Motors were the major laggards.



## Nifty50 performance

Gainers	LTP*	Change (%)
Infosys	1506	3.93
Tech Mahindra	1260.7	3.67
LTIMindtree	5930	3.54
Wipro	434	3.42
HCL Tech	1413.5	3.24
Losers	LTP*	Change (%)
POWERGRID	232.45	-1.9
HDFC Life	686	-1.75
Nestle India	24799.9	-0.98
Cipla	1205	-0.95
JSW Steel	846	-0.63

\*LTP: Last traded price

IT shares saw maximum buying on Dec 14, with Nifty IT index jumping as much as 3.5%

### ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತೈಲ ದರ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಲಿ

ಅತಿಯಾದ ಆಧುನಿಕ ಜೀವನದಿಂದಾಗಿ ನಡೆದಾಡುವ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನು ಮರೆತಿರುವ ಜನರು ವಾಹನಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಅತಿಯಾಗಿ ಅವಲಂಬಿತರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 19ನೇ ಶತಮಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಆರಂಭವಾದ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೀಕರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹೊಸ ಹೊಸ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ರೈಲು, ವಿಮಾನ ಮುಂತಾದವುಗಳ ಜನನವಾಯಿತು.

ಕಚ್ಚಾ ವಸ್ತುವಿನ ಭಾಗವಾದ ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್‌ನ್ನು 1893ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಬಾರಮನ್ ಕಾರ್ಲೋಸ್ ಕಂಡು ಹಿಡಿದ ನಂತರ ಹೆಬೆಯಿಂದ ಕಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಲಿನಿಂದ ಓಡುವ ಯಂತ್ರಗಳು ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿ ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಡೀಸೆಲ್ ವಾಹನಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಯಿತು. 20ನೇ ಶತಮಾನದ ಆರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಧ್ಯಪ್ರಾಚ್ಯ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತೈಲ ನಿಕ್ಷೇಪಗಳು ಪತ್ತೆಯಾದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್‌ಗೆ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಬೆಲೆ ಬಂದು, ವಾಹನ ತಯಾರಿಕಾ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗಳು ಪ್ರಗತಿಗೆ ಬಂದವು ಮತ್ತು ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ಜನಗಳಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಕೂಡ ದೊರಕಿತು.

ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ವಾಹನಗಳ ತಯಾರಿಕಾ ಕಂಪನಿಗಳು ಜಗತ್ತಿನ ಜಿಡಿಪಿಗೆ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿವೆ.

ಇಂದು ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತೈಲ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ತುಂಬಾ ಲಾಭದಾಯಕ ವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹಲವಾರು



ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳು ತೈಲ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರದಿಂದ ಟ್ರಿಲಿಯನ್ ನಷ್ಟು ಹಣ ಸಂಪಾದಿಸಿ ಬೇರೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಹಂತಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಳೆದು ನಿಂತಿವೆ.

ಮೊದಲು ಅರಬ್ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳು ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತೈಲದ ಮೇಲೆ ಏಕಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯವನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸಿದ್ದವು, ನಂತರ ಅಮೆರಿಕ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿದೊಡ್ಡ ತೈಲ ನಿಕ್ಷೇಪ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಯಿತು ಮತ್ತು ಅಮೆರಿಕ ತನ್ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಿಲಿಟರಿ ಬಲದಿಂದ ಅರಬ್ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಸಾಧಿಸಿದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಇಂದು ಅಮೆರಿಕ ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕಚ್ಚಾ ಬೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆ.

ಭಾರತದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಡೀಸೆಲ್ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಪಾತ್ರವನ್ನು ವಹಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಜಗತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತ ಮೂರನೆ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತೈಲ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುವ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ದಿನಕ್ಕೆ 44,89,000 ಬ್ಯಾರಲ್‌ನಷ್ಟು ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತೈಲ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ತೈಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಭಾರತದ ಆರ್ಥಿಕತೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರಭಾವ ಬೀರುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳ ಕ್ರೋಢೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಕಚ್ಚಾತೈಲವನ್ನು ಅವಲಂಬಿಸಿವೆ.

ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತೈಲಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಪೂರಕವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ದಿನ ನಿತ್ಯದ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತೈಲದ ಬೆಲೆ ಬ್ಯಾರಲ್‌ಗೆ 75 ಡಾಲರ್ ಗಳಿಗಿಂತ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಿರುವ ಕಾರಣ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹ ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಡೀಸೆಲ್ ಬೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಇಳಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಡೀಸೆಲ್ ಬೆಲೆ ಇಳಿಕೆಯಾದರೆ ಸಾಗಣೆ ವೆಚ್ಚ, ಬಸ್‌ಗಳ ದರ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗಿ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಬೆಲೆ ಸ್ವಾಭಾವಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕಡಿಮೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತೈಲದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಿಧಿಸುವ ತೆರಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ಡೀಸೆಲ್ ಬೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆಗೊಳಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅದಷ್ಟು ಬೇಗ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕಚ್ಚಾ ತೈಲದ ಬೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಅಗ್ರಹಿಸೋಣ.





# PSG squeezes through, Milan out despite beating Newcastle

Royal Antwerp claims a famous win over Barcelona; Manchester City makes it six out of six; Atletico Madrid tops its group; Porto through at the expense of Shakhtar Donetsk

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**Agence France-Presse**  
PARIS

**P**aris Saint-Germain and Porto qualified for the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday as Newcastle bowed out of Europe after losing 2-1 at home to AC Milan.

PSG drew 1-1 away to Group F winner Borussia Dortmund to go through as runner-up after Milan came from behind to beat Newcastle at St James' Park and eliminate Eddie Howe's side.

Newcastle needed to win and for PSG to drop points to keep its first Champions League campaign in 20 years alive.

Porto made the last 16 at the expense of Shakhtar Donetsk after a 5-3 win over the Ukrainians.

Royal Antwerp claimed a famous 3-2 win over Barcelona as George Ilenikhe-



**Lifeline goal:** Zaire-Emery, jersey no. 33, saves PSG's blushes with this leveller. AFP

na netted a stoppage-time winner.

Manchester City became just the second English club to win all six Champions League group stage games with a 3-2 victory at Red Star Belgrade.

Atletico sealed first place in Group E as Antoine Griezmann and Samuel Lino struck in a 2-0

victory over Lazio.

**The results: Group E:** Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 6, Lino 51) bt Lazio 0; Celtic 2 (Palma 33-pen, Lagerbielke 90+1) bt Feyenoord 1 (Minteh 82).

**Group F:** Borussia Dortmund 1 (Adeyemi 51) drew with PSG 1 (Zaire-Emery 56); Newcastle 1 (Joelinton 33) lost to AC Milan 2 (Pulisic 59, Chukwueze 84).

**Group G:** Red Star Belgrade 2

(Hwang 76, Katai 90+1) lost to Manchester City 3 (Hamilton 19, Bobb 62, Phillips 85-pen); RB Leipzig 2 (Sesko 51, Forsberg 56) bt Young Boys 1 (Colley 53).

**Group H:** Porto 5 (Galeno 9, 43, Taremi 62, Pepe 75, Conceicao 82) bt Shakhtar Donetsk 3 (Sikan 29, Eustaquio 72-og, Eguinaldo 88); Royal Antwerp 3 (Vermeeren 2, Janssen 56, Ilenikhena 90+2) bt Barcelona 2 (Torres 35, Guiu 90+1).

# Surya's ton carries India big total

South Africa chase a target of 202 in series decider

JOHANNESBURG, PTI

Captain Suryakumar Yadav exploited a bone-dry surface to make a twinkling hundred as India made a competitive 201 for seven against South Africa in the third and final T20I here on Thursday.

Trailing 0-1 in the series, India perforce needed a win here, and they showed all that necessary intensity after South Africa asked them to bat first.

Suryakumar (100 off 56 balls), who made his fourth T20I century, and young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (60 off 41 balls) trusted the bounce on the Wanderers pitch to produce some sparkling shots around the ground, while adding 112 runs for an entertaining third-wicket alliance.

India were quick off the block with Shubman Gill (8) and Jaiswal adding 29 runs in just 2.2 overs. But South Africa hit back through left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj.



India's captain Suryakumar Yadav celebrates his century during the final T20I against South Africa in Johannesburg on Thursday. AP/PTI

Maharaj took two wickets in as many balls to get rid of Gill and Tilak Varma as India's momentum was curtailed momentarily.

Jaiswal and Suryakumar took India to 62 for 2 in the Power Play passage, and it followed another period of lull as they added just 25 runs in the next four overs as the visitors reached 87 for two at the half-way mark.

But they broke the barn door

soon and runs began to flow in a rush.

Suryakumar, who gave all the space to his junior partner in the early part of the partnership, soon took over the role of chief aggressor once the tenth over mark passed.

He pulled those '360' shots out of the shelf to punish the SA bowlers who did not have much variety to tame Suryakumar on a benign pitch.

Pacer Andile Phehlukwayo

## SCORE BOARD

### INDIA

Jaiswal c Hendricks b Shamsi .....	60
Gill lbw b Maharaj .....	8
Varma c Markram b Maharaj .....	0
Surya c Breetzke b Williams .....	100
Rinku c sub b Burger .....	14
Jitesh (hit wicket) b Williams .....	4
Jadeja (run out) .....	4
Arshdeep (not out) .....	0
Siraj (not out) .....	2
Extras (LB-4 NB-1 W-4) .....	9
<b>Total (for 7 wkts, 20 overs) .....</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-29, 3-141,</b>	<b>4-188, 5-194, 6-199, 7-199.</b>
<b>Bowling: Burger 4-0-39-1, Markram</b>	<b>1-0-15-0, Maharaj 4-0-26-2, Wil-</b>
<b>liams 4-0-46-2, Phehlukwayo 3-0-</b>	<b>33-0, Shamsi 4-0-38-1.</b>

bore the brunt of Suryakumar's awesome skill sets in this format.

The Indian skipper hammered Phehlukwayo for 22 runs in the 13th over through a sequence of 6, 4, 6, 6, an over in which he also brought up his fifty along with that last maximum.

There was no stopping of Suryakumar, who continued to cart the Proteas bowlers around, using nimble footwork and that highly-manipulative wrists.

The 33-year-old soon fetched a well-deserved hundred in a surprisingly sedate manner -- with a double off Williams -- off 55 balls.

# PSG live to fight another day

## Newcastle crash out of group stage after Milan defeat

PARIS, AFP

Paris Saint-Germain and Porto qualified for the Champions League last 16 on Wednesday as Newcastle bowed out of Europe after losing 2-1 at home to AC Milan.

PSG drew 1-1 away to Group F winners Borussia Dortmund to go through as runners-up after Milan came from behind to beat Newcastle at St James' Park and eliminate Eddie Howe's side.

Newcastle, who needed to win and for PSG to drop points to keep their first Champions League campaign in 20 years alive, took the lead through a brilliant Joelinton strike in the first half.

But Christian Pulisic equalised on the hour and substitute Samuel Chukwueze broke Newcastle hearts with an 84th-minute winner, although it wasn't enough for Milan to overhaul PSG.

"We gave everything to the match. I can't ask for anything more (in terms of) commitment, effort, physical exertion. Unfortunately for us it wasn't to be," said Howe.

The French champions, in danger of a first group stage exit since the Qatari takeover in 2011, fell behind when Karim Adeyemi scored early in the second half in Germany.

