



Editor

Who Will Call Off This Senseless War...?



Conflict involving Iran and Israel fuels oil volatility and economic fears

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Global crude prices are yo-yo-ing as the US President waxes and wanes on the war that he, along with Israel, initiated against Iran. Donald Trump's vague and contradictory responses to media queries on the war have been varying with the time of the day, subject to his erratic mood swings. Crude prices that threatened to top \$120 a barrel declined to \$90 momentarily when Trump said the end of the war could be near. Whose war is it anyway and who is to stop it — Messrs Trump and Netanyahu or the new "Supreme Leader" Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, said to be in the line of fire and who may

have been injured already, or the Iran Revolutionary Guards Corps, considered to be the real regime in Iran and which controls the deployment of ballistic missiles and drones and where they are aimed at when fired?

Even as Trump says "the war is won" but "not won enough" the world pays the price, including India which is now scrambling to keep the supply lines of LPG going for the food industry, hospitals, schools and community kitchens. Amid the madness, the cause of the war, not dissimilar to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is all but forgotten as missiles and drones fly around the whole region.

This war, declared without a thought as to what happens the day after it ends, rages on and there is no clear off-ramp for the combatants. The Arab nations, being sucked into the conflict by Iran's retaliatory actions that have not stopped with just aiming at US military bases but also peppers civilian landmarks, are wondering whether to strike back. As fires rage around oil refineries and even desalination plants, the images aired on the visual media are getting apocalyptic.

The solace is negligible as Trump declares that he is waiving sanctions on oil so that the world can buy crude, some of which is available readily as it is at sea now after being pumped out of fields in Russia. But India seemed to demur when the US President magnanimously declared a 30-day window to buy Russian oil that had been the stumbling block to the dormant trade deal talks with the US. Negligible issues and pittance are being spoken about just as the war is threatening the global economy with stagflation, perhaps not seen even post the Covid pandemic. The American public knows it too as they have seen gasoline prices rise at the pump just as the Pentagon worries about the stockpile of arms, ammunition, missiles and drones. Iran

has set the cat among the pigeons by transforming global energy into a victim of the war. History has been inordinately serving the lesson which teaches that wars triggered by US or Russian interventions in the West Asian – North African region have changed nothing except a few leaders of regimes the US or the West did not like. Be it Libya, Syria, Somalia, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan or Afghanistan, the only constant has been post-conflict chaos in an eternal cauldron of tension, conflicts and ter-

ror-related events with the people condemned to endure what they must. As the US moves its heaviest bombers to UK bases, obviously to deploy them over Iran as Trump promises "death, fire and fury" if the Strait of Hormuz is blocked, will someone tell him that the basic issue of nuclear bombs for Iran will not be solved even if he and his Israeli ally reduces Tehran to rubble like the Gaza Strip. When he says the war is "very complete, pretty much", we hope he will walk the talk and call off the dogs of war.

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Whose war is it anyway and who is to stop it — Messrs Trump and Netanyahu or the new "Supreme Leader" Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, said to be in the line of fire and who may have been injured already, or the Iran Revolutionary Guards Corps, considered to be the real regime in Iran and which controls the deployment of ballistic missiles and drones and where they are aimed at when fired? Even as Trump says "the war is won" but "not won enough" the world pays the price, including India which is now scrambling to keep the supply lines of LPG going for the food industry, hospitals, schools and community kitchens. Amid the madness, the cause of the war, not dissimilar to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is all but forgotten as missiles and drones fly around the whole region.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai Launches Gaudham Yojana: A New Boost to Cattle Conservation in Chhattisgarh

All Gaudham Centres in the State to be Known as "Surabhi Gaudham"

Gaudham Yojana to Strengthen the Rural Economy: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai



Raipur: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai launched the Gaudham Yojana by inaugurating a Gaudham facility at Lakhassar village in Takhatpur development block of Bilaspur district on Mar 14, marking a significant step towards strengthening cattle conservation in Chhattisgarh. On the occasion, the Chief Minister worshipped Gau Mata and inspected the Gaudham

premises to review its arrangements and facilities.

During the visit, Chief Minister Sai inspected the arrangements made for the care of stray and destitute cattle, including fodder supply, drinking water facilities and veterinary care. He also reviewed the grazing land developed for the animals.

It is worth mentioning that the Gaudham in Lakhassar village has been

developed over nearly 25 acres of land, of which 19 acres have been dedicated to the cultivation of green fodder for cattle. The Gaudham is being managed by the Kamdhenu Gaushala Samiti.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister stated that the newly launched Gaudham Yojana aims to provide safe shelter to stray cattle, strengthen cattle con-

servation and contribute to rural economic growth. He stated that Godhan has always been a key pillar of Chhattisgarh's rural culture, agricultural system, and village economy, and that the state government is therefore continuously working to protect it.

Chief Minister Sai emphasised that the state government is implementing the Gaudham Yojana in a phased manner across Chhattisgarh to ensure systematic care for stray cattle and to reinforce the tradition of Gau Seva. He announced that all Gaudham centres across the state will now be known as "Surabhi Gaudham".

The Chief Minister further stated that Gaudham centres will also serve as training hubs for rural livelihood activities. Training programmes will be conducted on animal husbandry, green fodder production and the preparation of useful products from cow dung. These initiatives will help promote self-employment opportunities for local residents while simultaneously strengthening the rural economy.

During the event, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai also announced several development projects for Lakhassar village. He announced that a Mahtari Sadan, a Mini Stadium, and a 500-metre-long Gaurav Path will be constructed in the village.

Additionally, Rs. 25 lakh has been sanctioned for the construction of a training building at the Lakhassar Gaudham, along with the

provision of one cow catcher vehicle and one animal ambulance. These measures are expected to further strengthen cattle protection efforts and support local development initiatives.

The Chief Minister also interacted with cattle rearers and villagers during the programme and reviewed ongoing efforts to conserve cattle in the region. He appreciated the work of individuals and organisations engaged in Gau Seva and encouraged them to continue their service with dedication. He congratulated volunteers and workers involved in this noble initiative and urged citizens to actively contribute to protecting and improving cattle welfare.

Takhatpur MLA Dharamjit Singh, addressing the gathering, stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Chhattisgarh is witnessing comprehensive development. He noted that the Chief Minister consistently fulfils the commitments made to the people. Several development works approved for the Takhatpur region are already completed, while many others are progressing rapidly. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and said that the government's initiatives have accelerated development in the region.



Welcoming the Chief Minister at the event, Chairman of the Chhattisgarh Gau Seva Commission Visheshar Patel thanked him for launching the Gaudham Yojana. He said that this initiative will provide a new direction to cattle conservation in the state and ensure better protection for stray and abandoned cattle.

Union Minister of State Tokhan Sahu, Agriculture Minister Ramvihar Netam, MLA Amar Agrawal, MLA Dharamlal Kaushik and MLA Shri Sushant Shukla, Bilaspur Commissioner Sunil Jain, IG Ramgopal Garg, Collector Sanjay Agrawal, SSP Rajnesh Singh, Director of Veterinary Services Chandrakant Verma, along with a large number of farmers, cattle rearers and local residents were present.

The resolution plan will alleviate the suffering of electricity consumers: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Thursday March 12, 2026 launched the Chief Minister's Electricity Bill Payment Resolution Scheme 2026 from the auditorium at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital in Raipur.

On this occasion, he presented certificates to consumers who benefited from the scheme and appealed to more people to take advantage of the scheme. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai also transferred a subsidy of ₹8.79 crore to 2,931 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme.

Chief Minister Sai said that electricity has become a basic necessity today, and life without it is unimaginable. Many families are unable to pay their electricity bills on time due to financial reasons, leading to increased outstanding surcharges, making it difficult to pay in full. He said that keeping this problem in mind, the state government has launched the Samadhan Yojana, which will provide significant relief to consumers.

The Chief Minister said that through the Samadhan Yojana, an initiative has been taken to provide relief to



- Chief Minister launches the “Electricity Bill Payment Resolution Scheme 2026”
- 28.42 lakh consumers will receive relief of over 757 crore
- Consumers unable to pay their outstanding electricity bills due to financial difficulties will benefit
- Chief Minister transfers a subsidy of 8.79 crore to 2,931 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme

low- and middle-income and agricultural consumers of the state who have been unable to pay their electricity bills for a long time. Under the scheme, a total of ₹757 crore will be provided to 28.42 lakh consumers in the state.

The Chief Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, electricity was provided to approximately 18,000 villages in the country after 2014, illuminating villages that had been in darkness since independence. The Chief Minister informed that approximately 30,000 MW of electricity is being produced from our own resources, and the government is committed to ensuring uninterrupted power supply to the people of the state.

The Chief Minister stated that due to financial difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic, many consumers were unable to pay their electricity bills, leading to a surge in outstanding dues. Understanding this problem, the state government has implemented the Samadhan Yojana. Chief Minister Sai stated that public interest in the Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Free Electricity Scheme is steadily increasing in the state, and approximately 36,000 people have already joined. The Chief Minister also stated that the work of women self-help groups as solar panel vendors is a positive initiative.

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Congratulating the Energy Department officials for the Samadhan Yojana, the Chief Minister directed them to connect as many consumers as possible to the Samadhan Yojana through camps and extensive publicity.

It is noteworthy that three categories of consumers have been defined under the scheme: inactive consumers as of March 31, 2023, active single-light consumers, and active non-government domestic and non-government agricultural consumers.

As an incentive for consumers in these categories to pay their electricity bills, a provision has been made for a 100 percent rebate on the surcharge amount and a discount of up to 75 percent on

the principal outstanding amount.

To avail the benefits of the scheme, consumers will have to register and at the time of registration, it will be mandatory to pay a minimum of 10 percent of the outstanding amount. The remaining amount can be paid in installments and no surcharge will be charged in the following month. This scheme will remain effective till June 30, 2026.

On this occasion, Raipur North MLA Purandar Mishra, Raipur Municipal Corporation Mayor Meenal Choubey, District Panchayat President Naveen Agarwal, Energy Department Secretary Dr. Rohit Yadav, along with a large number of officers, employees and electricity consumers were present.

SP Leader Booked for Claiming Azam Khan Asked Muslims to Skip Eid



A video of Malik making the statement was circulated on social media, following which a sub-inspector posted at the Ganj police station lodged a complaint against the SP leader

Rampur (UP): A Samajwadi Party leader has been booked for allegedly urging Muslims not to celebrate Eid this year as a mark of protest against the US-Israel attack on Iran, claiming that it was an appeal of jailed leader Azam Khan, police said.

