HACK OF THE DAY: CHECK FOOD SAFETY LICENCE OF RESTAURANTS (FOSCOS PORTAL)

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you verify whether a restaurant, café, cloud kitchen, or food outlet is legally registered with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), ensuring basic hygiene and safety standards.

WHAT TO DO (QUICK STEPS):

1. Visit https://foscos.fssai.gov.in
2. Click "FBO Search" (Food Business Operator Search)
3. Enter the restaurant name, licence/registration number, state and district details
4. View licence number, type, validity and registered address
5. Match the details and check if the same 14-digit FSSAI number appears on bills, menus, or food delivery apps

NOTE: If a food outlet is operating without a valid FSSAI licence, you can report it to local food safety officers through the same portal.

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Tip from **abhishek.nailwal**@timesinternet.com

Scan for more hacks

'Leave Iran': India asks its citizens amid US strike fear

TNN & AGENCIES

File photo

The Indian embassy issued the advisory amid fresh protests in Tehran and increasing fears of US military strikes on the Gulf nation

New Delhi: India on Monday advised all its nationals residing in Iran to leave the country by all available means of transport, including commercial flights, in view of the evolving security situation.

The Indian embassy in Iran issued a fresh advisory to Indians amid fresh protests in Tehran and increasing fears of US military strikes on the Gulf nation. Students at several universities in Iran held anti-govt demonstrations in a first such agitation since Tehran's brutal crackdown on the protesters last month.

The advisory comes ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit to Israel from Feb 25 toFeb 26. Sources said that as of now, the PM's visit is on.

According to official estimates in Jan, a little over 10,000 Indians, including students, were living in Iran.

"In continuation of the advisory issued by govt of India on Jan 5 and in view of the evolving situation in Iran, Indian nationals who are currently in Iran (students, pilgrims, business persons and tourists) are advised to leave Iran by available means of transport, including commercial flights," the embassy said.

The mission also reiterated all Indian citizens and PIOs (persons of Indian-origin) should exercise due caution, avoid areas of protests or demonstrations and stay in contact with the Indian Embassy.

"All Indian nationals in Iran are requested to also have their travel and immigration documents, including passports and identity cards, readily available with them," the mission said in the advisory.

Tensions rising, India exploring ways to secure energy supplies

New Delhi: With tensions rising between Iran and the US and fears of war looming, India has started exploring ways to secure its energy supplies.

Iran has signalled the temporary closure of sections of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow gateway linking the Gulf to the open seas, which witnesses nearly 20% of global crude movement. Any restriction on cargo movement through the Strait of Hormuz may impact India's supplies of crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the West Asian countries of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman. India imports 90% of its crude requirement — nearly 5.5 million barrels per day (mbpd) — and more than 40% comes from West Asia through this narrow passage.

If the Strait of Hormuz is closed, officials said, India may try to partially secure supplies through the 360-km Habshan-Fujairah strategic oil pipeline and the 1,200-km East-West crude oil pipeline that provides access to the Red Sea. While the former is operated by Adnoc and has the capacity to carry 1.5 mbpd, the latter is controlled by Aramco and has a capacity of 5 mbpd.

Though India purchased nearly one-third of its crude requirement from Russia over last three years, recent trends show the share of oil from Moscow has started dipping. India's crude purchases from Saudi Arabia have witnessed a six-year high this month.

Officials said New Delhi has already diversified crude imports in the last few years — from 27 countries five years ago to 41 — to ensure adequate supplies to meet growing demand. Its strategic oil reserves may last up to 74 days. TNN

Frame plan to shift all coal-based industry from Delhi-NCR: SC

The bench said that it will take up the issues related to pollution caused by vehicular emission on March 12

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New Delhi: After prioritising framing of a long-term plan to tackle vehicular pollution spiking AQI in Delhi-NCR, Supreme Court on Monday asked ministries of power, industry and environment to submit a proposal for relocating all coal-based industries from the NCR.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said authorities to bear in mind the alternative of making available clean fuel — CNG, PNG or LPG — to these industries, if these were to continue operation at their present locations in NCR.

The bench said that while tackling vehicular emission-caused pollution is a priority, it would like to have a proposed long-term plan from the Union ministries and NCR states — Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh – on shifting out coal-based industries from the NCR.

It asked additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati about the fate of thermal power plants (TTPs) operating in NCR. She said the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has suggested development of PNG infrastructure in all industrial areas and evolve a uniform and affordable pricing structure for PNG to make industrial consumption economically viable.

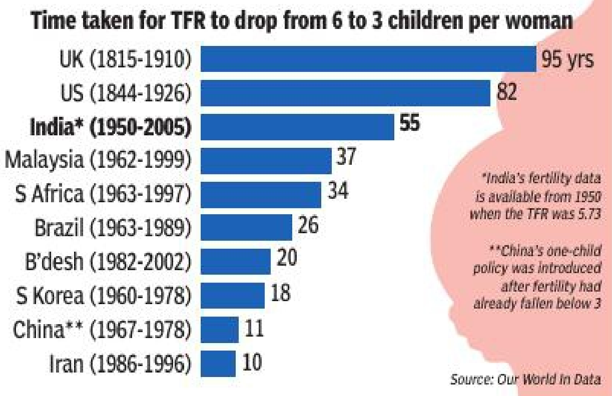
Bhati said CAQM has also recommended that no new thermal power plants should be established within 300 km radius of Delhi, considering the emission from the coal-based TPPs. CAQM in its status report last month had recommended preparation of an action plan for elimination of coal as fuel in industries in non-NCR areas of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab.