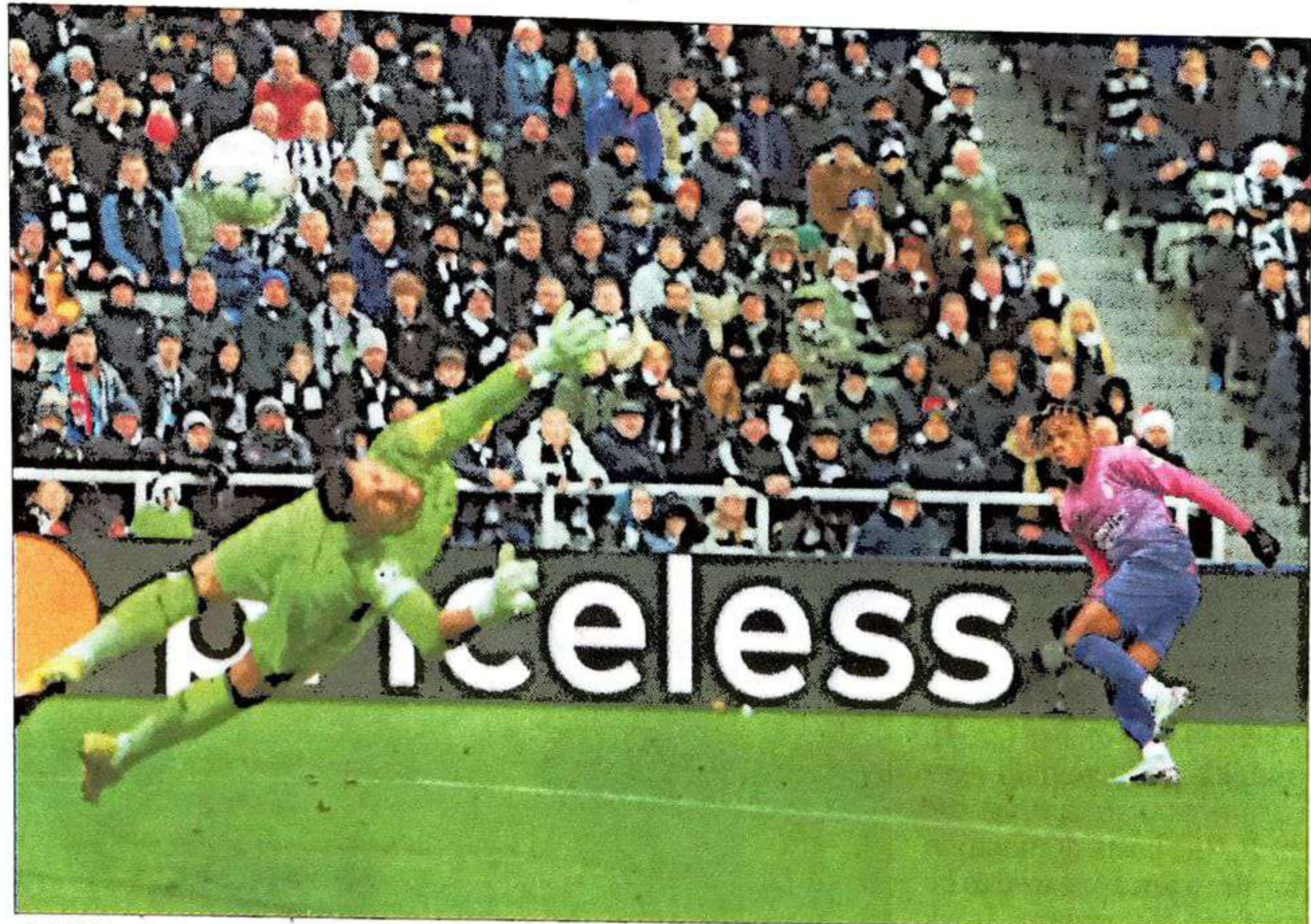
Warren Zaire-Emery came to the rescue for PSG five minutes later after Kylian Mbappe weaved into the box, his pass deflected out to the teenager who advanced towards goal before slamming home a powerful shot.

Mbappe, whose PSG future will again come into sharp focus in January, had an effort ruled out for offside but the point was enough in the end for the visitors, who finished level on points with Milan but progressed thanks to a better head-to-head goal difference.

Porto made the last 16 at the expense of Shakhtar Donetsk after a 5-3 win over the Ukrainians.

The hosts only needed to avoid defeat at the Estadio do Dragao to progress from Group H with Barcelona, and an early Galeno goal put Porto ahead.

An own goal gave Shakhtar a lifeline but 40-year-old Pepe



AC Milan's Samuel Chukwueze (right) scores a stunning winner past Newcastle United 'keeper Martin Dubravka on Wednesday night. REUTERS

eased Porto nerves with his team's fourth and Francisco Conceicao then put the game to bed, with Eguinaldo bagging a late consolation.

Royal Antwerp claimed a famous 3-2 win over Barcelona as George Ilenikhena netted a stoppage-time winner.

The Belgians twice led courtesy of goals from Arthur Vermeeren and Vincent Janssen but Barcelona replied through Ferran Torres and Marc Guiu, who looked to have salvaged a draw before Ilenikhena's heroics.

Manchester City became just the second English club to win all six Champions League group stage games with a 3-2 victory at Red Star Belgrade.

Twenty-year-old Micah Hamilton and Oscar Bobb scored their first goals for the club before Hwang In-beom pulled a goal back for the Serbian champions.

Kalvin Phillips scored his first City goal with a late penalty as Aleksandar Katai struck a consolation for Red Star in added time.

**Results: Group E:** Atletico Madrid: 2 (Griezmann 6th, Lino 51st) bt Lazio: 0; Celtic: 2 (Palma 33rd, Lagerbielke 90+1) bt Feyenoord: 0.

**Group F:** Borussia Dortmund: 1 (Adeyemi 51st) drew with Paris St Germain: 1 (Zaire-Emery 56th); Newcastle: 1 (Joelinton 33rd) lt to AC Milan: 2 (Pulisic 59th, Chukwueze 84th).

**Group G:** Red Star Belgrade: 2 (Hwang 76th, Katai 90+1) lt to Manchester City: 3 (Hamilton 19th, Bobb 62nd, Phillips 85th); RB Leipzig: 2 (Sesko 51st, Forsberg 56th) bt Young Boys: 1 (Colley 53rd).

**Group H:** FC Porto: 5 (Galeno 9th, 43rd, Taremi 62nd, Pepe 75th, Francisco Conceicao 82nd) bt Shakhtar Donetsk: 3 (Sikan 29th, Eastquio 72nd OG, Eguinaldo 88th); Antwerp: 3 (Vermeeren 2nd, Janssen 56th, Ilenikhena 90+2) bt Barcelona: 2 (Ferran Torres 35th, Guiu 90+1).

# Deepak hoodoo hurts Karnataka

RAJKOT, PTI

**D**eepak Hooda, who often tormented Karnataka during his stint with Baroda, once again proved a thorn in their flesh with a captain's innings to help Rajasthan post a six-wicket win and enter the final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Thursday.

Hooda's stupendous 128-ball 180 was studded with 19 fours and five sixes as Rajasthan chased down the target of 283 set by Karnataka with 38 balls to spare in the second semifinals.

Hooda, who is trying to return to India reckoning, found an able ally in Karan Lamba (73 not out off 112 balls) as the duo resurrected the Rajasthan innings after being reduced to 23 for 3 in the sixth over with a massive 255-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Rajasthan will face Haryana in the final on Saturday. Haryana crushed Tamil Nadu by 63 runs to enter their maiden Vijay Hazare final on Wednesday.

Coming in to bat in the second over itself after the departure of opener Ram Chouhan



**Deepak Hooda**

(0), Hooda was understandably cautious initially, as he took 23 balls to reach double digit score. But once he and Lamba succeeded in steadying Rajasthan innings, Hooda launched on the hapless Karnataka bowlers in stunning fashion, punishing them to submission.

Earlier, lower-order batters Abhinav Manohar (91 off 80 balls) and Bhandage (63 off 39 balls) revived Karnataka innings after they were two down for 27 runs in the ninth over after electing to bat first. **Brief scores:** Karnataka: 282/8 in 50 overs (KL Shrijith 37, Manish Pandey 28, Abhinav Manohar 91, Manoj Bhandage 63; Aniket Choudhary 2-43, Kukna Ajay Singh 2-43) It to Rajasthan: 283/4 in 43.4 overs (Deepak Hooda 180, Karan Lamba 73 n.o.).

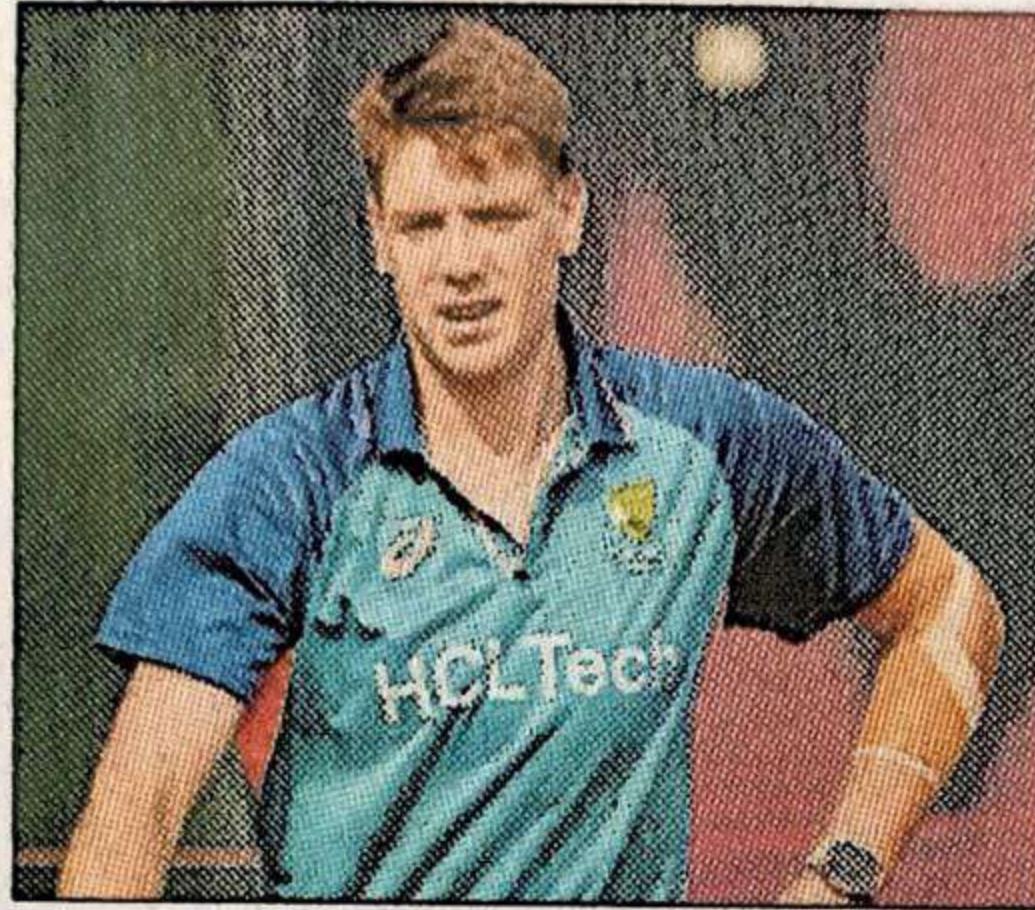
**Final:** Haryana vs Rajasthan on Dec 16 (Rajkot)

# Green suffering from chronic kidney disease

PERTH, AFP: Australian all-rounder Cameron Green revealed on Thursday he suffers from a chronic kidney disease and that he was not expected to live past the age of 12.

Now 24, he has gone on to become a key member of the Australian team across all three formats, although he has fallen out of favour in recent months.

“My parents got told when I was born I had a chronic kidney disease,” he said in an interview with Channel Seven during Australia’s first Test against Pakistan in Perth. “Basically there are no symptoms, it just got picked up during ultrasounds.”



**Cameron Green**

The Perth-born Green said his kidney functionality to filter blood was currently at about 60 percent.

“With chronic kidney disease there’s five stages, with stage one being the least severe, and stage five being

transplant or dialysis,” he said.

“Fortunately, I’m stage two, but if you don’t look after them enough, it easily goes back down. Kidneys can’t get better. It’s irreversible.”

His father Gary told the broadcaster the original prognosis was distressing.

“There were life-expectancy issues that he might not expect to live past 12 years of age,” he said.