ASP Anurag Singh said the

accused, SP leader Yusuf Malik from Moradabad, met Khan in the Rampur jail on March 14. Khan's wife, Tazeen Fatima, was also present during the meeting, the officer said on Monday March 16, 2026 .

Malik later told mediapersons outside the jail that Khan had appealed to Muslims to wear black clothes and refrain from celebrating Eid this year to express grief over the deaths of more than 160 girls in a recent missile strike on a school in Iran, allegedly carried out by the US.

Police said a video of Malik making the statement was cir-

culated on social media, following which a sub-inspector posted at the Ganj police station lodged a complaint against the SP leader.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered against Malik on Sunday night under sections 196(1) (promoting enmity between groups), 153(2) (waging war against government of any foreign state), and 57 (inciting public or a group of more than 10 to commit an offence) of the BNS.

Further action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation, the officer said.

Attack? President Donald Trump Breaks Silence, Offers This Response



Amid escalating tensions between the United States and Iran, reports emerged suggesting that US refueling aircraft sustained damage during an Iranian missile attack on the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. However, refuting these reports as false, Donald Trump stated that four of the aircraft suffered virtually no damage and have already returned to service, while the fifth is currently undergoing repairs. Trump also announced that several

nations would deploy warships to ensure the Strait of Hormuz remains open, adding that action would be taken against Iranian vessels if deemed necessary.

Amid the rising tensions between the US and Iran, reports circulated claiming that five US Air Force refueling aircraft were destroyed during an Iranian missile attack on the Prince Sultan Air Base, located in Saudi Arabia. According to a report by an international newspaper, the aircraft were parked on the ground during the recent attack when they were struck by missiles. It was reported that while the aircraft

sustained damage, they were not completely destroyed and are currently undergoing repairs. There have been no reports of any casualties resulting from this attack.

Donald Trump Calls Report False

According to the news agency Reuters, US President Donald Trump has dismissed reports claiming that US tanker aircraft were severely damaged during the incident at the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. Various media outlets had previously reported that these aircraft suffered heavy damage as a result of the Iranian missile attack.

Trump Says: Aircraft Were Not Destroyed

Writing on a social media platform, Trump acknowledged that an attack on the base did indeed take place a few days ago; however, he asserted that the aircraft were neither directly targeted nor destroyed. He stated that four out of the five aircraft sustained virtually no damage and have since returned to active service. The fifth aircraft sustained slightly more significant damage, but it too is expected to be ready for flight operations very soon. Several Countries to Send Warships to Keep Strait of Hormuz Open: Trump

US President Donald Trump has stated that, alongside the United States, several other countries will dispatch their warships to ensure the Strait of Hormuz remains open. He expressed hope that nations including China, France, Japan, South Korea, and the United Kingdom would also deploy their vessels to the region to safeguard the movement of ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

Warning of Action Against Iranian Boats

Trump warned that, if necessary, the United States would launch massive bombardments against coastal areas and target and destroy Iranian boats and vessels present in the sea. He asserted that the US military would continue to undertake such actions to ensure the safety of maritime routes.

Claim to Reopen Strait of Hormuz Soon

Trump declared that, by any means necessary, the Strait of Hormuz would be fully reopened very shortly. This mari-



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time route is considered critically important to the world, as a significant portion of the

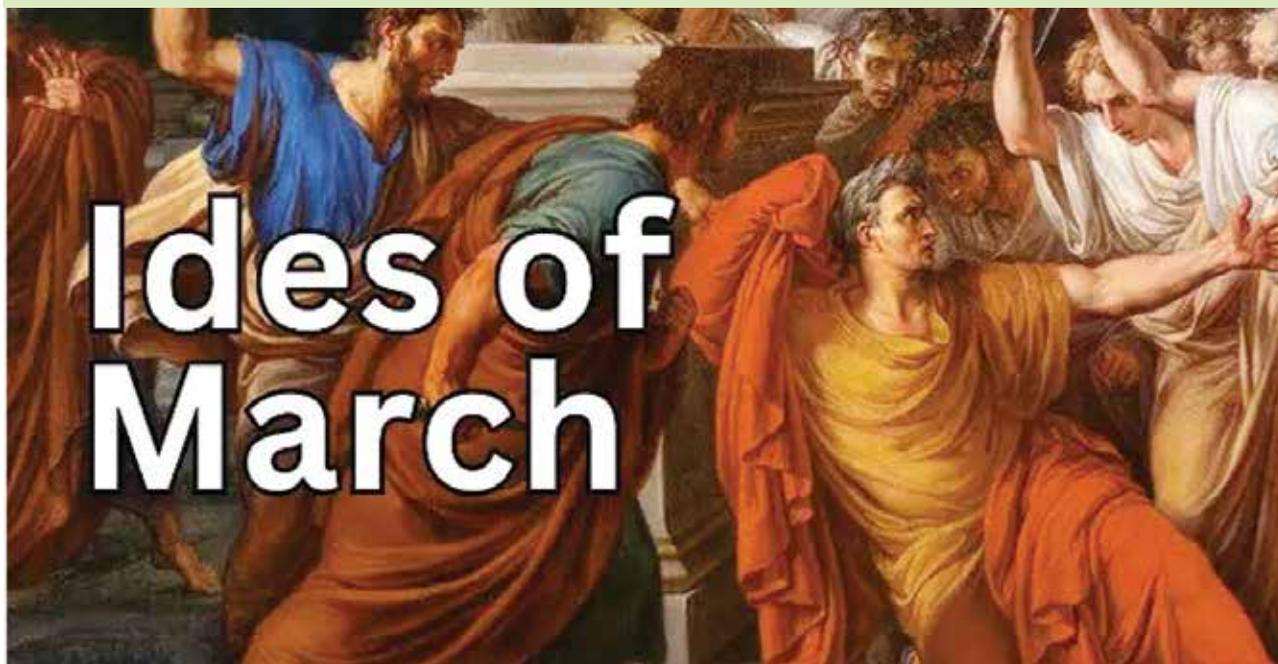
global oil supply passes through it.

Beware the Ides of March: The Day Julius Caesar Changed History



Today the Ides of March survives as a powerful historical metaphor. What was once simply a day for settling debts and observing rituals became one of the most famous dates in history

Kumar Bahukhandi | The writer is Senior Journalist & Editor of Prime Review



Few dates in history carry the dramatic weight of the Ides of March. Falling on March 15, the phrase is forever tied to political intrigue, betrayal and the assassination of one of ancient Rome's most powerful leaders, Julius Caesar.

In the Roman calendar, the term "Ides" referred simply to the middle of the month. While the Ides fell on the 13th day in most months, they occurred on the 15th in March, May, July and October. The timing had its roots in the lunar cycle, as the Ides were traditionally associated with the full moon. In ancient

Rome, the Ides of March, known in Latin as *Idus Martiae*, was not originally considered ominous. It was a day tied to civic and religious observances when Romans settled debts, paid rents and held celebrations in honour of Jupiter.

March itself carried particular significance. In early Roman tradition, Martius was the first month of the year. This origin is reflected in the numerical names of later months such as September and December, which once corresponded to their positions in the earlier calendar. During this time, the Ides of March would often

align with the first full moon of the year and symbolised renewal and a fresh beginning.

The date gained its lasting notoriety in 44 BCE. On that day Julius Caesar, the Roman general and statesman who had recently declared himself dictator for life, was assassinated by a group of senators during a meeting of the Senate. The attack took place in the Theatre of Pompey where the Senate was convening.

Ancient accounts suggest that nearly 60 conspirators were involved in the plot. Among them was Caesar's trusted ally Marcus Junius

Brutus, whose involvement made the betrayal all the more dramatic. As Caesar entered the Senate chamber, one of the conspirators approached him with a petition and pulled at his toga, which served as a signal for the others to strike. The senators then surrounded him and drew daggers that had been concealed beneath their robes. Caesar was stabbed repeatedly during the attack, with historical sources commonly citing 23 wounds.

The famous warning “Beware the Ides of March” entered popular imagination largely through William Shakespeare’s play *Julius Caesar*. In the drama, a mysterious soothsayer warns Caesar about impending danger on March 15. Shakespeare drew on earlier historical accounts which mention a prophet who cautioned Caesar to be wary of that date. According to the story, Caesar later encountered the soothsayer on the morning of the Ides and remarked that the day had arrived. The reply came that the day had arrived, but had not yet passed.

Instead of restoring stability, Caesar’s assassination plunged Rome into years of political chaos. Rival factions fought for control and civil wars followed across the Roman world. The turmoil finally ended when Caesar’s adopted heir Augustus, then known as Octavian, defeated the forces of Mark Antony and Cleopatra in 30 BCE. Augustus would go on to rule for decades and establish the Roman Empire.

Caesar’s influence extended beyond politics and warfare. Two years before his assassination he introduced sweeping reforms to the Roman calendar. The earlier Roman system had only 355 days and had fallen badly out of alignment with the solar year. Caesar reorganised the calendar to create a 365 day system with the addition of a leap year, forming what became known as the Julian calendar. Modern calendars have since evolved, but they still trace their structure back to these reforms.

Today the Ides of March survives as a powerful historical metaphor. What was once simply a day for settling debts and observing rituals became one of the most famous dates in history, a reminder of political betrayal, the fragility of power and how a single moment can alter the course of the world.