The bench said that on March 12, it will take up the issues related to pollution caused by vehicular emission asking concerned parties to file action plans for relocating toll plazas in areas bordering Delhi to ease perennial traffic congestion at these entry points.

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

From 6 kids to 3: UK's fertility rate halved in 95 yrs; Iran's in 10

Developing countries reduced their total fertility rate (TFR) — average number of kids born per woman — much faster than developed ones, though the likes of UK and US had done so much earlier



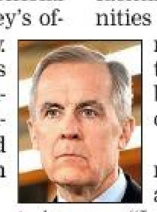
Court frees IG after arrest in neta torture case

Patna: A civil court here blocked on Monday the dawn arrest of Bihar IG M Sunil Nayak by an Andhra police team by refusing to grant transit remand over alleged custodial torture of a senior TDP functionary in a five-year-old case, allowing the IPS officer to walk free hours later, reports **Faryal Rumi**.

The case stems from allegations by K Raghurama Krishna Raju, now Andhra assembly deputy speaker. Raju was arrested then alleged derogatory remarks against former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Carney to visit India on Feb 26, trade, energy, def pacts on agenda

Ottawa: Canadian PM **Mark Carney** will travel to India, Australia and Japan from Feb 26 to March 7, an official statement from Carney's office said on Monday. The focus during his visit will be on businesses across trade, energy, technology, and defence, the Canadian govt statement said



"PM Carney will first visit Mumbai, then New Delhi, India, where he will meet PM Modi. The leaders will focus on elevating and expanding the Canada-India relationship, with ambitious new partnerships in trade, energy, technology and AI, talent and culture, and defence. He will meet with business leaders to identify investment opportunities in Canada and create new partnerships between businesses in both nations," the official statement read.

This will be Carney's first visit to India after he assumed office.

"In a more divided and uncertain world, Canada's new govt is focused on what we can control. We are building a stronger, more independent, and more resilient economy," added the statement. AGENCIES

'Will follow NCLAT order on privacy': Meta, WhatsApp to apex court

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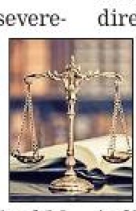
New Delhi: Social media giants Meta and WhatsApp on Monday told Supreme Court that it does not insist on a stay of appellate company law tribunal (NCLAT) order prohibiting them from sharing data for non-core services and directing them to give users a transparent opt-out option for withdrawal of consent.

Two weeks after SC severely criticised them on data sharing and the complicated process for withdrawal of consent, senior advocate Kapil Sibal told a bench of CJI Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi that both Meta and WhatsApp will be fully compliant with the NCLAT directions on these two counts within the three-month time frame by March 16.



Though the bench disposed of the two applications by Meta and WhatsApp seeking stay of the NCLAT order, senior advocate Madhavi Divan, appearing for Competition Commission of India (CCI), said the main issue is the direction of the regulator imposing a five-year ban on data sharing for advertisement purposes. SC posted further hearing on Apr 19.

Sibal attempted to skirt the issue by first arguing that it can be decided during the final hearing on the appeals filed by Meta, WhatsApp and CCI and later by arguing that the companies are mandated by law to be compliant with Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act by June 2027.

Divan said that the NCLAT had stayed one of the crucial directions by the regulator to WhatsApp not to share user data collected on its platform with other Meta Companies or Meta Company Products for advertisement purposes for five years. This needs to be adjudicated and an interim stay of the direction of NCLAT on this issue is needed, she said, adding this is despite NCLAT agreeing with CCI that the these two companies enjoyed dominant position in market and cross-sharing of data between them enhancing Meta's competitive advantage in display advertising market creating barriers for competitors.

CCI emphasised "grave prejudice" to OTT messaging apps and online display advertising on failing to hold the five-year ban on sharing data.

Mother moves SC to bring son's body from Sharjah for last rites

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New Delhi: Is cremation as per the dead person's religion and accompanying rituals a fundamental right of his kin? The question came up when a mother told Supreme Court that her son, who had died at Sharjah (UAE) where he was working as a carpenter, was cremated on foreign soil by the authorities there with his kin being denied the right to perform the last rites.

A resident of Basti in Uttar Pradesh, 57-year-old Savitri informed SC that her 29-year-old son Pankaj, who was working with World Star Company, Sharjah, for the last two years, had gone incommunicado since Dec 2, making her lodge a complaint with Basti police on Jan 10.

On Feb 4, she received a call from the Indian Embassy in Dubai informing her about Pankaj's death and his cremation there. Appearing for her, senior advocate Sanjay M Nuli told a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta that as mother she was entitled to ensure her son was given a decent cremation.

"Cremation is one of the Sanskars, that is Antim Sanskar -- an important ritual which could not have been compromised with in any manner or situation and denying the mother her right amounts to gross violation of fundamental and human rights as enshrined under Articles 21 and 25 of the Constitution," Nuli said.

The bench issued notice to Union govt and sought its response by March 16.

Sanjay M Nuli said, "Sensitivities of the people which the Constitution recognises as fundamental rights, such as right to decent burial/cremation as per traditions and customs followed by the family, have to be respected and such rights cannot be trampled upon or trifled with casually or whimsically, especially when they concern people from the downtrodden class, the uneducated and poor."