Green has largely been unaffected by the disease throughout his cricket career, but said there had been times of cramping that could be attributed to the problem.

# India gets off to a flying start as batters post 410/7 on day one

India's tactical decision to bring in debutant Shubha gives the side four left-handers and the luxury of consistently fielding a left-right combination in the middle, which nullified anything England could do with the early bounce on offer

## ENGLAND IN INDIA

**Lavanya L**  
NAVI MUMBAI

Clean slates are a blessing. Ask Shubha Satheesh. The Karnataka batter, with no prior international experience, was the cynosure of all eyes with her classical batting and bravado, helping India to 410/7 on the opening day of the one-off Test against England at the D.Y. Patil Stadium here on Thursday.

While Shafali Verma looked the more nervy of the two, Smriti Mandhana fell first, to a delivery from Lauren Bell that left her with no room and rocked back to rearrange the stumps. Shafali fell soon after, clean bowled by Kate Cross whose top-of-off line breached Shafali's defence and sent the off stump cartwheeling.

Shubha, who made a solid 76-ball 69, got off the mark in her second delivery in international cricket, driving Bell to the boundary with a textbook cover drive for the ages. She teamed up with Jemimah Rodrigues, who also made her Test debut in this fixture, to stitch a valuable 115-run stand in 146 balls for the third wicket.

In the 11th over, she got



**Cashing in:** Yastika, who was dropped on 15 by Bell, went on to score an 88-ball 66. EMMANUAL YOGINI

down on one knee to drive a fuller ball past bowler Kate Cross, holding the pose for the photographers to get the perfect shot.

She got to her maiden half century off the same bowler with a similar full-faced drive down the ground. Jemimah, who registered a maiden fifty herself, kept the runs trickling in at a healthy rate, with impeccable timing and placement especially through the offside. Shubha fell to Sophie Ecclestone

after misjudging the bounce on a shorter delivery. Bell took out Jemimah soon after.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Yastika Bhatia steadied the ship with a 116-run stand for the fifth wicket.

A freak run out saw Harmanpreet's bat seemingly getting stuck on the pitch as she tried to ground it to safety, with her innings ending at 49. Yastika was dropped on 15 when Bell squandered a sitter after getting both hands to it.

She went on to score an 88-ball 66.

Sneh Rana and Deepti Sharma stitched India's third century stand for the day.

Knight's decision to take the new ball did not help as Deepti romped to her third Test fifty in three matches. Sneh's defiant watch ended after she was bowled by Nat Sciver-Brunt in the dying minutes of the day.

England was porous on the field. The pitch initially aided seam movement but eased out after lunch

## SCOREBOARD

**India – 1st innings:** Smriti Mandhana b Bell 17 (12b, 3x4), Shafali Verma b Cross 19 (30b, 4x4), Shubha Satheesh c Sciver-Brunt b Ecclestone 69 (76b, 13x4), Jemimah Rodrigues b Bell 68 (99b, 11x4), Harmanpreet Kaur run out 49 (81b, 6x4), Yastika Bhatia c Bell b Dean 66 (88b, 10x4, 1x6), Deepti Sharma (batting) 60 (95b, 9x4, 1x6), Sneha Rana b Sciver-Brunt 30 (73b, 5x4), Pooja Vastrakar (batting) 4 (12b, 1x4); Extras (b-19, lb-7, nb-2): 28; Total (for seven wkts. in 94 overs): 410.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-25 (Smriti, 5.1 overs), 2-47 (Shafali, 8.4), 3-162 (Shubha, 32.6), 4-190 (Jemimah, 37.6), 5-306 (Harmanpreet, 62.1), 6-313 (Yastika, 66.2), 7-405 (Sneh, 90.5).

**England bowling:** Cross 14-0-64-1, Bell 15-1-64-2, Sciver-Brunt 11-4-25-1, Filer 15-1-84-0, Dean 17-1-62-1, Ecclestone 22-4-85-1.

**Toss:** India.

against all expectations. That said, India's tactical decision to bring in Shubha gave the side four left-handers and the luxury of consistently fielding a left-right combination in the middle, which nullified anything Ecclestone in particular could do with the early bounce on offer.

In 2014, the last home Test India played, the side batted just once, amassed a 400 score and did not need to pad up again. Harmanpreet and Co. won't mind an encore.

# ಡಿ.19 ರಂದು ದುಬೈನ ಕೋಕಾಕೋಲಾ ಅರೇನಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಾಜು ಐಪಿಎಲ್ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ 14 ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರು

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು: ಐಪಿಎಲ್ ಸೀಸನ್ 17 ಹರಾಜಿಗೆ 333 ಆಟಗಾರರ ಹೆಸರುಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಸಿಐಐ ಫೈನಲ್ ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಪೈಕಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ 14 ಆಟಗಾರರು ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಡಿ.19 ರಂದು ದುಬೈನ ಕೋಕಾಕೋಲಾ ಅರೇನಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಟಗಾರರ ಮಿನಿ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ನಡೆಯಲಿದೆ. ವಿಜಯ್ ಹಜಾರೆ ಟ್ರೋಫಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದರ್ಭ ತಂಡದ ಪರ ಆಡಿದ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗ ಕರುಣ್ ನಾಯರ್, ಕೇರಳ ಪರ ಕಣಕಿಳಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಶ್ರೇಯಸ್ ಗೋಪಾಲ್, ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಮಿಜೋರಂ ಪರ ಆಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮತ್ತೊಬ್ಬ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗ ಕೆ.ಸಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪ್ಪ ಅಂತರಾಜ್ಯ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ಮಂಡಳಿಗಳಿಂದ ಐಪಿಎಲ್ ಹರಾಜಿಗೆ ಹೆಸರು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದು ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿದರೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಿಂದ ಮನೀಷ್ ಪಾಂಡೆ, ಜಗದೀಶ್ ಸುಚಿತ್, ಶುಭಾಂಗ್ ಹೆಗ್ಡೆ, ನಿಹಾಲ್ ಉಲ್ಲಾಳ್, ಬಿಆರ್ ಶರತ್, ಮನ್ವಂತ್ ಕುಮಾರ್, ಎಲ್.ಆರ್. ಚೇತನ್ ಕೆ.ಎಲ್ ಶ್ರೀಜಿತ್, ಎಂ. ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್, ಮೋನಿಶ್ ರೆಡ್ಡಿ, ಅಭಿಲಾಷ್ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿ ಹೆಸರುಗಳು ಐಪಿಎಲ್ ಹರಾಜು ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಐಪಿಎಲ್‌ನ 10 ತಂಡಗಳಿಗೆ ರಿಟೈನ್ ಆಟಗಾರರಾಗಿ ತಂಡದಲ್ಲೇ ಉಳಿದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗ 10 ಆಟಗಾರರು ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿದರೆ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ 77 ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಿಗೆ 333 ಆಟಗಾರರು ಮಿನಿ ಹರಾಜಾಗಲಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ

ರಿಟೈನ್ ಆಗಿರುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಆಟಗಾರರು	
ಆಟಗಾರ	ತಂಡ
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ಮಯಾಂಕ್ ಅಗರ್ವಾಲ್	ಸನ್‌ರೈಸರ್ಸ್ ಹೈದರಾಬಾದ್
ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ ಕೃಷ್ಣ	ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನ್ ರಾಯಲ್ಸ್
ಪ್ರವಿಣ್ ದುಬೆ	ಡೆಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ಯಾಪಿಟಲ್ಸ್
ಅಭಿನವ್ ಮನೋಹರ್	ಗುಜರಾತ್ ಟೈಟಾನ್ಸ್
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ಮನೋಜ್ ಭಾಂಡಗೆ	ರಾಯಲ್ ಚಾಲೆಂಜರ್ಸ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

## ಕ್ರೀಡೆ / ಇತರೆ

# ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ಎದುರುರಿನ 3ನೇ ಟಿ20 ಪಂದ್ಯ | ಸಮಬಲ ಸಾಧಿಸಿದ ಭಾರತ ಸೂರ್ಯ ಶಾಖಕ್ಕೆ ಕರಗಿದ ಹರಿಣಗಳು

**ಜೋಹಾನ್‌ಬರ್ಗ್:** ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ವಿರುದ್ಧದ ಮೊದಲ ಟಿ20 ಪಂದ್ಯ ಮಳೆಗೆ ಅಹುತಿಯಾದರೆ 2ನೇ ಪಂದ್ಯ ಕೈಚೆಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ 3ನೇ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ಜರಿ ಶತಕ ಸಿಡಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಜ್ವಲಿಸಿದ ಸೂರ್ಯನಿಂದ ಗೆದ್ದ ಭಾರತ ಸರಣಿ ಸಮಬಲ ಸಾಧಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸರಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಬಲ ಸಾಧಿಸಲು ಭಾರತ ಈ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೆಲ್ಲಲೇಬೇಕಾದ ಒತ್ತಡಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿತ್ತು. ಪ್ರವಾಸಿ ಭಾರತ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ಟ್ವೆಂಟಿ-20 ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಟಾಸ್ ಗೆದ್ದ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ತಂಡದ ನಾಯಕ ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ವೆಲ್ಡೆನ್‌ಸ್ಟೀನ್ ಅಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡರು. ಇನ್ನಿಂಗ್ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ ಟೀಮ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಉತ್ತಮ ಆರಂಭ ಪಡೆದಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಆಟಗಾರ ಶುಭನಾಗಿಲ್ 12 ರನ್‌ಗಳಿಸಿ ಟೀಟಾದರೆ, ಇದರ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ತಿಲಕ್ ವರ್ಮಾ ಶೂನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಟೀಟಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ಗಮಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಹಂತದಲ್ಲಿ ಜತೆಗೂಡಿದ ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಚೆನ್ನಾಲ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಸೂರ್ಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಯಾದವ್ ಭರ್ಜರಿ ಬ್ಯಾಟಿಂಗ್ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸಿದರು. ಎಡಗೈ ದಾಂಡಿಗ ಯಶಸ್ವಿ 41 ಎಸೆತಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 3 ಸಿಕ್ಸ್ ಹಾಗೂ 6 ಫೋರ್ ಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ 60 ರನ್ ಬಾರಿಸಿ ಟೀಟಾದರು. ಇದರ ಬೆನ್ನಲ್ಲೇ ಸಿಡಿಲಬ್ಬರ ಆಟ ಶುರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಸೂರ್ಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಯಾದವ್ ಸೌತ್ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ಬೌಲರ್‌ಗಳ ಬೆಂಡೆತ್ತಿದರು.



● 55 ಎಸೆತ, 8 ಭರ್ಜರಿ ಸಿಕ್ಸ್, 7 ಫೋರ್

ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಕೇವಲ 55 ಎಸೆತಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 8 ಭರ್ಜರಿ ಸಿಕ್ಸ್ ಹಾಗೂ 7 ಫೋರ್‌ಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸೋಟಿಕ ಶತಕ ಪೂರೈಸಿದರು. ಭಾರತ ನಿಗದಿತ 20 ಓವರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 7 ವಿಕೆಟ್ ನಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ 201 ರನ್ ಕಲೆಹಾಕಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾಗೆ 202 ರನ್‌ಗಳ ಗುರಿ ನೀಡಿತು.

ಗುರಿ ಬೆನ್ನತ್ತಿದ್ದ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾಕ್ಕೆ ಆರಂಭದಿಂದ ಅಂತ್ಯದ ವರೆಗೂ ಕಾಡಿದ ಟೀಂ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಬೌಲರ್‌ಗಳು ಕಾಡಿದರು. 13.5 ಓವರ್ ನಷ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ 91 ರನ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ಆಲೌಟ್ ಆಯಿತು. ಡೇವಿಡ್ ಮಿಲ್ಲರ್ (35 ರನ್), ಮಾರ್ಕ್ಸ್‌ಮನ್ (25), ಡೋನೊವಾನ್ (12) ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಉಳಿದ ಯಾವೊಬ್ಬ ಆಟಗಾರರು ಎರಡಂಕಿ ದಾಟಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಕುಲದೀಪ್ 5, ರವೀಂದ್ರ ಜಡೇಜಾ 2 ವಿಕೆಟ್ ಕಬಳಿಸಿದರೆ ಮುಖೇಶ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್‌ದೀಪ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ತಲಾ 1 ವಿಕೆಟ್ ಪಡೆದರು.