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‘महतारी गौरव वर्ष’ : महिला सशक्तिकरण के नवयुग की ओर अग्रसर छत्तीसगढ़

■ डॉ. दानेश्वरी संभाकर

उप संचालक, जनसंपर्क विभाग

रायपुर, 09 मार्च 2026/ मुख्यमंत्री श्री विष्णु देव साय के नेतृत्व में छत्तीसगढ़ आज महिला सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण और ऐतिहासिक दौर से गुजर रहा है। मातृशक्ति के सम्मान, सुरक्षा और आत्मनिर्भरता को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता देते हुए राज्य सरकार ने इस वर्ष को ‘महतारी गौरव वर्ष’ के रूप में मनाने की घोषणा की है। यह पहल केवल एक औपचारिक घोषणा नहीं है, बल्कि महिलाओं को राज्य की विकास यात्रा के केंद्र में स्थापित करने का सशक्त संकल्प है।

विश्वास से निर्माण और अब गौरव की ओर

मुख्यमंत्री श्री साय ने अपने कार्यकाल के पहले वर्ष को ‘विश्वास वर्ष’ के रूप में शासन-प्रशासन और जनता के बीच भरोसे की पुनर्स्थापना को समर्पित किया। इसके बाद दूसरे वर्ष को भारत रत्न अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की स्मृति में ‘अटल निर्माण वर्ष’ के रूप में मनाते हुए अधोसंरचना विकास और जनकल्याणकारी योजनाओं को नई गति दी गई। अब तीसरा वर्ष ‘महतारी गौरव वर्ष’ के रूप में माताओं और बहनों को समर्पित किया गया है, जिसमें राज्य की अधिकांश योजनाओं का केंद्रबिंदु महिलाएं होंगी। यह क्रम सरकार की संवेदनशील और समावेशी विकास की सोच को स्पष्ट रूप से दर्शाता है।

महतारी वंदन योजना : आत्मसम्मान और आर्थिक सुरक्षा का आधार

छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार की महतारी वंदन योजना आज महिला सशक्तिकरण का मजबूत स्तंभ बन चुकी है। इस योजना के तहत प्रदेश की लगभग 70 लाख विवाहित महिलाओं को प्रतिमाह 1,000 रुपये की सहायता सीधे उनके बैंक खातों में प्रदान की जा रही है। अब तक 16 हजार 237 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की राशि डीबीटी के माध्यम से महिलाओं को दी जा चुकी है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस के दिन 25 वीं किस्त के रूप में 68 लाख से अधिक महिलाओं को 641 करोड़ रुपये की राशि प्रदान की गई। यह नियमित आर्थिक सहयोग महिलाओं के आत्मविश्वास को बढ़ाने के साथ ही उन्हें आर्थिक रूप से सशक्त बना रहा है। कई महिलाएं इस राशि को केवल घरेलू खर्च तक सीमित न रखकर स्वरोजगार और छोटे व्यवसायों में निवेश कर रही हैं।

संघर्ष से स्वावलंबन तक : रोहनी पटेल की



प्रेरक कहानी

बालोद जिले के ग्राम खैरडीह की श्रीमती रोहनी पटेल इसका एक प्रेरणादायक उदाहरण हैं। पति की असमय मृत्यु के बाद परिवार की जिम्मेदारी उनके कंधों पर आ गई थी। घर में वृद्ध सास की देखभाल और कॉलेज में पढ़ रहे दो बच्चों की पढ़ाई की चिंता उनके लिए बड़ी चुनौती थी। ऐसे कठिन समय में महतारी वंदन योजना उनके लिए उम्मीद की किरण बनकर आई। योजना से मिलने वाली राशि को उन्होंने सावधानीपूर्वक बचत कर अपने खेत में सब्जी उत्पादन का कार्य शुरू किया। बीज, खाद और कृषि सामग्री की व्यवस्था कर उन्होंने पूरी मेहनत से खेती की। आज श्रीमती रोहनी पटेल अपने खेत में उगाई गई ताजी सब्जियों को स्थानीय बाजारों में बेचकर नियमित आय अर्जित कर रही हैं। इस आय से वे अपने परिवार की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा कर रही हैं और बच्चों की पढ़ाई भी निर्बाध रूप से जारी है। उनका यह प्रयास गांव की अन्य महिलाओं के लिए भी प्रेरणा बन चुका है।

बिहान से बदली जिंदगी : ‘लखपति दीदी’ बनीं श्रीमती माहेश्वरी यादव

बलौदाबाजार-भाटापारा जिले के ग्राम कोरदा की श्रीमती माहेश्वरी यादव भी महिला सशक्तिकरण की एक प्रेरक मिसाल हैं। पहले उनका जीवन सामान्य गृहिणी की तरह घर-परिवार की जिम्मेदारियों तक सीमित था। लेकिन छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन ‘बिहान’ से जुड़ने के बाद उनके जीवन में बड़ा परिवर्तन आया।

समूह के सहयोग और परिवार के समर्थन से

उन्होंने गांव में एक छोटी किराना दुकान शुरू की। अपनी मेहनत और बेहतर प्रबंधन के बल पर यह दुकान धीरे-धीरे गांव में भरोसेमंद केंद्र बन गई। आज इस दुकान से उन्हें प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 1 से 1.5 लाख रुपये की आय हो रही है और वे ‘लखपति दीदी’ बन चुकी हैं। इससे उनके बच्चों की शिक्षा और परिवार की आर्थिक स्थिति में उल्लेखनीय सुधार हुआ है।

आधुनिक तकनीक से नई पहचान : ‘ड्रोन दीदी’ सुश्री सीमा वर्मा

बिलासपुर जिले के मस्तूरी क्षेत्र की सुश्री सीमा वर्मा ने भी यह साबित किया है कि अवसर और प्रशिक्षण मिलने पर महिलाएं आधुनिक तकनीक के क्षेत्र में भी नई पहचान बना सकती हैं।

स्व-सहायता समूह से जुड़ने के बाद उन्होंने पहले मशरूम उत्पादन का कार्य शुरू किया और बाद में ड्रोन संचालन का प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया। शासन की सहायता से उन्हें ड्रोन सेट, जनरेटर और ई-वाहन उपलब्ध कराया गया। आज सीमा वर्मा किसानों के खेतों में ड्रोन के माध्यम से कीटनाशक छिड़काव कर रही हैं और इस कार्य से उन्हें सम्मानजनक आय प्राप्त हो रही है। गांव में लोग उन्हें स्नेहपूर्वक ‘ड्रोन दीदी’ के नाम से जानते हैं।

बजट में महिला कल्याण को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता

राज्य सरकार ने महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग के लिए 8 हजार 245 करोड़ रुपये का बजट प्रावधान किया है। आंगनबाड़ी एवं पोषण योजनाओं के लिए 2 हजार 320 करोड़ रुपये, प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना



योजना के लिए 120 करोड़ रुपये, मिशन वात्सल्य के लिए 80 करोड़ रुपये तथा रानी दुर्गावती योजना के लिए 15 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया है।

इसके अतिरिक्त 750 नए आंगनबाड़ी केंद्रों के निर्माण के लिए 42 करोड़ रुपये और 250 महतारी सड़कों के निर्माण के लिए 75 करोड़ रुपये स्वीकृत किए गए हैं। यह बजटीय प्रावधान महिलाओं और बच्चों के समग्र विकास के प्रति सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है।

सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और गरिमा की सुदृढ़ व्यवस्था

महिला सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में भी राज्य ने प्रभावी तंत्र विकसित किया है। वन स्टॉप सेंटर, 181 महिला हेल्पलाइन और डायल 112 के माध्यम से संकट की स्थिति में त्वरित सहायता उपलब्ध कराई जा रही है। सुखद सहारा योजना के अंतर्गत 2 लाख 18 हजार से

अधिक विधवा एवं परित्यक्ता महिलाओं को आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान की जा रही है।

स्वावलंबन से नेतृत्व तक

प्रदेश में 42 हजार से अधिक महिला स्व-सहायता समूहों को रियायती ऋण प्रदान कर आर्थिक रूप से सशक्त बनाया गया है। रेडी-टू-ईट कार्य महिला समूहों को सौंपे जाने से उन्हें स्थायी आय का स्रोत मिला है। इसके साथ ही डिजिटल सखी, दीदी ई-रिक्शा, सिलाई मशीन सहायता, मिनीमाता महतारी जतन योजना और लखपति दीदी जैसी पहलें महिलाओं को नए आजीविका अवसर प्रदान कर रही हैं। महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री श्रीमती लक्ष्मी राजवाड़े के अनुसार महिलाओं को आत्मनिर्भर बनाना और उन्हें सुरक्षित तथा सम्मानजनक वातावरण प्रदान करना सरकार की सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है।

विकसित छत्तीसगढ़ की सशक्त

आधारशिला

मुख्यमंत्री श्री विष्णु देव साय ने स्पष्ट किया है कि प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी के विकसित भारत के लक्ष्य के अनुरूप 'छत्तीसगढ़ अंजोर विजन 2047' के माध्यम से राज्य को समावेशी विकास की दिशा में आगे बढ़ाया जा रहा है, जिसमें महिलाओं की सक्रिय भागीदारी को अनिवार्य तत्व माना गया है। 'महतारी गौरव वर्ष' केवल एक प्रशासनिक पहल नहीं, बल्कि सामाजिक चेतना का व्यापक अभियान है। यह वर्ष छत्तीसगढ़ में मातृशक्ति के सम्मान, आत्मविश्वास और नेतृत्व को नई ऊंचाइयों तक पहुंचाने का संकल्प लेकर आया है। आज प्रदेश की महिलाएं आत्मनिर्भरता, नवाचार और नेतृत्व के साथ विकास की नई कहानी लिख रही हैं। यही सशक्त मातृशक्ति विकसित और समृद्ध छत्तीसगढ़ की सबसे मजबूत आधारशिला बनेगी।



After Nitish: New Order Leaves All in Fix in Bihar



Tejashwi Yadav and Chirag Paswan emerge as key players in post-Nitish Bihar politics

● **Shikha Mukerjee** | The writer is a senior journalist in Kolkata



Crystal ball gazing is par for the course in politics. The exit of 10-time Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar, whose comings and goings are vividly captured by the mocking but nevertheless indulgent description of "Paltu Ram", and his retirement to the Rajya Sabha seems a fairly straightforward change.

As the slightly bigger partner in its coalition gov-

ernment with the Janata Dal (United), the BJP is obviously going to stake claim to the top state job, fulfilling its ambitions of heading Bihar in ways that follow the tried and tested manual used in other BJP-ruled states.

That is how crystal ball gazing becomes a hazardous exercise in anticipation, because there are variables and there are probabilities. But nothing will quite add up

till Bihar begins to readjust to a new era of leadership.

Nitish Kumar's exit and the induction of his son and heir, Nishant Kumar, a rookie in politics, is not the real game changer; he is, at best, a sideshow. The real players in the post-Nitish Kumar Bihar are from within the BJP. It would have been perfectly easy for the BJP to name Nitish Kumar's successor the day the grand old man of

Bihar politics filed his nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha. It is an excuse that courtesy demands the BJP wait till the election is over. It is likelier that having persuaded Nitish Kumar to remove himself outside Bihar, the BJP is now weighing its choices.

There is enough speculation, and Bihar politics is always a glorious space for gossip and calculations.

The BJP can't follow the routines it seems to prefer since 2019, of choosing a lightweight if not a nonentity to head the state. The party is in a minority in the 243-seat Assembly. It is not even close to the halfway mark. The strategy for replacing Nitish Kumar is therefore complicated. It can do what it did in Maharashtra when it poached Eknath Shinde first and then Ajit Pawar, split the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party, reducing the elected coalition government of the Maha Vikas Aghadi in 2022 and setting up the Mahayuti coalition in power.

After Nitish Kumar as chief minister, the JD(U) seems ready to splinter. The forecast is that the JD(U) can break up in different ways, with different leaders heading in different directions. One lot can make tracks for the BJP; another lot can make tracks for the Rashtriya Janata Dal of Tejashwi Yadav and a third lot can hope to make deals with Chirag Paswan, the leader of the Lok Janshakti Party and a very successful election organizer, who has converted a small

“ Bihar's future politics will not be dominated by the BJP, Mr Paswan and Mr Yadav, who are both young and ambitious and the state is their homeland. As bhoomiputras with lineage and legacy, there is no doubt that Tejashwi Yadav will need to figure out how to play against the BJP and against Chirag Paswan; the same dynamics is true for Mr Paswan. He has succeeded in bargaining hard with the BJP in seat-sharing negotiations in 2024 and 2025; and his strike rate is exceptionally impressive; His party contested five out of five in the Lok Sabha election and 19 Assembly seats of the 30 seats.

Way back in the past, when the Janata Party was breaking up, there were three young and ambitious leaders, from different castes. There was Lalu Prasad Yadav, there was Nitish Kumar, a Kurmi, and there was Ram Vilas Paswan, from the Scheduled Castes.

Between Lalu Yadav and Nitish Kumar and with Ram Vilas Paswan in play, upper caste dominance in Bihar ended. They were brother-ennemies. With Nitish Kumar out of the game, at least that is how it looks like and Nishant Kumar too new, inexperienced and untutored, Bihar's politics will see a new game, with heirs of fathers "who embossed the state with their imprint on either side of the millennium".

The late Sankarshan Thakur, journalist and author, described the Lalu-Nitish relationship as a "strange diptych", two people who were joined at the hip, but fractured.

party into a potential challenger. If these splits occur, that leaves the JD(U) seriously incapacitated; and the BJP in a fix.

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Bihar's pride and its fiercely defensive sensibilities about its identity will come into play as the future Bhoomiputra leadership contest gets underway. The present setup in the BJP has not nurtured a successor to the late Sushil Kumar Modi, who was popular and strong enough to stand up to Nitish Kumar, to the point that the party's central leadership deemed it wiser to steer him out of Bihar and give him a place in New Delhi. The BJP is therefore at a disadvantage in that it does not have an obvious leader in Bihar.

The generational change in Bihar will test the political capabilities of Yadav and Paswan as they navigate the political space that has opened up after Nitish Kumar. How caste forces align themselves in the new era is not clear, as yet, because as the successor to the JD(U), Nishant Kumar lacks connect with the base, both electors and party organisers and workers.

There will be an ideological churn as well; the old socialist politics of Ram Manohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan have faded, though the spectre of pro-people pro-poor politics

at the level of discourse remains. The BJP's "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" narrative is not an alternative, as was irrefutably confirmed when even the BJP had to sign on to endorse Nitish Kumar's demand for a caste census, that later became a socio-economic survey of castes.

There are no easy or short-term solutions to Bihar's perennial problems of unemployment, backwardness, poverty and all its related problems, floods, crop emergencies and corruption. Voters in Bihar are well aware that the solutions are not coming soon; what they do expect is a leadership that has empathy and the will to respond when there are crises, while taking small and ultimately insignificant steps to delivering long-term change.

In the post-Mandal era, where caste and privileges are under scrutiny and reconfiguration, the next generation of leadership faces a more complex reality of higher aspirations and stronger drag coefficients among Bihar's labour force, which is mostly located in the rural areas, relatively unskilled and inclined to migrate. Chirag Paswan, Tejashwi Yadav or someone else has the job of convincing voters by the time the next election comes around in 2030 that Biharis can depend on one of them to empathise because none of them can do any more.

From Bengal to Tamil Nadu, and Assam to Kerala... What are the electoral challenges facing each party? Decoding the political arithmetic of the 5 states



The Election Commission will announce the dates for the assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry today at 4:00 PM. With the commencement of the press conference, the Model Code of Conduct will come into force across all five states. In Bengal, Mamata's prestige is on the line this time, while in the South, a fierce contest is expected between regional parties and the BJP.

The formal announcement regarding the assembly elections in five states across the country is set to take place today. The Election Commission will hold a press conference at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi at 4:00 PM, during which the official election dates for West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and the Union Territory of Puducherry will be declared. The Model Code of Conduct will come into effect immediately across all these poll-bound states. Consequently, the incumbent governments will be barred from implementing any new schemes or making populist announcements.

The Assam Legislative Assembly comprises 126 seats, Kerala has 140, Tamil Nadu 234, West Bengal 294, and the Union Territory of Puducherry has 30 assembly seats. In these states, the challenge varies: for some, it is a battle to retain power, while for others, it is an attempt to create history by coming to power for the very first time.

The electoral results and political developments in



these five states will not only determine the political landscape within these specific regions but will also play a pivotal role in shaping the future trajectory and direction of the entire nation. West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala are states where the BJP has, thus far, been unable to capture power; conversely, in Assam, the party is keen to return to power for a third consecutive term, and in Puducherry, for a second term. Against this backdrop—spanning from Bengal to Kerala and Tamil Nadu—what exactly are the challenges at play, and what does the political arithmetic reveal?

In Bengal: Mamata's Trial by Fire; The BJP's Challenge is No Less Formidable

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has held the reins of power in West Bengal for 15 years. In the upcoming 2026 elections, the BJP remains the primary challenger standing in her path. Mamata Banerjee has been at the helm of West Bengal's administration since 2011, and her party—the TMC—has successfully won three consecutive assembly elections. Against this backdrop, Mamata Banerjee is striving for a fourth consecutive victory, while the BJP is desper-

ate to secure a win at any cost. The current term of the Bengal Legislative Assembly is set to conclude on May 7, 2026. Bengal comprises a total of 294 assembly seats. In the 2021 elections, the TMC won 213 seats, whereas the BJP secured only 77. Consequently, this election serves as a test for Mamata Banerjee to retain her hold on power, while for the Left parties and the Congress, it is a battle to preserve their political relevance.

The challenge facing the BJP has intensified primarily due to the severe decline of the Congress and the Left parties; instead of their votes shifting toward the BJP, a larger share has gravitated toward the TMC. Over the last two elections, the BJP's vote share increased by a mere 1.5 percent, whereas the Trinamool Congress garnered an additional 3 percent of the votes.

Nevertheless, given Mamata Banerjee's 15-year tenure in power, there is an underlying anti-incumbency wave—a sentiment the BJP is actively attempting to capitalize on.

The Test for the INDIA and NDA Alliances in Tamil Nadu

In South India, Tamil Nadu stands as the only state in the country where neither the Congress nor the BJP has formed a government for the past six decades. The political landscape here has historically been dominated by the DMK and the AIADMK. This time around, the BJP has forged an alliance with the AIADMK, while the Congress has joined forces with the

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The current term of the Assam Legislative Assembly is set to conclude on May 20, 2026. In this context, during the 2021 Assam Assembly elections, the BJP-led NDA retained power by securing victory in 75 out of the 126 seats. The Congress-led alliance won 50 seats. Himanta Biswa Sarma serves as the Chief Minister of Assam; the BJP has entered the electoral fray with him as its face.

In Assam, a “third front” is represented by Badruddin Ajmal, a key figure in Muslim politics. However, while the BJP faces some public resentment stemming from its ten years in power, the Congress is grappling with internal tensions regarding its leadership. Given the manner in which the BJP is playing the “Hindutva card,” a return to power in Assam has become a formidable challenge for the Congress.

DMK. Furthermore, superstar Vijay's party, the TVK, has also entered the electoral fray, making the contest even more intriguing.

The current term of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly is scheduled to end on May 10, 2026. The state comprises a total of 234 assembly seats. In 2021, under the leadership of M.K. Stalin, the DMK returned to power by securing victory in 133 seats. As part of its alliance with the DMK, the Congress also succeeded in winning 18 seats. The AIADMK, which had held power in the state for 10 years, managed to win a mere 66 seats. The BJP, contesting in alliance with the AIADMK, secured four seats.

Much has changed in the run-up to the 2026 assembly elections. While Stalin faces the trial by fire of retaining his government, the AIADMK is equally eager to stage a comeback. In this year's Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, the contest involves not only the NDA and the INDIA bloc but also a “Third Front” that has entered the fray. Tamil actor Thalapathy Vijay, by establishing his own party—the Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam—has transformed the traditional DMK-versus-AIADMK battle into a triangular contest. It remains uncertain whose electoral fortunes the superstar Vijay will make or mar; consequently, both the DMK and the AIADMK remain on high

alert.

Kerala: The Challenge of Defending the Left's Last Bastion

Kerala is the only state in the country where a Left-led government currently remains in power. The state has historically followed a tradition of alternating governments; however, in 2021, the Left Front defied this trend by securing a second consecutive term in office—thereby making history. This time around, the Left faces the formidable challenge of defending its political stronghold in Kerala, while the Congress-led UDF is maneuvering to end its decade-long political exile.

The Congress-led alliance is striving to stage a comeback this time by leveraging the issue of anti-incumbency. To date, the BJP has not managed to win a single Assembly seat in Kerala. Nevertheless, by capturing the Thrissur Lok Sabha seat in the 2024 general elections and securing control of the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation in December 2025, the party has demonstrated its growing strength—a development that now poses a significant challenge to both the UDF and the LDF.