### 5 ವಿಕೆಟ್: ಕುಲ್‌ದೀಪ್ ಕಮಾಲ್

ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ನಡೆದ 3ನೇ ಟಿ20 ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾರ್ಕ್ಸ್‌ಮನ್ ಹುಡುಗರಿಗೆ 5 ವಿಕೆಟ್ ಪಡೆದು ಕುಲ್‌ದೀಪ್ ಯಾದವ್ ಕಮಾಲ್ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಕೇವಲ 2.5 ಓವರ್ ಬೌಲಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿ 6ರ ಸರಾಸರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 17 ರನ್ ನೀಡಿ 5 ವಿಕೆಟ್ ಪಡೆದರು.

### ರೋಹಿತ್ ಶರ್ಮ ದಾಖಲೆ ಸರಿಗಟ್ಟಿದ ಸೂರ್ಯ

ಟಿ20 ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೀಮ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಪರ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ ಶತಕ ಸಿಡಿಸಿದ ರೋಹಿತ್ ಶರ್ಮಾ ದಾಖಲೆಯನ್ನು ಸೂರ್ಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಯಾದವ್ ಸರಿಗಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಓಟ್ ಮ್ಯಾನ್ ಟಿ20 ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 4 ಶತಕಗಳನ್ನು ಬಾರಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಗುರುವಾರ ಸೌತ್ ಆಫ್ರಿಕಾ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ನಡೆದ ಪಂದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂರ್ಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಯಾದವ್ ಶತಕ ಸಿಡಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಟಿ20 ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 4 ಶತಕಗಳನ್ನು ಸಿಡಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ರೋಹಿತ್ ಶರ್ಮಾ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ವಿಶೇಷ ದಾಖಲೆಯನ್ನು ಸರಿಗಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಅತೀ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಟಿ20 ಇನ್ನಿಂಗ್ಸ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಧಿಕ ಶತಕ ಬಾರಿಸಿದ ಬ್ಯಾಟರ್ ಎಂಬ ಹಿರಿಮೆಗೂ ಸೂರ್ಯಕುಮಾರ್ ಯಾದವ್ ಪಾತ್ರರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇದಕ್ಕೂ ಮುನ್ನ ಈ ದಾಖಲೆ ಗೆನ್ನೆ ಮ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿತ್ತು.



**EDITORIAL**

**NEWS**

# COP28 — many a slippery slope ahead

**M**uch rested on COP28 in Dubai, a milestone event slated to take up the first five-yearly global stocktake with respect to goals set under the Paris Agreement to combat the climate crisis. The global stocktake covers mitigation, adaptation, financing and other support to developing countries, for which a report of technical deliberations and a synthesis report had been prepared as inputs to the COP. Based on the global stocktake review at COP28, countries would be required to submit raised emissions reduction targets by mid-2025 for finalisation at COP30.

The global stocktake input reports conveyed what is already known from all major scientific studies, i.e., the window for restricting global heating to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels is rapidly closing. Global average temperature rise is already dangerously close to that limit, having already touched it on many days this year. Severe heat waves, droughts, forest fires, floods and extreme rainfall are already being witnessed more frequently across the world, along with possible irreversible melting of polar and glacial ice and sea-level rise. The urgency to rein in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions causing climate change was clearly top of the agenda in Dubai.

## Focus on fossil fuels

From the outset, fossil fuels, responsible for around 75% of all greenhouse gases and about 90% of global carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, took centre stage at COP28, astonishingly for the first time ever in climate COPs. Anxieties about the influence of the oil industry and supporting governments had already been swirling around, with the COP being held in the Gulf. The COP28 President, Sultan Al Jaber, a United Arab Emirates Minister and head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), one of the world's largest oil and gas producers, further set the cat among the pigeons by claiming in an interview that "there was no science" that called for cutting back on fossil fuels to tackle climate change. Journalists and activists had also noted that fossil fuel companies had been steadily increasing their presence at the COPs, often even as members of official country delegations, giving them access to the main negotiation rooms. Their numbers had shot up to 2,000 at Dubai, larger than any country's delegation.

On the positive side, all three successive global stocktake draft texts echoed the GST input



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The COP28 Declaration has left almost all the problems where they were before; nothing much of substance has been gained in Dubai

findings that the 1.5°C target would require "deep, rapid and sustained" reduction in global emissions of 43% by 2030 and 60% by 2035 relative to 2019 levels, reaching net-zero CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050, with global emissions expected to peak around 2020 or latest by 2025.

After the initial draft text drew mixed responses, especially over phase-down or out of fossil fuels, the second draft was circulated much later on the penultimate day, and evoked furious reactions. It gave only a bullet list of options that countries "could" take towards emissions cuts, including "reduction" of fossil-fuel production and use, and underplaying financial support from developed countries. Small island states called the text a death sentence, African countries said they would not leave without assurances on funding, and the European Union threatened to walk out saying the 1.5°C target could not be attained with such a text.

Inevitably, the COP was extended by a day and a fresh text was tabled in the morning of December 13. This draft sought to square the circle on fossil fuels by calling for "transitioning away" from fossil fuels, which several countries and observers suggested be read as signalling the end of the fossil fuel era. In the relief over this compromise, other serious lacunae were overlooked.

## A draft with loose definitions

The final draft had many loopholes that could prolong production and use of fossil fuels, and favoured the industry as well as rich developed countries with advanced technologies. While calling for a phase-down of "unbated" coal power, the door was left open for "low-carbon fuels", "low-emission" technologies, "low-carbon hydrogen", and "transitional fuels," (widely used in Europe and the United States to describe natural gas) – all terms with very loose definitions.

It also made special mention of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) which has not achieved commercial viability and whose eventual emissions savings are unknown. On emission reductions and shift to clean energy, the draft also did not adequately refer to equity or common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR), possibly under pressure from the U.S. looking to treat all countries on a par.

This draft also did not take the issue of financial support by developed countries further, causing much anguish to climate vulnerable

countries. The draft did express concern that the earlier commitment of \$100 billion per year by 2020, however inadequate, had not been met. It repeated the global stocktake reports' estimation that developing countries needed about \$5.8-\$5.9 trillion for the pre-2030 period, with adaptation alone requiring \$215-\$387 billion per year and clean energy transition requiring about \$4.3 trillion per year, both until 2030. Yet, no fresh targets were mentioned in the draft, not even for the new Loss and Damage fund formally set up on the first day and gathering pledges for a meagre \$470 million.

The closing plenary was called just a few hours after the final draft was published, giving country delegations little time for discussions. While delegates were milling about, the COP President quickly tabled the draft, noted that there were no objections, and gavelled it through! On the live webcast, the delegates appeared stunned, then a ripple of applause grew slowly into the usual standing ovation. As often happens at fraught climate COPs, the relief at any closure, good or not, seems better than opposing an apparent consensus.

## Disquiet

Yet, voices of disquiet were expressed post facto. The delegate from Samoa, representing the small island states, said that she and other island delegations were outside discussing the text when it was gavelled through in their absence, and went on to spell out a long list of their objections. Many more such voices followed – for example from Africa, chiefly criticising the lax attitude towards fossil fuels and the lack of financial support announced.

The COP28 Declaration has left almost all the problems where they were before. Other than recording a decision to "transition away" from fossil fuels, which countries were already doing in practice, and noting the broad global target for higher emissions reduction to achieve the 1.5°C goal, nothing much of substance has been gained at COP28. A road map towards new targets in 2025 was not drawn up. Financial assistance was not scaled up. The Global Goal on Adaptation was left half-baked. A number of other documents were not finalised or approved. On the other hand, the fossil fuel industry went back happy, as did the developed countries which successfully dealt yet another blow against inter-nation equity, and have again escaped putting serious funds on the table.

# 'Authenticity' in a post-authentic world

**M**erriam-Webster's word of the year for 2023 is "authentic," which is a fitting follow-up to their word of the year choice for 2022, "gaslighting," a term for deceiving someone into doubting their own realities or beliefs.

"To thine own self be true." Polonius's remarks in *Hamlet* serve as a constant reminder to examine ourselves. However, according to Merriam-Webster, "when we question authenticity, we value it even more." Honestly, yes. These days, every bit of our lifestyle is Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven; deep fakes and post-truths have blurred the boundary between "real" and "fake." Authenticity gets prominence as Elon Musk believes that individuals should be more "authentic" on social media, and celebrities such as Taylor Swift strive for "authentic voice" and "authentic self". But is that horizon of "authenticity"? While it is a desirable quality, what does the term "authentic" really describe? Being true to one's own personality, spirit, or character? Not false or imitation? Made or done in the same way as an original?

## An evolving mechanism

Over time, the mechanism of authenticity evolved. Although Rousseau maintained that the need for others' approval undermines authenticity, Sartre and Heidegger acknowledged that external influences are unavoidable and that society and the natural world shape us just as much as our own choices. Therefore, "authenticity" in today's world ought to be entwined with celebrity culture, identity, and social media, along with AI and its deep fake avatar. It is also bound to be closely related to "fake news", which surfaced out of nowhere in November 2016. Even though former U.S. President Donald Trump relentlessly bashed the media as "fake news", Merriam-Webster states that its origins date back to the 1890s. Mussolini even distributed a manipulated photo of himself



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The world needs to ask itself whether it has slipped down a rabbit hole into the era of post-authenticity, where trust is the biggest casualty

to the general population.

Is "authenticity" the plague of the 21st century? What has transpired is that because of constantly advancing technology, it is now easier, less expensive, and quicker to produce and distribute fake contents. It even raises the question of whether Mr. Trump was key in creating the post-truth world. Or whether he was merely one of post-truth's greatest products during its formative stages. The barrier, however, has now been breached by generative AI; the horizon has been expanded further.

Today's AI avatars are able to create realistic-looking opinion page articles, fiction, paintings, and even research papers. After admitting that AI was used to create a prize-winning photograph, German photographer Boris Eldagsen declined the Sony World Photography Award in April, stating that he was curious to find out if contests were ready for AI photos to enter. Evidently, they were not.

We witness an AI-generated image of Pope Francis donning a stylish puffer jacket, unsettling deep fakes of well-known actors, and potentially harmful audio or video clips amid important elections. Due to social media's magical ability, they quickly reach millions and are capable of orchestrating irreversible damage before being identified as fake and debunked. Furthermore, we would never know the exact number of unidentified "fake" news stories, articles, images, audio or video clips, and research papers. The shade of uncertainty widens.

## 'Infocalypse' is imminent

According to AI scientist Nina Schick, "Infocalypse", the biggest information and communications crisis in world history, is imminent. Further, the boundary between mainstream and social media is getting blurred. For instance, in October, the fake news of Amartya Sen's passing swept the media, originating with a post on social media.

Have we slipped down the rabbit hole of AI and social media and into the era of post-authenticity? "Trust," however, is the biggest casualty in effect. In his 2021 book of the same name, journalist Michael Grothaus described how society is transforming into a place where we would "Trust No One".

Today, anyone may cast a doubt on anything by just publicly doubting its authenticity, regardless of how real it is. It helps the bad actors; in 2018, American law professors Bobby Chesney and Danielle Citron popularised the phrase "liar's dividend". The greatest risk to mankind is that we might soon cease to take anything at face value.

Because of AI's presumed ability to create seemingly convincing text and data, researchers and journal editors are becoming increasingly concerned about integrity. Allegations of falsified or wrong data on various topics important to the common people, such as GDP, employment, inflation, and COVID-19-related statistics, frequently rock different societies. With the AI boom, the falsification of data and text could evolve into a new realm in this post-authentic age.

## Hazy lines

The lines separating truth from falsehood, right from wrong, love and hate, and war and peace, are becoming more and more hazy in this post-truth era. We understand that "authenticity", which is inherently like an honest "performance", remains elusive because fake news's post-authenticity is a social issue that is a sign of waning "trust" in a common civic endeavour rather than a purely technological or media problem. Technology's glitter is not helping society either.

But we still strive for authenticity and an illuminating, trustworthy future for mankind, even when it seems like we are heading towards a dystopian future in which we would "Trust No One". Sadly.

# Principled shift

## India must take a more vocal position on Gaza with Israel

**T**wo months after Israel's bombardment of Gaza residents in retaliation for the October 7 terror attacks by Hamas began, India joined its voice to the global call to stop the bombing, voting in favour of a resolution at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) along with 152 other nations. The resolution demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, an observance of international humanitarian law, the unconditional release of all hostages, as well as "ensuring humanitarian access". India's vote was a shift from its previous vote at the last such UNGA resolution on October 26, when despite the death of 8,000 Gazans, India had decided to abstain from voting for a resolution that called for a ceasefire. The government and the MEA explained this to be a matter of principle, as part of India's "zero-tolerance" approach towards terrorism, as the earlier resolution did not contain an "explicit condemnation" of the October 7 attacks. However, while the UNGA resolution passed on December 12 bears no direct mention of the terror attacks, India has voted in favour. Although the government has yet to detail the rationale, there could be several reasons: casualty figures have risen relentlessly, with 18,000 dead and the highest such toll of nearly 90 journalists. More than 80% of the entire population is homeless. Even the U.S., Israel's biggest ally, estimates that nearly half of the 29,000 air-to-ground munitions deployed by Israel thus far are "unguided" or indiscriminate missiles. Second, Israeli Defence Forces have gone far beyond their original mandate of eliminating Hamas capacity and freeing the hostages to a large-scale flattening of Gaza and forced occupation of more territory. More than 100 Israeli hostages remain in Hamas custody. Third, global opinion, including Indian public opinion, has moved decidedly from sympathy with Israel, to horror at the unfolding aftermath, and New Delhi could not have been immune to entreaties by Palestine and the Gulf States to take a relook at its vote, even as India stood isolated in South Asia and the Global South for its previous abstention.

It may be too early to see India's UNGA vote as a reversal of its earlier position and a reversion to its original position in the conflict, where it has traditionally called for peace. Much will depend on the role India chooses for itself in ensuring the ceasefire is effected and holds, given that Israel has already rejected the UNGA resolution. Having proven its credentials as a friend to Israel following the terror attacks, as well as the odium of enabling the civilian deaths, the Modi government must be more vocal in helping the Netanyahu government out of the strategic cul de sac it has bombarded its way into, one which could cause regional instability and insecurity for decades.

# REVOKE SUSPENSION OF MPs, PLUG SECURITY GAPS IN PARLIAMENT

**D**RAMATIC intrusions into the Lok Sabha from the visitors' gallery on Wednesday wiped the smirk off the ruling party's face after its surprise 3-1 victory in the recent assembly elections. A serious security breach in the temple of democracy right under the nose of the BJP, with cameras capturing all the drama, was embarrassing for the ruling party since muscular nationalism is its article of faith. By doing it on the anniversary of the parliament attack by terrorists in 2001, the plotters sought to thumb their nose at the security apparatus. What was more mortifying for the treasury benches was that the two intruders, Manoranjan D and Sagar Sharma, had passes issued on the recommendation of BJP's Mysuru MP, Prathap Simha. Their public gallery pass gave them entry from 11.30 am to 12.15 pm, yet they got to stay on and jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber around 1.01 pm. One of them is said to have done a recce of the old parliament building and found that shoes were not properly checked, hence their ploy to smuggle smoke canisters within them. Eight security personnel have since being suspended. Instead of cowering, the parliamentarians nabbed the duo and gave them their version of justice—a thrashing like mobs do—before handing both over to the security personnel.

While terror charges have been slapped against them, they *prima facie* appeared more like amateurs. Their slogans—*Tun-ashahi nahin chalegi* (Won't allow dictatorship), *Bharat Mata ki jai* and *Jai Bheem*—failed to convey their objective in any meaningful way. Why would anyone put himself or herself under such risk without properly communicating the purpose? Professional *aandolanjivis*, as the BJP pejoratively seeks to describe them, such as Greenpeace hyperventilate their ideology while launching risky protests like the one against a nuclear plant in France a few years ago. Only a comprehensive probe can reveal the motive behind the parliament trespass.

With the government on the back foot, the opposition went on the offensive and demanded action against BJP's Simha. They had every right to do so, as the rulebook says that any MP seeking a visitor's pass must provide a statement confirming personal acquaintance with the guest and take full responsibility for him or her. Instead, 14 opposition MPs were suspended, which was a sad commentary on managing dissent. The suspensions ought to be revoked in the interest of democracy.

**T**HE Northeast ethnic cauldron is known for regularly boiling over. This is only to be expected. Long before the arrival of modern administration brought by the British, this cauldron has always had a mix of "state carrying populations" and "non-state" tribesmen. This resulted in a unique internal friction that was so well characterised by James C Scott in his book *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. Much of the ethnic turmoil the region is witnessing today is a continuation—and sometimes a complication—of this tension within.

As non-state tribesmen wake up to the reality of the modern state and begin aspiring for one for themselves, they find their statehood already defined. Much of the insurgencies in the region, as well as the ethnic rivalries, are consequences of this unsettled question of identity. The current ethnic violence in Manipur between the Kuki-Zo tribes and Meiteis has elements of this, though there were also other immediate triggers. It is another story that the Union and state governments have not done enough to resolve the crisis seven months into it.

Demonstrated in this unfolding drama is also the contention that identity is fluid and dynamic, and not by any means static or fixed. Identity, like so many attributes of the human story, is fiction. It has all to do with choosing to belong to one story or the other of peoplehood and nationhood. Yuval Noah Harari in *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* and, much before him, Benedict Anderson in *Imagined Communities* pointed out that humans have a unique ability to tell stories and, on the basis of these stories, unite to build communities.

This capability came after the cognitive revolution that humans are estimated to have gone through 60,000 years ago. It was brought about by certain evolutionary neurological changes in the human brain circuitry, giving us the ability to create and understand symbols. In this scheme, community identities are not intrinsically determined, but depend on the ideas of community built and internalised by groups of people. These stories can obviously be accommodative or exclusive; identities can accordingly expand and evolve, or narrow down and become more rigid.

The 1826 Treaty of Yandabo—in which the British ended the Burmese occupation of Assam by direct intervention and in Manipur by indirect assistance—marked the start of the colonial era in the northeastern region. British Assam, which then was the entire Northeast

Tribal identities in the Northeast have evolved over time. The British colonial administration left a deep imprint, as did the tribesmen's experience in the world wars

# THE FLUIDITY OF IDENTITIES IN THE NORTHEAST



**PRADIP PHANJOUBAM**

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except for the kingdoms of Tripura and Manipur, was merged with Bengal. Manipur was allowed to remain a protectorate state.

From the start, the pattern of British administration in Assam reflected the challenges of dealing with this mix of state and non-state communities. The plains of Assam, which were already familiar with the centralised bureaucracy of a state, were much easier for the British to handle. This was unlike the non-state spaces, where the authorities of a village, tribe and clan did not run beyond the closed communities. So the British introduced a normal land revenue administration in the plains, but left

the surrounding hills unadministered and, after the Government of India Act of 1919, demarcated them as 'excluded' or 'partially excluded' areas.

The scant importance the British initially gave the region is also evident from the fact that they withdrew most of their regular troops from there not long after the Burma debacle. In 1835, when the Bruce brothers' experiment in tea plantations began succeeding phenomenally, British officer E R Grange conceived of the idea of raising a civil militia that was "less paid than the military, better armed than the police" to aid the administration. This, called the Cachar Levy, met the British needs well. Three years

later, the Jorhat Militia was also raised and then merged with the former. In the years after, it came to be known by different names depending on where they were posted.

One of the incentives given to these militiamen was that those who performed well would be absorbed in the Indian Army's Gurkha Rifles; in time, they became a fertile nursery for the latter. During the First World War, the original five battalions of this militia sent a total of 3,174 soldiers and 23 Indian officers (now known as junior commissioned officers) to the Gurkha rifles for duties in Europe. For this contribution, at the end of the war, the unit came to be redesignated formally as a paramilitary force and rechristened as Assam Rifles.

The two world wars had a great impact on the identity churns in the Northeast. The First World War experience was especially interesting for the contrasting ways it initiated identity formation among the Naga and Kuki tribes. The British administration raised a Labour Corps from among these tribesmen to be taken to Europe. While the Nagas cooperated, the Kukis in Manipur refused to be enlisted, leading to what British chroniclers describe as the Kuki Rebellion of 1917-19. The delay in subduing the rebellion is generally attributed to the Assam Rifles sending away practically all its fighting force to the war in Europe. Indeed, the rebellion ended as the war in Europe concluded and the troops returned. Nonetheless, this is an important chapter in the birth of a consolidated Kuki identity.

The Naga story is even more intriguing. Disparate Naga tribesmen who enlisted in the British Labour Corps discovered in Europe that they were treated as one, and differently from other Indians. As Naga author Charles Chasie writes in his book, *The Naga Memorandum to the Simon Commission, 1929*, they returned enlightened by their experience in Europe. With the help of sympathetic British officials, they formed the Naga Club in Kohima in 1918 to work for unity and friendship among the Naga tribes. Their message soon spread to the administered areas of Assam's Naga hills and beyond in time. In 1929, the memorandum they submitted to the visiting Simon Commission is today considered an important marker of the rise of Naga nationalism. Among other things, they told the commission that Nagas were not Indians.

This is the mystique of the identity question. It may look simple and straightforward to some, but the question has been behind some of the most bitter and bloody conflicts in history.

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# ಚಹಾ ಒಂದು ಆಹ್ಲಾದಕರ ಪಾನೀಯ

**ಚ**ಹಾದ ಸ್ವಭಾವವು ನಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಜೀವನದ ಶಾಂತ ಚಿಂತನೆಯ ಜಗತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕರೆದೊಯ್ಯುತ್ತದೆ- ಎಂದು ಲಿನ್ ಯುಟಾಂಗ್ ಹೇಳಿರುವ ಹಾಗೆ ಚಹಾ ಸೇವನೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಜೀವನದ ಅವಿಭಾಜ್ಯ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದು ಅಕ್ಷರಶಃ ಸತ್ಯವಾದ ಮಾತು. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಅದು ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆಯ ಅಂಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ಅದೆ ರೀತಿ ಚಹಾದ ಪ್ರಾಮುಖ್ಯತೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹಿರಿಯರಂತೂ ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ಇರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಏನಪ್ಪಾ ಅಂದ್ರೆ...

ನೀವು ತಣ್ಣಗಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಚಹಾವು ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಬೆಚ್ಚಗಾಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ; ನೀವು ತುಂಬಾ ಬಿಸಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅದು ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನು ತಂಪಾಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ; ನೀವು ಖಿನ್ನತೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅದು ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಹುರಿದುಂಬಿಸುತ್ತದೆ; ನೀವು ಉತ್ಸುಕರಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅದು ನಿಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಶಾಂತಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಚಹಾವು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತರವಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಜಾಗತಿಕ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಪರಿಮಳಯುಕ್ತ ಪಾನೀಯ ಯಾವುದೆಂದರೆ ಅದುವೇ ಚಹಾ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರೆ ತಪ್ಪಾಗಲಾರದು.