The current term of the Kerala Legislative Assembly is set to conclude on May 23, 2026. The Left Front—which secured power in Kerala for a second consecutive term—faces a formidable challenge from the UDF. If Pinarayi Vijayan succeeds in Kerala

for a third time, it will mark a historic record; however, should he face defeat, it could lead to the complete eradication of the Left's political presence from the country. The electoral contest in Kerala is primarily a showdown between the Left-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF alliances. In the 2021 elections, the LDF successfully retained power, securing 99 seats. This time around, the Congress party is striving to make a comeback and regain power. Given that Priyanka Gandhi is a Member of Parliament from Kerala—and that K.C. Venugopal, widely regarded as Rahul Gandhi's right-hand man, also hails from the state—the Congress is particularly keen to return to power, while the BJP remains focused on expanding its own political support base.

A BJP Hat-trick or a Congress Comeback in Assam?

The BJP has been in power in Assam for 10 years and has thrown its entire weight behind its bid to return for a third consecutive term. The BJP first assumed power in Assam in 2016 and went on to create history in 2021. The party has set itself a target of winning over 100 seats in the 126-seat Assam Legislative Assembly. Key issues dominating the political landscape here include Bangladeshi infiltration, border security, and Assamese identity. In an effort to thwart the BJP, the Congress has forged an alliance with eight other politi-

cal parties. The Congress is determined to bring an end to its prolonged political exile.

NDA vs. INDIA Bloc: The Battle in Puducherry

The current term of the Legislative Assembly in the Union Territory of Puducherry is scheduled to end on June 15, 2026. Puducherry possesses the legislative assembly with the fewest seats in the country. In 2021, the AINRC-BJP alliance formed the government after ousting the Congress from power. N. Rangasamy became the Chief Minister. This marked the first instance in which the BJP became a direct partner in the government in Puducherry. This time around, the Congress—in alliance with the DMK—is attempting to stage a comeback and aims to leverage the issue of the previous government's collapse to fuel anti-incumbency sentiment. In the previous elections held in 2021, the alliance between the All India N.R. Congress (AINRC) and the BJP formed the government by winning 16 out of the total 30 seats. The AINRC secured 10 seats, while the BJP won 6; in stark contrast, the Congress managed to win only 2 seats. Currently, AINRC founder N. Rangasamy serves as the Chief Minister. Once again, the contest is between the NDA and the INDIA Bloc. Consequently, both sides face distinct challenges: the BJP-led alliance is fighting to retain power, while the Congress is eager to make a comeback.

Ai+ Smartphone to Expand Additional 3M Smartphone Production Capacity in India with Optiemus Electronics Limited

“

Ai+ Smartphone has entered into a manufacturing agreement with Optiemus Electronics Limited (OEL), a subsidiary of Optiemus Infra-com Limited, to produce mobile phones, tablets, IoT devices, and advanced wearable products in India. Under the agreement, Ai+ Smartphone and OEL plan to invest around INR 125 cr in India-based manufacturing under the Government of India's Make in India vision over 5 years, creating approximately 1,200 direct and indirect jobs across manufacturing, operations and supporting functions.

OEL will manufacture approximately 3 million Ai+ Smartphone mobile devices under this agreement. The scope of manufacturing will also extend to tablets, IoT products, and advanced wearable devices, providing Ai+ Smartphone with a scalable India-based production backbone for its broader smart device portfolio. Production will take place at OEL's facility in Noida, with ramp-up targeted from April 2026.

Ai+ Smartphone devices run on NxtQuantum OS, India's sovereign mobile operating system built on Android and designed for transparency, security, and compliance with Indian data laws.

"In a market where most smart devices still come from Chinese and other global brands, there is clear headroom for an Indian brand that treats both quality and sovereignty as non-negotiable. This manufacturing agreement with OEL is a concrete step in that direction. OEL brings proven



Left to Right – Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies with Ashok Gupta, Director, Optiemus Electronics Limited

EMS capability in India. Ai+ Smartphone brings an India-authored software stack and a roadmap spanning phones, tablets, AIoT, and wearables. Together, we are committing capital, creating jobs, and building under the Government of India's Make in India vision, so that more of the value in this industry is

created here, not just assembled here," said Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies on the agreement.

The association reinforces Ai+ Smartphone's broader roadmap to scale an India-first portfolio across smartphones, tablets, and connected devices,

with manufacturing depth that can keep pace with demand. It also strengthens the company's ability to expand into new categories while keeping supply chains closer to home and quality more tightly controlled. Together, Ai+ Smartphone and OEL aim to build a production backbone that supports both domestic growth and long-term export readiness. Ashok Gupta, Director, Optiemus Electronics Limited, said, "We are very excited to work with Ai+ Smartphone, a dedicated Indian brand that is clear about scale, security, and long-term commitment to the market. With our facilities and experience in electronics manufacturing, we will support Ai+ Smartphone as it ramps production of smartphones and new device categories from India, strengthening domestic manufacturing and creating room for future export-led growth."

This agreement is expected to strengthen domestic manufacturing capabilities and support Ai+ Smartphone's goal of building a scalable, India-focused technology brand across smartphones, tablets, IoT devices, and advanced wearables. As Ai+ Smartphone broadens its portfolio, the Optiemus partnership will allow it to ramp volumes efficiently while keeping core technology and OS control anchored in India.

About Ai+ Smartphone

Ai+ Smartphone is a next-generation brand built in India, delivering reliable and high-performance mobile experiences, powered by NxtQuantum OS, India's first

sovereign mobile operating system. The brand focuses on providing clean design, ensuring long battery life, and maintaining trusted software performance, all while offering accessible price points without compromising on user experience.

About NxtQuantum Shift Technologies

NxtQuantum Shift Technologies is a deep-tech Indian company building secure, sovereign digital platforms for a digital-first world. Founded by Madhav Sheth, the company develops NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign operating system, and is committed to building

technology that is authored in India and globally competitive. About Optiemus Electronics Limited (OEL)

Optiemus, engaged in the business of electronics manufacturing in India, provides end-to-end solutions to global and Indian brands encompassing world-class manufacturing, supply chain management, and repair/refurbishment. It has three state-of-the-art manufacturing units across India with a highly experienced team and has won the trust of many local as well as global brands, maintaining its commitment to quality, timely delivery, flexibility, and customer satisfaction.

“

Ashok Gupta, Director, Optiemus Electronics Limited, said, "We are very excited to work with Ai+ Smartphone, a dedicated Indian brand that is clear about scale, security, and long-term commitment to the market. With our facilities and experience in electronics manufacturing, we will support Ai+ Smartphone as it ramps production of smartphones and new device categories from India, strengthening domestic manufacturing and creating room for future export-led growth." This agreement is expected to strengthen domestic manufacturing capabilities and support Ai+ Smartphone's goal of building a scalable, India-focused technology brand across smartphones, tablets, IoT devices, and advanced wearables. As Ai+ Smartphone broadens its portfolio, the Optiemus partnership will allow it to ramp volumes efficiently while keeping core technology and OS control anchored in India.

‘Film Industry Is Waiting For Yami Gautam- Aditya Dhar To Fumble And Fall’

“ ‘Aditya Dhar and Yami Gautam will have to move forward with extra caution.’ ”

- Aditya Dhar and Yami Gautam’s combined success in 2026 has made them a power couple in Bollywood.
- Aditya and his team have decided to boycott awards ceremonies with Yami also potentially abstaining despite nominations for her role in Haq.
- Dhurandhar is being re-released across 500 screens worldwide.

Right now, the most envied power couple in the Hindi film industry are Aditya Dhar and Yami Gautam. Their combined success in 2026 — she starred in the powerful Haq and he has directed the most successful Hindi film of all times Dhurandhar — is the envy of the entire Hindi film industry.

Says Ram Gopal Varma, “You have to understand what Aditya Dhar has done to the movie business. He has changed the entire grammar



of storytelling on screen. Our movies will never be the same again, and I am talking about all the languages, not only Hindi.”

“In Telugu many of the forthcoming big-budget action films are undergoing

massive-reshooting. Which means huge budgetary liabilities,” adds RGV. “So of course they hate him. He has forced them to get out of their comfort zones and that costs a helluva lot of money.”

In addition to changing



the economics and language of filmmaking, Aditya and his Dhurandhar team have taken a collective decision to not attend any of the popular awards ceremonies this year.

One hears that Yami too won't attend the awards functions even if she get nominated for her performance in Haq.

Says RGV, "Aditya Dhar and Yami Gautam will have to move forward with extra caution. The film industry is waiting for them to fumble and fall."

The first part of Dhurandhar has got a new lease of life. The film has been re-released across India for audiences to refresh their memory of Part 1 before Part 2 opens on March 19.

Dhurandhar was re-released in India on March 12 across around 250 screens and will expand across the globe from March 13.

Dhurandhar is being re-released across 500 screens worldwide.

Speaking about the return of Dhurandhar Part 1, trade analyst Taran Adarsh says, "A smart and exciting move by the makers. The re-release offers audiences a chance to revisit the world, characters, and key moments of the first instalment on the big screen before the next chapter

arrives."

"Re-releases like this not only build momentum for the sequel but also allow fans and new viewers alike to relive the journey in theatres. It's a welcome move, since the anticipation for the second part is at an all-time high."

Interestingly, Baahubali had been re-released prior to Baahubali 2.



India Hits Out at Pakistan at UNGA Over Ahmadiyyas, Afghan Strikes

“ Harish was addressing the UN General Assembly commemoration of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia

United Nations: India called out Pakistan for its habit of “fabricating imaginative” tales of Islamophobia in neighbouring countries, questioning how Islamabad’s own brutal repression of Ahmadiyyas or air-bombing campaigns during Ramzan against Afghanistan can be characterised as. “India’s western neighbour is an excellent example of fabricating imaginative tales of Islamophobia in their neighbourhood,” India’s Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said.

“One wonders what would brutal repression of Ahmadiyyas in this country be termed, or the large-scale refolement of the helpless Afghans or air-bombing campaigns in this Holy Month of Ramadan?” Harish said.

Harish was addressing the UN General Assembly commemoration of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia on Monday.

In a strong retort, he also said that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, which “our western neighbour has systematically attempted to weaponise against India”, has repeatedly made false and baseless allegations against my country. He stressed that it is important for the UN to take



note of the rising trend and dangers of weaponising religious identity and instrumentalising it to serve narrow political ends by state and non-state actors alike.

Underlining that India is home to more than 200 million Muslims, one of the largest populations of the community in the world, he said Muslims in India, including those in Jammu and Kashmir, elect their own representatives to speak for them.

“The only ‘phobia’ evident here appears to be directed against the multicultural and peaceful coexistence that all communities in India enjoy, including Muslim communities,” he said. “Such narratives run counter to India’s fundamental ethos and reflect instead the sectarianism and terrorist mentality that this country has perpetuated since its inception. That is the real issue at hand,” he said.

Harish said that history bears repeated witness to how the politicisation of religion does not solve and resolve

grievances; however well-intentioned, they risk lending legitimacy to precisely this kind of selective, polarising narratives that breed further division.

“The United Nations was conceived as an institution that transcends religion, culture, and politics. Its credibility rests on universality and impartiality. We, therefore, urge caution against frameworks that exclusively focus on one faith, without addressing the broader phenomenon of religiophobia in all its manifestations,” he said. India noted that the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief remains a very balanced and enduring instrument that enshrines the rights of all religious followers without privileging any.

India also strongly condemned violence and hatred in the name of religion, regardless of the religion in question. As a nation where followers of virtually every major world religion coexist peacefully and a nation that has given birth to four major world religions, namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, India, more than any other country, is acutely aware of the need for a world free from religious discrimination.

Maha Kumbh: A confluence of faith and culture

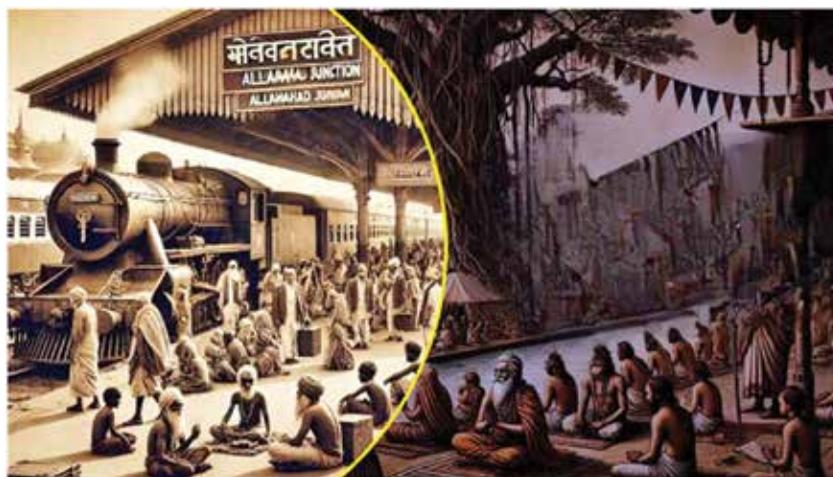


Dr. Shruti Jha Bahukhandi | The writer is Deputy Director (Chhattisgarh Project – RUSA), Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Abstract : - Maha Kumbh is the biggest religious and cultural event of India, which is held every 12 years at four holy places—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nashik. Crores of devotees bathe in the holy waters of the Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati, Godavari and Kshipra rivers to seek salvation and get rid of their sins. The organization of Maha Kumbh is based on religious beliefs, astrological calculations, and historical traditions. It is not only a religious festival, but also a symbol of Indian culture, spirituality and unity, which attracts devotees from India and abroad.

Introduction :- Special trains with 'K' written on them were run for Kumbh Mela, wireless was used for the first time.

Railways had made special preparations in 1954 For the Kumbh Mela of 1954, the railways ran shuttle trains. Along with this, a railway station was built very close to Sangam. More than two hundred ticket collectors were recruited for the Kumbh. Passenger guides were recruited so that people do not face any problem in the Kumbh. An area control office was set up for traffic control.



It has been a more than a month since the beginning of Maha Kumbh-2025. Amazing enthusiasm and amazing devotion is being seen among the people doing Kalpavas on the banks of Sangam. Apart from this, devotees continue to come to the Sangam banks. Seeing the Maha Kumbh, it is natural to wonder how preparations are made for such a big and grand fair. How does it become the biggest fair in the world, where the number of devotees arriving is one-third of the country's population. One question in the series of questions is that how would have been those Kumbhs, which were held before independence and then how did the governments in independent India conduct it?

How was the first Kumbh

after independence?

Discussion :-

The answers to these questions are found by scouring the reports of old newspapers. Some answers are also given by reportage-based books. Senior journalist and author Dhananjay Chopra answers these questions in his book 'Kumbh in India'. According to the book, the time for Kumbh had come only seven years after independence. Nehru, the first PM, who himself was a resident of Allahabad at that time, knew the importance of Kumbh very well. He had instructed to make special arrangements for this. In this arrangement, special attention was paid to traffic and the railways had made preparations on a war footing. This was the first time when the wireless

system was also used.

The railways had made many arrangements

At that time, Allahabad was in the Northern Railway Zone and the five divisions in this zone had also revised their schedules for Kumbh. Apart from this, the work done was to build a railway station near Sangam, which was temporary. The number of shuttle trains was increased. Many new ones were also started. Passenger guides were recruited and new arrangements were also made on platforms etc.

Temporary station built near Sangam Ghat

According to the book, the railways ran shuttle trains for the 1954 Kumbh. Along with this, a railway station was built very close to Sangam. More than two hundred ticket collectors were recruited for Kumbh. Passenger guides were recruited so that people do not face any problem in Kumbh. Area control office was set up for traffic control, which was connected to the zonal headquarters of the railways across the country. Records related to the railways' preparations are still safe in the regional archives of Allahabad.

Trains were given special character 'K'

The Allahabad division, Moradabad division, Lucknow division, Delhi division and Ferozpur division of Northern Railway were especially involved in the preparations for Kumbh. All the five divisions changed their timetables for Kumbh and then also changed the timings of trains. The time and platform of the

special trains running for the fair were also decided in advance. The trains and racks running for Kumbh were given a special English character 'K' logo. So that they can be easily identified.

Crowd management preparations were made

Out of the approximately 50 lakh devotees coming to Kumbh, 16 lakh were expected to come by train. Keeping this in mind, arrangements were made at the main station of Allahabad as well as Rambagh, Jhunsi, Naini, Prayag and Prayag Ghat stations. Railways had also made preparations for crowd management. Rules were also made for issuing tickets to separate the crowd and reduce pressure. Senior level officers were appointed for the fair.

138 passenger guides were appointed

138 passenger guides were appointed for about two months. So that passengers do not face any problem at the station. Employees appointed in the fair were given twenty percent allowance and employees posted outside the fair but on fair duty were given ten percent of the salary allowance. For the first time in the fair, railway employees used VHF wireless set and they were also trained for this.

Sister of death but goddess of salvation... Why is the importance of river Yamuna mentioned more than Ganga in the Puranas

When Yamuna meets Ganga in Prayagraj, it increases the importance of this place i.e. Sangam area manifold. Then this one place becomes

the recipient of the blessings of those two rivers, which have their own importance, but the benefits of both the importance are obtained together. When a dip is taken in the water of Sangam during Maha Kumbh, faith says that this combined water of both Ganga-Yamuna will take one closer to the same divine element.

In the Puranas, the importance of Yamuna river is said to be equal to that of Ganga. Prayagraj is filled with the wonderful shade of devotion and faith due to the organization of Maha Kumbh. This Maha Mela held at the confluence of Ganga-Yamuna and Saraswati also becomes more important in cultural and mythological terms because of these three rivers. All these three rivers have been described as very important in the Vedas and Puranas and along with creating vast fertile plains, they have been the mother of cultures, civilizations and urban development.

Whereas Saraswati is a pure Vedic river on whose banks Vedas were written. On the other hand, Ganga is the river that originated from Brahma's kamandal, got the charanamrit of Lord Vishnu and a place in the matted locks of Shiva Mahadev, along whose banks many mythological stories have taken place. Now comes Yamuna river. It is said that this river is of more mythological importance than Ganga and in many descriptions it has been considered even older than Ganga. However, the sanctity of Yamuna river and its clean water was recog-



nized only in Dwapar era, when Shri Krishna made this river a witness to his divine acts.

Yamuna has been a witness to Krishna's deeds

He was born in a city situated on its banks, grew up in the forests situated on its banks, Krishna was present in all the villages through which the Yamuna river flows. There are many places like Gokul, Vrindavan, Barsana, Govardhan which are of mythological importance today and are witnesses to the life philosophy of Shri Krishna. Yamuna river, named Kalindi, is one of the eight queens of Shri Krishna. This Yamuna meets Gangaji in Prayagraj and this place is known as Tirtharaj.

Yamuna originates from the Kalind mountain of the Himalayas

Yamuna river originating from the Kalind mountain range of the Himalayas is also named Kalindi. In the Puranas, she has been called the daughter of Sun God and the sister of Yama. It is said that earlier she was born as a human, but due to later circumstances she was transformed into a river. The con-

versation between Yama and his sister Yamuna (Yami) is also recorded in the Samvad Sukta of Rigved. This dialogue sukta explains the family values in the Indian system and also underlines the sanctity of the relationship between brothers and sisters.

Description of Yamuna in Rigveda

There are many contradictions among the Veda scholars regarding this story of Yama-Yami in Rigveda. Actually, once Yamraj goes to Yami's house. Yami and Yama's father is Vivaswan i.e. Suryadev, but Yami, who has always been separated from her brother, considers him a lover. When Yama reaches Yami's house, she proposes her love to him. Then Yama tells her that we are children of the same father and the same mother. Your mother Sandhya is also my mother. Therefore, do not propose love to me. Hearing Yama's words, Yami gets very disappointed and she starts repenting. This decision of Yama has been seen with great greatness in Rigveda and this story also becomes an example of the dignity of the relationship between brother and

sister.

ओ चित्सखायं सख्या ववृत्यां तिरः पुरु
चिदर्णवं जगन्वान्
पितुर्नपातमा दधीत वेधा अधि क्षमि
प्रतरं दीध्यानः ॥ 1 ॥

न ते सखा सख्यं वष्ट्येतत्सलक्ष्मा
यद्विषुरूपा भवाति

महस्पुत्रासो असुरस्य वीरा दिवो धर्तारि
उर्विया परि ख्यन् ॥ 2 ॥

उशन्ति घा ते अमृतास एतदेकस्य
चित्यजसं मर्त्यस्य

नि ते मनो मनसि धार्यस्मे जन्युः
पतिस्तन्वामा विविश्याः ॥ 3 ॥

न यत्पुरा चकृमा कद्ध नूनमृत वदन्तो
अनृतं रपेम

गन्धर्वो अप्स्वप्या च योषा सा नो नाभिः
परमं जामि तन्नौ ॥ 4 ॥

This story of Yam and Yami has been told in different contexts in the Puranas. According to Vishnupuran, Yam reached his sister Yami's house one day. According to Bhagwat Katha, no one is happy if Yam (means death) himself comes to his door, but on the contrary, Yami was very happy to see her brother. Yami gave Yam a seat with great respect. She cooked dishes and fed him and satisfied him with food etc.