**ಚಹಾ ಎಂದರೇನು?**

ಬಿಸಿಯಾಗಿರುವ ಅಥವಾ ಕುದಿಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಹದಗೊಳಿಸಲಾದ ಅಥವಾ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಎಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಿಶ್ರಗೊಳಿಸಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಪರಿಮಳದ ಪಾನೀಯಕ್ಕೂ ಚಹಾ ಎಂದೇ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಚಹಾ, ಕ್ಯಾಮೆಲಿಯಾ ಸಿಸೆನ್ಸಿಸ್ ಎಂಬ ಚಹಾ ಸಸ್ಯದ ಎಳೆಯ ಎಲೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಎಲೆಗಳ ಮೊಗ್ಗುಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಕುದಿಸಿದ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಳುಗಿಸಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಿದ ಪಾನೀಯ. ಎರಡು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪ್ರಭೇದಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ, ಸಣ್ಣ-ಎಲೆಗಳಿರುವ ಚೀನಾ ಸಸ್ಯ (ಸಿ. ಸಿಸೆನ್ಸಿಸ್ ವೆರೈಟಿ ಸಿಸೆನ್ಸಿಸ್) ಮತ್ತು ದೊಡ್ಡ-ಎಲೆಗಳ ಅಸಾಂ ಸಸ್ಯ (ಸಿ. ಸಿಸೆನ್ಸಿಸ್ ವಿಥ್ ಅಸಾಮಿಕಾ). ಈ ಎರಡು ಪ್ರಭೇದಗಳ ಮಿಶ್ರತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಹ ಬೆಳೆಯಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಎಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹದಗೊಳಿಸಲ್ಪಡಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಹುದುಗದೆ ಬಿಡಬಹುದು.

ಚಹಾ ಮೂಲ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಐತಿಹ್ಯ: ಚೀನಾದ ದಂತಕಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ, ಷೆನ್ಯಾಂಗ್ ಎನ್ನುವ ಒಬ್ಬ ಜನಪ್ರಿಯ, ಐತಿಹ್ಯವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಚೀನಾದ ಚಕ್ರವರ್ತಿ. ಇವರು ಕೃಷಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಚೀನಾದ ಔಷಧಿಯ ಸಂಶೋಧಕ. ಕ್ರಿ.ಪೂ ಸರಿಸುಮಾರು 2737 ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಬೋಗುಣಿಯಷ್ಟು ಕುದಿಯುವ ನೀರನ್ನು ಕುಡಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ. ಅದೇ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹತ್ತಿರದ ಮರವೊಂದರಿಂದ ಒಂದಷ್ಟು ಎಲೆಗಳು ಹಾರಿ ಬಂದು, ಆತನ ಬೋಗುಣಿ(ಪಾತ್ರೆ)ಯ ನೀರಿಗೆ ಬಿದ್ದು, ಅದರ ಬಣ್ಣವನ್ನು ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಿದವು. ಕುದಿಸಿದ ನೀರಿನಲ್ಲಿನ ಈ ಮಿಶ್ರಣವನ್ನು ಒಂದು ಬಾರಿ ರುಚಿ ನೋಡಿದ ಚಕ್ರವರ್ತಿಯು, ಅದರ ಪರಿಮಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಪುನಶ್ಚೇತನಕಾರಿ ಗುಣ ಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅಹ್ಲಾದಕರವಾದ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಚ್ಚರಿಗೊಂಡನು ಹೀಗೆ ಚಹಾ ಮೂಲದ ಇತಿಹಾಸ ಗೊತ್ತಾಯಿತು.

ಈ ದಂತಕಥೆ ವಾಸ್ತವವಾಗಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಆಧಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದೆಯೋ ಅಥವಾ ಇಲ್ಲವೋ ಗೊತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಶತಮಾನಗಳವರೆಗೆ ಏಷ್ಯಾದ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಹಾವು ಒಂದು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಪಾನೀಯವಾಗಿ, ಒಂದು ರೋಗ ಪರಿಹಾರಕವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಒಂದು ಹಿರಿಮೆಯ ಕುರುಹಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ಗಮನಾರ್ಹವಾದ ಪಾತ್ರವನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ, ಇದರ ಹುಟ್ಟುಪಿತೆಯ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಸಿದ್ಧಾಂತಗಳು ಅನೇಕ ವೇಳೆ



ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಅಥವಾ ಭವ್ಯವಾದ ಸ್ವರೂಪದಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿರುವುದು ಅಚ್ಚರಿಯ ವಿಷಯವೇನೂ ಅಲ್ಲ.

ಈ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆಯ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆ: ಆಧುನಿಕ ಯುಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಹಾ ದಿನ ಆಚರಣೆ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಿದರೆ 2005ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಚಹಾ ದಿನವನ್ನು ಭಾರತದ ನವದೆಹಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಚರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಮತ್ತೊಂದೆಡೆ, ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ವಿಶ್ವಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಆಹಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃಷಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗೆ 2015ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಚಹಾ ದಿನವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಪಂಚದಾದ್ಯಂತ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲು ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಮಾಡಿತು. ಭಾರತದಂತಹ ಮತ್ತು ಶ್ರೀಲಂಕಾ, ನೇಪಾಳ, ವಿಯೆಟ್ನಾಂ, ಇಂಡೋನೇಷಿಯಾ, ಬಾಂಗ್ಲಾದೇಶ, ಕೀನ್ಯಾ, ಮಲೇಷಿಯಾ, ಉಗಾಂಡಾ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂಜಾನಿಯಾದಂತಹ ಚಹಾ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುವ ದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 2005 ರಿಂದ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 15ರಂದು



ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಚಹಾ ದಿನವನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಬರಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಅದೇ ರೀತಿ ವಿಶ್ವಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮೇ 21 ರಂದು ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಚಹಾ ದಿನವನ್ನು ಆಚರಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ನಿರ್ಣಯವನ್ನು ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 21, 2019 ರಂದು ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಹಾದ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನಗಳು: ಚಹಾ ಎಲೆಗಳು 700ಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಅವುಗಳ ಪೈಕಿ ಮಾನವನ ಆರೋಗ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ತೀರಾ ಸನಿಹವಾಗಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿರುವ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತಗಳೆಂದರೆ, ಫ್ಲೇವನಾಯ್ಡ್‌ಗಳು, ಅಮೈನೋ ಆಮ್ಲಗಳು, ವಿಟಮಿನ್ ಗಳು (ಸಿ, ಈ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ), ಕೆಫೀನ್ ಮತ್ತು ಪಾಲಿಸ್ಯಾಕರೈಡ್ ಗಳು. ಎಲ್ಲಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮಿಗಿಲಾಗಿ, ಮಾನವ ಶರೀರದ ಜೀವಕೋಶದ-ಮಧ್ಯಸ್ಥಿಕೆಯ ಪ್ರತಿರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕಾರ್ಯದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಚಹಾ ಸೇವನೆಯು ಸಂಬಂಧ ಹೊಂದಿದೆ ಎಂದು ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಸಾಬೀತುಮಾಡಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಕರುಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಯೋಜನಕಾರಿ ಸೂಕ್ಷ್ಮ ಜೀವಕೋಶಗಳನ್ನು

ಸುಧಾರಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಚಹಾವು ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾತ್ರವನ್ನು ವಹಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಕರುಳಿನ ಆಸಮರ್ಪಕತೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿಯಾಗಿ ಪ್ರತಿರಕ್ಷಕ ಗುಣವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉತ್ಕರ್ಷಣಶೀಲ ಹಾನಿಯಿಂದ ಜೀವಕೋಶದ ಒಳಪೊರೆಗಳನ್ನು ರಕ್ಷಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಚಹಾವು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಪಾತ್ರವನ್ನು ವಹಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಚಹಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಫ್ಲೋರಿನ್ ಅಂಶವು ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಇದು ಹಲ್ಲಿನ ಸವೆತವನ್ನೂ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುತ್ತದೆ. ರಕ್ತದೊತ್ತಡವನ್ನು, ಮೇಧಸನ್ನು ಕುಗ್ಗಿಸುವ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಗೆ ತರುವಲ್ಲಿ, ರಕ್ತದ-ಗ್ಲೂಕೋಸ್‌ನ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ತಗ್ಗಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಪರಿಧಮನಿಯ ಹೃದ್ರೋಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಧುಮೇಹವನ್ನು ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವಲ್ಲಿ ಚಹಾದ ಪಾತ್ರವು ಉತ್ತಮ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣೀಕರಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಹಸಿರು ಮತ್ತು ಕಪ್ಪು ಚಹಾ ಮಿಶ್ರಣಗಳೆರಡೂ ಅನೇಕ ಉತ್ಕರ್ಷಣಕಾರಿ-ನಿರೋಧಕಗಳನ್ನು, ಮುಖ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಕ್ಯಾಟಿನ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದು, ಅವು ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಜನಕ-ನಿರೋಧಕ, ವಿಕೃತಿ ಜನಕ-ನಿರೋಧಕ ಮತ್ತು ಗಡ್ಡೆಗಳ-ನಿರೋಧಕ ಗುಣಲಕ್ಷಣಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತವೆ.

ಚಹಾ ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ ಹೇಗೆ ಆಗಮನವಾಯಿತು?: ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಚಹಾವನ್ನು 1824ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬರ್ಮಾ ಮತ್ತು ಭಾರತದ ಅಸಾಂ ನಡುವಿನ ಗಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಟ್ಟಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚಹಾ ಸಸ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಕಂಡುಹಿಡಿಯಲಾಯಿತು. ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷರು 1836ರಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾರತಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು 1867ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಲೋನ್ (ಶ್ರೀಲಂಕಾ)ಗೆ ಚಹಾ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಚಯಿಸಿದರು. ಮೊದಲಿಗೆ ಅವರು ಚೀನಾದಿಂದ ಬೀಜಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿದರು. ನಂತರ ಅಸಾಂ ಸಸ್ಯದಿಂದ ಬೀಜಗಳನ್ನು ಬಳಸಲಾಯಿತು.

ವಿವಿಧ ದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚಹಾದ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ: ಚೀನಾವು ವಿಶ್ವದಲ್ಲೇ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಚಹಾ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕ ದೇಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ನಂತರ ಭಾರತವು ಜಾಗತಿಕವಾಗಿ ದೇಶದ ಚಹಾ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯ ಸುಮಾರು 83%ರಷ್ಟು ಭಾರತದ ಉತ್ತರ ಭಾಗವು ಅತಿದೊಡ್ಡ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕವಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಭಾರತ ಚಹಾ ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡನೇ ಅತಿದೊಡ್ಡ ದೇಶವಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಸಾಂ ರಾಜ್ಯವು ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಚಹಾ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುವ ರಾಜ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದಲ್ಲದೆ, ಅಸಾಂ ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಚಹಾ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕ ಎಂದು ಹೆಸರುವಾಸಿಯಾಗಿದೆ. ಇದು ಜಾಗತಿಕವಾಗಿ 400 ಮಿಲಿಯನ್ ಕೆಜಿಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಚಹಾವನ್ನು ಉತ್ಪಾದನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯ ಸಂಗತಿ.

ಚಹಾಕ್ಕೆ ಪರ್ಯಾಯವಾಗಿ ಕಾಫಿ ಕೂಡ ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಾಫಿ ಉತ್ಪಾದಿಸುವ ರಾಜ್ಯ-ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಚಹಾದ ವಿಧಗಳು: ಕಾಫೀರಿ ಕಹ್ವಾ, ಜೆಂಜರ್ ಟೀ, ತುಳಸಿ ಟೀ, ಸುಲೈಮಾನಿ ಟೀ, ರೋಂಗಾ ಸಾಹ್, ಮಸಾಲಾ ಟೀ, ಲೆಮನ್‌ಗ್ರಾಸ್ ಟೀ, ಏಲಕ್ಕಿ ಟೀ, ಲೆಂಬು ಚಾಯ್, ಗ್ರೀನ್ ಟೀ, ಗುರ್ ಗುರ್ ಚಾಯ್/ಬೆಣ್ಣೆ ನೀವು ರುಚಿನೋಡಬೇಕಾದ ಕೆಲವು ಚಹಾಗಳಾಗಿವೆ.

ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆಯಾಗಿ ಚಹಾವು ಒಂದು ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಒಂದು ಆಹ್ಲಾದಕರ ಪೇಯ. ಚಹಾ ಚೈತನ್ಯ ಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಮನಸ್ಸನ್ನು ಸಮನ್ವಯಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಲಸ್ಯವನ್ನು ಹೋಗಲಾಡಿಸುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆಯಾಸವನ್ನು ನಿವಾರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಆಲೋಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಜಾಗೃತಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅರೆನಿದ್ರಾ,ವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ತಡೆಯುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಚಹಾದ ಜಾಸ್ತಿ ಸೇವನೆಯಿಂದ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಮೇಲೆ ದುಷ್ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರಬಹುದು. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಚಹಾವನ್ನು ಅಮೃತದಂತೆ ಸೇವಿಸಿ.



# ಮಾಡುವ ವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅಭಿಮಾನವಿರಲಿ

**ಹೊ**ಸ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳಲೆಂದು ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಶೋರೂಮ್ ಒಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಬ್ಬ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಸೇಲ್ಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾನ್ ಅವನಿಗೆ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ರೀತಿಯ, ಹೊಸ ಹೊಸ ನಮೂನೆಯ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿಗಳನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಆದರೆ ಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಹೋದ ಆ ಗಿರಾಕಿಗೆ ಅಳತೆ ಸರಿ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ಇಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ ಅಥವಾ ಇಷ್ಟವಾದ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಳತೆ ಸರಿ ಹೊಂದುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೂ ಆ ಸೇಲ್ಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾನ್ ತಾಳ್ಮೆಯಿಂದ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೊಸ ಹೊಸ ಬೇರೆ ವಿಧದ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿಗಳನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಇರುತ್ತಾನೆ. ಅಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಗಡೆ ಅಂಗಡಿಯ ಮುಂದೆ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಕಾರೊಂದು ಬಂದು ನಿಂತಿತು. ಆ ಕಾರಿನಿಂದ ಒಬ್ಬ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಗಂಭೀರವಾಗಿ ಇಳಿದು ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಅಂಗಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಕೆಲಸದವರೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಎದ್ದು ನಿಂತು ನಮಸ್ಕರಿಸಿದರು. ಆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯು ಮುಗುಳ್ಳುಕ್ಕು, ಗಲ್ಲಾ ಪೆಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ದೇವರ ಪೋಟೋಗೆ ಕೈ ಮುಗಿದು ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತು ತನ್ನ ಕೆಲಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಗ್ನನಾದನು.

ಆಗ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಬಂದ ಆ ಗಿರಾಕಿ ತನಗೆ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದವನನ್ನು, 'ಅವರು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಯಜಮಾನರಾ?' ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಲು ಅವನು, 'ಹೌದು ಅವರೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಯಜಮಾನರು. ಅವರಿಗೆ ಇಂತಹ ಐದಾರು ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳಿವೆ' ಎಂದು ಮಾತಾಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಜತೆ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ತೋರಿಸಿದನು. ಅದನ್ನು ನೋಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ಅದು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆಯಾ ಗುವಂತೆನ್ನಿಸಿತು, ಆದರೆ ಅಳತೆ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಹೆಚ್ಚು-ಕಮ್ಮಿ ಅನಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆ ಜತೆ ಗಿರಾಕಿಗೆ ಇಷ್ಟವಾಯಿತೆಂದು ಅವನಿಗೆ ಅನ್ನಿಸಿತೇನೋ! ಹೇಗಾದರೂ

ಮಾಡಿ ಆ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅವನ ಮನಸೊಪ್ಪಿಸಿ ಮಾರುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಪಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದನು. ಆ ಜತೆ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಬಿಗಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದಲ್ಲಾ ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ 'ಇಲ್ಲ ಸಾರ್ ಅದು ನಿಮಗೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಸೈಜು,

## ಒಂದೊಳ್ಳೆ ಮಾತು



ರೂಪಾ ಗುರುರಾಜ್

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ಸರಿಯಾಗಿದೆ' ಎಂದು ಮತ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತೆ ಬಲವಂತ ಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದನು.

ಇದನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಗಲ್ಲಾ ಪೆಟ್ಟಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತು ಗಮನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಎದ್ದು ಬಂದು ಆ ಗಿರಾಕಿಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡು, 'ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗಿಡಿರಿ' ಎಂದು ಅವರ ಕಾಲನ್ನು ತನ್ನ ಕೈಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡು ಆ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿಗಳನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸಿದರು. ಆಗ ಆ ಗಿರಾಕಿಗೆ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲೂ ಅಂತಸ್ತಿನಲ್ಲೂ ದೊಡ್ಡವರಾದ ಆ ಯಜಮಾನ ಇವನ ಕಾಲು ಹಿಡಿದು ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ ತೀರಾ ಮುಜುಗರವೆನಿಸಿತು. ಪರವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ ನಾನೇ ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ಕೇಳದೇ ಎರಡೂ ಕಾಲುಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ತೊಡಿಸಿ, 'ಒಂದು

ಸಲ ನಡೆದು ನೋಡಿರಿ, ನಿಮಗೆ ಸರಿ ಎನಿಸದಿದ್ದರೆ ಬೇರೊಂದು ಚಪ್ಪಲಿಯನ್ನು ನೋಡುವಿರಂತೆ' ಎಂದರು.

ಆದರೆ ಆ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಸರಿ ಎನಿಸುವಂತಿತ್ತು. ಹಣ ಪಾವತಿಸಿ ಅವನ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯನ್ನು ಯಜಮಾನನ ಮುಂದಿಡುತ್ತಾನೆ. 'ನೀವು ಇಷ್ಟು ದೊಡ್ಡ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರೂ, ಹಲವಾರು ಅಂಗಡಿಗಳ ಒಡೆಯರಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಹೀಗೆ ನಮ್ಮಂಥವರ ಕಾಲುಗಳಿಗೆ ಚಪ್ಪಲಿ ತೊಡಿಸುತ್ತೀರಲ್ಲಾ' ಎಂದ. ಆಗ ಆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ನಸುನಗುತ್ತಾ, ಚಿಲ್ಲರೆ ವಾಪಸ್ ಕೊಟ್ಟು, 'ಇದು ನನ್ನ ವೃತ್ತಿ, ನನಗೆ ಅನ್ನ ನೀಡುವ ದೈವ. ನೀವು ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಕೊಡುವೆನೆಂದರೂ ನಾನು ಅಂಗಡಿಯ ಹೊರಗೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪಾದ ಮುಟ್ಟಲಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಗಡಿಯೊಳಗೆ ನೀವು ಏನೂ ಕೊಡದಿದ್ದರೂ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಪಾದ ಹಿಡಿಯಲು ಹಿಂಜರಿಯಲಾರೆ' ಎಂದರು ನಸುನಗುತ್ತಾ.

ಇದಲ್ಲವೇ ನಿಜವಾದ ವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇರಬೇಕಾದ ಅಭಿಮಾನ. ನಾವು ಮಾಡುವ ಕೆಲಸದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಿಷ್ಠೆ, ಅಭಿಮಾನ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಕೆಲಸವೂ ಕೇಳೆನಿಸುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಯಾವ ಸ್ಥಾನವೂ ಉನ್ನತವಾದದ್ದು ಎಂದು ತಲೆಗೆ ಹತ್ತುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ಆ ಸ್ಥಾನದ ಮಹಿಮೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ಅರಿವು ಸದಾ ನಮಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮಾಡುವ ಕೆಲಸದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಒಂದು ನಿಷ್ಠೆಪಾತ ಒಲವು ಇದ್ದಾಗ ಮಾತ್ರ ಕೆಲಸವನ್ನು ಆತ್ಮಂತ ನಿಷ್ಠೆಯಿಂದ ಮಾಡಿ ಏಳಿಗೆ ಹೊಂದಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ. ಏನಂತೀರಿ?

ಒಂದೊಳ್ಳೆ ಮಾತು

## ಪ್ರಣಬ್ ಪಕ್ಷ ಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು - ಸೇರಿದ್ದು

**ಇಂ** ದಿರಾ ಕ್ಯಾಬಿನೆಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಣಬ್ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿಯವರು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರಭಾವಿ ಸಚಿವರಾಗಿದ್ದರು ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಗೆ ಆಪ್ತರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡೇ ಇಂದಿರಾ ಮಹತ್ವದ ನಿರ್ಧಾರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಇಂದಿರಾ ಹತ್ಯೆಯ ನಂತರ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಯಾಗುವ ಆಸೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಖರ್ಜಿಯವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಕೆಲವು ನಿಕಟವರ್ತಿಗಳ ಸಮ್ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಮುಳುವಾಯಿತು. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ರಾಜೀವ್ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಅವರು ಮುಖರ್ಜಿಯವರ ಜತೆ ಅಂತರವನ್ನು ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಶುರು ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಈ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಇಂದಲ್ಲ ನಾಳೆ ತಮಗೆ ಕಂಟಕವಾಗಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ರಾಜೀವ್ ಗೆ ಅನಿಸಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿತು. ಇಬ್ಬರ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ದುಸಮುಸ ಶುರುವಾಯಿತು. ಮುಖರ್ಜಿಯವರನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟದಿಂದ ಕೈಬಿಟ್ಟರು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣವೂ ಇತ್ತು. ಮುಸ್ಲಿಂ ಮಹಿಳಾ ವಿಧೇಯಕದ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನವನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಬರೆದಿದ್ದರು. ಸಹಜವಾಗಿ ಇದು ರಾಜೀವ್ ಗಾಂಧಿಯವರ ಪಿತ್ತವನ್ನು ಕೆಣಕಿತು. ಇದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಘನಘೋರವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ರಾಜೀವ್ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಅವರು ಮುಖರ್ಜಿಯವರನ್ನು ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ನಿಂದ ಹೊರ ಹಾಕಿದರು. ಇದನ್ನು ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ ಕನಸು-ಮನಸಿನಲ್ಲೂ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮುಖರ್ಜಿಯವರಿಗೆ ಬೇರೆ ದಾರಿ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. 1986 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು 'ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಮಾಜವಾದಿ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್' ಎಂಬ ಪಕ್ಷವನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿದರು. ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ನಿಂದ ವಜಾಗೊಂಡ ಉತ್ತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಮಾಜಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಶ್ರೀಪತ್ ಮಿಶ್ರಾ, ದೀಪ್ ಚಂದ್ ಭಾಟಿಯಾ, ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಮಾಜಿ ಸಚಿವ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಶರ್ಮ, ಗುಂಡೂರಾವ್, ಆಸ್ಸಾಮಿನ ಮಾಜಿ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಮೆಹರೋತ್ರ ಮುಂತಾದವರು ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ ಪಕ್ಷವನ್ನು ಸೇರಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ನ ಅಂದಿನ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಕಮಲಾಪತಿ ತ್ರಿಪಾಠಿ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ ಅವರ ಹೊಸ ಪಕ್ಷ ರಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಟೀಕಿಸಿದರು. ಆದರೆ ಅವರ ಮಗ ಮಾಯಾಪತಿ ತ್ರಿಪಾಠಿ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ ಪಕ್ಷವನ್ನು ಸೇರಿದರು. ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳದ ಕೆಲವು ಶಾಸಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ನಾಯಕರೂ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಮಾಜವಾದಿ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸೇರಿದರು. 1987 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಬಂಗಾಳದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಚುನಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ ಅವರ ಪಕ್ಷ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಿತು. ಮುಖರ್ಜಿಯವರು ಸ್ಪರ್ಧೆಗಳಿಯದೇ, ರಾಜ್ಯವ್ಯಾಪಿ ಚುನಾವಣಾ ಪ್ರಚಾರ ಕೈಗೊಂಡರು. ಅವರ ಪಕ್ಷ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲೂ ಸೋತು ಹೋಯಿತು. ಬಹುತೇಕ ಕಡೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಠೇವಣಿ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡರು. ಮುಖರ್ಜಿಯವರಿಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಅಸಲಿ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವೇನು ಎಂಬುದು ಅರಿವಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿತ್ತು. ಆಗ ರಾಜೀವ್ ಗಾಂಧಿಯವರ ಜನಪ್ರಿಯತೆ ತುತ್ತತುದಿಯಲ್ಲಿತ್ತು. ರಾಜೀವ್ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಜನ ಅಸಮಾಧಾನಿತರಾಗಲು ಕಾರಣಗಳೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ತಾವೊಬ್ಬ ಮಾಸ್ ಲೀಡರ್ ಎಂಬ ಭ್ರಮೆಯಿಂದ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ ಹೊರಬಂದರು. ತಾವು ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ನಿಂದ ಹೊರಬರುವಂತಾಗಿದ್ದು ಮತ್ತು ನೂತನ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಪಕ್ಷ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿದ್ದು ತಮ್ಮ ಜೀವನದ ಬಹುದೊಡ್ಡ ತಪ್ಪು ನಡೆ ಎಂದು ಬಹಿರಂಗವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ಇಂದಿರಾಗೆ ಆಪ್ತರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ, ಅವರ ಹತ್ಯೆಯ ನಂತರ, ಅವರ ಮಗನ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ತಿರುಗಿ ಬೀಳುವುದನ್ನು ಜನ ಒಪ್ಪಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಅಜ್ಞಾತವಾಸದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದರು. ನಂತರ ಅವರಾಗಿಯೇ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಗೆ ಮರಳುವ ಆಸೆಯನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು. ಅಷ್ಟೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ರಾಜೀವ್ ಕೂಡ ಮುಖರ್ಜಿ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತಣ್ಣಗಾಗಿದ್ದರು. 1991 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮರಳಿ ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ ಸೇರಿದರು.