Seeing such hospitality for the first time, Yam was very happy and asked Yami to ask for a boon. Yami did not ask for anything for herself but said that whichever sister feeds her brother like this on this day and welcomes him in her house, she should never fear death. Yam also said that whichever brother goes to his sister's house on this day and gives her respect and takes care of her, he will not fear untimely death.

This is how Yamuna

turned into a river

In the Puranas, the story of the formation of Yamuna river also seems to originate from this union of Yam-Yami. When Yam told Yami that he is her brother and hence he cannot accept Yam's love, Yam feels very sad. She starts regretting. Slowly her body melts and turns into water and from this stream of water Yamuna river emerges. The antiquity of Yamuna river is much older than Ganga. After this story of Yam-Yami, the day of Yam Dwitiya which falls after Diwali is of great importance. On this day, there is importance of brother and sister bathing in Yamuna together and there is a belief of cooking some food and feeding it on the banks of the river. This tradition is going on in many areas of North India.

Yamuna river is the mother of Braj culture

Bhuvanbaskar Surya is accepted as its father, Yam, the god of death, is its brother and Lord Shri Krishna is accepted as its husband. While Lord Shri Krishna is called the father of Braj culture, Yamuna is considered its mother. Thus, it is the mother of the people of Braj in the true sense. Therefore, in Braj, it is called Yamuna Maiyya. Brahma Purana has given a description explaining the spiritual form of Yamuna - "The one who is the basis of creation and who is called Sachchidananda form by the characteristics, who has been praised by the Upanishads as Brahma form, that supreme element is Yamuna in person. Gaudiya

scholar Shrirup Goswami has described Yamuna as Chidanandmayi in person. Chidanandmayi means, by seeing whom the soul gets true happiness. Yamuna river has got the status of mother like Ganga.

Yami: The Sister of Yama and Goddess Yamuna River

Just like the water of Ganga is important for bathing, worship and sipping, Yamuna river also holds its own importance. Like Ganga, it has also been the center of the city of pilgrimages. Apart from this, due to being a co-witness in the leelas of Vishnu incarnation Shri Krishna, its water is also considered similar to Hari Charanamrit. It has been called venerable at many places in the Puranas.

“नमामि यमुनां देवीं

सुरासुरनमस्कृताम्।

पापहारिणीं पुण्यां लोकानां

त्राणकारिणीम्।”

While worshiping Yamuna in Skanda Purana, it is said that a person who takes bath in Yamuna gets the blessings of Lord Vishnu and all sins are destroyed.

‘कालिंद्या वरदा गंगा त्रिपथगा

विष्णुपादवी। स्नात् यत्र हरिः स्वायं धर्म

तत्र करोति सः।’

In Padmapuran also, this river has been called Paap Nashini, Shok Harini and Kalyani. Contact with the water of Yamuna ends all the sorrows of a person. Even just remembering it destroys sins.

‘यमुना जगत् त्राण कारणं

कलिमलापहम्। स्नानमात्रेण पापघ्नीं

नमामि हरिणीं शुभाम्।

“यमुनाजलसम्पर्कात् यो भवेद्दुःखमोक्षणम्। स्मरन्ति यमुनां भक्त्या पापानामाशु नाशनम्।”

At one place in Skanda Purana, Yamuna has been considered more sacred than Ganga. It has been said that by seeing Ganga, sins are destroyed, by touching it, sins are removed but by taking bath in Yamuna, one attains salvation directly.

“गङ्गायां दर्शनात् पापं स्पर्शनात् पातकं भवेत्। यमुनायां तु यत्स्नानं मुक्तिः साक्षात् भवेद् ध्रुवम्।”

It is also mentioned in Mahabharata

In the Mahabharata's Vana Parva, Yamuna has been described as the goddess of purity and the source of salvation for all living beings. It is also mentioned that the sages who performed penance on the banks of Yamuna attained great virtue. Yamuna river not only has religious importance, but it is also an important part of Indian culture and history. Its importance can be understood in such a way that one of the four Dhams situated in the mountains is the origin of Yamuna river. Which is called Yamunotri Dham.

This is also because, like Ganga, Yamuna is also the life-line of the Indian way of life. Major cities of Haryana are on its banks. The country's capital Delhi is irrigated by its water. Agra, the main city in the history of Uttar Pradesh, where the fort and the Taj Mahal are located, are located on its banks.

This is the reason that when Yamuna meets Ganga in

Prayagraj, it increases the importance of this place i.e. Sangam area manifold. Then this one place becomes the beneficiary of those two rivers, which have their own separate importance, but the benefits of the importance of both are obtained together. When a dip is taken in the water of Sangam during Maha Kumbh, faith says that the combined water of Ganga-Yamuna will take one closer to the same divine element. It will purify one's body and liberate him from the cycle of birth and death. Along with this, the chants of Har-Har Gange, Jai Jai Yamuna Maiya keep resonating on the Ghats.

If Mind is healthy the everything is fine

If the mind is pure, then every water is loike Gangajal ... If you are unable to go to Maha Kumbh, then take a bath with these mantras, your home will become Prayagraj!

Ganga Mata herself has promised that whenever she is invoked for any auspicious work, she will definitely come for the welfare of every person. In such a situation, you will not have to be deprived of the divine benefits of bathing in the Ganga on the special date of Amrit Snan. Just chant these mantras and the benefits of bathing in the Ganga can be availed at home.

Mahakumbh is being organized in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. There is a gathering of devotees. The amazing splendor of this mythological ancient event is spread on the holy banks of Sangam. There is going to be a huge crowd on the upcoming major bath-

ing dates, while government figures estimate that about 55-60 crore people are going to gather during the Mahakumbh this time. In this wonderful coincidence formed after 144 years, everyone will wish to be a part of this event and purify themselves by bathing in the waters of Triveni.

This is not possible for everyone and there is a very large number of people who will not be able to reach the holy ghats even if they want to. If you are also included in these people, then there is absolutely no need to be disappointed. If you also have a desire to take a bath in Maha Kumbh and it is not getting fulfilled, then arrangements have been made for this in the scriptures. There are some mantras in the Puranas and scriptures for praising and invoking the river Ganga, by reciting and chanting which every area becomes Ganga Teerth and every water becomes Ganga Jal.

Mother Ganga herself has promised that whenever she is invoked for any auspicious work, she will definitely come for the welfare of every person. In such a situation, you will not have to be deprived of the divine benefits of bathing in the Ganga on the special date of Amrit Snan. Just chant these mantras and the benefits of bathing in the Ganga can be availed at home.

Mantra to invoke the rivers

River Ganga is not only sacred, its tributary rivers Yamuna and Saraswati are also very glorious. Apart from this, Godavari, Kaveri, Sindhu and Narmada are also called the incarnation of Ganga at their respective places. There is a confluence of Ganga-Yamuna and Saraswati in Sangam Teerth Kshetra. Therefore, there is glory of Teerthraj Prayag too. Apart from this, like Ganga, all these rivers originated from the water pot of Brahmadev in different times and are called Sapta



Dhara. The mantra of meditation of all these rivers is very effective which turns the bath water into Ganga water and Triveni. Therefore, chant this mantra before bathing. With this mantra, the courtyard of your own house will become a pilgrimage area like Kumbh Sthal.

**गंगे च यमुने चैव गोदावरी सरस्वती ।
नर्मदे सिन्धु कावेरि जलोऽस्मिन् सन्निधिं
कुरु ॥**

Pray to Maa Ganga

Similarly, the Gangeya shloka taken from the Ganga source is also very sacred. In this shloka mantra, the purity of Maa Ganga has been described and prayers have been made to her to seek salvation from one's sins. In the shloka, it has been said that the Ganga water is beautiful which has come from the feet of Murari i.e. Shri Vishnu, and has been worn on the head by Tripurari i.e. Mahadev Shiva.

**गंगां वारि मनोहारि मुरारिचरणच्युतं ।
त्रिपुरारिशिरश्चारि पापहारि पुनातु मां
॥**

Who is the destroyer of sins. May such mother Ganga take away my sins too. By reciting this mantra and taking a bath, mother Ganga will join the water source near you to cool you. May such mother Ganga take away my sins too. By reciting this mantra and taking a bath, mother Ganga will join the water source near you to cool you.

A person can also take a bath far from Ganga

Describing the glory of river Ganga, it has been said in a shloka that the person who remembers Gangaji even from



a distance of hundred yojanas, all his sins are destroyed and he finally goes to Vishnu Lok.

Through this shloka, it has been told that mother Ganga is so kind that on a call of her son and devotees, she herself goes to them.

**गंगा गंगेति यो ब्रूयात्, योजनानां
शतैरपि । मुच्यते सर्वपापेभ्यो,
विष्णुलोके स गच्छति ॥**

If he is not able to come to the banks of Ganga, then Maa Ganga goes to him and gives him freedom from sins and coolness. Do read this shloka mantra while taking bath. River Ganga is the path of salvation

Just seeing the Ganga river is the path of salvation. Taking a bath means breaking all the bonds of karma. On the other hand, remembering Maa Ganga makes one a part of many virtues.

गंगा तव दर्शनात् मुक्ति

If one of the smallest and most important mantras of Maa Ganga is recited while taking bath, then the water in your water vessel becomes Gangajal and bathing in it gives the same result as Kumbh bath. Just the mind should be pure and there should be devotion in the feelings. Similarly, Yamuna river is also a mythological river and bathing in it is also very

important. Yamuna river is the daughter of Sun God and is the witness of Lord Krishna's leela. Many ancient pilgrimages are established on the banks of this river. Since Lord Krishna himself bathed in this water, the water of this river is also considered as sacred as Ganga. Therefore, it is also invoked at the time of bathing. Its mantra is something like this.

**ॐ कालिन्दि यमुने जय
श्रीकृष्णप्रियाङ्गुरे । व्रजवासिनि
विश्वजनि पुण्यतोये नमोऽस्तु ते ।**

O! Kalindi Yamuna river, hail to you! You are the beloved of Lord Krishna, you reside in Vrajbhoomi (Mathura-Vrindavan). You are worshippable and respected by the entire world. The creatures of the world become pure and free from sins through your holy water. I bow to you, I salute you. Please bless me by giving me darshan.

When you go to take bath, do remember the king of pilgrimages Prayag and its glory. Tirtharaj Prayag is the king of all pilgrimages and also meditate on the purity of Triveni Devi, who is the goddess of Sangam area. This will create the aura of Tirtharaj Prayag in your house itself and you will get the same result as bathing in Prayag. Before performing havan-yagya etc. in the house, the priest also uses this mantra to make the atmosphere of the house spiritual.

**ॐ त्रिवेणी संगमे देवि संगमेश्वर
पूजिते । स्नानकाले कुरु कृपा पापक्षय
करो भवेत् ॥**

O ! Goddess residing at the Triveni Sangam! You are worshipped by Sangameshwar

(God of the Sangam). Kindly bless us with your blessings while bathing. Please destroy our sins and purify us. This mantra invokes the Goddess of the Triveni Sangam. This mantra is a symbol of devotion, faith and self-purification.

Not just Ganga-Yamuna, there are seven rivers mentioned in the Puranas which are testimony to purity and purify the body, mind and soul. Remembering these rivers while bathing makes you blessed by them in every way. There is a mantra for this.

ॐ गंगे च यमुने चैव, कावेरी सरस्वति।
शतद्रुश्च महानद्या, गोदावरी महाबला।
सर्वे तीर्थाः समुद्रता, हेमकूटनिवासिनः।
स्नानेन प्रीयतां नित्यं, सर्वपापप्रणा
शिनः॥

Apart from this, when you are going to take a bath, you can also remember Lord Vishnu to attain purity and the virtue of bathing in the Ganges. Remembering Lord Vishnu is a means of purification in itself. It encourages the feeling of surrender in every moment of life and provides purity of soul and mental peace. It is especially prescribed to chant this mantra before bathing, meditation, worship, or any religious ritual. This mantra is.

ॐ अपवित्रः पवित्रो वा सर्वावस्थां
गतोऽपि वा। यः स्मरेत् पुण्डरीकाक्षं स
बाह्याभ्यन्तरः शुचिः॥

Whether someone is impure or pure. No matter in what state (condition or situation) he is in. Whoever remembers Lord Vishnu (Pundarikaksha, i.e. the one with eyes like lotus).

He becomes pure externally and internally. It is also called



Shuchita Mantra, it is also used for purification before worship at home.

So if your mind is pure and you honestly perform your karma and duty. Do not think bad about anyone and remain engaged in the welfare of humanity, then you can get the virtue of bathing in Tirtharaj Prayag by bathing in your home. For this, Saint Ravidas has also said - If the mind is pure, then Ganga is in the pot.

References :-

* **Bhagavad Gita** – The Bhagavad Gita, often referred to as the Gita, is a Hindu scripture, dated to the second or first century BCE, which forms part of the epic poem Mahabharata.

***Vishnu Purana**: Describes the life of Vishnu, including his avatars, and covers genealogy and cosmology

***Rigveda**- The Rigveda is

an ancient Indian collection of Vedic Sanskrit hymns. It is one of the four sacred canonical Hindu texts known as the Vedas.

***Mahabharata** - The Mahābhārata is Sanskrit epics of ancient India revered as Smriti texts in Hinduism, It narrates the events and aftermath of the Kurukshetra War, a war of succession between two groups of princely cousins,

***The Enchanting Tale of Yamuna and Yamraj**: Sacred Origins of Bhai Dooj-aavyaa.com - This tale of Yamraj and Yamuna gave rise to the tradition of Bhai Dooj, where sisters welcome their brothers with warmth and affection, performing the tilak ceremony to bless them, while brothers vow to protect and cherish their sisters. Their bond, honored by the heavens, became a lasting celebration of sibling love.

Trump's compulsion... First, he distanced himself from Russian oil, and now he's calling India's purchases essential



US on Indian Russian Oil Imports: US Ambassador Sergio Gor has made a significant statement regarding India's purchase of Russian oil. In a social media post, he emphasized India's role in maintaining global oil prices.

Whether it's Donald Trump's compulsion or something else, the US President, who used to be enraged by the purchase of Russian oil and was seen dropping tariff bombs on countries purchasing Russian oil, including India, now appears to be changing his stance. Not only Trump, but his ministers have also changed their tone. This change has been seen after the global oil crisis triggered by the US-Israeli war with Iran. The US is now specifically calling India's purchase of Russian oil essential.

US Ambassador Praises India

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor wrote in a post on the social media platform Twitter (now X), "India has been a major partner in stabilizing global oil prices. The US believes that continued purchases of oil from Russia are part of this effort. India is one of the largest consumers and refiners of oil. It is essential for us to work together to bring stability to the market for Americans and Indians."

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Trump also gave this signal amidst the Middle East war and the deepening oil crisis, the US President gave a big signal just two days ago. He



said that he was lifting sanctions on some countries to prevent oil shortages. This has intensified discussions about whether the US may also lift the ban on Russian oil. Amidst the rising oil prices due to the Iran war, reports emerged that Donald Trump was considering temporarily easing the oil sanctions imposed on Russia. Speaking to reporters in Florida, he said that his administration was trying to stabilize the oil market and, as part of this, was lifting sanctions on some countries.

Looking at Trump's statement, he said, "We have imposed sanctions on certain countries, which we are lifting until peace is restored in the Strait of Hormuz. This move is

aimed at boosting global oil supply amid disruptions to oil supplies caused by the Middle East War. We will not allow a global oil shortage."

India faced tariffs on Russian oil.

It's worth noting that the US imposed a high 50% tariff on India over Russian oil, and Trump and his ministers described India's purchase of Russian oil as financial aid to Putin in the Ukraine war. It's worth noting that when Trump began his tariff spree in April 2025, he imposed a 25% reciprocal tariff on India. However, in August, he doubled this tariff to 50%, citing Russian oil imports as an issue. However, the situation now appears to have changed completely.

Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei's first statement: Attacks on Gulf countries will not stop, the Strait of Hormuz will also remain closed

“

Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, in his first address after assuming office, issued a strong message to the US and Israel. He clearly stated that Iran will avenge its martyrs, especially children killed in the war, and will continue to target its enemy's military bases in the region.

The ongoing war in the Middle East has now reached a decisive and devastating turning point. Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, in his first address after assuming office, issued a strong message to the US and Israel. He clearly stated that Iran will avenge its martyrs, especially children killed in the war, and will continue to target its enemy's military bases in the region. However, Khamenei was not seen on camera during the speech. Israeli intelligence recently claimed that he may have been injured in the initial shelling of the war.

Mojtaba Khamenei began his message in the name of Allah, stating that Iran will continue to follow the path of justice and peace, but will not shy away from retaliation against its enemies. He categorically stated that the Strait of Hormuz must remain closed. This sea route carries approximately 20 percent of the world's oil supply, making this statement crucial for the global energy market.

“We will avenge the martyrs”

In his message, Mojtaba Khamenei stated that it is



Iran's responsibility to avenge those killed in US and Israeli attacks.

He said, “We will not let the blood of our martyrs go to waste, especially the martyrdom of the men and children in Minab will definitely be avenged.” He also stated that Iran believes in friendly relations with its neighbors (Gulf countries), but will continue to target military bases (US bases in Gulf countries) that are being used against Iran.

Demand for the closure of US military bases

The new Supreme Leader also targeted US military bases in the Middle East. He said that US military bases in the region should be closed. He warned

that if necessary, Iran would activate its other military and regional capabilities. In his message, he thanked the Iranian army and security forces and said that their efforts to defend the country are commendable.

He also appealed to the people of Iran to participate in record numbers in rallies held across the country and demonstrate the country's unity in the face of external pressure.

At the end of his address, Mojtaba Khamenei stated that Iran must defeat its enemies in the current conflict. He said that this fight is not just military but a battle for national honor and security.

alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University, and broke the barrier of religion to marry her

There have been many players in the Indian team who have broken through religious barriers to find love. Whether it was Zaheer Khan or Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, Indian all-rounder Shivam Dubey has now joined them. Shivam Dubey, who has made headlines for his explosive batting on the cricket field and the historic 2026 T20 World Cup victory, has a love story that's quite filmy.

Shivam Dube, known as the "Sixer King," has been a powerful force behind his success, as has his wife, Anjum Khan. Hailing from Uttar Pradesh, Anjum not only won Shivam's heart but also endeared herself to fans with her style and simplicity.



Anjum Khan studied at AMU.

Anjum Khan is not just a "cricketer's wife," but she also has a unique identity of her own. Born on September 2, 1986, in Uttar Pradesh, Anjum graduated in Fine Arts from the renowned Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

Anjum, who graduated with a degree in Fine Arts, didn't limit herself to academics. She showcased her talent in a variety of fields to make a name

for herself.

Anjum is a model and actress, as well as a voice-over artist. Reports suggest that her voice has resonated in Bollywood films, Hindi serials, and music videos.

A Unique Interfaith Love Story

Shivam and Anjum's love story is like something straight out of a movie. While couples nowadays flaunt their love on social media, this couple kept their relationship a secret.

Remarkably, even after dating for several years, no one knew about their relationship.

When Anjum and Shivam decided to marry in July 2021, they respected both religions. Their wedding was conducted according to both Hindu and Muslim customs. This means that Shivam and Anjum's Nikah was also performed, and they took seven vows around the fire as witness.

Although, due to this inter-faith marriage they had to face online trolling, but this couple proved that their love is stronger than any kind of trolling. Judging by the photos on Anjum and Shivam's Instagram accounts, Anjum Khan's style game is incredibly versatile. She carries off everything from traditional Indian attire to modern outfits with grace.

After the World Cup victory, she appeared on the field in a blue cap and a floral maxi dress, perfectly showcasing her relaxed and girl-next-door vibe. The way she showcased her stylish side in this relaxed outfit is commendable.

For special occasions, Anjum often dons sharara sets or silk suits, which she looks absolutely stunning in. She is often seen wearing minimal makeup and a natural hair-style, which further enhances her natural beauty. Shivam and Anjum are living a life of immense happiness and love today. They have two children, a son, Ayaan, and a daughter, Mahvish. From Shivam Dubey's struggling days to lifting the World Cup trophy today, Anjum has been his biggest cheerleader.