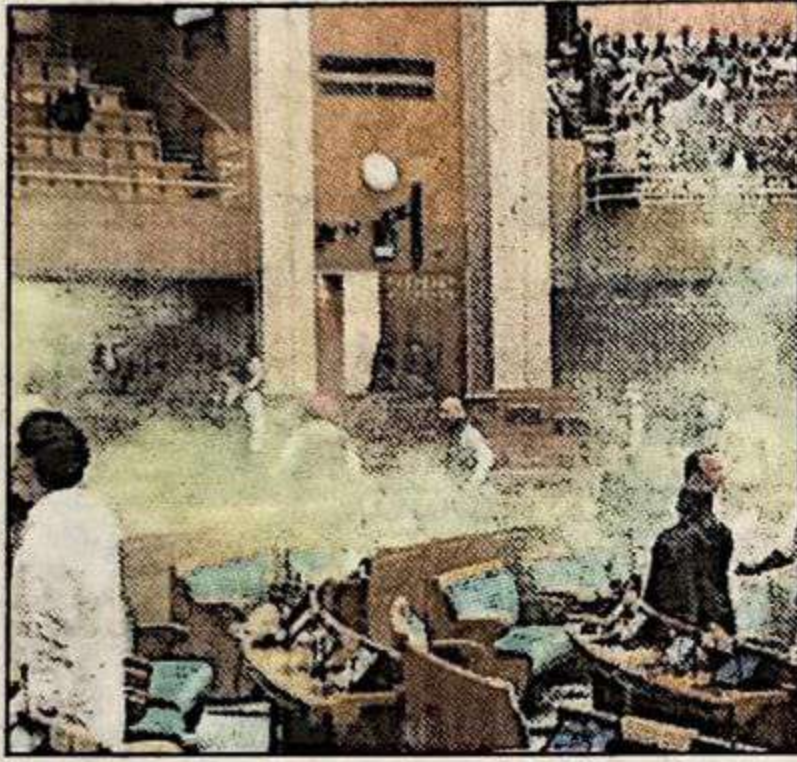


# ಸಂಸತ್ತಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಲೋಪ ಕಳವಳಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಆಗಬೇಕು

ದೇಶದ ಸಂಸತ್ತು ಭಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಭದ್ರತಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಬುಧವಾರ ಸಾಕ್ಷಿಯಾಯಿತು. ಇಬ್ಬರು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು ವೀಕ್ಷಕರ ಗ್ಯಾಲರಿಯಿಂದ ಲೋಕಸಭೆಯೊಳಕ್ಕೆ ಜಿಗಿದರು, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಡಬ್ಬಿಯೊಂದರ ಬಾಯಿ ತೆರೆದು ಅನಿಲ ಹೊರಸೂಸುವ ಕಿಡಿಗೇಡಿತನದ ಕೃತ್ಯ ಎಸಗಿದರು. ಆ ಅನಿಲ ಯಾವುದು ಎಂಬುದು ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಇನ್ನಿಬ್ಬರು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು ಸಂಸತ್ತಿನ ಹೊರಗಡೆ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದರು. ಲೋಕಸಭೆಯೊಳಕ್ಕೆ ಅಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದವರು, ಸಂಸತ್ ಭವನದ ಹೊರಗಡೆ ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ ನಡೆಸಿದವರನ್ನು ಬಂಧಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ, ಅವರ ಜೊತೆಗಾರನನ್ನು ವಶಕ್ಕೆ ಪಡೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಇಡೀ ಘಟನೆಯನ್ನು ಹಗುರವಾಗಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಬಾರದು. ಲೋಕಸಭೆಯೊಳಕ್ಕೆ ಜಿಗಿದವರು ವಿಷಕಾರಿ ಅನಿಲವನ್ನು ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಿಸಿದ್ದಿದ್ದರೆ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಜೀವಕ್ಕೆ ಕುತ್ತು ಬಂದಿರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಅವರು ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾನಿ ಉಂಟುಮಾಡುವ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆಯೂ ಇತ್ತು. ಸಂಸತ್ ಭವನದಲ್ಲಿನ ಭದ್ರತಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯು ತೃಪ್ತಿಕರವಾಗಿ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಈ ಪ್ರಸಂಗವು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಅನಗತ್ಯ ವಸ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ತರುವವರನ್ನು ಒಳಗಡೆ ಬಿಡಲೇಬಾರದಿತ್ತು. ಸಂಸತ್ತಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡುವವರ ತಪಾಸಣೆ ನಡೆಸುವ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯು ತೃಪ್ತಿಕರ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಘಟನೆಯು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಎತ್ತಿತೋರಿಸಿದೆ. ಹೊಸ ಸಂಸತ್ ಭವನದಲ್ಲಿನ ಭದ್ರತಾ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೂರುಗಳು ಇದ್ದವು. ಅವು ಹೊಸ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ ಆದ ವಾರಗಳಲ್ಲೇ ಎಲ್ಲರ ಅರಿವಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿವೆ.

2001ರ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 13ರಂದು ದೇಶದ ಸಂಸತ್ ಭವನದ ಮೇಲೆ ಭಯೋತ್ಪಾದಕರು ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆಸಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ದಾಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹುತಾತ್ಮರಾದ ವರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಧಾನಿ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ ಅವರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೌರವ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ಕೆಲವೇ ಗಂಟೆಗಳ ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಘಟನೆ ಲೋಕಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಸತ್ ಭವನದ ಹೊರಗಡೆ ನಡೆದಿದೆ. ಸಂಸತ್ತಿನ ಮೇಲೆ ದಾಳಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಎಂದು ಅಮೆರಿಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವ ಖಾಲಿಸ್ತಾನಿ ನಾಯಕ ಗುರುಪತ್ಸಂತ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಪನ್ನೂ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದ ಎಂಬುದು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಾರ್ಹ. ಸಂಸತ್ ಭವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅದರ ಸುತ್ತ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯು ರೂಪಿಸಿದ್ದ ಭದ್ರತಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಈ ದುಷ್ಕರ್ಮಿಗಳು ಭೇದಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ ಎಂಬ ಸಂಗತಿಯು ಸಂಸತ್ತಿನ ಭದ್ರತೆಯ ಹೊಣೆ ಹೊತ್ತಿರುವ ಪೊಲೀಸರು, ಭದ್ರತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಗುಪ್ತದಳ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯಿಂದ ತಪ್ಪಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಹೇಳಿದಂತಿದೆ. 2001ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ದಾಳಿಯ ನಂತರ ರೂಪುತಳೆದ ಕಟ್ಟುನಿಟ್ಟಿನ ಭದ್ರತಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯು ದುರ್ಬಲವಾಗಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ಇದು ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಸಂಸತ್ತಿನ ಕಲಾಪಗಳ



**ಸಂದರ್ಶಕರಿಗೆ ಪಾಸ್ ನೀಡುವುದು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಸಂಸತ್ತಿನ ಭದ್ರತೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಆಯಾಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಆಗಬೇಕಿದೆ**

ವರದಿಗಾರಿಕೆಗೆ ತೆರಳುವ ಪತ್ರಕರ್ತರ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಅನಗತ್ಯವಾಗಿ ತೀವ್ರ ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಧಿಸಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಭದ್ರತಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಜವಾದ ಹುಳುಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಬಿಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಂದರ್ಶಕರಿಗೆ ಪಾಸ್ ನೀಡುವುದು ಸೇರಿದಂತೆ ಸಂಸತ್ತಿನ ಭದ್ರತೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲ ಆಯಾಮಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆಯೂ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಆಗಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಜಾತಂತ್ರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಸಂಸತ್ತಿನ ಕಟ್ಟಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಭದ್ರತೆಯು ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ದುರ್ಬಲವಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಶೋಭೆ ತರುವ ಸಂಗತಿ ಅಲ್ಲವೇ ಅಲ್ಲ. ಟಿಎಂಸಿ ನಾಯಕಿ ಮಹುವಾ ಮೊಯಿತ್ರಾ ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಸಂಸತ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಲಾಗಿನ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಗಿನವರ ಜೊತೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಭದ್ರತೆಗೆ ಧಕ್ಕೆ ತರುವಂಥದ್ದು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಈಗ ಪಾಸ್ ನೀಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸಂಗತಿಯು ಭದ್ರತೆಗೆ ನಿಜವಾಗಿಯೂ ಧಕ್ಕೆ ತಂದಿದೆ.

ಈ ಪ್ರಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಪೊಲೀಸರು ಬಂಧಿಸಿರುವ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳು ಯಾವುದೇ ಭಯೋತ್ಪಾದಕ ಸಂಘಟನೆಯ ಜೊತೆ ನಂಟು ಹೊಂದಿರುವುದು ಇದುವರೆಗೆ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರೆ ಭಯೋತ್ಪಾದಕರು ಕೂಡ ಇದೇ ಬಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೆ ನುಸುಳಬಹುದು, ಅದರ ಪರಿಣಾಮಗಳು ತೀರಾ ಕೆಟ್ಟದ್ದಾಗಿರಬಹುದು. ಭದ್ರತೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಕಳವಳಗಳಿಗೆ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಆಗಬೇಕು. ದುಷ್ಕೃತ್ಯ ನಡೆಸಿದವರು ನಿರುದ್ಯೋಗ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಡೆಯಿಂದ ಸ್ಪಂದನ ಇಲ್ಲದಿರುವಿಕೆ, ತಮ್ಮ ಸಾಂವಿಧಾನಿಕ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ ನಿರಾಕರಣೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ದೂರು ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದರು ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅವರು ಅದನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಲು ಬಹಳ ಕೆಟ್ಟ ಮಾರ್ಗವೊಂದನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಿದರು. ಹೀಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಈ ಕಳವಳಗಳನ್ನು ಇತರ ಅನೇಕರು ಅವರಂತೆಯೇ ಹೊಂದಿರಬಹುದು.



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